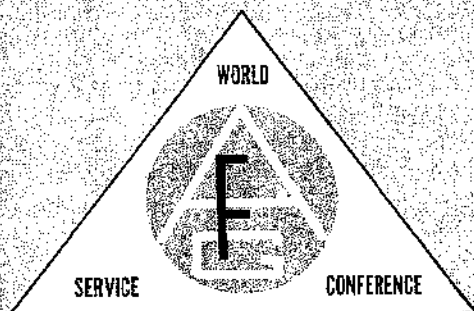


# Summary 1976

Scanned

April 20-24, 1976



## 16th World Service Conference 1951—1976 25 Years of Service

# AL-ANON

Al-Anon Family Groups New York, New York

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### Our Conference Theme:

## THE TRADITIONS—OUR SECURITY

The spiritual nature of the Al-Anon program is protected by its Traditions. It is by the observance of these Traditions that members are guaranteed the constant and continuing *opportunity* to live a new life, free of the feelings of fear and guilt that have ruled their pasts, secure in the knowledge that while they may change, the program will not.

The Sixteenth World Service Conference was a celebration and an affirmation of these Traditions. For members of this Conference, for all the people who had come before us, and for those who will follow, Al-Anon was, is, and will be a fellowship of individuals who take their own inventories, work to live in harmony, and seek a common good.

Using the Traditions gives them flexibility, strength, and life; living by these principles leaves us free to pursue our main purpose: To offer comfort and hope to the families and friends of alcoholics. This is how *we are served*; this is how *we have served* for twenty-five years.

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## The Opening Banquet . . .

A formal dinner held Tuesday, April 20, in the Bowman Room of the Biltmore Hotel, in New York City, marked the beginning of the 16th Annual Al-Anon World Service Conference.

The invocation was read by Ted K., Chairman of the Board of Trustees; our Conference Chairman, Penny B., welcomed the assembled Delegates, introduced the guests and the WSO Officers and Staff, and brought Lois to the podium where she spoke briefly but lovingly.

Penny then introduced Linda McF., Staff Writer, who explained what the Conference members could expect as a special feature of our Silver Anniversary.

"In keeping with the Bicentennial celebrations of the United States, Al-Anon Staff members thought it appropriate to present members of the Conference with a few *HISTORICAL MOMENTS* of our own. 25 years ago the Services of Al-Anon began. Study of the history of our beginnings brought out some very interesting facts, some historical, some hysterical. When the bell is rung, you will be hearing from several people who will willingly tell almost anything . . . no, actually they will tell you about Al-Anon's history. I'm

*Lois* and that's the way it is."

. . . and the first ringing of the eight-inch antique school bell rang to summon Lois, who said,

*"Lois W., the wife of Bill W., co-founder of AA, says in her story, 'After a while I began to wonder why I was not as happy as I ought to be since the one thing I had been yearning for all my married life had come to pass. Then one Sunday Bill asked me if I was ready to go to the meeting with him. To my own astonishment, as well as his, I burst forth with, 'Damn your old meetings!' and threw a shoe as hard as I could.'"*

*"When a horse throws a shoe, his rider can take him to a blacksmith; when Lois threw her shoe she had no place to go; she felt she should apply the AA spiritual program of recovery to her own problems. Much later with the help of Anne B. and others, she started the Al-Anon Family Groups for people who don't drink but who throw things. . . . I'm Lois and that's the way it was!"*

\* \* \* \* \*

The applause which greeted Lois seemed to confirm the fact that she had a definite flair for dramatics. When the laughter had subsided Penny introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Shirley B., of Colorado.

Shirley's story was heightened by her sense of humor and her insight. In beginning at the beginning, she recalled her childhood days and ways of handling her need to please other people. She felt that this resulted in her having no identity of her own. After her father's death she became anxious to marry a man "just like Daddy." She had found in her husband a "friendly, outgoing, kind and considerate man with a passion for kids." She thought of him as a "Prince Charming" and herself as "Cinderella" but the onset of the disease brought their life together to less than fairytale conditions.

Financially devastated and emotionally bereft, Shirley sought the answer to her problems from among the "professionals," but life continued to be a "dead-end street" where every-day living became too much and she was on a path of "painful collision with reality."

She told of her introduction to AA and what a "revelation" it has been to her. Her membership in Al-Anon had become the beginning of an entirely new life, a life lived by, and through, the Twelve Steps. While her story was sprinkled liberally with humor, the tragedy visited upon her moved the dinner audi-

ence to tears. It was Al-Anon and her conscious contact with her Higher Power, her faith that sustained her, she maintained. "The principles of the program saved my life!" she exclaimed.

With a "firm conviction that it was going to be all right" her life moved into better days that were, she said, "rich and full and happy." She concluded by noting that this attitude started when she became "willing to pay the price and take the risk" that loving required, and she told us that these feelings "of love and hope were God's special gift" to us.

## OPERATION DELEGATES' HEADSTART

For five years, first-year Delegates have met with the General Secretary, the Conference Secretary, and several experienced Delegates at a Pre-Conference briefing session. This year they were joined by all the members of the WSO Staff, three of whom (Eleanor O'B., Margaret O'D., and Linda McF.) were also attending their first Conference. After introducing themselves, the Staff Secretaries outlined their duties and the services provided by the dedicated work of the Delegate and volunteer members of the Standing Committees.

As Conference Secretary, Holly C., explained several ways in which the WSO was able to assist the Delegates through special mailings; she reviewed the General Information Sheets from the Conference Brochure, and explained the appointment of Delegates' Sponsors.

Henrietta announced the appointments of the Panel 16 members to the Standing Committees and then introduced Norma McG., Massachusetts, who chaired the Delegate portion of the program:

"When I attended my first Conference I was not as fully prepared as I might have been, nor as I thought I was, for that matter, and 'Operation Delegates Headstart' was extremely helpful to me. It gave me much more insight into why I was here, how best to approach the Conference, what I could expect from it and how to effectively use all that I would learn.

"I would like to share with you some of my own suggestions for

### Getting the Most Out of the Conference

"Perhaps the most difficult will be to try to relax. You are not alone. You are here with other Al-Anons, both WSO Staff and other Delegates who live the same Al-Anon program as you and who love you as much as the Al-Anons back in your home group do.

"If I had to choose one single thought to leave with you it would be—trust your Higher Power. You are here sharing in this beautiful experience because He wants you to be here.

"Listen very carefully at each session but also participate. Believe that you do have something to offer.

"Take notes on everything!

"Each night review your notes while things are still fresh in your mind and edit them if necessary for clarification. Prepare for the following day's sessions by reviewing the material in your brochure.

"Use your sponsor. That's what he or she is for. No question is too stupid to ask.

"Visit the WSO and become acquainted with the Staff. There is where you will begin to get a feeling for the magnitude of world Al-Anon.

"Make yourself known to the other Delegates. Don't wait for them to come to you, introduce yourself!

"If you brought a camera—use it!

After her enlightening and informative introduction, Norma introduced Diane W., Mississippi, who discussed

### Reporting Back After the Conference

"I found the March AREA HIGHLIGHTS, an excellent guide to use. . . .

Diane suggested:

"... Write notes to the members of the Area WS Committee, giving each one important Conference information in his particular area of service. Especially include notes to the groups and individuals who send cards and notes during the Conference. Communication with a 'personal touch' develops friendships. Whenever good communication is established, we receive the necessary 'feedback.' This 'feedback' of sharing the successes and problems not only reveals the Area needs, but enables us to share important information." Diane outlined other ways to share the WSC:

"The Local Group: My Al-Anon group is as eager as I am to share the WSC. I try to attend that meeting the very next night after returning home.

"The Area Newsletter: *ALATALK* is our new Area Newsletter, published quarterly. The month of May is the deadline for the new issue. I plan to send one page of WSC highlights to the editor.

"Display Table: This is a portable folding table for a literature display using the Display Packet in my portfolio. I mount pamphlets on folding cardboard that is easy to transfer.

"Photo Display: This is a poster containing labeled snapshots of Lois, WSO Conference members, PI and Institutional displays, etc. found in the Hospitality and Conference Rooms.

"Copies of My WSC Report: Each GR or group member receiving the copy adds his name to the list placed next to the Report. I also display the *Memento* from the Conference.

"Ask-It-Basket: This can be a labeled box, including 'Sharing Suggestions & Questions.' I put in 'Ask-It-Basket' WSC questions and hopefully others will add to these. All these questions will be answered during the Assembly and District Meetings.

"Personalized Serenity Prayer Book Markers: These book markers with my name and address on the back were used at my first Assembly Report, enough for everyone present. An item such as this is most useful to the newcomers to District and Assembly Meetings, and again, adds a 'personal touch.'

"Area WS Committee Meeting: Gratitude goes to my Committee; they are great! I plan to phone my Alternate the first day home.

"The District Meeting: Giving the Conference Report to my home District that first year in May has helped me. While the Conference experience is still fresh.

"The Area Assembly Meeting: The experience of sharing the Conference first with my group, a District Meeting and the Area WS Committee is the best way to be prepared for reporting to the Area Assembly.

"Thoughts: Keep in touch with as many Al-Anons as possible throughout the Area. Keep in mind the newcomers in Alateen and Al-Anon. 'Easy Does It' and 'Rest' help a busy schedule. Remember the family and job responsibilities. The only MUST for me is to TRY, with the help of God. Always remember to be YOU."

Diane thanked everyone for making this sharing possible. She was followed by Dolores K., Wisconsin, who covered

#### *Working in the Assembly Area*

"My first responsibility as the Delegate in the Assembly Area is my sincere enthusiasm about the World Service Conference. I learned quickly after my first year that it is very important to make very good notes and immediately make an outline for the Area World Service Officers as soon as I reach home within the same week.

"I am not a paper Delegate; I dislike letter writing so I encourage 'in-person' contact. I believe in meeting your Delegate, talking to her, knowing her.

"Action is my second responsibility as Delegate in the Assembly Area. Last year I traveled over 1500 miles from May

through October (less than six months), speaking at 10 District Workshops.

"Every year in May we have our Spring Area Assembly. It's arranged so the Delegate can give a full report of the Conference. Last year's World Service Conference prompted action on three major decisions:

1. We now have an Area Newsletter, *WISCONSIN UNITY*. I found out we were one of five states that did not have a newsletter.
2. All past Delegates are now life-time voting members at the Assembly. You're never finished.
3. The most important recommendation I offered was for an annual overnight Fall Assembly every year with expenses for the Group Representatives paid for by their home groups.

"All of these actions were due to the World Service Conference.

"Remember you only provide the ideas with enthusiasm and action and the Assembly votes upon the decision.

"I don't work alone. We have Coordinators, (P.I., Institutions, etc.). The Newsletter Editor, and Liaison Members have their own Committees. Our editor also has reporters throughout the Area and they help to promote news within their District.

"In Wisconsin, the Delegate has to attend four AA/Al-Anon Conferences each year. Time is given to me to speak briefly about World Service and the State Assembly at the Al-Anon program. We don't have any business at these Conferences. My expenses are paid for by the State Assembly.

"Yes! I find it is very exciting going into new environments, meeting new people but most of all sharing World Service in my Area. So please make very good notes and that *important outline* for the World Service Committees and for yourself."

Dolores ended her remarks saying that she had been grateful for the opportunity to speak. She was followed by Louise C., Virginia, who reflected on the thought that

*You're Not Finished Until the Last Day of Your Term—and Then Some*

"... 'The first thing that ran through my mind was, 'Will I have time to finish all I am supposed to, all I would like to do, and still have everything in order for the Delegate who shall follow me?' In the beginning, three years seemed like a long time but it has gone by so swiftly it now seems very short. In settling down, the 'attitude of gratitude' came into play. Just how grateful am I? Al-Anon has given me so much! My first and last days are both important."

"I can't tell you how others see me. I hope they see me as an Al-Anon member doing the best I can—with what I have.

"I have had to learn to put principles over personalities, to straighten out problems while they are still small and not 'snowball' them.

"My responsibilities as Delegate began January 1, 1974. I am planning, as my predecessor did for me, to spend a whole weekend in giving all the information I have to the next Delegate.

"Since I came up the ranks, so to speak, GR, DR, Area Chairman, and Newsletter Editor, I shall perhaps go back as Coordinator or Convention Chairman, or just be active wherever needed. There is always a place for anyone who is willing to serve, and the only way I can keep this wonderful program is to share it in whatever way I can—one day at a time."

*"OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL PROGRESS FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER DEPENDS UPON UNITY."*

## Opening Session, Tuesday Night, April 20

The business Sessions of the Conference were officially begun with Penny's calling of the roll. Many of the Conference members had changed into less formal clothes but others still wore their long dresses as they sounded an enthusiastic "Here!" and readied themselves for a report from the

### Admissions Committee

Reba C., Oklahoma, announced the recommendations which included the seating at the Conference of the Controller, Eamon Timoney; the Chairman of the French Literature Committee, Alberte C.; the French Translator of that Committee, Harriet L.; and Jean G., Representative from the U.K. & Eire. The Conference approved their being seated as members with voice but no vote. Also welcomed as full Conference members for the first time were the Delegate from Delaware, James S., and the Hawaiian Delegate, Marlene D.

The silver-bowed anniversary bell tolled . . .

*"Out of the Frying Pan and into Al-Anon"*

*Momentous decisions are often made in unusual surroundings. AA was started over a kitchen table, Al-Anon grew into a movement over coffee pots and cake. Former frying pan swingers started traveling with recovering husbands to meetings in local homes. While the men talked, the wives dutifully tripped off to the kitchen to prepare non-alcoholic beverages. When the AA group grew big enough to move to a church basement and register with the foundation called Alcoholics Anonymous, it had a built-in auxiliary unit of wives to go with it. Like Lois, they were in search of a spiritual program too.*

*I'm Eleanor and that's the way it was!"*

*"Growing, Growing, Grown"*

*By the time AA held an International Convention in Cleveland, the direction of the Family Groups seemed 'sure and straight, their purpose uniform.' They would concentrate on giving 'cooperation and understanding to the AA member in their home, live by the 12 Steps themselves in order to grow spiritually, and welcome and give comfort to the families of new members of AA.' Lois prepared a memorandum to the AA Conference in April of 1951, asking for recommendations on the status of the Family Groups. "They had come to stay! Did they belong inside of AA? Should they be attached to, but not part of AA? Or should they be 'completely detached?"*

*I'm Margaret and that's the way it was!"*

### Ted's Welcome to the Conference

Ted's very special greetings to the Conference included his hello to Panel 16, a special invitation to PARTICIPATE, and his congratulations to all for the good humor and acceptance shown in our last minute change of hotels. After reading the Twelve Traditions, he announced that he had exciting and encouraging news. For some time he had been corresponding with Dr. Jack Norris of AA General Services, and Bob H., President of AA WS, to explore ways "in which AA and Al-Anon could best work together in the planning of future International Conventions," and he was pleased to report that "the future looks better than ever."

In the past the AA and Al-Anon Host Committees differed widely in structure: AA's acted as implementers rather than planners with GSO underwriting all expenses, while Al-Anon's had greater responsibility in planning and financing. This difference was not without its difficulties. Ted made it clear that the GSO had expressed an earnest desire to work with one group who would share with them the "full responsibility for

Convention planning," and that given assurances along this line, the GSO would like to "take a giant step forward toward a more cooperative Convention effort." At the AA Conference, which was being held at the Roosevelt Hotel, Delegates were listening to the proposal that an Al-Anon member be seated on the Convention Site Selection Committee.

"We are," Ted continued, "confident that their Conference will accept that recommendation. I have asked Myrna H., Convention Secretary for Denver, to be our Representative. In addition:

"The Board of Trustees recommends that future Al-Anon Host Committees be structured as GSO's and be responsible in all matters to the WSO. This resolution would carry with it the understanding that WSO would be responsible for expenses incurred by the Host Committee and they would no longer be expected to put on fund-raising events."

These proposals had not become general knowledge until this point, in order to extend the courtesy of introducing the ideas to AA Delegates at their Conference.

The proposal was officially moved and seconded and enthusiastically adopted by the WSC. (Subsequently, AA also accepted the recommendation and Myrna attended the meeting and was warmly received. She reported that three sites had been proposed and were being examined: New Orleans, Louisiana; Houston, Texas; and Seattle, Washington.)

At this point Ted began what was to be the first

### Open Session—Green Light

Essentially, a meeting of this nature is held to provide an opportunity for all who participate to freely express themselves. The symbolic "green light" indicates that *all* ideas, and feelings, are "GO." Ted explained that each Conference member would be given "as many opportunities as it takes," for each one to be heard. Toward that end he would call on all members so that they might recommend a topic for full Conference discussion. He would list the suggestions on a large piece of paper using a bold marker and hang the list where everyone could see it. Having called the members in turn, he would begin again. They would be given a second, third, a fourth opportunity, etc., to make a suggestion. If they wished, they could pass a turn; they would be called on again until they withdrew their names themselves. A meeting of this size would necessarily produce a considerable number of ideas; patience and tolerance were requested. There was to be "NO RED LIGHTING," no comments that would inhibit people from feeling welcome to suggest any idea they saw fit. "When the last member has asked for his or her name to be withdrawn," Ted continued, "we will attempt together to determine which of the things we have listed are of the greatest importance to the greatest number of people and attempt to schedule as many of these things as humanly possible during the three Open Sessions."

More than 80 topics were offered in the time that followed. Each and every Conference member, Delegate, Trustee, Staff Secretary, etc., was granted the chance to contribute and it appeared that the Conference body and the topics were exhausted simultaneously. The room was papered with ideas; some were clearly controversial but there they were, out in the open, expressed and spoken. There remained the difficult task of dealing with them.

First, the topics were read and those which the Conference members agreed were much the same were gathered together. Those items which had previously been submitted to committees or scheduled in some way for Conference discussion were removed from this list. Specific items were referred to appropriate Standing Committees and the Board of Trustees. A vote was taken on each remaining topic. A show of hands indicated

which topic the majority, or even a substantial number of members, felt was most pertinent.

As the long evening session drew to a close it was evident that a group of this size was still capable of exercising Al-Anon principles while conducting business. Together, without rancor, members with different needs and views could bring reason to bear, exercise patience and forbearance in order to reach a common goal.

### Wednesday Morning April 21

After Penny called the roll, we had a brief but enlightening welcome from Lois which added to the historical nature of Al-Anon services. In her "A Look Back," Lois recalled the special problems and joys of Al-Anon's early days, her close associations with Annie S., Anne B., and the many others who made the idea of our spiritual program a reality. She spoke of her trips around the country to visit the fledgling AA auxiliary groups that had registered with the AA General Service Office and were later to become the nucleus of our separate Al-Anon fellowship. She recalled her connections with members of the Oxford Group, her world tour with Evelyn C., and the extraordinary work of the early Al-Anon members who "kept it rolling." She concluded, however, that while it was good to review the past and the progress we have made, our focus must be "forward." Her message and her salute were, "Here's to the future of Al-Anon."

The bell summoned two speakers to the microphone: "What's in a Name? Would Al-Anon by any other name really smell as sweet?"

In May of 1951, Lois and Anne B. began to handle the growing correspondence between existing Family Groups and the inquiries from those interested in forming new groups. The work was done in the upper room of 'Stepping Stones.' Registered groups were polled and voted on a name they could share. They Turned down 'AA Auxiliary, AA Triple A, AA Helpmates, Non-Alcoholics Anonymous and even Friendship Groups.' They chose instead the contraction of Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, to add to Family Groups.

*I'm Jimmy and that's the way it was!*

"There must be a Better Place!

For those of us who have had to deal with a home office it is easy to imagine all the clutter that must have gathered at Lois' home by the time she invited representatives from six Metropolitan New York groups to a luncheon in November of 1951. They had come together in Bedford Hills, N.Y., to discuss the need for an Al-Anon office. Mail was already being sent to a single post office box, 1475, but a central office was needed to unify the groups. With Lois that day were Adele H., who is still active in N.Y. Intergroup; Irma F., who continued to be active; and Sue L., who later became Al-Anon's first Conference Chairman. The stage was set for our World Service Office.

*I'm Jimmy and that's the way it was!*

Holly announced the appointments of new members of the Standing Committees and told us where each would have its meeting.

PANEL 15	PANEL 16
ADMISSIONS: *Catherine H., New Mexico	Ada R., Indiana
Joy C., Ontario (N)	Gladys G., Ohio
Can.	Mary H., Texas (W)
Isabel R., Puerto Rico	

AGENDA:	Betty W., Iowa	Irene K., Illinois (N)
	Jackie O., Nebraska	Marge G., Kentucky
	Eunice D., Wyoming	Bev S., Rhode Island
ALATEEN:	Agnes L., Arkansas	Betty R., California (S)
	Barbara S., New Hampshire	Anne S., Michigan
	Lois B., Saskatchewan, Can.	Shirley H., New York (N)
HANDBOOK:	Betty O., Connecticut	Dorothy B., Minnesota
	Eledia S., Missouri	Bob D., Pennsylvania
		Allie Mae R., Texas (E)
		Gwen L., Manitoba, Can.
INSTITUTIONS:	Pat M., Louisiana	Marlene D., Hawaii
	Rose M., New York (S)	Betty B., Kansas
	Dottie D., Nevada	Isabel F., Maryland
LITERATURE:	Martin D., Illinois (S)	James S., Delaware
	Louise J., Maine	Joan S., Florida
	Anna Marie B., Utah	Willie H., Ontario (S) Can.
PUBLIC	Darlene P., Idaho	Irma C., California (S)
INFORMATION:	Ruby D., South Carolina	Simone M., Quebec (W) Can.
	Irene R., South Dakota	Edith S., Tennessee

\*Alternate Delegate

After the meetings, we all gathered for luncheon at 12:45.

### Wednesday Afternoon

And the bell rang . . .

"Self-Supporting

By January of 1952, over 250 groups were registered and more help was needed to man the space and equipment offered by the "old AA 24th Street Clubhouse" in N.Y.C. Volunteers met once a week to handle the correspondence and the group service work. They had several obstacles to overcome. Volunteers were chosen according to the muscle structure in their forearms (they were required to lug a typewriter with them from home), their dexterity (they had to be able to type with their gloves on in the winter), and their smoking habits (matches were needed to melt the ink which had frozen in fountain pens). It became obvious that Al-Anon needed better quarters and a paid part-time worker. The groups were asked to contribute semi-annually, approximately \$1.00 per member, giving an equal opportunity to support their service center. The support was to be entirely voluntary. *I'm Jimmy and that's the way it was!*

"Frozen Fingers Field the First World Directory

In March of 1952, the first World Service Directory was mimeographed. It included groups and contacts for the United States and Canada, Australia, "Ireland," and South Africa. It was 5½ inches wide, and 8 inches long. It covered all of 8 pages. Today the Directory is twice those dimensions. The U.S. and Canada Directory, Part I, has 160 pages and there are 40 pages devoted to Overseas listings, Part II.

*I'm Jimmy and that's the way it was!*

## REPORT ON THE GREEN LIGHT SESSION

In the second Open Discussion period, Ted briefly reviewed the topics which had received a substantial vote and announced the names of Conference members whom he had asked to lead the deliberations: *Having All Conference Meetings Open to All Conference Members*, would be led by Paul L.; dialogue concerning the *Delegates Only Letter*, would be conducted by Jean A.; Henrietta S., and Holly C., would aid Norris R., in a review of *Conference Procedures*, and all questions dealing with making the Conference more efficient; the question of *Increasing Regional Trustees and Decreasing the Number of In-town Trustees*, was to be led by Stephanie O'K., and Loretta L.; Betty W., Oregon Delegate, would conduct the talks on *Better Communications*; Lois B., was to Chair the session on *Alateen Sponsors*; Myrna H., was to be asked to head the talks on *Guidelines for Area Conventions*.

It would be the goal of the Conference to exchange views on as many or all of the topics as time would permit. Subjects not covered at the 1976 Conference might be suggested for the agenda in 1977, but no topic was to be summarily dismissed or forgotten. Charged with this promise for a meaningful sharing of views, the Conference moved to the

### Discussion on opening all Conference Meetings

Paul was gratified to accept the responsibility for chairing this session because he personally felt an aversion to "exclusive" meetings. He was thrilled to hear that Delegates had been invited to attend the Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting as observers and hoped that all Conference Members might also feel free to observe the Delegates Only Meeting. After a motion which proposed: That the Delegates Only Meeting be observed by all Conference members and that the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Trustees, held during the Conference, and the Annual Meeting held at the close of the Conference be observed by all Conference members, there was more discussion.

Several members agreed that exclusive meetings were contrary to Al-Anon Tradition and served to disrupt rather than encourage unity. Trustees and Delegates alike agreed that there was nothing discussed in Al-Anon that could not be discussed in front of any Al-Anon member. The interest of harmony could best be served by meetings that were open to all in the capacity of observers. Invitations would be extended for meetings held during the 1976 Conference and those to follow. It was suggested that meetings which were to be held simultaneously this year be rescheduled next year to allow a larger attendance. The motion was carried, and all Conference meetings would be open to all Conference members for observation.

Paul then introduced Jean A., Regional Trustee from Canada, to lead the

### Discussion on the Delegates only Letter

Jean noted the cooperation and spirit that had prevailed in the preceding sessions. In a step-by-step progression toward unity within ourselves, our group, our assemblies, members of Al-Anon have been trying to eliminate those things which separate us and encourage those things which draw us together. It was her belief that correspondence needs to be two-way for it to be beneficial.

Delegates and other Conference members rose to exchange opinions. Originally the Delegates Only Letter was meant to be a form of continued sharing, a means of "keeping in touch."

Some members expressed the feeling of frustration, a difficulty in presenting views to a full Conference and the need to be able to have a means of presenting views without fear of contradiction; questioning was not a criticism but a sincere desire to learn.

The major concern of those addressing their remarks to the issue was the tendency of different arms of the Conference to be categorized as "we" and "they." Several speakers asked not to be *lumped* into a faction or be spoken for. Others noted the fact that in opposition we grow, collectively and individually.

Several members wondered if *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* might be used to best serve as a vehicle for sharing Area experiences. Still others wondered why there was not greater use of existing committees in sharing responsibilities; why topics hadn't been presented to the Agenda Committee, etc.?

New Delegates expressed dismay at the quality of the disputes. Was there room for bickering in Al-Anon? Honest disagreement was not to be feared but when a group inventory turned up something that would cause a serious disruption in service to those who were "waiting, and almost pleading for help," then it was time for all to remember *how we got here*.

In examining our Conference structure in the light of the Traditions, it was noted that an opportunity had been provided for people to say how they felt as individuals but that ours was a "Conference of Conference members, not a Conference of Delegates; WSO was a Clearinghouse and is still a clearinghouse, an instrument in the *continued* and *continuous* flow of materials and methods from Area to Area, worldwide; we are all Al-Anon members, we suffer from the same ills and struggle to maintain our one true purpose: To help those who have been affected by the disease of alcoholism in a friend or loved-one. Good intentions were not good enough if this objective was not being met.

A motion was offered to amend the situation. *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* the quarterly publication sent to all Delegates, Trustees, and Information Services, was to be used as the means of communication between Delegates in sharing Area experiences. It was duly seconded and passed.

All Conference members were given a printed list of the more than eighty topics originally offered for consideration and the session was brought to a close in order to proceed with Panel discussions which had been prepared and previously scheduled.

The bell, the bell . . .

*"AA Tips its Hat!"*

*In April of 1952 the AA Conference voted to give its thanks to all those who fostered the Family Groups. It was a fine tribute to Lois and Bill and a salute to the early pioneers who had braved the elements and used their own recovery to help others do the same.*

*I'm Jo and that's the way it was!"*

*"And For Your Public Information*

*In order to take advantage of the 'fine publicity' that was appearing in the nation's press, radio and TV, in June of 1952, 300 groups were polled to ask if the Public Information might be handled by the volunteer staff at the Clearing-house. Permission was granted in order to present material that reflected unity in thought and expression. The first major magazine article on Al-Anon was published by the Saturday Evening Post in its issue of July 2, 1955. Today articles about Al-Anon appear almost daily in all forms of the media.*

*I'm Jo and that's the way it was!"*

### ALATEEN PANEL

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary

Carole K., introduced Edith McC., Co-Chairman; the in-town members, Meg, M., Martha E., Robin G., and Timmy's Staff Assistant, Darcy W.



Timmy's warm welcome referred to the main topic to be covered by the Panel: The sharing of submitted reports on the feasibility of encouraging the formation of Alateen Assemblies. In the year following the 1975 Conference, the Alateen Committee had been exploring the wisdom of recommending the procedures which have been used successfully in Saskatchewan, Canada. Delegate members of the Committee were to get the feelings in their Area and report back.

Betty W., Oregon Delegate, continued the Panel discussion with a presentation of the results of her findings. Copies of the Saskatchewan Alateen Assembly Handbook were sent to Alateen sponsors and members of the Area World Service Committee. The sponsors, after thorough study, discussed it with their Alateen groups. The response was interesting and varied. Alateens on the whole were very enthusiastic. The sponsors were very much in favor. The other Al-Anons were more cautious. Betty noted that comments were forthcoming from 60% of those who were sent the information and that this was a better-than-average response. While the Alateens and sponsors who were polled thought the experience would be a challenge and an opportunity for growth, they also expressed the need for encouragement and support. There were expressions of concern for the method of financing the Assemblies and the question of transportation was raised in Betty's Area. Al-Anons, other than sponsors, conceded that the idea might be of greater value in the future and they expressed the need to concentrate on increasing the number of Alateen groups and encouraging the existing groups to participate in the Al-Anon Assembly.

Mary Y., West Virginia Delegate, added her thoughts, "In Areas where there is sufficient interest and where there are a number of active groups, it would create more interest in Alateen . . . I know the idea will be presented as something an Area can do when Alateen has grown enough to support its own Assembly."

Shirley B., Colorado Delegate, was most enthusiastic because she personally felt it would encourage more participation, "and stimulate enthusiasm in group sponsorship." She cautioned that the Saskatchewan plan for financing concerned her, as she wondered about the validity of drawing on Alateen groups which seem to have even less resources than those of Al-Anon.

Agnes L., Arkansas Delegate, spoke of an added difficulty in the formation of Alateen Assemblies: Distances between groups. She told of the dedication and planning that went into the first gathering of Alateens in one place at the first Alateen Workshop in the state. Thrilled with the response, the Area Alateen Coordinator and the Delegate went ahead with a second workshop in the spring. Alateens were encouraged and asked to attend Al-Anon District and Assembly Meetings. Every Al-Anon group in the Area had been contacted about starting an Alateen group and future workshops would number, four, annually. Agnes' message was one of hopeful optimism. "The Arkansas Area had made great strides in one year. You'd have to see it to believe it . . . Arkansas Alateen has made a lot of progress, from one small effort on our part, on an idea which could have been rejected but was accepted."

The second portion of the Panel addressed itself to the results of the questionnaire which had been submitted to all Conference members. Carole brought Martha forward to report on the reactions and suggestions made by Conference members. A majority had read and was familiar with Alateen literature, had attended Alateen Conferences and open meetings. It was the hope of the Alateen Committee that the encouraging nature of Al-Anon feelings toward Alateen continue, that further developments take place in the communication between the groups, that "Al-Anon members really work hard at getting more Alateen Sponsors, and workshops be held for current sponsors." The Panel ended with the positive comments of

Emily O'H., New Jersey, who said she personally would like to see an Alateen Assembly in New Jersey; Kay B., British Columbia, spoke of the Alateen participation in the Inter-Provincial Conference; and Willie H., Ontario, noted that Alateens in her Area have an Intergroup which holds meetings four times a year and publishes a newsletter.

**FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE AUTHORITY—A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS—THEY DO NOT GOVERN.**

Members of the out-going Panel 14 had been asked by Penny to briefly relate their most *Memorable Experience Since Becoming a Delegate*. Each year these talks are lovingly called, "Bluebirds" because the nametags of out-going Delegates are blue.

"My first thought was, 'I must be very different; really come up with something unique.' (Imagine, after all these years!)"

"When I got myself out of the way and really meditated on the subject, I knew then what it was. My trip to Stepping Stones! How I wished everyone connected with AA and Al-Anon could have that same opportunity; to be able to walk up that drive where Bill and Lois walked, to go through that home to see where so many of our projects started, to see the beautiful hospitality extended to all from Lois. It was all overwhelming.

"The highlight of it all was to visit Bill's office and see that map of the United States where he had placed the pins of each new group formed until they became too numerous to place any more; to feel what he must have felt; to know some of the pain that went with forming some of the new groups; but also the joy at seeing the growth. And, to know he was always one of Al-Anon's greatest backers.

"I came away from there full of gratitude all over again for God allowing me to be just a small part of this beautiful program of ours. I use the plural 'ours' meaning just that—it is our life. God has indeed been good to us, and I'm grateful." Reba C., Oklahoma

\* \* \* \* \*

"I will always remember the over-all progress that our Assembly Area has made in the past two years. West Virginia has had Assembly Meetings for just six years and I am the first Delegate.

"I went home from my first Conference filled with ideas of many things to suggest. Since I did not give my report until our Fall Assembly, I had time to think and remember 'Easy Does It.' We could not do everything at once. A kind AA friend sent word to me that if we could accomplish one or two things in our term, we would be doing well.

"We do not have Districts in our Area, so we discussed what could be done about it. When I came to the Conference last year, I talked with Holly and other Delegates. I reported back what I had learned but the members didn't think we were ready for Districts.

"However, the Assembly did feel the need for members and groups to work together and to get to know each other. It was decided to divide the state into two sections and to have two workshops. The Northern Workshops were held last May and we were pleased with the interest and attendance shown. The Southern Workshop was held in August and while the number of members increased only slightly, more groups were represented. We were encouraged by this. The Assembly voted to continue having two workshops. We hope to have more members from more groups participating this year.

"Several Al-Anon members in the northern part of our state

have been attending the Pennsylvania Al-Anon Conference for several years. Because of their enthusiasm, our Assembly voted last fall to plan a West Virginia Conference this year. By the time for the Spring Assembly, progress had been made, the site had been secured and the date set. Our Conference will be at Cedar Lakes, near Ripley, West Virginia, on September 3, 4, and 5.

"Our Assembly Meetings are growing. Each time more members are present—more groups are represented. We are learning about Al-Anon throughout the fellowship. Perhaps the information we gain from our workshops on District Meetings will lead us to having Districts in our Area.

"I have grown too, thanks to Al-Anon, our Area, and my association with all of you." Mary Y., West Virginia

\* \* \* \* \*

*THE RELATIVES OF ALCOHOLICS, WHEN GATHERED TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL AID, MAY CALL THEMSELVES AN AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP, PROVIDED THAT, AS A GROUP, THEY HAVE NO OTHER AFFILIATION. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IS THAT THERE BE A PROBLEM OF ALCOHOLISM IN A RELATIVE OR FRIEND.*

## INSTITUTIONS PANEL

Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Secretary

Edwina's introductory remarks made reference to the widespread growth of Institutional groups where they have been "sorely needed," and the concentration by the Committee on the needs of a rapidly expanding membership. Sara P., Charlene La P., and Fran R., who are the new in-town Committee members, shared Edwina's appreciation of the Secretary's contribution to this growth. Ann then spoke of the far-flung groups in Alaska, the West Indies, Hawaii, and France. She commented on the continued cooperation and communication between the Institutions and PI Committees and noted that a joint meeting between them had produced a fruitful sharing of information. She mentioned the various materials available to the fellowship, including Guidelines, which will help groups and Districts in forming Institutional groups which may serve as a "good foundation and introduction to our program," and act as the vehicle to carry the message of hope *wherever* a victim of alcoholism may be.

Pat Mc C. concentrated on the Delegate's enthusiasm at the Assembly, and how it could inspire others to get into Institutions work. She had encouraged every group to send for the Guidelines, held an Area-wide workshop, and explained the use of "A Meeting On Wheels." She stressed the need for maturity, responsibility, dependability, and patience. Having worked without a Coordinator, Pat sent the DRs a list of the alcoholism treatment centers in the state, encouraged groups to make literature available in local hospitals, health centers, courts, and clinics. After a slow but steady progress, Pat's ability to "hang in there" was rewarded. Louisiana now has an Institutions Coordinator and together they are learning and carrying the message through *participation, involvement and commitment*.

Charlene La P., went on to describe her experiences in bringing "A Meeting on Wheels" to a group of professionals. The format of this regular but condensed meeting is available from WSO. She recalled that the members became so involved in the meeting they soon forgot they were being observed. In the follow-up question and answer period, the Al-Anon mem-

bers steered clear of controversy about the disease itself and overwhelmed the professionals with honesty and self-awareness. "We stimulated enough interest in the professionals for them to request an Al-Anon meeting to be held in their facility and use us effectively as a referral," she concluded.

The unique experience of presenting the Al-Anon program to judges was related by Dottie D. of Nevada. At an invitation from the National College of the State Judiciary in Reno, Dottie had first held a regular meeting at the campus. Informal discussion and questions had followed. The second contact came in the form of a request to participate on a panel. Through the cooperation of AA, Dottie's opportunity to take part in a two week course for the judiciary resulted in some pertinent observations: "If possible, carry your message to outside groups separately or with members of AA only; try to stay clear of appearing on a program at the same time with other drug abuse families; if you have an interested group let them participate. By only allowing them to observe, we're missing a chance to share their concerns."

While Dottie concluded that Al-Anon has a long way to go to "come-into-its-own" with respect to judicial concern, (the emphasis is still on the alcoholic's recovery), she was grateful to have had the opportunity to "plant the seed".

Edwina's closing remarks summed up the Committee's goal. She said it hoped that every institution with a program of recovery for alcoholics will include the Al-Anon program for family recovery and "we have the desire to reach those people themselves who are hospitalized due to the effects of someone else's drinking." The warm applause, which greeted her closing remarks, indicated Conference agreement.

*EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS, EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING ANOTHER GROUP OR AL-ANON OR AA AS A WHOLE.*

"Three years ago, I was asking myself if I should accept and serve as Delegate. Like others, I thought I would not be able to fulfill this function. When Election Day arrived and I realized I was the only person standing, I said to myself: 'Oh, I can't be the only one willing to serve! I must tell you that our Area is French-speaking. Our Area did not have a choice because I am the best bilingual, and was free to accept serving as Delegate, at that time. And standing there alone, I took a long time reflecting on this choice. So they asked me, 'Therese, do you accept for today only?' I said, 'Yes, for today and by the Grace of God.' Without Him, I can't go very far and now I am here for my third Conference. It's almost unbearable. It is not without difficulty that I went through these three years.

"I have four children and for two years now I have lived alone with them, without financial help. But serving as Delegate was a chance God gave me. The chance to discover my possibilities: to make new friends, to build strong bonds among the groups, the members and the public in general. I transmitted our message by supplying information to professionals and explaining to members the importance of our Twelve Traditions. In the Traditions, the one that attracted me most was, '... principles above personalities.' This is a philosophy that we have to practice personally and not only in our groups.

"When members come to me for help about a group problem, I listen and I always answer, 'when there is a problem in a group, it is usually because this principle is not respected.' I ask them, 'Does your group study the Traditions? Do you read them? Do you discuss them? Each time the answer is, 'That's hard because we don't work very much on our Traditions. So don't search anywhere else as the answer is in our Traditions.'

"When I attended my first Conference, I felt that all the Conferences were prepared in regard to the respect of our Traditions and it helped me to love them more and more."



Therese thanked all the members for being there and the founders for the Al-Anon program. She expressed the thought that through the help of the Higher Power she found friendship, fraternity and the chance to serve Al-Anon. Therese F., Quebec (W)

\* \* \* \* \*

OUR AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OUGHT NEVER TO ENDORSE, FINANCE, OR LEND OUR NAME TO ANY OUTSIDE ENTERPRISE, LEST PROBLEMS OF MONEY, PROPERTY AND PRESTIGE DIVERT US FROM OUR PRIMARY SPIRITUAL AIM. ALTHOUGH A SEPARATE ENTITY, WE SHOULD ALWAYS COOPERATE WITH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

and the bell summoned . . .

*"The Mail Must Go Through!"*

Back at the office, the volunteers were struggling to keep up with the growing correspondence. Ever mindful of the costs of sending out letters and packages, workers had to use their imaginations and their husbands' shirt cardboard to wrap packages. No current recycling of material could begin to match the program carried on in those days: String, envelopes, paper, all put to use, and put to use again. In 1975, over 203,000 letters and packages were trucked to the post office. In 1952, neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, . . . could keep Al-Anon's two-wheeled shopping cart from making its appointed rounds.

*I'm ~~del~~ and that's the way it was!"*

*"Henrietta Walks 'The Last Mile,'—1953*

In answer to a general call for Al-Anon assistance at the Clubhouse, a young mother, the wife of an AA member from Bayside, volunteered to walk the "Last Mile," the long dark hallway leading to the skylighted "office" at the back and up a flight of stairs. She took this walk with fellow Clearing-house volunteers. When she became the first paid part-time Al-Anon employee, she had to open the building alone. On these days, the only ones there were just as apt to be assorted denizens of the bug world, neighborhood cats, or other furry creatures, large and small. Once she was met by two disreputable characters just released from a nearby alcoholic ward. Burly and bandaged, they asked for a razor. Their departure was ordered with a firm voice, which was remarkable considering that it came from a trembling body.

*I'm ~~del~~ and that's the way it was!"*

EVERY GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.

"When Penny called and asked me to talk . . . my mind was a jumble, maybe because I was awakened from my Sunday afternoon nap. Many things popped into my head . . . all three years have been a memorable experience, being elected Delegate, coming to the Conferences, meeting Lois at Stepping Stones, visiting WSO and meeting many beautiful people from all over the world.

"In January, I lost my dear friend, Lois, who was also the State Treasurer. She lived only 40 miles away and came down to visit every Tuesday. I could talk with her about the Assembly, the Conference, etc., and she understood and cared. . . . Blanche, the former Texas (West) Delegate came and stayed over-night. It was just great to talk over our concerns about our Areas—and to share and care again.

"But I really must say that the first District Meeting in North Dakota was another memorable experience. The District had invited groups from surrounding Districts. There were about 130 people in attendance. The film, 'Lois's Story,' was shown

and there were Workshops on Public Information with lively discussions from interested people. Out of this District Meeting came so many good things: First of all, Al-Anon saw the need and importance of District Meetings and as a result other Districts started meetings. Now all the Districts in North Dakota are functioning. Secondly, came the interest in Public Information work, posters were put up, TV and radio spots arranged, and open meetings were conducted for professional people, such as the clergy, judges, social workers, teachers, etc. And finally, came the interest in service because the Delegate had given her Report in the Districts and many more Al-Anon members had the chance to hear about the Conference.

"As you can tell, I'm really excited about District Meetings. I'm proud of the growth of Al-Anon in North Dakota and I'm proud to be from that state!" Doreen W., North Dakota

AL-ANON TWELFTH-STEP WORK SHOULD REMAIN FOREVER NON-PROFESSIONAL, BUT OUR SERVICE CENTERS MAY EMPLOY SPECIAL WORKERS.

### ANNUAL REPORTS: WSO ACTIVITIES

In keeping with a Policy established in the days of the Clearinghouse, Annual Reports are published here to provide every Al-Anon Family Group with an accounting of activities and finances at the WSO.

The presentation to the Conference of the Annual Reports is made each year with the understanding that Conference members have received them well in advance of the Conference; however, they are approved formally by the members and an opportunity is always given for questions and comments from the floor. The first was a

*Report by Ted K., Chairman, Board of Trustees:*

"As WSO continues to grow, 'New Faces' are becoming a more common experience, and since there are so many this year (six), perhaps it will help you to get to know them if I mention each one briefly. Here they are, in alphabetical order, by first name of course!

"Bo H. was elected to the Executive Committee last April and, like all our 'New Faces,' has been waiting patiently for his first Conference. You'll recognize him by his magnificent bushy moustache.

"Eamon Timoney has taken over the Controller's position since Henny Neiger retired in January. Having been one of our auditors a few years back, he comes to us with the unique advantage of knowing our business operation nearly as well as we ourselves. Listen for the lilt of Irish laughter.

"Eleanor O'B., arrived on the scene in May of last year following our search for a qualified Al-Anon to fill the position of Deputy General Secretary. Though known to the outside world as Deputy Director, she doesn't pack a six-shooter.

"Linda McF. may already be a name you recognize. I know many of you have heard from her, since she became our Staff Writer. The response from nearly everyone since publication of our new Fourth-Step Inventory booklet would indicate the fellowship digs Linda.

"Margaret O'D. is another name that should strike a familiar chord. As PI Secretary (we now have two) her efforts have been directed primarily to the group level—something that has been needed for a long time. If you spot a tall, slender pixie—that's her.

"Norris R., though not technically a newcomer to the Conference, returns in his new role of Regional Trustee—Western U.S. Energetic and outgoing as a Delegate, he has brought it with him as a Trustee. He and I share an uncommon situa-

tion. Neither of us is married to an alcoholic, and both our wives are bona fide Al-Anons. Look for two tall men who are very, very happy.

"Outstanding among the events of 1975 was our participation in the Denver International Convention. We estimate at least 5,000 Al-Anons and Alateens, possibly more, attended our many sessions over that weekend. Our Conference discussions pertaining to Internationals, past and future, will come in two parts this year. In particular, I'm sure you will find the first one very exciting!"

WSC Members would have to wait and wonder what this news was to be as Penny called next for the

## TREASURER'S REPORT\*

Carter C.

As a member of Al-Anon and a man of long experience in legal and financial matters, Carter has continued to oversee the soundness of our financial programs. He has been assisted in the prudent administration of funds by Eamon Timoney, Controller.

Carter reported to the Conference that the year 1975 was notable for Al-Anon as it was the first year in the history of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. (WSO) in which sales of books and literature exceeded \$1 million.

This year's financial record:

- Total income was increased by about \$151,400, 19.2% over 1974. In 1974 the increase was 25% over the previous year.
- An increase of \$221,000 in the sale of books and literature; ODAT represented \$83,000 of this amount.
- Contributions amounted to \$194,500, as compared to 1974's 176,800—an increase of 9.1%.
- Increase in operating expenses was \$197,000, or 32.6% higher than 1974.
- Salaries were higher by 35%.
- Annuity policies for our WSO Retirement Program cost \$50,611 in premiums.
- Excess of income over expenses was \$105,000, compared with \$183,800 for 1974.

Carter noted that the increased total income from all sources reflected the all-around increase in the activities, functions and services of WSO. On the costs side of the picture, the increased activity also accounted for the increase in total operating expenses in 1975. "Payroll, taxes, hospitalization and disability insurance were all higher in proportion to the larger number of employees required to handle the greater volume of orders, subscriptions and inquiries."

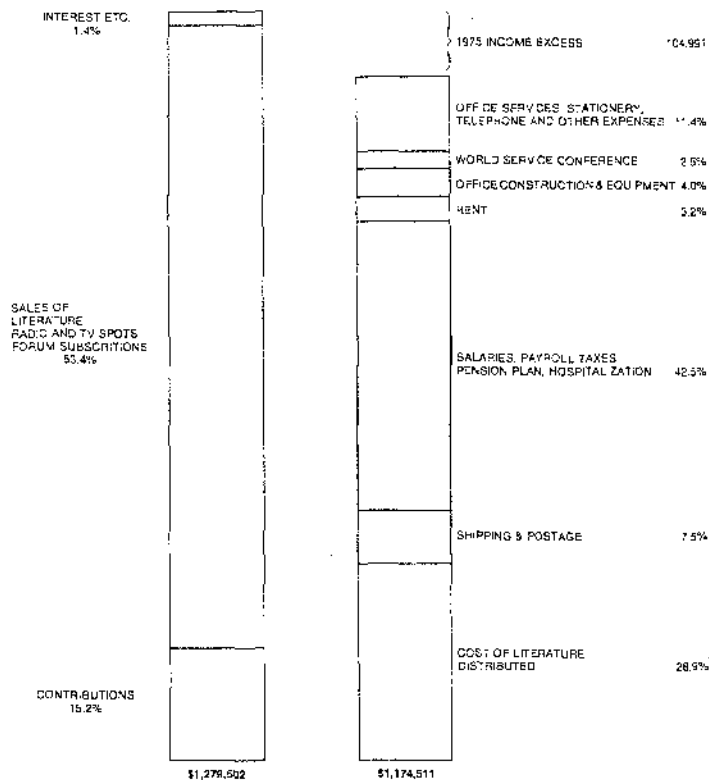
"During 1975, we found it necessary to lease another floor at the WSO at a fitting-out cost of \$33,000 and additional rent of \$9,000.

"Our financial statements do not reflect the savings achieved in the labor costs of the World Service Office arising from the dedicated work of many Al-Anon volunteers who so generously donate their time to assisting the WSO staff. Without such volunteer helpers our labor costs would be much greater.

"Because of the changes in the law dealing with Employee Pension Plans, it is necessary to reconstruct our existing Retirement Plan. Such changes as will reduce on-going annual costs of employee pensions while benefits will be improved.

"The Reserve Fund, established in 1970, increased by \$140,000 in 1975. This increase represented \$114,000 transferred from the General Fund and \$26,000 interest earned on the Fund's investments. The Reserve Fund has for its purpose the provision of a cushion against the possible contingency of a

## INCOME—1975—EXPENSES



severe economic depression. The amount in the Reserve at year end 1975 was \$413,000, about half of the year's operating expenses. We anticipate that, upon expiration of our existing WSO lease in February 1978, we will face substantial relocation costs which may reach \$100,000."

Carter ended his formal presentation by introducing Eamon Timoney, the new Controller, who outlined the budget for 1976. Eamon used his expertise to further explain the intricacies of the new Pension Plan, and to give credit to the outstanding work done by Don H., an insurance consultant and an Al-Anon member.

Both Eamon and Carter made themselves available to answer any and all questions about the new Plan and the financial picture as a whole.

\*The annual financial statement is available to any group on request.

## POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary S., Chairman

"It is the purpose of your Policy Committee to help insure our world-wide membership of consistent interpretation of Al-Anon policy based on the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and our experience accumulated throughout the years.

"As the fellowship has grown so has the number of requests for policy guidance. As our groups have become more and more Tradition-minded an increasing number of such requests have flowed into the World Service Office.

"To help us overcome a time lag in individual answers to all of them, and to assist all groups everywhere to answer many of their own policy questions, and acceding to a Conference request of a few years back, your Committee and the WSO Staff embarked on the extensive work of bringing together all policy Guideline statements that have accumulated both before and since the inception of the WSC into a single volume, well indexed so that it is easy to consult.

"This volume, in mimeographed form, was presented to the Conference last year. It is now available in printed and bound form.

"We feel that the introduction of this Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies is the principal contribution of the Policy Committee during the past year. It marks a major moment in the continuing development of group conscience and responsibility. Its usefulness and acceptability is amply testified to by the dramatic decrease in requests to the WSO for clarifications and policy determination and by the comments contained in many letters sent to us.

"Everything embodied in the Digest, every single policy statement in there, has been submitted to the Conference for approval or rejection each year since the institution of the World Service Conference in 1960."

The statements of Policy adopted by the Committee and the Board of Trustees during the past year were then presented for consideration and/or approval:

#### "Policy Committee Meetings

3/19/75

"Every elected Area Delegate is to be listed in the World Directory.

"The pamphlet, For Teenagers With An Alcoholic Parent which was discontinued when the book ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS was published, is to be reinstated with major revisions to bring it up to date. It is to be sold, at an approximate cost of 25¢.

"6/16/75

The term 'Al-Anon Central Information Committee (English-Speaking)' is a designation to be reserved for English-speaking Information Services which form in a foreign language country.

"Service literature, including Guidelines, are to continue to be developed by the specific committee involved and/or Staff. The final review is to be done by the Chairman of the Policy Committee or her appointee and the professional staff writer is to look it over for format and continuity of style.

"The Policy Committee recommends that the following clarification of the 1961 Policy be made and brought to the attention of the '76 WSC:

"1961 Policy:

"that it was felt a group near a state line should join the Assembly in its own state/province."

"addition:

If a group joins an Assembly Area outside of its own State or Province, it should be aware that the Delegate of the State or Province in which the group is located will receive all correspondence relating to that group, such as contribution slips, regardless of the Assembly to which the group belongs. New group information is also sent to the Delegate of the Assembly Area where the group is located. It is, therefore, the Delegate's responsibility to forward this information to the Assembly Area to which the group belongs.

"9/16/75

One of our primary functions is to provide literature and films which describe our program and our services. It is not within our province to review all the material—films, books, etc., which deal with alcoholism. Therefore, it is inadvisable for us to recommend films that are not done by or in cooperation with the WSO.

"12/16/75

Revision of existing Policy (page 34 of the Digest of Al-Anon And Alateen Policies, under VI "What is the Voice of the Fellowship?") is as follows (the addition is underscored):

The FORUM is our medium for sharing the experience of Al-Anon/Alateen members worldwide. Since it is copyrighted material; the WSO cannot grant permission for substantial reprints in any publication, including Area Newsletters, without endangering our copyright. The FORUM is not Conference Approved because it contains opinions as to how the program applies to personal problems and discusses pros and cons of many issues affecting the fellowship as a whole. Much of the material derives from letters directed to the FORUM Committee at the WSO.

"Membership entitles a person to vote and hold office. Whether members may hold office in more than one group is a matter of group autonomy, although it does deprive other members of the privilege of serving and growing. No member, may, however, be Group Representative (GR) of more than one group.

"Revision of existing Policy (page 30 of the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies," under II b. 'Membership') is as follows (the addition is underscored):

"Al-Anon members who attend several groups regularly and participate fully in all of them may consider themselves members of all those groups. Most members, however, consider one group their home group."

Mary ended the Annual Report of the Policy Committee saying,

"It is my sincere wish that the same interest and helpful search as was manifested in the past as we together sought clarification of things that play a vital part in unifying Al-Anon worldwide will prevail this year, and that the true Al-Anon spirit of open-minded discussion will guide each and every one in our consideration of these actions of the Policy Committee during the past year."

At this point the Delegates were asked to affirm the decisions made by the Committee in the year ending December 31, 1975. The vote was in favor of accepting the report and gave Conference approval to the policies presented.

The Conference was then asked to turn its attention to policies established in the period after the first of the year and before the Conference itself.

The first consideration was of a procedure recommended by the Board of Trustees:

#### 1/27/76 Board Meeting

"That future Al-Anon Host Committees of International Conventions should be structured as AA's Host Committees and that they be responsible in all matters to the WSO."

Other policy revisions, additions and recommendations came from the

#### 3/16/76 Policy Committee meeting

"Policy Digest, Page 30, Section II c—Membership reads:

'Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also members of AA are eligible to hold office within the Al-Anon/Alateen groups. Because of the unique nature of the Al-Anon/Alateen and AA programs, AA members may not serve as Al-Anon/Alateen Group Representatives (GR), District Representatives (DR) or Delegates. The need to focus at all times on the Al-Anon/Alateen interpretation of the program would of necessity bring

about a conflict of interest at Assembly and World Service levels.'

### "Policy Additions

#### *Clubhouses*

##### "1. Operated by AA Members

Many groups use meeting facilities provided and operated by AA members. In keeping with our Traditions, it was suggested that: Al-Anon groups should have their own telephone listings separate from that of the clubhouse listing; they pay an agreed sum for rent; and that they maintain Al-Anon groups as separate entities at all times.

"Should the clubhouse policy be so restrictive as to exclude new Al-Anon members or dictate terms for use of the facility which are contrary to Al-Anon Traditions and principles, then the group would be wise to find another meeting place."

##### "2. Operated by Al-Anon Members

While there may seem to be numerous good reasons for forming an enterprise of this nature, a group has but one purpose, 'to help families and friends of alcoholics.' Ownership and managerial involvement may divert energy from this primary objective.

"Any members, as individuals, may establish and operate a facility for Al-Anon and Alateen meetings and social functions. Such clubhouses are projects outside of Al-Anon and are not affiliated with, financed or endorsed by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

"Members, as individuals, are free to manage and finance all phases of the operation, but it is suggested that Al-Anon and Alateen groups which meet at such facilities:

- pay rent (group funds should not be used for furnishings and clubhouse repairs, etc.);
- list the group phone under the group name, not that of the clubhouse; and change the meeting place if the management should impose restrictions that are contrary to Traditions and principles."

### "Policy Committee Recommendation

As Conference decisions are added to the Digest of Al-Anon And Alateen Policies, they will be removed from the section in the Conference Brochure which lists past Conference decisions."

Each and every one of these Policy Committee statements and procedures was voted upon and approved by the full Conference body. The amended policy statements and the newly adopted passages appear in the latest printing of the Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies.

The Conference turned down only one recommendation and voted to maintain the established policy not to provide lists of suppliers for articles associated with the fellowship, i.e. plaques, jewelry, etc.

It was a long and difficult Conference session which Mary handled with gracious patience. We are indeed fortunate to have a member with her wisdom and forbearance to serve the fellowship.

## GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Henrietta S.

The Al-Anon World Service Office reports annually to the World Service Conference and prepares a Summary of Conference reports and decisions, which is sent to each registered English-speaking group. A few copies are also sent to each other-language General and Central Service Committee overseas. Quarterly and annual reports of office and committee work are made to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. This is the membership corporation

responsible for the following: carrying out the mandates of the World Service Conference; business policies; estimating annual revenue; prudent administration of funds; authorizing employment of office personnel; expansion and improvement of service to the membership; and the publication and distribution of Conference Approved Literature. All actions are taken in the framework of our Traditions. Business and administrative decisions required between quarterly Board meetings are the responsibility of the Executive Committee. These are brought before the Trustees for review and approval.

### Personnel Administration

The General Secretary (Executive Director) of the WSO, who is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees, reports to and confers with the Executive Committee and the Trustees on supervisory and administrative policies of the organization. She also serves on ad hoc committees such as the By-Laws, Pension Plan and Organizational Structure or such responsibility may be assigned to or shared with the Deputy General Secretary or the Staff Administrative Assistant. Employment and supervision of the Al-Anon Administrative Staff Secretaries and the Office Supervisor is the function of the General Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Employment and supervision of business personnel, those in Publications, Shipping, Group Records, *FORUM* subscriptions, Bookkeeping and General Clerical, continued to be the function of the Office Supervisor, with the approval of the General Secretary. Henny Neiger served in the dual capacity of Office Supervisor/Controller during 1975, but resigned for personal reasons near the end of the year. The Trustees recognized that the growth of the WSO now warranted employment of a full-time Controller. A man well qualified for the position was identified. Eamon Timoney joined the organization on January 2, 1976. Henny remained during January to brief him on our procedures. In addition to all functions inherent to that position, the Controller will have full oversight responsibility for the Shipping Department.

Employment and supervision of business personnel, those in Group Records, *FORUM* and General Clerical units, remains the function of the Office Supervisor. In her last few months with us, Henny trained Margaret O'B., who was promoted to Office Supervisor, for her new responsibilities.

### Staff Concerns

One of the basic responsibilities of the General Secretary is to coordinate the work of the Al-Anon Administrative Staff, which is concerned with giving the best possible service to our growing membership. Following the findings of the Organizational Structure Committee, before mid-year two additional employees were added to this category, the Deputy General Secretary and another Public Information Secretary to concentrate on Group P.I. Relations. So at present, the Al-Anon Administrative Staff, all of whom are voting members of the Conference, consists of the following: Henrietta, General Secretary; Eleanor, Deputy General Secretary; Myrna, Administrative Assistant and Convention Secretary; Timmy—Alateen; Josie—P.I. for Public Relations; Margaret O'D.—P.I. for Group Relations; Ann—Institutions; Linda—Staff Writer; Holly—Conference.

This additional staff has made it possible for the General Secretary to be relieved of some of the communication to overseas areas related to setting up national structure and much administrative detail. Linda has assumed the responsibility of coordinating the work of the volunteer Literature Committee, and each of the six other Al-Anon secretaries handles the matters with which each one's respective committee is involved. The very broad spectrum of group problems brought to

the WSO in the mail and occasionally by phone, are assigned to the various Staff Secretaries based on a pre-determined geographical division of the world. Weekly Staff meetings are held to consider current problem letters and discuss possible improvement in procedures. In the first half of the year, much time was also devoted to finalizing all plans for the Denver Convention program. All the Al-Anon Administrative Staff meets with the Conference Chairman each month to work out the agenda and other details relevant to the WSC. Helen G., Holly's assistant in Conference work, who hosts the Hospitality Room at the Conference, also participates in these meetings.

The business staff, headed by the Office Supervisor/Controller, grew from 34 to 39 employees, a few of whom are part-time. Coupled with the eight Al-Anon Administrative Staff, this made a total on the payroll of 48. To accommodate the increased staff, it became necessary to lease another floor in the building, which was renovated into additional office and storage space. The move of the receptionist/telephone operator, the Spanish Department and part of the Administrative Staff to the seventh floor was completed just in time for the 1975 WSC.

Growth brings its unique problems, but the WSO was able to maintain a relatively smooth operation as the physical layout was expanded and new people were being trained into key positions. Only the excellent spirit of cooperation among the staff and with committee chairmen and other WSO volunteers made the year's record achievements possible. The volunteer committee members, including the Delegates who contributed so much to the work of the Standing Committees, continued to be an inspiration to the paid staff in giving so much of their talents and time to plan and complete many projects, so needed in our growing fellowship.

## Publications

Our best seller, ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON, again set a record and all other books increased in sales, with the exception of the Alateen book. Compared with the previous year, book shipments were as follows:

	1975	1974
LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC ..	13,257	10,969
AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM ..	9,062	7,553
DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE .....	12,194	9,587
ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON .....	110,899	82,781
FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS .....	5,731	4,643
ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS .	11,411	13,282
VIVIENDO CON UN ALCOHOLICO .....	2,125	1,722
SPANISH ODAT .....	1,047	—

Sales of other literature increased 27% from \$381,979 to \$485,567. 69,809 pieces of free literature, were distributed to proposed groups, individuals, students and Public Information contacts.

## FORUM

315,569 FORUMS were mailed, 9% more than the previous year. Free copies were distributed to a larger number of groups and the paid subscriptions increased. At year's end, subscriptions compared with 1974 as follows:

	1974	1975	Increase
Multiple .....	6,567	7,369	802
Individual .....	9,835	11,162	1,327
	16,402	18,531	2,129

## Shipping & Mimeographing

Shipping and mailing costs totaled \$86,778 in 1975, an increase of \$12,089 over 1974. This reflected the greater volume of literature distributed, as well as higher costs of packing materials and rises in postal rates. 203,020 letters were mailed, compared with 160,295 the previous year. 93,367 packages were shipped vs. 78,922 in 1974.

452,000 mimeographed sheets were processed. These included various form letters, the tri-annual contribution appeals, WSC materials, Guidelines, supplementary literature on the price list and miscellaneous items for all departments.

## Bookkeeping & Accounting

Hauser, O'Connor & Hyland, Certified Public Accountants, did an interim audit of our bookkeeping practices and records in July and an annual review soon after the year's end. The Office Supervisor/Bookkeeper continued to prepare the quarterly financial statements and to handle all disbursements other than payroll and tax returns, which are prepared by an outside computer service. Three assistant bookkeepers were responsible for the daily entries of sales, posting of contributions, and bank deposits. Billing and posting of accounts receivables was still done manually.

## Group Records and Directory

2,534 new groups registered and 783 were dropped from the active list. Total registrations as of December 31, 1975 were:

Al-Anon Groups .....	9,390*
Alateen Groups .....	1,724
Lone Members .....	232
Alateen Contacts .....	29

11,375

\*Information Services, Intergroups and Central Offices numbered 103 and are included in the Al-Anon Group count and in the total.

The World Directory—Part I, listing mailing addresses and group contacts in the U.S. & Canada, was published in early spring; Part II, covering all other countries, appeared in early summer. The return of the data cards showed some improvement, but there are still far too many groups which fail to realize how important it is to mail them back to the WSO before the stated deadline. Consequently, it is not possible to produce the Directory without some outdated information.

Often a group's mailing address will change without the WSO being notified. When the free FORUM or other mail sent to the mailing address of record is returned, the group records staff re-mail to another address on file with a request for correction. 13¢ postage was paid on each such return, plus 13¢ to send it again. In many instances, the WSO was informed of a change of address but not given notice of any change in the group telephone contact. This resulted in being unable to make the correct referral to the group, when an individual asked about the nearest meeting. Delegates are urged to remind the groups in their Areas, whenever they have the opportunity, of the importance of notifying the WSO of change of address and phone contact immediately and to pay the rent on time when the group uses a P.O. Box.

## Group Services

The WSO served over 11,000 groups and Lone Members throughout the world in 1975. Each of the 2,942 proposed groups received a welcoming letter, free packet of literature and a FORUM. Additional material was sent after registration. This included the current Directory (Part I to the groups in the U.S. & Canada and Part II to the others), Al-Anon and Alateen



Groups at Work; and to those in an Area with a Delegate, a World Service Handbook. All English-speaking groups received a free *FORUM* subscription and a Conference Summary. The French *FORUM* was sent to the registered French groups and as a substitute, the mimeographed *AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION* went each month to the Spanish groups. Alateen groups and Loners received the bi-monthly *ALATEEN TALK*.

Twelve groupwide mailings, which included the three contribution appeals; Directory letters; announcements of the Alateen cartoon booklet, mats and posters, the Keepsake programs, showings of *DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK*, the Policy Digest, the revised P.I. KIT, A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon and several with special Convention material, accounted for 140,000 of the 203,000 pieces of outgoing mail. 2,700 copies of Institutional Highlights and 2,100 copies of Area Highlights were sent in quarterly mailings. Approximately 4,500 individuals living with active alcoholics were referred to groups nearest them. The balance included communications to Delegates and others referred to in Committee reports; replies to groups with problems; correspondence about translations and revisions of CAL to adapt it to local usage in overseas English-speaking areas; suggestions on structure to overseas General Service Committees; and business correspondence.

#### **Supplementary Material (Report by Eleanor O'B.)**

Eight of the nine Guidelines on our Supplementary Price List were revised. Revisions of some were only minor; others were considerably revised and updated. This project was initiated by Myrna H. and Eleanor O'B., with the assistance of other Staff members, Timmy W., Ann S., and Margaret O'D. Approval of the revisions was given by Louise M. Many other pieces of mimeographed supplementary material, both those on the price list and those not on the price list, were revised and updated. A new and better coding system was established for all of this material.

#### **General Correspondence**

Another article by Ann Landers early in the year brought over 3,000 inquiries to the WSO. Many other individuals wrote subsequently throughout the year. All letters were acknowledged, referral made to the nearest group and appropriate literature sent. Other correspondence unrelated to their specific assignments was handled by all the Staff Secretaries, who replied to a variety of questions from groups and tried to share our experience in resolving problems.

Many of these questions were properly directed to the WSO, but a fair proportion could have been resolved at the group level (putting principles above personalities) by members knowledgeable about the Traditions and familiar with the Policy Digest. Whenever the group failed to come up with a satisfactory answer, the GR could have brought the problem to a District meeting or sought the help of the DR or Area Delegate.

#### **Foreign Language Al-Anon**

##### **a. French**

(1) *The French Literature Committee—Montreal*—continued to function as the WSO's agent in the translation and production of the *FORUM* and CAL. It serviced all French-speaking Al-Anon/Alateen groups in the world. The Chairman, Alberte C., and the translator, Harriet L., receive a monthly fee from the WSO, which was augmented during 1975 by additional monies to assure payment of Quebec provincial payroll deductions for taxes and mandatory employee benefits.

The Board of Trustees authorized Owen Flanagan, our accountant, to visit the new offices of the FLC, as well as have a

meeting with a Montreal lawyer about regularizing the Committee's operations. Michael Alexander, our lawyer in New York, had previously been consulted in this matter as well. On their advice, the Trustees decided to recommend incorporation of the FLC, as a separate body, with only French Al-Anon members to serve on that Board. This will be primarily a publishing effort, as the WSO will have to continue to subsidize the French office to reimburse it for services performed for the French groups.

Sporadic postal strikes in Quebec during the earlier months of the year and the 40-day Canadian strike called in late October seriously hampered communication between the FLC and the WSO. Several emergencies which arose in both periods were resolved by telephone. The most recent strike had a severe impact on sales of books and literature, though limited service was extended by the Committee through delivery of orders to groups by automobile wherever feasible. Normal postal service was not resumed until mid-December.

Throughout the year, Alberte forwarded file copies of various leaflets which had been revised, as well as translations of the mimeographed Guides, which had recently been improved at the WSO. A second printing of the French ODAT was ordered, half of which (10,000 copies) was delivered to the FLC in early December. The French version of *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC* will need to be reordered in early 1976. The WSO provided Harriet with all the changes made in the 1975 English edition.

A more detailed report of the FLC's activities appears elsewhere in this brochure.

(2) *General Service Committee—France*—Marie O. of the Yvelines Intergroup in Versailles sent a translation of the minutes of the January 15th meeting of the General Services Committee held in their new office in Paris. Reports were given by Chairmen of the various committees (Literature, Public Relations, Loner Liaison and Finances) indicating good progress in all areas. Plans were made for an anniversary celebration on March 1, to be preceded by a general assembly at which group representatives were to nominate candidates to serve on a Board of Trustees. Minutes of the April 17th GSC meeting reported an attendance of 275 at the anniversary.

Subsequently, Phillippe B., Public Relations Officer, sent copies of several form letters he had developed for lone members, outside agencies and professionals, an appeal to the Al-Anon groups for assistance with P.I. He asked for our opinion of the letters and also guidance on member participation in TV appearances. Eleanor O'B. replied to Phillippe, with appropriate comments. In the interest of clarification and in use of consistent terminology, it was suggested that the Public Relations Offices be called a Public Information Committee. We outlined the functions of standard committees as explained in Concept XI and sent a copy of Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service.

The Sept. issue of *LA CHAÎNE*, the monthly bulletin published by the GSC, carried a most enthusiastic article about the International Convention, written by Marie Helene, who represented her country on the "Around the World with Al-Anon" Big Meeting. She described her trepidation and awe at the prospect of speaking before such a huge audience and mentioned the moral support that she and Melanie of Germany gave each other. She told of the many smaller French meetings that followed, attended by French Canadians, former Frenchwomen now living in the U.S. and others from Switzerland and France itself. She marveled that there were so many members who had been in the program for 10 or more years, still living with practicing alcoholics. What impressed her most was the unity in application of the program. All spoke the same language, all used the same familiar terms. The only difference she noted was in the custom among most English-speaking mem-

bers of using the Lord's Prayer to close meetings, whereas the French use only the Serenity Prayer.

**b. Spanish** (reported in conjunction with Myrna H.)

(1) *Argentina*—Despite government restrictions on travel outside the country and tremendous difficulty in arranging the foreign exchange, Lilian C., and three other members active in the General Service Office in Buenos Aires, as well as a number of other representatives from their country, attended the Denver Convention. Lilian and her companions visited the WSO following the Convention, to discuss some of their various concerns. After returning home, she wrote: "Words cannot express how much it has meant to us to have been privileged to attend the Convention and meet all you loving people. The emotions and experiences lived during those few days left a very deep impression on each one of us. May we, with God's help, put into practice these rich gifts of love and understanding to further Al-Anon's fellowship in Argentina. May God Bless each of you who for so many years have worked for the benefit of so many."

Al-Anon has made great strides since the delegation of five returned. Four of the members visited many different areas to tell the groups about the trip with very positive results. The number of volunteer workers at the office has increased considerably. Many, including some men, have taken on a regular weekly stint of duty. They have stocked a complete range of literature, purchased three shelving units and a mimeograph machine. A new "Directing Committee" (comparable to a Board of Trustees) was elected. This time the groups were not asked to nominate candidates. Instead, only the members active in the office offered suggestions to the Nominating Committee. As a result, they have a very reliable working committee. They had hoped to elect a slate for a three-year term but were too late to permit the calling of an Extraordinary Assembly (required by Argentinian law) so another election will be necessary next year.

The Central Bank in Argentina would not allow any exchange transactions in late 1975 which prevented sending their usual yearly contribution and paying for any literature. Lilian hoped that after the translation of the DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE, which she forwarded, had been approved at the WSO for printing in Argentina, that we would consider having them produce a larger quantity, some to be purchased by us. She suggested that instead of paying for them, we could exchange copies of ONE DAY AT A TIME of equivalent value. Near the end of the year, she forwarded an updated list of group addresses, numbering 120 compared with 109 in June.

The WSO had refused to extend permission to a Dr. Alberto Cormillot of Buenos Aires to reprint our copyrighted Spanish literature, in which he wished to substitute words referring to obesity wherever the effects of alcoholism on the family were discussed. In reply to our inquiry about him, Lilian explained: "We know all about him and would have refused him permission to reprint if he had approached our office. He is Director of a local clinic, a money-making concern."

(2) *Colombia*—In 1974, a General Service Office was established in Bucaramanga. The WSO cooperated by agreeing to their request that we write to all registered groups in that country encouraging their participation in a first national Al-Anon Conference, where members were informed of the need for a national office. Permission to reprint CAL for distribution in Colombia was to be given to the GSO, as they became financially able to print.

Early in 1975, mail to the office was returned with a "closed box" notice. We tried to determine if they were still functioning

by writing to an individual, but received no response. In late summer, a member in Bogota wrote us that letters addressed to the GSO went unanswered. Presuming that they had disbanded, she asked if a General Service Office could be formed in their city. Just as we were about to provide suggestions on procedure, a letter was received from the secretary of the Oficina General de Servicios in Bucaramanga happily announcing resumption of operation. So the Bogota members were advised to form an Information Service instead to unify the groups in their city and the surrounding suburbs.

A substantial quantity of books and literature were shipped to Bucaramanga in advance of the AA Convention in October, in which Al-Anon had been invited to participate. They have reprinted two items, "How One AA Wife Lives the Twelve Steps" and "Just For Today." In the latter part of the year, the GSO maintained regular contact with WSO and appeared to be functioning well.

A group in Bogota complained that the cost of literature distributed by the GSO was much too high; they asked the WSO to recommend the ratio to be followed in pricing literature. They also wrote of their difficulties in relation to AA and asked how much AA should be allowed to interfere in the Al-Anon group's activities.

(3) *Costa Rica*—A comprehensive report was received from Consuelo de S., Secretary of the GSO, of the Al-Anon meetings held at the 13th AA Central American Congress in early spring. Al-Anon members attended from Mexico, El Salvador and the Caribbean Islands. The Convention was opened with an address by the wife of the Minister of Public Health who gave great credit to Al-Anon as a resource for families of alcoholics. Excellent cooperation from radio, TV and all the news media resulted in hundreds of phone calls and letters of inquiry about how to find an Al-Anon group. "Cony" had been scheduled to represent Costa Rica at the "Around the World With Al-Anon" meeting at the Convention, but arrived in Denver too late to participate. She was able to share at the all-Spanish meetings later.

(4) *Guatemala*—At the Denver Convention, an Al-Anon member from Guatemala gave Teresa, the head of the Spanish unit at the WSO, a letter covering the following questions: How best to work for the Al-Anon movement in that country; how could a General Service Office be established; would the WSO consider writing to all the AA groups in Guatemala urging them to recognize the members of Al-Anon because they are ill-informed about our movement and are apathetic about it; why do groups start but often disband within a year or two; what is the best way to hold closed meetings? She also gave her a list of the active groups there.

In the fall, a request for guidance in establishing an Information Service was received from a group in Guatemala City.

(5) *Mexico*—In late May, after more than six months of no news, the WSO received a very long letter from Susy K., bringing us up-to-date on recent activities. With a view to establishing a permanent national conference, she described a plan to divide the country in three sections to arrange panels of new and experienced Delegates for the future. Various ways for providing rotation were being considered. Susy asked if the alternative methods should be presented to the Conference for their decision or if their Board should decide on the best and make a recommendation to the Conference for approval.

The Delegates in Mexico City hold study meetings every month with their GRs for an in-depth review of the Traditions and Service Manual. These Delegates also visit the nearby groups regularly and help organize anniversary and information meetings.

The Alateen and Young Al-Anon groups planned a special event for Mother's Day in Mexico City. The two meetings, with

a coffee break in between, were most inspiring with more than 100 Al-Anon and Alateens attending.

Because of the continuing delays in shipments of books and literature into Mexico at Customs, (often three months) the WSO agreed to extend credit of up to \$250 on orders placed by the GSO in Mexico City. Payment is made as soon as the literature arrives. The eventual solution appears to be that they somehow find the means to do their own printing.

Three new states, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon and Moreles, had Delegates at the 3rd Al-Anon General Service Trial Conference in Mexico City in mid-October. Two other states expect to join the Conference in 1976. While the Conference remains relatively small, the Alternate Delegates are being invited to attend without vote. This was to encourage a better working relationship between the Alternate and the Delegate and widen the understanding of World Services and the national structure.

Susy K., wrote that there was great interest in service, with everyone "eager to learn more and to grasp every word. It is getting so big, in fact, that I missed that close relationship that we were able to have in previous ones. It is just impossible to really get to know everyone." Her recommendation that the country be divided into three zones for the purpose of establishing rotating panels of Delegates was flatly opposed. In spite of her strong feeling against precipitous action being taken, the Conference voted for a two-year term, with the Alternate Delegate to become the Delegate at the end of the year. This means that their Handbook patterned after ours by Susy, will have to be completely revised. Susy has been an invaluable line of communication from the WSO to the members in Mexico involved in service structure.

She also sought our advice on whether to accept AA's offer that Al-Anon handle its own Al-Anon/Alateen registrations at the AA National Convention to be held in April '76 in Mexico City. The AA Committee insisted that the proceeds from these registrations should go to the Al-Anon Service Office. We recommended that they accept AA's offer. She reported subsequently that a committee for Al-Anon/Alateen activities at the Convention be appointed, that about 24 meetings, including Alateen and Young Al-Anon had been scheduled, that Al-Anon had agreed to keep the profit from their own registrations and to cover some of the Convention costs themselves.

(6) *Puerto Rico* made great strides this year! Three new groups were opened: One in the southeast, one in the metropolitan area and one in the center of the island, where there was no Al-Anon until now.

The Area Committee is responsible for organizing all the various services. At present this Committee consists of ten groups. It is hoped that a District structure will soon form.

The PI Committee has managed to place one spot announcement in three local TV networks. They are showing the one minute spot at least twice a week. Members also appear on a 20 minute weekly radio program and participate on a 30 minute TV program eight times a year. A symposium was held at the University of Puerto Rico sponsored by the faculty. A Family Recovery Program was one of the topics and Isabel, the WS Delegate, participated with a member of Alateen. Al-Anon was represented at the annual Psychiatric Convention where members displayed literature and manned a booth.

The Literature Committee stocks literature for sale to new groups, so they have sufficient material to start.

A Post Office Box has been secured to receive requests for help as a result of the TV and radio programs.

The three-page Area bulletin is distributed to all the existing groups in the Area. For now, only one person is compiling the material. It is hoped, however, to involve more people in the future.

The World Service Committee is sponsoring its first Convention to take place in July, 1976 commemorating their Assem-

bly's first anniversary.

(7) *Spain*—A member who came into Al-Anon in Argentina formed a group in Valencia, Spain. She knew that much patience would be required to assure eventual growth of the group from its initial membership of four. She wrote that many newcomers expect there to be a magic pill, tablet or some kind of medication that can effect an immediate cure for alcoholism.

It was a coincidence that just about the same time this group was started, the editor of a literary journal in the same city requested two review copies of the basic book in Spanish. The WSO asked to be sent copies of the issue of the journal in which the book review appears.

(8) *Other Spanish*—Additional evidence of progress in Spanish-speaking countries included registration of the first Al-Anon Information Service in *Honduras* in the city of Comayagua; receipt of the attractively produced printed file copies of Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work from the GSO in *El Salvador*. The piece had been revised by Teresa before permission was extended to print. A supply was ordered for the WSO to replace the former mimeographed version; early in the year, registration of two Al-Anon groups in different cities in *Chile*, where a few had attempted to form in the past without lasting success; the omission of the credit line from two reprints of Spanish CAL done by the Grupo Comprension in Lima was brought to their attention after Maita F. of Phoenix (who assists with review of French translations) forwarded them to the WSO following a vacation to *Peru*. The Spanish groups in Los Angeles, California, are planning to hold their first Spanish Convention in June and inquired how to plan an open meeting.

A Spanish translation of *A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial* received from Miami, Fla., was evaluated with another one from the groups in Puerto Rico. By the end of the year, Teresa completed a composite version for use in the pamphlet which is to be published by WSO. Permission was granted to the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico to undertake translation into Spanish of Al-Anon—Family Treatment Tool in Alcoholism, with the understanding that the WSO would review the translation and reserve the right to handle printing and distribution.

Due to long-lasting labor troubles in Spain, there was considerable delay in the arrival of the bulk of our order for 20,000 copies of the Spanish ODAT, but all shipments arrived at the WSO before the close of the year. It is likely that this book will stimulate the growth of Spanish Al-Anon everywhere, because in the last few months of 1975, the Spanish groups seemed to be forming at a much faster rate than previously. Total registrations of Al-Anon and Alateen groups exceeded 600.

### c. Finnish

Marjatta P. sent a copy of the talk in both Finnish and an English translation, which was read in her behalf by an interpreter in Denver when she represented Finland for the second time at an AA International Convention. A Finnish-born member, currently living in Georgia, visited Finland in the spring. While there, she had a couple of long meetings with Anelma, secretary of the Al-Anon office. They agreed to work in cooperation with Marjatta, with the goal of improving some of the existing Finnish CAL. Later while on vacation back home, she started translating the Alateen book, a copy of which was sent to her by the WSO.

### d. Flemish

A substantial quantity of the newly published *Youth and the Alcoholic Parent* and *THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE* was sent to the WSO by Karel M., secretary of the Flemish General Service Committee in Belgium. Subsequently he sent copies of all the Flemish pam-

phlets and leaflets to replenish our dwindling stock. He provided us with a copy of the Directory of the Al-Anon/Alateen groups in Belgium and the Netherlands published in January, 1975. In answer to his question about the authorship of the Serenity Prayer, the WSO sent the information compiled by AA about its origin.

#### e. German

In late June, Melanie D., Secretary of the Central Office (Zentrale Kontaktstelle) and two other members, visited the WSO on their way to the International in Denver. Melanie spoke at the first big meeting there and conducted one of the several other German meetings. They had brought with them to the WSO a supply of two new German publications: Al-Anon is for Men and For Teenagers with an Alcoholic Parent.

In early August she wrote that the housing arrangements made for the German contingent in Denver were most inconvenient, and we assured her that we would do everything possible to avoid a repetition of this situation for the next event.

Much interest was expressed in Denver in the long-delayed German version of ODAT. The original had been unsatisfactory, and we sent it to Ursula O., a German-born member in Utah, who did a complete revision. Since no agreement could be reached on this one either, production was again held up. In September, when Alice was in Germany, she met with what is there known as the Literature Team. Alice was much impressed with the capabilities and devotion of these members, and she reported that the revised version which we had sent would require only about 20% altering, changes in language patterns which have developed in Germany since the war and in customs and attitudes. The Literature Team, particularly Erich and Gerlind, who were planning to work on the project, assured Alice that the final manuscript would be ready the first of the year or soon after.

Earlier in the year, minutes of the spring meeting of the General Service Committee were sent us. Held in Kassel, Germany, in eight hours of sessions, it included members from the four Intergroups, Middle, North, West and South. Groups in Austria are now being served by Intergroup South. It was agreed to allot 2% of the annual proceeds from the sale of literature to AA in payment of shipping and postage costs. Kurt, the chairman, reported on the need to consider a change in the price structure. He also acknowledged the fine cooperation on literature by the members in Switzerland. There was a report on *M-F*, the German monthly publication, for which the Swiss members are responsible. A new committee which meets in Berne, edits, publishes and distributes *M-F*. A change in format was under consideration and has been adopted by the end of the year, with an appropriate price increase.

Another General Service meeting, held in October at Essen, revealed considerable disagreement among the membership. Some weeks afterward, Melanie sent a circular letter to all groups, confirming her opposition to the suggestion, by the Intergroup North, that a General Service Office be established, since she is fully capable of handling the work from her home for the present. Irmgard, the Treasurer, had resigned from her post and Melanie felt she could take on the bookkeeping as well, for which her previous business experience fitted her. Two Augsburg members, Ernst and Moni, announced at the Essen meeting that they wished to discontinue filling literature orders as of the end of the year. Members of the Ruhr district offered to take on this responsibility.

The overly-long report of the Literature Committee, by Kurt, the Chairman, made no reference to having met with Alice or the plans for completion of the ODAT translation. Among the serious differences among the members was the one over the long-discussed questions of combining several leaflets into one binding, as Kurt wished to do, while the others disagreed.

Melanie suggested that Kurt resign from the Committee, since Erich and Gerlind, both fluent in English, can handle the literature matters very capably.

The representative of each of the four Intergroups gave an activity report. There was a total of 160 Al-Anon groups, eight contacts and five Alateen groups, an amazing increase over the 100 or so groups at the beginning of 1975. The German members are actively developing Alateen which has lagged behind and they are well aware of the urgent need for more groups.

#### f. Hebrew

The National Coordinator for Alcoholism in the Ministry for Social Welfare in Israel wrote the WSO concerning a dangerous rise in chronic alcoholism in heads of families, reported during a national conference on alcoholism held in Israel in 1974. This led to the establishment of a special unit within the Ministry of Social Welfare charged with treating the problem and the preparation of educational and national programs. He requested material pertaining to family involvement in treatment of alcoholism in the U.S.

#### g. Korean

Sam M., a serviceman stationed in Korea and a long-time member of both AA and Al-Anon sent a translation of A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic, which had been produced in cooperation with the 8th Army Alcohol & Drug Program Director. He informed us that he had previously arranged for translation and production in mimeography of This Is AA. We checked with AA GSO and were told that permission had been extended for distribution of this translation free in Korea. Similar permission was extended on The Guide. Later, Sam sent us a few copies with which requests for Korean material could be filled.

It was a strange coincidence that within two weeks, we did receive two such requests. One came from another serviceman now stationed in Florida, who wrote on behalf of his Korean wife, the other was from an Al-Anon member in Chicago, who had received a frantic phone call at 2 A.M. from her Korean daughter-in-law in California, who revealed that her husband had been having increased difficulties with alcohol. The mother had not seen her son in five years, and had not suspected the gravity of the situation.

Subsequently, Sam ordered 50 copies of the English Guide, which he thought would be useful for anyone talking to a Korean about the translated piece. He also offered to answer any inquiries the WSO might receive from Koreans in the U.S.

#### h. Norwegian

Hans F., of the AA Service Office in Oslo, Norway, offered to help Al-Anon members there to translate literature into Norwegian. He informed us of a new group that had been functioning for some time. The WSO forwarded registration materials and literature to the secretary, Else. She was also given the name and address of an American member, who is starting a group in Stavanger, to which she recently moved from the U.S.

#### i. Portuguese (report by Myrna H.)

This has been a year of great progress for Al-Anon in Brazil. The GSO in Rio de Janeiro has at long last published two Conference Approved pieces, Purposes and Suggestions and So You Love An Alcoholic. This was a tremendous step forward.

Since all translated CAL must first be reviewed for style and content before the WSO can grant permission for reprint, the GSO sent us the text for our approval. Don L., who lives in Brazil and has helped AA develop much of their Portuguese

material, offered us his services. When he approved the translation with a few minor changes, we wrote to the GSO and told them to begin production. In 1968 Don had helped to have portions of our basic book *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC*, published under the title of *VIVENDO COM UM ALCOOLATRA*. In talking with Don when he visited the WSO, he agreed that the book should be revised before its next printing since it doesn't measure up to our standard for Conference Approved Literature.

Correspondence from Brazil had been heavy during the year, but there was difficulty in obtaining translations. Teresa, our Spanish translator, did what she could but her knowledge of Portuguese is limited. A Massachusetts member who had once offered to help, failed to reply after two attempts to reach her. For this reason, a translator was hired who claimed to be fluent in her native Portuguese, as well as Spanish and English. In addition to the Portuguese, she was to assist Teresa with Spanish translations. But, her Spanish was much too weak. In the short time she was here, she did manage to translate letters from the Brazilian members, whose correspondence began to accumulate, and our replies.

Brazil was represented at the International Convention at the Big Meeting, "Al-Anon Around The World" by Sonia L., Don's wife. We had not heard from Sonia for some time but suddenly she became active in service once again. Don spoke in behalf of Sonia whose English is poor, telling how she found Al-Anon. With some advance coaching by Don, Sonia was able to complete the talk in English. Her brief message had a very powerful impact on the audience.

Before returning to Brazil, Don and Sonia visited the WSO to discuss with Henrietta and Myrna some of the difficulties with literature in Brazil. One small faction has been mimeographing and circulating our Conference Approved material throughout Sao Paulo despite the fact that only the GSO is entitled to reprint. We tried to be encouraging and offered the thought that once the GSO began publishing our CAL in booklet form, there would be no further need for items in mimeography.

In the fall, Marge S., a long-time volunteer at the WSO, called to say that she was on her way to Brazil for an extended visit and wished to take the film, *Lois's Story*, with her. We agreed to a reduced rental fee. She wrote soon after to say that she was able to have a sound track made with voices dubbed in Portuguese. She traveled with her husband to cities throughout the country where the film was viewed. It was first shown in Sao Paulo and people came from far and wide to see it and hear Marge speak. Sue was impressed by the spirited enthusiasm of everyone she met, particularly the Alateens, and of the great curiosity about Lois, Al-Anon's history and the workings of the WSO.

## English Al-Anon Overseas

a. *Australia*—There was continuing and frequent correspondence with Norma S., secretary of the General Services Committee throughout the year. Minutes of the semi-monthly meetings of GSC were sent to the WSO, as well as copies of the quarterly national newsletter begun early in the year. These informed the groups of the committee's activities and have already proved effective in stimulating greater interest in development of a national Conference structure.

For the first time since its inception, last year our Conference had a Representative from Australia. Marge M., wrote an account of her impressions of the WSC from England before returning home. A copy of her fine report was sent to the WSO by Norma.

In response to Norma's request for copies of letters from the WSO historical file, samples were sent of those showing how the early groups were circularized for support of the original Clearinghouse, of others written when the World Service Con-

ference was being initiated, as well as past copies of *AREA HIGHLIGHTS*. Permission was extended to reprint from the latter in their newsletter. The September issue carried the article "Responsibility in Service—Participation," (from Mar. '73 Highlights).

Among various requirements to have donations ruled tax deductible are By-Laws for AGSC. As a sample of what theirs might include, a copy of our Headquarters By-Laws was forwarded to Norma as requested. The tremendous increase in postal rates (10¢ to 18¢ on a letter) indicated the need to secure a bulk mailing permit, which can be obtained if 60% of the Australian groups sign a coupon stating they wish to receive the newsletter. Money is lacking to rent their own office, so the GSC is using that of the Victorian Central Service Committee, to whom a small contribution is made. Norma does most of the typing at home and uses the duplicating and photocopying equipment of her employer. He has refused her offer of reimbursement for this privilege, as it would "entail too much out-of-the-way book work."

In an effort to develop their structure on enduring lines, the GSC as well as all the state Trial Sub-Committees devoted much time to study of the Handbook, on which they will continue to depend until the revised edition is available. The trend toward groups electing GRs grew noticeably as the year progressed and reports of Districts being formed appeared more frequently in minutes of the various states' Central Service Committee Meetings.

A Summary of the 1975 Sixth Australian Trial Conference in Adelaide was prepared and distributed by the South Australian Trial Conference Sub-Committee. The main points on which agreement was reached at the Trial Conference were that:

1. The present interim GSC be appointed as a permanent body, to be responsible for opening an Australian General Service Office when practical, providing that groups in Australia are willing to support same.
2. An Australian Handbook be developed, to be assigned to one state as a specific task.
3. Suggestions for financing the GSO be explored, one of these being that it accumulate the profits from the showing of Lois' film.
4. The GSC contact all groups about having an Australian Al-Anon Directory and inquire if they would be willing to contribute each year for its publication.
5. Melbourne, Victoria, be chosen as a place for future Trial and Permanent Conferences, to be reviewed each year until permanent.
6. Two Delegates from each state sit at next year's Trial Conference.

It had also been agreed that "the profits from ODAT were to be channeled back into reprinting until a national body is formed." In August, 1973 permission was extended to New South Wales Central Services to reprint the book on an interim basis, the right to print to be relinquished to the national Australian General Service body when it was established. It had been anticipated that the order for 3,000 copies would last for about 10 years. On August 26th, WSO received from Yvonne R., Secretary of NSW Central Services, a very complete report on the ODAT project: In 12 months almost half the copies printed were sold. As of June 30, 1975, total debt to the bank for production costs had been reduced to \$203 and was cleared within a few weeks thereafter. NSW asked if they could reprint the book as their stock diminished. In view of the agreement of the Australian members at their Conference, we approved that NSW be given permission to do another edition of the book. In



the meantime, profit from sales could be deposited to an account to provide the funds for a second printing. Any excess and future profits would eventually revert to the national service body, after their office is established. This office would then also assume the responsibility for distribution of the book. We requested that a final accounting of income and expenses from the sales of the first edition be sent to the WSO after their supply was depleted.

Mary R., chairman of the GSC, questioned a number of the suggestions in our Information Services Guidelines. Re: the contradiction in the current World Service Handbook and the Guidelines respecting involvement of a member in both a local Information Service and the Area structure, we explained that the Handbook was being revised and attention would be given to resolving this issue. We quoted a paragraph from a report of the N.J. Ad-Hoc Committee, which is currently attempting to merge the N.J. Al-Anon Intergroup into the Assembly structure, as follows: "Recognizing the problems of getting participation within groups of individuals willing to assume responsibilities as either GR or ISR, it is recommended that policy be changed to make each function as the alternate for the other (i.e., GR alternate for IR and vice versa)."

We further explained that in this transitional period while we are trying to encourage a single-line service structure, other contradictions would be likely to surface which would need careful consideration. Some of these are already apparent and will be resolved as the present project of revising the Guidelines is completed.

The letters from Norma late in the year included the following: acknowledgment of copies of the 1975 WSC Summary, which "made tremendously interesting reading—full of very helpful information" and of copies of The Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies. About the latter she remarked: "It will certainly be a help to all groups and I am sure will be followed explicitly by all Central Service Committees in Australia. Our GSC finds it very comprehensive and we are very grateful to have them for referral." By October, the contributions to GSC resulting from showing the film, *Lois's Story*, in Queensland, NSW and Western Australia, totaled \$430. The picture was still to be viewed in the three other Australian states. Norma wrote, "I have been fortunate to see the film twice and each time felt an overwhelming sense of deep gratitude to Lois and all you wonderful people who made it possible for me to find Al-Anon."

The 1976 National Trial Conference will take place the first weekend in May in Parkville, Victoria. They plan to schedule items on the agenda to allow for a 13-hour day from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. Al-Anon made the decision to break away from the AA Convention, held in a different state each year, and the planning of the Conference is now the sole responsibility of the GSC.

From the Jigalong Community in Western Australia, a U.S. citizen working among the Aborigines as a linguist/translator requested printed matter that would help stem the disintegration in camp life already evident due to alcohol, only recently made available to them. The tribal elders feel they are helpless to find an answer.

*b. New Zealand*—Audrey F., former Delegate from the Auckland Area to the N.Z. Conference, who became editor of their annual magazine, wrote about forming a P.I. Committee in Auckland. Their first project in February was a very successful workshop, "Communication With Al-Anon." They next planned to send copies of the "Treatment Tool" and pink giveaway leaflet with a covering letter to all high schools. The WSO suggested adding Facts About Alateen.

A copy of the N.Z. Al-Anon General Service Conference Charter, adopted in 1974, was sent by Glad M., acting secretary of AGS—who explained about their Delegates' terms of office,

as follows: "There are four Areas, Northern, Central, Southern I, and Southern II. Each Area may be represented by three Area Delegates, i.e., one serving for the first time, a second-year Delegate and a third-year Delegate, individually all serving a 3-year term. We also have Service Delegates—Newsletter Editor, Magazine Editor, two Convention Delegates, Literature Officer, P.R. Officer and General Secretary. . . . The Service Delegates do not necessarily rotate on a 3-year term."

About the N.Z. 1975 Convention held in mid-February, Glad wrote: "It was an exhilarating weekend. The atmosphere was wonderful, one could feel the love, companionship and understanding; if anyone ever has any doubts about a Higher Power, then I'm sure an Al-Anon Convention is one gathering where any doubts would be dispelled."

Minutes of the annual Conference held July 4-6 reported that for the first time all out-of-time Delegates and Trustees received air fare one way to Wellington, i.e., half fare. All were satisfied with this distribution of travel funds. Glad pointed out the difficulties of compiling a national group Directory and urged the Delegates to cooperate in getting the GRs in their respective Areas to report mailing addresses to her. She is to apply for exemption as a charitable organization for donations from Al-Anon members to N.Z.A.G.S. A generous contribution to the WSO accompanied the minutes.

Al-Anon was 21 years old in N.Z. in June, but the anniversary was celebrated prematurely on April 12th in conjunction with AA's Southern Area Assembly, which attracted more out-of-town members. There was also a large Public Meeting to commemorate this anniversary scheduled for Sept. 21 to which doctors, lawyers, clergymen, etc. throughout Auckland, were invited.

*c. South Africa* (Report by Eleanor O'B.)—The National Al-Anon Conference, held over the Easter weekend, was to consider a suggested structure for Al-Anon in South Africa. Kinsa K., P.I. Chairman of the AGS office in Johannesburg, reported that due to the vast distances between groups, the dearth of groups in some Areas, clusters in others, the task was not an easy one. The structure had to be tailored to their specific needs. The new, proposed structure was accepted at the Conference, with certain modifications, ". . . with the proviso that it be amended at the Conference annually, and thoroughly reviewed in three years." The final draft incorporated recommendations from all the Information Services; the structure was similar to that of the U.K. and Eire.

Joan Van Z., Secretary of the AGS, wrote that at the Conference, the members of the newly formed Executive Committee, elected by the Transvaal groups, were introduced to the Delegates. Kinsa, the new Executive Committee Chairman, was asked to work with Neil, Delegate from Port Elizabeth, in drawing up the final draft, and to forward a copy to the WSO for comment, along with a list of the Executive Committee members and a history of South African Al-Anon compiled by the AGS.

At the National Conference, it was unanimously decided that an Al-Anon Board of Trustees should be operative for the next Conference, with one Trustee from each District. They expect a total of five for Conference 1976. It was suggested that the Board include two ex-officio members, (the AGS General Secretary and the District Coordinator), the National PIC Chairman, the Alateen Secretary, the Editor of *Unitas* and a retiring member. The Al-Anon Information Services were given the responsibility of forming the groups into Districts; where there is no A.I.S., this task will be given to the most active Al-Anon group. There are now seven Information Services; the newest was formed May 15th, in East Rand, Benoni.

Joan Van Z., wrote asking for clarification of the duties of a District Coordinator (comparable to our Delegate) defined in their new structure as a "member elected for a three-year term

to Conference to link the Districts in South Africa, South West Africa and Rhodesia, to unify their endeavors." We suggested various ways in which the Guidelines forwarded to her could be applied, and that they would, of course, be developed in a manner best suited to their unique situation. We complimented all concerned on their tremendous amount of dedicated work which appears to have helped resolve the difficulties in South African Al-Anon to bring them closer to their aim of unity.

Kinsa K. requested permission to publish a translation into Afrikaans of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC in chapters. Permission was extended.

Two members, Daisy M., and Cathy G., Chairman of Witwatersrand AIS, spoke at the meeting in Denver, "Al-Anon Around the World." The earlier visit with Cathy, at the WSO, together with letters from the secretary of AGS, indicated that some of the younger members are offering to do committee work, a "healthy sign." Cathy reported that the AIS Office, with a staff of volunteers, is now based at the former Al-Anon General Service Office in Witwatersrand, Transvaal. There are also AIS Offices located in Pretoria, Durban, East Rand and Cape Town. Cathy inquired about Public Service Spot Announcements suitable for use in that country for both radio and TV.

"B" B., secretary of the Capetown AIS, visited the WSO during the summer and spent several hours talking over current activities in their Al-Anon world. She had arranged to personally lease a copy of the film, *Lois's Story*, for one year, to be circulated among the many groups that had not had an opportunity to view it previously.

d. U.K. & Eire—Pat D., Representative, gave a most stimulating report of the growth of the fellowship in her Area at the 15th WSC. Jean G., Secretary of the General Service Board, wrote following their meeting in early May to ask for approval of selling the Al-Anon and Alateen posters they produce at a much lower price than the WSO can offer them. She added that Pat "gave the other Board members a very interesting and colorful account of her attendance" here and that they were looking forward to receiving copies of the Policy Digest.

The WSO was informed in late May by Helen M-S., Chairman of GSO, that invitations had been extended to Al-Anon in Belgium, Finland and Germany, to send representatives to the U.K. 1975 Service Conference, if they wished. Helen asked what other countries should be invited. The consensus of the WSO Policy Committee was that overseas countries should be encouraged to send representatives to the WSC, rather than the WSO suggesting that they attend each other's Conferences. However, there was full agreement that because of the U.K.'s accessibility to the continent, it is financially more feasible to have representation from European countries at their Annual Conference than at the WSC in the States.

The excellent Summary of the 6th U.K. & Eire Service Conference held the 19th to 21st of September revealed that Rit J., a Flemish Al-Anon of Belgium, attended as an observer. She was asked to give a brief account of the fellowship in her country. She said that most of their members were spouses of AA members. If the partners drank again, they left Al-Anon. They wondered why Rit was able to work in Al-Anon, still having the active problem at home. She had felt very much alone in the past and was much helped by the discussion at the Conference, when some members mentioned that they still have the active problem within their families. She would now be able to tell her groups that many English members were still not living with sobriety and share with them how a national conference and the English meetings are run.

Throughout the year, drafts of various items were submitted by Dorothy H., Chairman of their Literature Committee, for review and comment by the WSO. These included "Guidelines for Conventions" (a much expanded version of ours); "Suggested Newcomers Meeting Format" and Conference Ap-

proved Literature (both adapted in respect to language usage) and copy for a leaflet to be produced in Urdu, based on *So You Love an Alcoholic*. It was not clear to us how their adaptation of the Al-Anon I.S. Guidelines would avoid the problem of a double-headed structure in the future and there appeared to be certain other confusing suggestions. So we asked that Dorothy respond before we could approve this adaptation. She replied: "Since your searching questions have been studied very carefully by the Literature Committee, we have decided to put the Guidelines for AIS aside, whilst we are busy with the revision of our Handbook, as we realize that we need to have more time to clarify our thinking on this subject." She went on to report that the Dublin Information Service is making fine progress, it is not likely that any other would be starting soon and that if Eire or Scotland, in time to come, wished to establish their own Conference, they would be referred to the WSO.

A copy of *Lois's Story* was picked up by Josette H., who spoke on behalf of the U.K. & Eire at the Denver International "Around the World" meeting, when she visited the WSO on her way back to England. The picture was shown at the Nottingham Conference in September and again at the AA Convention at Selsey. It was very well received and was expected to have a wide circulation throughout the U.K.

e. West Germany (report by Eleanor O'B.)—The English-speaking Al-Anon/Alateen Groups organized their Information Services under the title of "Central Information Committee—Al-Anon Groups of West Germany," as recommended to them by the WSO. Their November newsletter reported on a quarterly meeting on Oct. 25th in Mainz, with representation from groups in Bittburg, Heidelberg, Lahr, Mannheim, Mainz, Ramstein and Weisbaden. Ways in which Al-Anon information could be circulated were discussed. It mentioned that notices could be included in Al-Anon newcomers' welcome packets; Stars and Stripes, Post newspapers, etc. Yvonne B. of Wurzburg was elected to serve as secretary for one year, beginning Oct. '75. At the next meeting scheduled for Jan. 24th in Stuttgart, they plan to discuss Public Information, the Three Legacies, sponsorship, tapes and films. They also expect to formulate plans for a Round-Up in Nuremberg in the spring.

f. Other Countries—As a result of a FORUM item from a member in Sri Lanka, Ceylon, seeking a pen pal, which mentioned the lack of books and literature, members from N.Y., Mich., Wis., Md., Conn. and Ontario sent money to the WSO to be used to purchase literature. Books, literature and extensive P.I. material were sent to be shared by the five groups in Sri Lanka.

In November '74, informative material was sent to an individual, Philomena, who wished to start a group in Northern Bombay, India. Because of her husband's strong objections, she did nothing and hid the new group packet so well, that she did not run across it again until last spring. Her husband, after a short time in AA, came around to believe the family needs help too and, with his blessing last June, she started an Al-Anon group, and is helping with forming another group in another suburb of Bombay. In one of her earlier letters, Philomena wrote: "When I see those eager faces turned to me at a meeting, I get so nervous, I could slide under the table. Being a teacher, I can only talk to below 10's. Living with an alcoholic has robbed me of all confidence with adults, but your 'Suggestions to Speakers' is helping a lot." In December she wrote that both she and her husband are now avid speakers for their respective fellowships at many functions.

An AA member and journalist employed at the Indian Express in Cochin wrote for information about groups in India and sought basic information about our program, since in both his professional and private life he comes across families who could use Al-Anon and Alateen.

## FORUM REPORT

Louise M., Editor

"FORUM subscriptions now number over 18,000. More than 27,300 copies are mailed out each month.

"During the past year, we have continued our policy of answering every letter to the FORUM, with the exception of group anniversary and convention announcements. We have sent out 300 postcards, 71 form letters and 111 personal answers. We have also sent 360 complimentary FORUMS to those whose articles have been printed. We decided to discontinue sending FORUMS to the editors of two magazines who had been on our complimentary mailing list because they were not reciprocating, nor were we receiving anything in terms of public information space in their publications. As per last year's Conference decision, we have been listing new groups by number to save space.

"Because we were experiencing some difficulties with our printer, we decided to try another firm, but their work was unsatisfactory. So we returned to the original printer, who is now providing us with a new, larger, more legible type.

"Topics which were given special consideration in the FORUM this past year were: Al-Anon for singles; gratitude; detachment; Al-Anon participation at open AA meetings; eligibility for membership; the Denver International. Because we had saved many articles on Christmas which had been received after the holidays last year, we were able to devote quite a lot of space to Christmas letters and stories in the December issue. In 1976, we plan to cover: Adjusting to sobriety; communication; the Traditions; love. The theme for the editorials will be attitudes.

"Group problems discussed in 1975 were, among others: Smoking at meetings; group babysitting; domineering members. Questions of policy which were given special attention included: Circulating petitions at meetings; drinking at Al-Anon functions; what to do with money earned from AA/Al-Anon Conventions; who can form Alateen Groups? Also discussed were the Al-Anon symbol, and professional help vs. Al-Anon.

"Although groups continue to grow in number, the volume of letters to the FORUM has not noticeably increased. In fact, a couple of times, the material was not sufficient to make an issue. Articles on specific topics are especially desirable. Some groups have sent in synopses of meetings on various subjects. These are also of general interest, and are usually rich in thought and experience. An extra effort on the part of the Delegates to stimulate the writing of articles for the FORUM would be greatly appreciated."

*"The FORUM Like Topsy, 'It just grewed, and grewed . . ."*

*FORUM subscriptions number over 29,000 today but the first FORUM had a much smaller circulation. To keep the groups informed, a monthly bulletin was distributed. Office news and notes of group activities were run off on a rickety old mimeograph machine that tested the serenity level and ate paper. The newsletter included more and more and was 'published' as, the Al-Anon Family Group FORUM in January of 1954. In June of that year, Margaret D. was asked to take over the job of Editor, a position she filled for the next 20 years. In 1974, Louise M. became Editor. In 1975, Louise M. became Louise G.*

*I'm Louise and that's the way it was!"*

## ALATEEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary

One of the Alateen highlights of 1975 was their increased participation at the AA International Convention in Denver,

Colorado, in July. For the first time they had two Big Meetings of their own, Alateen's Daily Dozen—Twelve Steps and God As I Understand Him, spiritual meetings patterned after the ones held at many of their conferences. In addition there were three Workshops. Another "first"—an Alateen was invited to speak at one of AA's meetings. Ernie R., of Springfield, Virginia, had the honor of representing the junior fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.

At the suggestion of an Al-Anon member, the in-town Committee developed an Alateen Discount Package which was approved by the Executive Committee in April. Two types of packages are now available: Package A has 77 pieces of literature, total value \$6.45 for \$4.95. Package B has 78 pieces (including a copy of the Alateen hard cover book), total value \$9.95 for \$7.95. These Discount Packages have proved very popular with the groups.

The Suggested Guidelines For Alateen Conferences were completed and presented to the WSC at the Alateen Session. Copies had been sent to each Conference Member in March for study before the WSC met. There was much discussion from the floor and it soon became apparent that the Guidelines, as presented, could not be approved. A motion was made to give the Special Committee, which had worked with the in-town Alateen Committee to formulate these Guidelines, a vote of confidence for the work done so far. However, they were asked to rework the Guidelines, send them to the Delegate Committee Members for approval and present them to the Board of Trustees at their July meeting for final approval. This was done, and after one point was clarified with a lawyer, copies of the Guidelines were sent in August to all WSC Delegates, Alateen Coordinators and upcoming Alateen Conferences. Subsequently, they were also mailed to existing conferences which had already met during the year.

As reported in the 1975 Conference Summary, the Alateen Committee, at its WSC meeting, decided as a pilot project to explore the feasibility of encouraging Alateens to form their own Assemblies. This idea evolved from a discussion about the Alateen Assembly in Saskatchewan, Can., which has been working successfully for about six years.

We were delighted to welcome two new members to the in-town Committee in May, 1975. Edith McC., a sponsor in the New York City area, agreed to serve as Co-Chairman and Meg M., an Alateen from New York City also, joined the Committee. Both have served on Alateen Conference Boards and have become valuable members. Unfortunately, Mary D., from Jackson Heights, N.Y., had to resign from the Committee after serving faithfully and well for two years.

Timmy cooperated with Josie in finding Alateen members to interview an author who was writing a book for teenagers which included a chapter on alcoholism, giving Alateen as a resource for children of alcoholics. She was also interviewed by a free-lance writer who is preparing a pamphlet for the Child Study Association on alcohol and young people and wanted to include information about Alateen. Two columnists called asking for information about Alateen to answer an inquiry about alcoholic parents—one for the monthly magazine COED, the other for the weekly newspaper, National Star.

In July we were asked to get two Alateens for the McCann "talk" show on radio WOR. Karen K. and Mike F., members of the Beacon-Fishkill group, gave a fine account of how Alateen had changed their lives. Again in September we received a call from WPIX, TV asking for two Alateens to appear with an AA member who is a parent, explaining how alcoholism affects the children in the family. Sandra F., and Lester F., Alateens from the New York Metropolitan Area, willingly cooperated in this project. These are just a few examples of how Alateens are carrying the message worldwide through the various media.

Guidelines for Alateen Speakers, a mimeographed sheet

which is included in each new group packet and is also sold to the groups, was revised in July. The sheet explaining the necessity of Al-Anon sponsorship for an Alateen group, which is sent to outside agencies and individual professionals wishing to start Alateen groups, was revised in September. In cooperation with the Staff Writer we reviewed *ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS* and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for Alateen, to update this material before it was reprinted. The Alateen sheet for the new Public Information Kit (formerly *FACT FILE*) was rewritten. We helped to revise "Meeting On Wheels" with the Institutions Committee when it was discovered Alateen was not mentioned. The sheet entitled "Suggestions for a New Alateen Group," which is attached to each proposed group letter was extensively revised late in the year.

*ALATEEN TALK* was published six times in 1975. At the September meeting of the in-town Committee we discussed the possibility of expanding it due to the growth of Alateen and the need to publish more news. Robin G., one of the Alateen members, suggested that it also be sent to all Al-Anon groups. The Committee agreed this would be a good way for Al-Anons to learn more about the junior members of our family fellowship. Unfortunately, many of them know very little about Alateen. Figures for this increased production were obtained from our printer and staff members in the *FORUM* and Book-keeping Departments. The Board of Trustees approved expanding *ALATEEN TALK* to six pages and sending it to all Al-Anon groups on a trial basis during 1976.

The Glenridge Alateens in Ridgewood, N.Y. suggested that the WSO supply a mimeographed sheet to the groups, using the list of questions under the title, "Do You Need Alateen?" in the front of *ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS*. They thought it would be great to give to newcomers. The idea was adopted and the sheet now appears on the price list and is included in the free starter packet sent to all new groups.

Alateens are very active in Institutions work in California where this type of service was started many years ago by Al-Anons. They participated in the Third Annual H&I (Hospitals and Institutions) State Conference held in May in Fresno, both on the panels and in the workshops.

During the year, 800 letters were written to new or proposed Alateen groups, enclosing the free starter packet of material—an increase of 162 over 1974. This number includes 26 Spanish, 9 Post Alateen, 5 Institutional, 16 Young Al-Anon (an increase of 9 over last year). In addition, 70 "Possible Proposed Group" letters were sent, with less material enclosed. This type of letter is written if, for any reason, the request does not seem to warrant the complete starter packet at the time.

We received 30 letters from outside agencies wanting to start Alateen groups.

Members continue to write about starting Preteen groups; 37 letters (an increase of 10 over 1974) about Preteens were written during the year. We send them the sheets spelling out our policy regarding these younger family members. We do not register and service them as separate groups. We sometimes give them the name and address of an Alateen sponsor who has written to us telling how well her younger group is functioning and giving up permission to use her name for referrals.

A total of 215 letters was written to groups, many of which were "problem" letters requiring discussion at staff meeting and/or consultation with other staff members.

There were 117 letters to individual inquirers written during the year with appropriate literature enclosed. Also 31 letters on Public Information regarding Alateen were written, 18 to WSC Delegates, 66 to Alateen Coordinators, 34 to Alateen Conferences, 46 to Alateen Committee members, 22 miscellaneous and 35 regarding Alateen participation at the AA International.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Penny B., Chairman; Holly C., Secretary

The Al-Anon staff secretaries meet monthly with the Conference Chairman, Penny, and Henrietta as Co-Chairman. This committee is supersensitive to Al-Anon/Alateen opinion because it has had an opportunity to read letters from groups or committees, bulletins, Assembly Minutes and reports of Area WS Committees; there are 50 or more Area Newsletters (N/L) which members in the field thoughtfully share with us.

The Conference has been a most effective means of keeping the lines of communication open between the WSO and the groups it serves. Our service structure, District by District and Area by Area, has helped most all states and provinces in the formation of an Assembly and the election of an Area Delegate. (The groups in Alaska and Vermont have yet to join the Conference.)

Not all group members may have the opportunity to hear a Delegate's report. They may, however, read the Conference Summary and be content to put into practice those ideas which came out of the Conference that would be immediately helpful to their home group's growth; the use of Conference Approved Literature, ideas for interesting group meetings or the application of one or more of the Twelve Traditions. This is all for the good. These members are helping their groups to be healthy and they also are building up a backlog of service information. Later, there may be a willingness to serve on committees in the District and, possibly one day, in the Assembly Area.

When a District forms service committees, it usually is helpful to the Chairmen (PI, Literature, etc.) to work along with an appropriate Coordinator appointed for the entire Assembly Area. The Coordinator also serves on the Area WS Committee and works very closely with the Delegate to learn what materials are available from the WSO. The Coordinator should be encouraged to correspond with the staff secretary who is responsible for one of the following assignments listed beside their names:

Timmy W.—Alateen	Josie C.—Public Information
Ann S.—Institutions	(Public Relations)
Linda McF.—Literature	Margaret O'D.—Public Information
Eleanor O'B.—Deputy General Secretary	(Group Relations re: PI Edits Area Highlights)

The secretaries are eager and willing to work along with Area Coordinators and District Chairman. Sub-committees of the Conference are the *Admissions, Agenda, Hospitality* and as needed any other ad hoc committee such as the *Handbook*.

### 1. Admission

Holly met at Conference time with the six Delegate members. She recorded all the committee's actions and forwarded all requests to its members. Reba C., Oklahoma, was appointed in 1975 to chair the coming 1976 meeting and to report back to the Conference body. Along with Reba, there are two other Panel 14 Delegates who are serving; they are Doreen W., North Dakota and Dolores K., Wisconsin. Three more Delegates were added in '75. They are Joy C., Ontario, (N); Isabel R., Puerto Rico; and Julie J., New Mexico—all on Panel 15. Three of the incoming Panel 16 will be added next April, at WSC time.

### 2. Agenda

After the Delegates had an opportunity to present topics, questions and suggestions, the Conference Committee had the responsibility of planning an agenda. The Conference Chairman, Penny, met with the Delegate members at Conference time. Myrna H., staff secretary, served as liaison member and welcomed agenda items from all sources;

groups, committees, Districts, Areas, WSO Staff, Delegates and Trustees.

Other members, from Panel 15 are Eunice D., Wyoming; Betty M., Iowa; and Jackie O'C., Nebraska.

### 3. Hospitality

Helen G., of our WSO Staff is Chairman of this committee. She assisted Holly all through the year in learning and becoming familiar with the names of the incoming Delegates, and in helping prepare the charts that list hotel and banquet reservations. Charts also show day of arrival. She has a list of 40 or more volunteers who serve several hours at a time, in the Hospitality Room, all through the registration days and from Tuesday through Saturday after the Spiritual Meeting.

Helen and her husband, John, worked in their spare time, at home, starting late in December to complete the badges that list the names of some 90 Conference members and their proper committee designations. We are most grateful to all the Panel 16 Assembly Areas for seeing that WSO promptly received the names and addresses of their incoming Delegates. A hearty welcome to Delegates who came from Delaware and Hawaii, to join the '76 WSC.

### 4. Handbook

Alice completed the Handbook revision and Henrietta, Myrna and Holly worked along with her in reviewing the draft. Copies were sent to members of the Board and the three members of the Handbook Committee: Betty O'B. (Connecticut), Eledia S. (Missouri) and Alternate Delegate, Emily O'H. (New Jersey). Their helpful suggestions were to be incorporated in the final draft.

The Conference Committee was responsible for presenting a budget, listing the estimated expenses of the Conference, to the Board at its January meeting.

During this year, we had completed the following: Decided on Conference time, place and dates: Hotel Biltmore—April 20-24, 1976, selected Conference theme: The Traditions—Our Security, and wrote letters of welcome to all Panel 16 Delegates.

We are most grateful for your letters of encouragement. In working on the Conference plans each year, form letters are used to keep Delegates informed. How wonderful it would be if there was sufficient time to write each one personally.

More than 200 Delegates who served on one of the 13 Panels from the start of the Conference have carefully deliberated over such documents as the Conference Charter, the RT Experimental Plan and The Twelve Concepts. These documents were under consideration over a number of years. We wish to pay tribute to all the past Delegates and heartily look forward to working with our Panel 14, 15 and 16 members.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Hank G., Chairman

Josie C., Staff—Public Relations—Part "A"

Margaret O'D., Group Relations—Part "B"

### Summation

Our Committee meetings have been scheduled monthly, instead of every six weeks, since January, 1975.

The development of new P.I. materials and projects increased the volume of our P.I. work to such a degree, that it became necessary to turn over all P.I. Group Relations to another Staff Member. We were most fortunate indeed, to have Margaret O'D., join the Staff to undertake this part of our P.I. work.

Working with the media, agencies (health, govt., etc.) indus-

try, professionals, national and international events, and all other outside P.I. projects, remains Josie's responsibility and she has already been able to devote more time and thought to this area of work.

## Part A

### New P.I. Material

#### 1. Uniform Message

In order to get maximum results from everyone's combined efforts to inform the public about the existence and availability of both Al-Anon and Alateen, it is of the utmost importance to give a uniform message to the outside world.

#### 2. Poster/Mat Ads

Our new posters and mat ads were completed early this year. Descriptive order blanks were sent to all groups throughout the world with the February issue of the FORUM. In March, sample sets of this material were sent to our "inside Al-Anon" P.I. mailing list. (This list included all Delegates, P.I. Coordinators, Alateen Coordinators, Newsletters, Information Services, Intergroups and Answering Services.) Everyone was asked to show these sample sets to all groups in their Areas, in order to introduce this new P.I. material and encourage its use.

#### 3. New Floor Display

Our new Floor Display was also produced this year. The copy and photographs used for the display were taken from our TV spots as planned. The Display was introduced at the 1975 Annual Meeting of the National Council on Alcoholism, and has since been on exhibit at many other national events.

#### 4. Table Display

Our new Table Display was completed in time to be introduced at the International Convention in Denver and it too, is another variation of our theme for all public service announcements. The message reads: "If someone in your family has a drinking problem, you can see what it's doing to them. But can you see what it's doing to you", and it includes photographs of the "WIFE", "HUSBAND", "TEENAGER", and "MOTHER", seen in our TV spots.

This Table Display can be used for all public information projects. It is portable (20"x28"x1/4" when folded in half, 40"x28"x1/8" when open) and is available from the WSO at \$12.00.

### MS Magazine

Ms Magazine informed us that the full page public service space, offered to us for an Al-Anon public service announcement, should be available in one of their issues during 1976.

### Labor-Management

#### 1. PAR Pilot Project, U.S. Postal Service

The establishment of a new pilot project for PAR (Program for Alcoholic Recovery in the U.S. Postal Service) has been a major break-through for our Labor-Management program. Stanley K. Day, originator of PAR, established this pilot project to prove the need to create programs that will provide information and help for employees whose job performance is being adversely affected by someone else's drinking problem. Mr. Day reported on this project at our P.I. Panel at the International Convention in Denver, Colorado, July, 1975, and again for our workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America, held in Chicago, Illinois, September, 1975.

#### 2. Prudential Insurance Company

The Prudential Insurance Company of America is planning to display our Al-Anon posters (both "HUSBAND" and



"WIFE") on bulletin boards in their Corporate Office and Eastern Home Office.

Information about the outcome of this poster project, will be distributed to all Prudential Regional Home Offices, in order to encourage the use of our posters on Prudential bulletin boards throughout the country.

### 3. *Western Electric*

The Western Electric Company presented two showings of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, during the month of December, for all employees at their Corporate Headquarters in New York City.

All W.E. plants and offices throughout the United States are being informed that their Corporate Headquarters will make copies of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, available to them, in order to encourage showings of this TV Special as part of all employee education programs.

Since Al-Anon and Alateen were given top priority in this TV program, this will be another means of informing the public about the existence and availability of both Al-Anon and Alateen.

## DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK

### 1. *3M Company*

The 3M Company made DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK available for national broadcasts in foreign countries.

### 2. *Public Broadcasting Service*

At our request, the Public Broadcasting Service scheduled another national broadcast of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK for July 3, 1975, to coincide with our International Convention. This made it possible for us to launch an international public information project that would tie-in national broadcasts of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK in different parts of the world with our International Convention this year and help us to provide millions of people throughout the world with information about our fellowship.

### 3. *Tie-in With International Convention*

Our publicity for the Convention was built around this tie-in and involved working very closely with our groups in the U.S. and Canada as well as throughout the rest of the world. By coordinating our combined efforts with those of the 3M Company internationally, it was possible to generate the interest necessary for national broadcasts of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK to be scheduled in other countries.

There is still a great deal of work to be done in order to coordinate this enormous international effort to inform the world about Al-Anon and Alateen. We hope that plans will be finalized for national broadcasts of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK in many different countries throughout 1976.

### 4. *Australia*

The first broadcast of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK in Australia was scheduled for the month of December, 1975. Other broadcasts of this TV Special are being scheduled throughout Australia during 1976.

### 5. *El Salvador*

A national broadcast of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK is being planned in El Salvador. We have been informed that arrangements have been made for the TV Special to be translated and dubbed in Spanish.

## Conclusion

If the response to DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK throughout the U.S. and Canada, is any indication of what to expect in other countries, there should be a definite increase in the number

and size of our groups in both Australia and El Salvador, as a direct result of these broadcasts.

## International Convention

The results of our P.I. plans and preparations for the Convention, were most rewarding.

### 1. *International tie-in with DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK*

The International tie-in between our International Convention—the PBS repeat broadcast of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, July 3, 1975—and the other national broadcasts of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, scheduled in different parts of the world throughout this year—helped us to generate a great deal of interest from the media.

### 2. *P.I. Releases—Press Kits—Press Conferences*

The P.I. releases and press kits, which announced all of these events: Lois' press conference (planned in cooperation with A.A., and held in Lois' suite at the Denver Hilton) and several smaller press conferences (held in our press room at the Hilton) before and during the Convention, resulted in feature stories and news reports, many TV and Radio interviews, and announcements in TV and Radio sections of newspapers and other publications.

### 3. *P.I. Panel & Workshops*

Our P.I. Panel "Cooperating with Agencies, Industry and the Media" was another important "first" at the Convention. It gave us an opportunity to include non-members of Al-Anon and Alateen on a panel for a "BIG MEETING." Our panel participants were: George Dimas, Executive Director of The National Council on Alcoholism; Stanley K. Day, Originator of PAR (Program for Alcoholic Recovery in the U.S. Postal Service) and Vince Marien, Counselor, St. Vincent's Hospital, St. Paul, Minnesota.

This P.I. Panel was scheduled concurrently with our opening session "Around the World with Al-Anon" and was a most successful addition to our program. Our P.I. Workshops were very well attended and all of our P.I. material was on display throughout the Convention.

## Participation at National & International ANNUAL MEETINGS

### *American Personnel and*

### *Guidance Association Convention*

New York, N.Y., March 23-26, 1975. Our floor display was shipped to this event and Rose M., New York S. Delegate, was our official representative.

### *American Association of Sex Educators*

### *and Counselors Meeting*

Washington, D.C., April 2-5, 1975. Free Al-Anon and Alateen literature and price lists were displayed on the "Take One" table.

### *American Industrial Health Conference*

San Francisco, California, April 14-17, 1975. We were officially represented by Bonnie H., our Northern California Delegate.

### *The National Council on*

### *Alcoholism Annual Meeting*

April 27-May 1, 1975, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We participated in their program with a workshop entitled "Al-Anon/Alateen: Help For The Other Victims." Our panel included Ginny Grady, PAR (program alcoholism recovery) Postal Service, St. Louis, Missouri. Ginny has been developing the PAR pilot program for employees whose job performance is being affected and brought us cost-benefits with her first report on this important pilot program.

It is hoped that PAR will be the springboard needed to encourage other alcoholism programs to provide a similar service for their employees and then to use Al-Anon as a primary resource for these people. Our panel also included the Reverend William Podolak, who reported on the different ways he uses Al-Anon and Alateen as resources for families of alcoholics.

Our new floor display, completed in time to be shipped to the exhibit, was received with a great deal of enthusiasm. This floor display is another variation of our theme for all public service announcements "If someone in your family has a drinking problem" and includes three large blow-ups of the "WIFE," "HUSBAND," and "TEENAGER," seen in our TV spots. We were officially represented at the exhibit by Dolores K., Wisconsin Delegate.

*National Conference on Social Welfare,  
102nd Annual Forum*

May 11-14, 1975 at San Francisco, California. Our floor display was shipped and we were officially represented by Bonnie H., Northern California Delegate.

*United States Public Health Service  
Professional Association Tenth  
Annual Meeting*

June 2-4, 1975. Las Vegas, Nevada. We were represented by Don B., P.I. Coordinator, Nevada, and our floor display was shipped to this exhibit.

*American Medical Association,  
Scientific Exhibit*

Atlantic City, N.J., June 14-18, 1975. Our floor display was shipped and our representative was Cathie C., New Jersey Delegate.

*National Medical Association,  
80th Annual Convention*

August 10-15, 1975, Miami Beach, Florida. Our floor display was shipped and we were represented by Selma L.

*Alcohol and Drug Problems of North America,  
26th Annual Meeting*

Chicago, Illinois, September 14-19, 1975. We participated in their program with a workshop entitled "Al-Anon/Alateen: Help For The Other Victims." Our panel again included Stanley K. Day, and Virginia Grady. The Reverend Joseph L. Kelleman, Executive Director, Charlotte (North Carolina) Council on Alcoholism, and Hank G. and Josie C., WSO, also spoke.

Our new floor display was shipped and we were represented by Marian A., P.I. Coordinator, Illinois N.

*National Federation of  
Licensed Practical Nurses,  
26th Annual Convention*

October 12-14, 1975, New Orleans, Louisiana. Our floor display was shipped and we were represented by Dot S., P.I. Coordinator, Louisiana.

*Association of Labor-Management  
Administrator and Consultants  
On Alcoholism, 1st Annual Meeting*

This important first "all ALMACA" meeting was held in Atlanta, Georgia, October 30-November 1, 1975.

Josie attended this meeting as an individual member of ALMACA, and was given space for a table display of Al-Anon and Alateen materials. Our new Table Display and our posters and mat ads (mounted on cardboards covered with colored paper) were most effective and very well received.

*American Public Health Association,  
103rd Annual Meeting*

Chicago, Illinois, November 16-19, 1975. We were represented

by Marian A., P.I. Coordinator, Illinois (N.) and our floor display was shipped.

## Part B

On May 19, 1975 I began the work of Public Information Secretary. All duties concerning Public Information were shared by the two P.I. Secretaries until it became necessary to divide them. Those which involved the public directly were to be handled by Josie and those which dealt with groups were to be under my supervision. The principal aim of the Group Relations Secretary now is to cooperate with the PI people in the groups. Primarily it has been my responsibility to help them in informing the public about the existence of Al-Anon. When the groups share their ideas and suggestions with WSO other groups benefit. WSO is the avenue through which the ideas and suggestions are channeled. The membership is, in turn, informed regularly about Public Information projects initiated at WSO.

## General Correspondence

Correspondence with the approximately 60 Public Information Coordinators as well as with individuals and local PI Committees throughout Al-Anon has increased considerably. The questionnaire which was sent to the Coordinators during the second quarter was very instrumental in stimulating this communication. As a direct result of needs expressed in the questionnaire it was decided that *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* would be expanded to include more Public Information.

## Area Highlights

*AREA HIGHLIGHTS* is continuing to carry news to the past and present Delegates, Trustees, Information Services, and Newsletter Editors along with the Public Information Coordinators.

## Special Mailings

The PI Coordinators were each sent a set of "Guidelines for Public Information Coordinators," defining their positions in an effort to help them understand their jobs and to make their PI work more productive and interesting.

Announcements were sent to both the inside and outside PI mailing lists with information about the new pamphlet *A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon*.

Each PIC and their respective Delegates received an announcement concerning the inclusion of the Public Information Coordinators on the *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* mailing list.

## Public Information Kit

The new PI Kit was enthusiastically received by the fellowship. Its jacket is a handsome shade of blue with a navy logo and is quite sturdy. The pockets are filled with suggestions that members can use to inform the public about the help available in Al-Anon. All of the material in the Kit has been revised and it is continually being updated. A new and more efficient coding system has been instituted.

Because of a need expressed by many members of the fellowship we have developed a newspaper article which can be used by the groups as a sample when they wish to initiate newspaper coverage. It is actually a composite, developed by our Staff Writer, of many articles written by members.

We have also included a sample letter groups can use to inform the clergy about the existence of the Al-Anon Family Groups. The letter was originally written and successfully used by a member in a group on Long Island who passed it along to the New York South Delegate; she was kind enough to send it to the WSO so it could be edited to benefit the rest of the membership.

Additions have also been made to the PI Discount Package as

well as the PI Display Package, and the revised order blanks are included in the PI Kit.

### Public Information Pamphlet

The new pamphlet, *A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon*, which we began to produce during the third quarter, was successfully completed and is being received with great pleasure by everyone concerned. The material in this booklet is a reprint of a chapter in the book *AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM*. We expect this pamphlet to help teachers develop a greater awareness of the disease of alcoholism and its effects on family and school life.

## INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Secretary

Our Institutions Committee at WSO was fortunate in gaining three new members this past year, Fran P., Charleen La P., and Sara P. During 1975, the Committee found it necessary to meet more often than our scheduled monthly meeting because of the many projects to be completed. In preparation for these meetings, it was necessary for Ann and Edwina to meet before meetings to gather material and outline an agenda. This helped expedite some of the projects. One of the Committee's achievements that pleased many of the membership was the new masthead for *Institutional Highlights*.

Many requests have been received for more detailed Guidelines for the Institutions phase of service in the Al-Anon program, and the Committee is in the process of reviewing and expanding the existing Coordinator's duties and Institutions Guidelines. These will be included in the new Institutions Kit which is progressing nicely. Completion of this kit will depend on the time needed to more fully develop the ideas to be included. We offered to send, upon request, one free copy of Institutions Guidelines to any member and we are pleased at the response. Many members have become knowledgeable and aware of Institutions work and as a result have become involved.

At the 1975 Conference, the Standing Committee decided to revise the Institutions Discount Package and keep the price the same. It was agreed to change the quantities of the pamphlets already included and add, *How Can I Help My Children?*, and the *Alateen* Cartoon booklet.

Articles for the *FORUM* were successful in letting the readers know we exist. The Committee will continue to write more articles for 1976, with the hope that many more members will become involved in all phases of Institutions work.

### Project Approval

The Committee prepared a project for approval by the Executive Committee when they met in January. It recommended sending a copy of the *INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS* to all English-speaking Al-Anon Groups worldwide, as a one-time mailing, to familiarize them with Institutions work. The Committee also requested that appropriate excerpts from this issue be translated into Spanish for the Spanish-speaking groups.

### Outside Agencies

Many health agencies and rehabilitation facilities are ordering literature in quantity for families of alcoholics participating in their programs. Copies of these orders are sent to the Delegates or Coordinators (where there is one) encouraging them to

follow up and offer any assistance. Very often the result is a District project, i.e., Institutions Workshop, occasionally an Institutional group is formed at these facilities or Al-Anon members are requested to speak at staff orientation meetings. Sometimes Al-Anon members have been asked to participate in a therapeutic program for the patients and families. Many agencies have agreed to have the Al-Anon members present a "Meeting On Wheels" to demonstrate to personnel how Al-Anon meetings function.

### Institutional Highlights

Four issues of *INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS* were mailed this past year (January, April, July and October) to Institutional groups, Delegates (past and present) Representatives, Institutions Coordinators, Newsletter Editors and Information Services.

### Correspondence

Inquiries about our program have continued to come from people who were institutionalized due to alcoholism. In many cases requests were from alcoholics for us to send literature to members of their families.

Letters of gratitude have been received from families who found the program extremely beneficial and wanted to tell us so.

#### *Institutions Coordinators*

All new Institutions Coordinators were sent a letter of welcome inviting them to send items of interest for our Newsletter, the link which helps to keep communications open between the members involved in one of the most gratifying phases of carrying the message of our program. They are also sent Guidelines as well as past issues of *HIGHLIGHTS* and other Institutions material to familiarize them with what is available for guiding members to become involved in service. It has been pointed out to them that it is important to advise WSO of any changes in address, meeting time and contact, in order for the group to continue to receive all mail.

#### *Letter Sent to Standing Committee and all Delegates*

A letter asking for suggestions to be included in the revised Institutions Guidelines and expanded duties for Institutions Coordinators was sent to the current Standing Committee members, as well as the three leaving the office of Delegate. The present Delegates are as follows: Virginia H., Alabama; Betty McK., Arizona; Dotty D., Nevada; Pat McC., Louisiana; Rose M., New York South; Louise B., Virginia. The three who left office in December were Lucille C., Minnesota; Elsie Q., California (S); and Ellen P., Michigan. The same letter was sent to Institutional Coordinators and all other Delegates. We appreciated the many replies received from Delegates not on our Committee. All suggestions are being considered.

Institutions Standing Committee members were also asked to send questions for the 1976 Agenda of the Standing Committee meeting for discussion at the 1976 Conference.

### New Groups

Additional Institutional Groups have started in the following states:

Al-Anon—Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada.

Alateen—Maine, Maryland, Montana, Wisconsin.

## LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Alice B., Chairman

Linda McF., Staff Writer

Good writing is the product of good thinking and often the result of the passage of time. While there were not many new pieces of literature printed in 1975, at the beginning of the year considerable thought had been given to the work proposed by members of the fellowship during this time. Louise M., had taken on the job of Editor of the *FORUM* and she was aware that her new duties would not allow her to devote the time and energy needed to see all this good thinking through into print. It was decided that the growth of the fellowship and the literature requirements could best be met with the addition to the staff of a full-time writer. Ruth F. was hired before the 1975 Conference to fill this new position.

Interested committee members add so much to the production of good literature. Appointment of Martin D., Illinois (S); Louise J., Maine; and Anna Marie B., Utah; at the 1975 Conference brought the Delegate membership of the Literature Committee to nine. It is members of the committee who review and appraise all the new work and add comments, voice serious objections, and make supplemental suggestions. In a sense the committee is "Acting Editor" and charged with overseeing each project so that Al-Anon thinking is reflected in our writings.

Progress seemed assured with the appointment of Jill C., as a new co-chairman. Unfortunately the committee work suffered two set-backs. Jill had to resign and Ruth F. left for personal reasons.

All literature production did not stop, however, for Tim P., was hard at work in Canada, sifting through the mountain of material that had been gathered for a long-awaited new Fourth-Step Inventory Guide.

When Linda McF. was hired to replace Ruth F. there were several projects that had been thought through. It was agreed that *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC* needed major revisions to include the reflection of a growing number of male members in the program. References to alcoholics as males and Al-Anon members as females were changed to demonstrate the universal appeal of the program. These revision proposals were submitted to the Delegate members and in-town members of the committee. Paul K., Alice B., Mary Ann K., Leah G., Peggy T., were among the green pen, red pencil, and black markers. All comments were duly noted and the book was reprinted with its "new" look.

When Tim finished his work on the Fourth-Step Inventory, Linda began to prune it with loving care. The final manuscript was then sent to the committee and everyone who worked on this material added to its practical, positive nature. Ruth F., N.Y. (N); Alice T., Atlantic Provinces; Diane W., Miss.; Jean S., Montana; and Blanche D., Texas (W); were among those who added their comments, new questions, and the proper semicolons, to make the project the result of many minds and hands. Newly written material was added and the printed format was decided upon after numerous consultations with the printer. Its title: *Blueprint For Progress: Al-Anon's Fourth-Step Inventory*. The 64-page booklet is a positive approach in a workbook format with spaces provided for written responses to questions dealing with: Attitudes, Responsibilities, Self-Worth, Love, Maturity and Character Traits.

"For Al-Anon Members Who Work As, With or For Professionals", became the working title for a new pamphlet which deals with questions and answers on the subject. Suggestions from members who have met and dealt with problems in working in the allied fields of alcoholism and its treatment were used. The mimeographed proposed material was sent to

the Literature Committee for approval and additional recommendations.

Minor revisions and up-dating were made in: *To The Mother and Father of an Alcoholic*, *Why is Al-Anon Anonymous?*, *A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups*, and *A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic*. In addition, corrections and minor revisions were made in *My Wife Drinks Too Much*, *The Twelve Steps and Traditions*, *Al-Anon's World Service Office*, and *Allies for Al-Anon in Helping the Family*.

The duties of the Staff Writer include having the primary responsibility for writing new pieces of literature; keeping current booklets up-to-date; dealing with the printers; proof-reading; and handling correspondence with the Literature Committee and members on matters relating to literature. In addition she keeps in contact with Area Literature Coordinators and helps them to fulfill their obligations by providing them with aids. Toward that end a questionnaire was sent to all coordinators for use in the preparation of guidelines. Shared ideas are the most valuable. With the suggestions of the hard-at-work coordinators it is possible to produce an organized set of proposed activities.

Al-Anon literature is not signed by any one person because it reflects the thoughts of so many people. While the material produced may be written by one person it is still the result of the considered deliberation of many.

## FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Alberte C., Chairman; Harriet L., Translator

During the past year, our Committee serviced the French Al-Anon members worldwide: 260 groups, 70 Alateen groups, and 22 Lone Members in Quebec; 3 French Al-Anon groups in the United States; 11 in New Brunswick; 19 in Ontario; 1 in Newfoundland; 35 Al-Anon groups and 4 Alateen groups in France; 31 Al-Anon groups and 3 Alateen in Belgium; 10 in Switzerland. We have contacts in Brazil, Chile, Algeria, Martinique and Spain.

At the beginning of 1975, it became obvious that the Committee could no longer operate in the premises located in the basement of my home. We needed a third employee; our quarters were too small; stock had to be stored in my home and volunteer members were working in my family room on Wednesdays.

Last April, we obtained permission to look for new premises and in June, we moved to a five-room office, on the ground floor, at 6712 St. Denis Street, close to a metro station and just two blocks away from the AA General Service Office. We had, of course, to buy all necessary equipment and to furnish those premises for, up to that time, we had been using my own furniture. We are still looking for a third permanent employee. So far, they eventually found other jobs offering better pay and benefits.

We suffered considerably from successive postal strikes, and nearly had to temporarily close the office last December. It caused great harm to the publication of the *FORUM*. We must admit that for many years, the *FORUM* has been our headache. The first issue of the *FORUM* was published in French in January, 1961. Since that date, it always was translated in French and published, but as we started to publish books, we could not keep the *FORUM* up-to-date. At that time, Harriet was our only translator.

However, three years ago, the responsibility of the *FORUM* was given to Cay, a former Delegate, and Harriet had the task of translating and up-dating all service material. At first, we tried to have the translation of the *FORUM* done by volunteers only; but we soon realized that we could not rely solely on volunteers to supply us with a regular flow of translated material, and

furthermore, their help was seasonal. We then attempted giving a few articles to each volunteer translator for we believed we could find someone easily enough to do the last minute work of putting everything together, and completing whatever needed to be done.

Alas! Last year's strikes put an end to that and our situation became even more disastrous for we were unable to collect the completed work given to different members all across the Province. To sum up, by the end of 1975, we were close to two years behind in the publication of the *FORUM*. We had to conclude that, in order to impose deadlines for the return of the completed work, we had to pay someone to do the translation of the *FORUM*. In the meantime, it had been decided to put aside previous late issues and to start with the current year. We believe this was a wise decision, but it created a considerable increase in office work for we had to defer the expiration date of our 1500 subscribers. As of today, January 1976 has already been mailed; February and March are at the printers, and Cay has just given me the April translated issue. January, February, March and April 1974 were previously sent and the other issues of that year will follow in the months to come. The year 1975 will be offered in a bulk issue for most of our members wish to have all the issues of the *FORUM* even though they may be last year's.

At the present time, the French Literature Committee translates, prints and distributes 2,500 *FORUMS* monthly.

We published in 1975: *DRINK, DRNK, DRUNK Quiz on Drinking*; *Guidelines for Public Information Work*; *Guidelines for Health Agency Work*; *Guide to Al-Anon General Service Structure*; *Declaration Card (LET IT BEGIN WITH ME)*.

We up-dated *Information for the Newsletter*; *Purposes and Suggestions*; *A Guide for Alateen Sponsors*; *Wallet Card with Al-Anon Program*; *Are You Living with a Severe Drinking Problem*; and *Guidelines for Institutions Work*.

Total sales for year 1975—\$29,288.81, which is slightly less than in 1974 (\$29,991.68). Considering the ever-increasing costs of our publications and our general expenses, we were forced to raise the price of most of our publications.

## REPORT: AL-ANON/ALATEEN ACTIVITIES AT THE AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Henrietta S., Chairman; Myrna H., Secretary

From the beginning of the year right through the last day of the International Convention, the WSO Convention Committee, along with others on the staff, worked at a feverish pace at weekly meetings to complete its plans.

The result of everyone's work was a dream come true. The Convention was a huge success! While thousands of AAs gathered at Currihan Hall, the Convention complex in Denver, thousands of Al-Anon and Alateen members came together at the Hilton Hotel to be a part of this memorable event taking place. Enthusiasm and love charged the atmosphere; you could almost touch it.

The following is a summary of the Committee's activities during 1975 to prepare for the Convention:

### *Program*

The Committee developed a program that included the following: Seven Big Meetings covering an Around the World theme, the Twelve Steps, the Spiritual side of our fellowship, both for Al-Anon and Alateen, Double Winners and Young People in Al-Anon; Seven Workshops covering Public Information, Alateen, Traditions, Institutions, Service, Information Services, etc.; Seven Open Discussion Meetings covering Area Newsletters, Slogans and many other aspects of our fellowship. In addition, there were several Foreign Language meetings available for members who were either French, Ger-

man or Spanish-speaking and the films, *Lois's Story*; *DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK*; and the TV Spot Announcements, for viewing at various times throughout the Convention.

### *Speakers*

After deciding on the program, the Committee's next task was to choose speakers and moderators. Each questionnaire submitted by numbers of people planning to attend the Convention was reviewed. Since there were not enough questionnaires received from Alateens and men in the fellowship, AA GSO's registration forms provided us with names and addresses of some of these registrants. We wrote to many asking them to submit a speakers' questionnaire.

More than 100 letters of invitation were mailed to prospective participants. A second letter followed to those who accepted giving them details as to times, meeting rooms, and names of their moderators and other pertinent details.

### *Trip to Denver*

Henrietta and Myrna flew to Denver in March, 1975 to meet with the Al-Anon Host Committee and wind-up other details such as assigning rooms to each scheduled meeting and discussing arrangements with the Hilton's Convention Manager. It was learned during this trip that it would be desirable for the WSO to obtain tax exempt status in Colorado. Application was made and subsequently approved.

Arrangements were also made for rental of viewing equipment and the hiring of a projectionist for each showing of the films. For a nominal cost, we also rented typewriters for the WSO Special Office and Press Room. The Convention Manager provided two complimentary Directors' Rooms for these purposes for the duration of the Convention.

### *WSO Flyers*

A special flyer was printed announcing Al-Anon and Alateen activities at the Convention. A copy was sent with the April, 1975 *FORUM* to each English-speaking group; AA GSO cooperated by circulating 20,000 of these to their groups. A special version was produced for our Spanish groups. The French Literature Committee in Montreal publicized our participation at the Convention to the French-speaking members.

### *Keepsake Program*

Several thousand Keepsake Programs, created by Alice B., were shipped to Denver for sale at both the Hilton and at Currihan Hall. This booklet was priced at \$2.50 per copy.

The Staff and dedicated volunteers, such as Trustees, Executive Committee members and others, took turns selling programs. Although sales of this item fell short of expectations, the profits derived from the amount that was sold, kept the WSO from taking a loss in its participation in the Convention.

### *Banners*

A banner, similar to our Conference Banner, but without the Conference designation, was purchased for the Convention and hung in the Grand Ballroom. The Conference Banner was also shipped for the Reunion Luncheon.

### *Conference Reunion Luncheon*

Dubby S., former Colorado Delegate, handled all arrangements for a Reunion Luncheon for past and present World Service Conference members and their spouses. The mailing of the announcements for this event was done at the WSO. Past and present WSO members, and Delegates were present from each of the fifteen panels.

### *Host Committee Events*

The Host Committee sponsored three events, a Reception for Lois and other WSO members, a Picnic in the Park, and a Columbine Breakfast honoring Lois. The last two were fund-raising projects and advance tickets were sold. Both the Break-



fast and the Picnic were handled by the respective sub-committees and both were profitable.

#### *Hospitality*

The Convention Lobby served as the Hospitality Room throughout the Convention. People were able to sit at tables and mill around quite comfortably. This, and another section off the main lobby, provided adequate seating during the times when coffee and tea were made available by the Hospitality Committee on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Telephone Company set up a special Message Center off to one side of the Convention Lobby. Emergency messages were posted on a board for anyone to see. The telephone number of the Message Center was circulated by the WSO in advance of the Convention to all the groups.

The Hospitality Committee also provided an Alateen Hospitality Room in the lower level of the Hilton Hotel.

#### *WSO Participation*

Eight Staff members, all but one of the Trustees, the members of the Executive Committee and Chairmen of the WSO Committees attended the Convention. They carried out the various duties assigned to them by the Convention Committee. A special pre-Convention Briefing Meeting was held in June.

#### *Host Committee*

There was a steady flow of communication, by phone and mail, among Henrietta and the Co-Chairmen of the Host Committee, Dorothy E. and Marge A. Minutes of Host Committee meetings were sent regularly to the WSO keeping us abreast of their progress. The Committee was well organized and the members worked hard before and during the Convention. Host Committee volunteers were extremely adept at handling their assignments and someone was always on hand during the Convention to help WSO personnel whenever called upon.

#### *Denver Hilton Hotel*

Good communication also existed between the Convention Manager, Mr. Piddock, and Henrietta. Matters relating to meeting rooms and other important details were arranged with ease.

#### *AA General Services*

Henrietta and/or Myrna were on the phone almost every day with staff at AA GSO about one detail or another. Cooperation was excellent! By sending the WSO members' to the World Service Office before leaving for Denver, it eliminated the necessity of having to register at Currihan Hall. This was a great time saver.

#### *After the Convention*

The work of the Convention Committee did not end with the Convention. There were hundreds of thank you letters to write and many loose ends to tie together. Reports were written and an evaluation was made and recorded for the next Convention Committee.

**OUR GROUPS, AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED: BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE.**

#### *Traditions*

Penny had asked for comments from two Delegates pertaining to their personal feelings regarding our Twelve Traditions.

"It is become apparent to me that it is more important every day to adhere to the Traditions of Al-Anon, if we are to continue to grow and be able to help those who have not yet come into our fold, and to continue helping ourselves. Meetings must not be allowed to get bogged down. . . . I always think of how newcomers are going to feel if, when coming to their

first meeting looking for any type of help, they get in on a discussion of a rummage sale, or whatever. If this sort of thing continues, they get so discouraged.

"Al-Anon must have world-wide unity as well as group unity, then each member will be able to receive the help needed in order to grow. I believe that if all Al-Anon members work the program to the best of their ability in their daily life, this unity will be solid and *our common welfare* will come first."

Jean S., Montana

"The way I seem to visualize Al-Anon, and I can only speak personally because it is as I perceive it and may not be as you perceive it, the circle of our logo has as its center the God of my understanding who radiates out spiritual energy and picks out some members as channels, to be used to hold this beautiful fellowship together. Whether you are putting the coffee on in some little mountain group way back there in British Columbia, trying to hold the door open, washing the cups up afterwards, chairing the meeting, working in the World Service Office, or serving as a trustee, you are a channel to do the work to help this fellowship to continue. For me personally, there can only be one element in Al-Anon, and that is the spiritual element pervading through every single thing that we do for the fellowship, no matter what. 'The Al-Anon fellowship works, not because of us, but in spite of us.'"

Kay B., British Columbia

**THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS HAVE NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES: HENCE OUR NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETIREMENT—HENRIETTA S.**

It came as a complete surprise to most, when Henrietta announced that she would soon be retiring from the World Service Office. It was an emotional moment for all and especially for Henrietta, who has served as General Secretary of the WSO since it was established. She said, "I cannot tell you what the last 24 years have meant to me. It has been a beautiful experience. It has been a privilege and it has given me the opportunity to grow in understanding of other people.

"I was much impressed with what Kay of B.C., said earlier, 'that every single Al-Anon gives sense and meaning to this world-wide fellowship for the simple reason that each is a channel through which the message is carried.' I have loved being that channel because it has so enriched my life and given it real purpose through many, many difficult times—when I wondered why I ever became involved. But always at the end there was a solution and the reason became clear.

"I love so many of you but I'm not going to say that I love you all alike. I have a very special kind of feeling for every Delegate, every Al-Anon member in this whole wide world. . . . There is a word I heard at one of my earliest meetings. . . . from a wonderful AA member, Yev G., (National Council on Alcoholism) who spoke at the Bayside Al-Anon Group, and defined the feeling that the members of our companion fellowships have toward each other."

Henrietta summed up her almost "indescribable" feeling in that one Greek word: AGAPE, which means, 'the brotherly or spiritual love of one human being for another, corresponding to the love of God for man.' Henrietta said, "This is what I feel for all of you!"

"I'm so grateful to be at this particular Conference at which I have seen such a wonderful expression of group conscience in action. For the past several years, as each Conference approached, my heart became heavier and heavier. I silently prayed for the Monday after Conference. It couldn't come quickly enough. I don't feel that way today. I love the way

things went yesterday. I feel as if we are an harmonious, unified body now.

"I hope, after retirement to continue in Al-Anon at this or any other level. Should I be called upon to serve in some other capacity (volunteer), I will be glad to continue to give of myself."

It was an extraordinary moment. It had been evident from the beginning that this Conference had a special quality about it. It was going to be different, it was different, it would be different. There was a heavy silence and then the entire Conference body stood and applauded; we applauded for the woman, but not for her decision.

Ted rose and stepped to the microphone. His association with Henrietta had been over a 13-year period. He repeated what he had said in Denver in 1975, "Henrietta is the one person since Lois and Anne who has made the most sensational contribution to the development of our movement!" Once again the Conference body rose to add its applause.

Penny was disconsolate. She said that Henrietta's retirement was one of the greatest losses to Al-Anon that we have ever had, that Henrietta had been her "mainstay," given her "courage, strength, and leadership" when she needed it most. It was difficult to go on to Conference business.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Agenda Committee

Topics under consideration for inclusion in the Conference agenda were: The seating of Alternate Delegates and paperback printing of Al-Anon books. The Committee channeled these issues to the Admissions and Literature Committees for discussion. It recommended that the Conference Committee take into consideration for future workshops the questions of Al-Anon and Alateen communications, Concepts, and a PI workshop on approaching professionals. Suggestions for speakers at the 1977 WSC were left "open."

Further recommendations were: Open Discussion periods should be continued; the Committee should utilize the more popular subjects at the open discussion periods for agenda items; that a souvenir for 1977 WSC be a bookmark encased in plastic imprinted with the WSC theme, date and logo, or that at least the logo should be used as the main focus of the souvenir; that all those Conference members who had suggestions for the agenda make them known to the Committee or the Conference Secretary before November 1, 1976, which was the closing date for agenda suggestions. A motion to accept the Committee recommendations was duly made and seconded and the Conference voted to send the recommendations on to the Conference Committee as stated.

There was a discussion on the value of voting to accept Committee recommendations. It was suggested that the Committees be given the dignity of their position by a Conference vote which would accept or reject their recommendations. It was also noted that in the past, what had only been a Committee recommendation had been reported back to the Areas as an accomplished fact. Committee action was a necessary and orderly step in the process of Conference discussion; further action would include the acceptance or rejection of the Committee's proposals by the Conference body. Proposals would then move forward for consideration of their economic feasibility, including time and manpower involved. The Project Approval Plan previously noted would further the process. Conference members agreed. The Committee recommendations

were approved as recommended by a proper motion, duly seconded.

### Admissions Committee Meeting

Reba C., Oklahoma, announced the recommendations of the Committee: Alternate Delegates should not be seated at the WSC; the procedure for seating Delegates, as outlined in the Handbook, should continue to be the method used for seating Delegate members to the Conference. It was suggested, Reba continued, that large Areas try to "utilize the Alternate Delegate" in a better way. The vote of the Conference was in favor of accepting the Admissions Committee recommendations.

### Alateen Committee Meeting

Carole reported that the meeting began with a discussion of the information gathered in reference to Alateen Assemblies. Lois B., had briefly outlined the Assembly structure in Saskatchewan and mentioned its successful operation since 1970.

Agnes L., Arkansas Delegate, had reported on the Alateen Workshops held in her Area and Martha E., had submitted a report on the questionnaire which had been submitted to all Conference members. (See Panel for more complete details).

Delegate members of the Committee were asked about Al-Anon Group reaction to receiving *ALATEEN TALK* and requested to encourage additional comments which might be sent to the WSO.

In summing up, Carole added that it was the earnest hope of the Alateen Committee that the following suggestions be carried back to local Areas for consideration:

Encourage more open Alateen Meetings; more Alateen speakers at Al-Anon Meetings;

try to contact all Area Al-Anon Groups with reference to starting and sponsoring an Alateen Group; refer the groups to their DR and Area Alateen Coordinator.

Delegates were urged to attend local Alateen Conferences and Conventions, and in every possible way, to further the sponsorship of Alateen Groups.

### Institutions Committee Meeting

Betty M., Arizona, reported that the Committee had covered the need to bring Al-Anon to the non-alcoholic. This sharing of the program, she continued, would also benefit those in training schools and federal minimum security prisons. Individuals interested in this work should have "their feet planted solid in the program." Welfare Department coverage might include work by individuals, a "Meeting On Wheels," or an Orientation Meeting.

A Committee member had mentioned the request made by an Institutions director for Al-Anon contacts to reach the families of non-English speaking patients. The DR and the Institutions Chairman had helped to obtain a list of willing members and a Foreign Language Order Blank had been obtained from WSO.

Betty noted that Delegates would be asked to send suggestions for Guidelines for sponsors of Institutional Groups, ideas for Institutions work at a District level, and any additions they feel should be made to the Institutional Guidelines.

There had been discussions on the need for Institutional Groups even where there are many regular groups; the new revised registration card; the need, expressed by Delegates, for specific identification of an Institutional Group; the means and method for providing literature for local institutions; Green Light topics, i.e. Alateens in this work, and how to encourage more Al-Anon Group involvement in it.

The Committee had approved revisions made in the Institutions discount package.

Betty urged all the Delegates and Conference members to add their ideas and suggestions.

The single recommendation made by the Committee was to change the name from Institutions to Hospital and Institutions, to be referred to as H&I. A lengthy discussion followed the motion to rename the Committee and comments were presented for and against the change.

At this point, Ted K. rose to suggest that a simple but meaningful and helpful procedure for the presentation of recommendations be developed and included in next year's Delegate Brochure for Conference Approval. While not "ready for ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER," Ted agreed that a direct method for transforming an *idea* into a Conference *decision* was needed.

The vote was taken and the Conference decided to maintain the name Institutions Committee.

### Literature Committee Meeting

Because Alice, B., Chairman, had to be at the Handbook Committee meeting, Linda Mc F., Staff Writer, gave the report. Following a brief review of the procedure for publishing CAL, Linda reminded the Conference members that its approval of a topic for a publication was only a part of the process which would be subject to economic considerations and determinations by members of the Board of Trustees. In this light, the Conference could "kill" a suggestion or propose the *possibility* of a published work.

The Committee responded to an appeal (centered primarily in Massachusetts) to approve the publishing of a hard-covered Twelve and Twelve by and for Al-Anon. The Conference voted to accept this recommendation.

While the Committee thought it prudent to delay work on an Alateen ODAT, the Conference, after lengthy discussion, voted to give its approval for this project to be begun as soon as possible.

In response to considerable correspondence and Area activity the Committee recommended dropping the NCA pamphlet, How to Know an Alcoholic, from the list of CAL. The full Conference vote supported the Committee action, and the pamphlet will no longer be offered for sale by the WSO or Al-Anon Groups.

It was the contention of the Committee that the material covered in the pamphlet was also presented in existing Al-Anon literature and that these sources should and could be the major ones used to replace the pamphlet with an Al-Anon oriented piece. A motion to this effect was made and carried by Conference vote.

A second period of time had been put aside for completion of the Literature Committee report and recommendations. At this time, Linda mentioned the success of Blueprint For Progress; now in its second printing, the guide for Al-Anon's Fourth-Step Inventory had sold over 40,000 copies. She noted the Committee's concern for a unified, consistent and, in some cases, simplified literature. She gratefully acknowledged the work done by the Committee in producing an unusually heavy load of material in the past few months and noted the work being done through the cooperative efforts of Area Literature Coordinators.

Delegate interest in the printing of hardcovered books in paperback had been made known in the past. As a result it was decided to complete an in-depth study on the practicality and feasibility of such production. A detailed summation of the findings was presented to the entire Conference. The Committee recommendations *not* to print in paperback was supported by discussion and a full Conference vote. Hardcovers will be retained.

The Conference body agreed that it would be worthwhile to print "Just For Today" in a second form: A laminated bookmark will be proposed as a project for approval.

### P.I. Committee Meeting

Walter H., of North Carolina, presented the Committee report-back. Hank G., had chaired the meeting which had given its attention to: New Committee Guidelines; the review and approval of the Quarterly and Annual Reports; the request by Margaret O'D., for more group participation in PI; and increased contact with Area PI Coordinators. Members shared experiences in getting information to professionals and their interaction with local groups.

In line with these discussions the Committee recommended that there be a better means of advising professionals of the locality of Al-Anon Groups and it was proposed that meeting lists and posters with local meeting information be placed (with permission) in professional offices. Delegates were also urged to encourage group sharing and communication with Area Coordinators.

It was proposed that PI expansion be carefully considered in areas of the world not previously covered. While there are now materials in English, French, and Spanish, consideration should be given to posters and mat ads in German and other languages and 'dubbing' "DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK," making it suitable for showing in non-English-speaking countries.

Another recommendation was the production of an eye-catching brochure for use as a PI give-away in large quantities.

The Conference approved the recommendations by a show of hands in response to a motion which was duly seconded.

**OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY IS BASED ON ATTRACTION RATHER THAN PROMOTION; WE NEED ALWAYS MAINTAIN PERSONAL ANONYMITY AT THE LEVEL OF PRESS, RADIO, TV AND FILMS. WE NEED GUARD WITH SPECIAL CARE THE ANONYMITY OF ALL AA MEMBERS.**

\* \* \* \* \*

"I thought to myself, 'how can you pick something, just something, from those last two years. Well, I couldn't come up with *one* thing! Many others before me have said that it really is a 'combination' of many things. But I believe it really started with the election. When I recovered from shock, I realized I was the elected Delegate. I thought, 'My God, what am I doing here? I don't know enough to do this job.' On the way home from the Assembly, I said to myself, 'Dear God, with Your help, I'll try and do the very best I can.' There isn't a job I wouldn't do yet I really never wanted to be a Delegate but in these last two years I have had more FUN!

"Beyond that, traveling around the state was a great joy. Many times I traveled with the Alternate and getting to know her well was great and there was lots of time to talk while driving in the car. I also have a very good relationship with my Chairman and she happens to live in my city, too. This makes all the work easier.

"My first Conference . . . well, I didn't come to New York expecting to see any 'halos' and I didn't. We were all very human. And of course, meeting all of you, the Delegates, the WSO staff and the Trustees—well, you've all been great.

"Of course, my trip to Stepping Stones . . . how I regretted I could but go there once and not twice as many other Delegates had. But I was happy to have had the chance, even once, to have seen it.

"And to sum up these two years, 'I believe that every day of my life in Al-Anon has had its memorable moments.' Thank you all!" Betty W., Oregon

\* \* \* \* \*

"After thinking about many incidents, I decided that my trip to the International Convention in Denver stands out the most!

It was such a thrill to see so many familiar faces of Delegates and especially the people from the World Service Office, and the Trustees.

... "The first night's Big Meeting was a tremendous thrill and to think I was a small part of these fellowships of Al-Anon, Alateen and Alcoholics Anonymous! On Saturday afternoon there was a luncheon for the past and present Delegates, Trustees and the WSO. The past Delegate of Colorado was the chairman and she asked me to help her set up the decorations. I felt it was an honor. She was very gracious. I will never forget the lighted candles and praying together in the dark.

"There was also a reception for Lois W. on Saturday afternoon and I was a hostess along with many of the Delegates at the Hilton Hotel. It was a lovely affair. Saturday night we attended the Night Owl Meeting that Stephane O., one of our Trustees, chaired. She paid me the nicest compliment—that I will never forget.

"Sunday morning was the Columbine breakfast where Lois W., was the guest speaker. She is always an inspiration to me and I love to listen to her. While I was in Denver, I met a girl (now living in Colorado Springs) who was hoping I would come as I had sponsored her eight years ago.

"I think this proves the point that it is a wonderful experience to be Delegate and represent your state at WSC, but we should be an Al-Anon member always, and continue to do Twelfth-Step work. All of this has been a rewarding part of my life. Thanks for accepting me these three years." Mary Ellen McG., (Wash.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"Two years before I became Delegate, I made the motion at our Assembly that we take our Assembly to Newfoundland the following year. Girls in Newfoundland had never hosted our Atlantic Assembly. We were all excited about it. So were the Newfoundland girls. We all returned home to work all year to raise money to take as many as we could to Assembly. And we had our largest Assembly that year.

"Now, Newfoundland is that Canadian Province farthest east on the Atlantic coast and the Delegate from the Atlantic Provinces has never been from Newfoundland, yet. So I feel this was my most memorable experience. It was a challenge we took on and it turned out to be such a success, a thrilling one!

I had the pictures of all the people at WSO with me. I shared these with them... it put all the names and faces together and everyone enjoyed getting to know you all. I was better fitted to tell them about each one of you at WSO because I had met all of you at my first WSC. Of course, I could not way hide the excitement I experienced in my drive across Newfoundland... the difference in the country... the vast area with no trees, just rocks, all colors, shapes and sizes. But now another surprise awaited me... if I was excited about rocks... I was in for a surprise when on a tour of St. John's, I was taken to Citadel hill to see icebergs sitting in the harbor, big ones and small ones all along the coast. They 'come in' was the expression I heard; that means they have drifted down from farther north and just sit there white and beautiful, a danger to shipping, but beautiful to see.

"I talked so much about the rocks and icebergs that one of the girls sent me a box of Newfoundland rocks, several weeks later. Of course, she could not put an iceberg in the mail. So she did the next best to give me a souvenir! I spent three days and returned home on the fourth day, again hopping all over the Maritimes, ending up the last miles by train. It was really a memorable experience. And that's the way it was... the first year I was Delegate! Alice T., (Atlantic Prov., Can.)

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ANONYMITY IS THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION OF ALL OUR TRADITIONS, EVER REMINDING US TO PLACE PRINCIPLES ABOVE PERSONALITIES.

## WORLD SERVICE HANDBOOK

In accordance with the decision of the 1975 WSC, Alice B. spent the better part of the year revising and rewriting the Handbook, with the help of several members of the WSO Staff. Her efforts, and those of the Delegate members of the Handbook Committee, before and during the Conference, were presented by Henrietta S. for approval.

Each page was carefully examined by the entire Conference body and it was the decision of the 1976 WSC to approve the revised material. The vote was taken after considered deliberation and discussions which included further suggestions by Delegates from the floor.

All new material that has been retained will be published in The World Service Handbook, which has already been published and is available to the entire membership.

And once more the bell...

"Hot, Hotter, Hottest!"

*The Clearinghouse was about to become the World Service Office. Incorporation was the topic of conversation in the summer of 1954. Until then the Advisory Committee had carefully weighed each decision, and no project was started in haste, no monies spent without due consideration. In July, the temperature climbed past 95 degrees ten days in a row. At the end of the record-breaking month the Advisory Committee voted to purchase an office fan. The patient, if wilted staff resisted the temptation of resentments; after all, August was rather warm too.*

*I'm Stephanie and that's the way it was!"*

"The Traditions were born

*Even the founding fathers only had to write 10 articles for the Bill of Rights, the Al-Anon mid-wives had a bigger job. Imagine having to oversee the birth of 12 babies at once. They all had to be healthy and strong, to survive honest disagreement and to contain misplaced zeal. They had to be safeguards that were flexible and firm, that would serve generations to come and maintain the nature and character of the fellowship. By 1954, the Traditions had been approved by a poll of the groups.*

*I'm Jean and that's the way it was!"*

## RECOMMENDED CHANGE TO THE CONCEPTS

Ted led the discussion by beginning with a bit of background: When the Executive Committee was created in 1965, Al-Anon had only four years experience with the World Service Conference. It was generally believed the Conference Secretary's presence on that committee would be necessary to keep the other members fully informed on matters pertaining to WSC. As we have grown, we have found that all Executive Committee members have been kept well informed by other means, primarily through attendance at the Conference itself and by receiving minutes of all pertinent committee meetings; i.e., Conference and Policy. In addition, all members receive minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees, quarterly and annual reports of all standing committees and copies of all general mailings to Conference members.

Ted called attention to the requirements: Pages 13, 21, 35 of the Concepts make reference to the composition of the Executive Committee. These references would have to be changed appropriately.

In keeping with the thoughts proposed in the "Introduction" to the Concepts that a structural change can be proposed to the World Service Conference if its advocates present a "strong case", the Board of Trustees through its Chairman Ted K., asked for and received an affirmative vote on the recommendation to change the make-up of the Executive Committee.

The original draft of The Concepts is to be left intact and the changes will appear in the revised edition of Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service where the item will be starred and the change printed in full on a page entitled, "Amendments."

Oh that bell!

#### "Moving West

Al-Anon was officially invited to participate in the AA International Convention in 1955. In St. Louis, several Al-Anon speakers addressed themselves to the needs of the children of alcoholics and before the next Convention, held in Long Beach, California, Alateen was begun.

By 1960, the need for a Conference structure for Al-Anon was agreed upon. What Al-Anon needed was a Conference Secretary who was familiar with the AA Conference structure, aware of the many difficulties involved, dedicated to the spiritual nature of the Al-Anon way of life, and naïve enough to take the job. They chose Holly C., who has had the job for 16 years.

I'm *Holly* and that's the way it was!"

#### "Contact from England—1953

It wasn't unusual to note that inquiries were beginning to come across the seas from Great Britain, nor was it unusual that the first contact was made by an alcoholic; however, the staff couldn't help but react to his name. This English member of AA signed his letter, Bill D.T.

I'm *Bill* and that's the way it was!"

#### "Mixed Company

For many years the membership of Al-Anon was composed of women. The trend has been for wives to join groups; but today, many men are seeking the help offered by a change in attitude and the opportunity to live one day at a time with hope for their own growth. Today, our literature reflects more of the universal appeal of the Al-Anon program.

It was indeed unusual that one of the original 12 Delegates was a man; it was equally unique for one of the members of the 1st Board of Directors to have been Wally S. Often, Al-Anon members referred to their common bond as a kind of sisterhood; they did this until a Delegate rose to introduce himself at the 1965 WSC. "I'm Eugene M., one of the shaving sisters."

I'm *Eugene* and that's the way it was!"

#### One Dozen Delegates, Please!

The first Delegates elected to serve at the 1961 World Service Conference were Marie O., from Illinois; Norma W., Minnesota; Mary C., British Columbia; Rita C., New York; Edythe D., Ontario; Ruth G., Michigan; Evona H., Kansas; Arbutus O., Texas; Helen B., California; Kazimir K., Pennsylvania; Territa G., from Florida; and Jean T., from Ohio. They spent three days in "beautiful downtown" New York at the George Washington Hotel.

Their first information brochure contained the material for consideration of concentrated use of Conference Approved Literature. The pattern of a conference was begun. Wonderful people were learning and growing in a fellowship and they were working hard from the very beginning.

I'm *Jean* and that's the way it was!"

## PUBLIC INFORMATION PANEL

Hank G., Chairman

Josie C., Secretary (Public Relations)

Margaret O'D., Secretary (Group Relations)

Hank introduced the in-town members of the Committee, Walter W. from New York and Mary C. from Connecticut. He mentioned that the Panel would be presented with the help of the Regional Trustees who had been present at several P.I. meetings during the year, at which point the P.I. Committee and its two Secretaries brought a unique and informative program to the Conference. The theme of the presentation was "One pebble thrown into a lake can disturb its whole surface . . . You can make a difference . . ." Regional Trustees joined the in-town members in reporting on the various ways in which individuals and groups can spread the Al-Anon message.

Hank noted that the entire Panel presentation was compiled, illustrated and printed in a comprehensive booklet for Conference members. If each of us could "make the difference" we would have to ask ourselves, "In what area of Public Information can I best serve?" Margaret O'D. followed with a suggestion that members work through a P.I. Committee to inform the medical profession about Al-Anon.

Jean A., Regional Trustee from Canada, read "An Open Letter To My Doctor," which she wrote originally. This letter is included in the P.I. pack and can be reproduced by individuals in a group to better inform personal physicians of the physical and emotional needs of those who are closely associated with an alcoholic. Josie noted that PI work can help in devising a plan to inform other professionals of the availability of Al-Anon as a resource tool in recovery.

Norris R., Regional Trustee from U.S. West, reported on the various and helpful PI activities in Southern California. His comments on the inroads made in education included material on the provision of speakers and discussion panels for schools, including Seminaries where members of the clergy were often "surprised" by the expressed needs of the family.

Margaret's comments on the need for cooperation between PI and those in Institutions work was further explained by Paul L., Regional Trustee from U.S. East, who read the report from the Illinois PI Coordinator noting the many ways in which members in that Area were involved.

Mary C., In-Town member, spoke of the ways in which to reach prospective members of Alateen through guidance people and Norma McG., reported on the Alateens doing PI work in Massachusetts.

Walter W., went on to cover the use of TV spots, posters and newspaper mat ads and Hank G. related how this was being accomplished in Washington, Illinois and Utah. Josie C. spoke of the patient forbearance needed and practiced by those interested in PI in Industry which seems at last to have proved worthwhile. Major breakthroughs in this field have produced possibilities previously denied and employee education is finally beginning to include material which covers the impact of alcoholism on workers who are family members.

The Conference members were pleased to learn that all of the material which had been made available to them throughout the Panel discussions would be offered to the entire membership through a pamphlet which would be published later in the year.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF PENNY'S RESIGNATION

Ted K.

Ted read a letter received from the Board concerning Penny B.'s resignation. With sadness and regret, Ted felt that Penny's beautiful letter should be shared with all.



"In 1967, you asked me to serve on the World Service Conference Committee as Chairman. It seemed like an overwhelming job (far beyond me, I thought) although I realized how great an honor it was. You were (and are) a powerful persuader and, hesitantly, I said yes. Of course, I had no idea what was before me but now that nine years have passed, it has been the richest experience of my life. The close working with a succession of Delegates, the glow of seeing each Conference come to a successful end, watching the beautiful growth of our fellowship as it was manifested as one Conference succeeded another. I cannot tell you what this had added to my life. Yet, behind it all, you can imagine the tensions and physical strains of the thousands of details that had to be taken care of. My doctor has left me no choice but to give it up. Perhaps, my years of service came at the right moment of the fellowship because there are many stalwarts from whom to choose my successor. I need not tell you that I stand ready to help in any way I can.

"So, Ted, my official bowing out as your Conference Chairman and my love to you and my friends on the Board."

Ted concluded: "Penny had taken on an absolutely monumental task and had whittled it down to a size where it could be handled. I have loved her these many years and will even love her more in the years to come. Penny, you have been an inspiration to all of us."

Ah yes! More of our history, more of the bell . . .

*"A very special Service"*

*Volunteers have always shown a particular gift for service. For many years Al-Anon members had dedicated themselves to reaching out to the families of AA members who were in prisons and other institutions. Many personal contacts had been established with Al-Anon members who had this additional burden to bear. From the beginning, Irma F. and Anne B. had served as chairmen of committees doing institutions work and in the mid-60's an Institutions Secretary was added to the paid staff.*

*I'm Anne and that's the way it was!"*

*"1962—Two for the Money!"*

*There are many reasons for last minute changes, some are man-made, some are due to the caprice of Mother-nature. It would seem that both were responsible for the absence of Rita C., the New York Delegate at the 1962 Al-Anon World Service Conference. Hours before the beginning of the Conference she became the mother of twins. All agreed she should be excused, having done her share of "carrying the message."*

*I'm Edmund and that's the way it was!"*

*"Penny goes to Toronto"*

*Yearning to attend the International Convention in Toronto in 1965, I asked my Higher Power for help. Two days later, an invitation to speak arrived from the WSO. I really went into action.*

*All those trading stamps I had been saving for years had earned a premium. Inside the cover where I had pasted the collection, an address appeared. I wrote immediately to ask if, the stamps could be redeemed for accommodations at any Toronto hotel. The reply was prompt, telling me my room was reserved at (of all places) Al-Anon's Headquarters for the Convention. Overjoyed, I told my husband the good news and invited him to accompany me. His responsibility would be to provide transportation and dinners. I like to think the problem was really "licked."*

*I'm Penny and that's the way it was!"*

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AL-ANON WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CHARTER

Ted chaired this session.

Deliberations and discussions before the vote approving these amendments to the Charter were unhurried and complete, with considerable attention paid to the definition of terms and the enlightenment of Conference members who were not familiar with the difference between the Charter and the By-Laws. Because our By-Laws must comply with the laws of New York State (the state in which we are incorporated) they are a legal description of our Corporation while the Charter is not legal but Traditional. The Charter is an "informal agreement between all of Al-Anon and its service center, the World Service Office." Amendments proposed by the Board of Trustees included: The substitution of specific wording for general terminology, a simplification of wording, a definition of WSO members, removal of superfluous wording, and substitution of the words World Service Office for the word: Headquarters.

The 1976 World Service Conference voted to accept the recommendations of the Board of Trustees with one exception. Wording in Section 3d of the Charter cannot be amended without the written consent of three-quarters of the Al-Anon groups and thus remained unchanged.

Changes in the wording of the Charter and a complete version of this document have been published and will appear in the 1976 edition of, The World Service Handbook, which is available to all members and groups.

## DISTRICT MEETING WORKSHOP

The word *DISTRICT* seems to scare many. One Delegate wrote, "If any one among you was able to get the Districts functioning during his/her term, I would love to hear their experiences." And that is what it's all about—a sharing of experiences in a Workshop.

The following presentations were made to the entire Conference body. After the separate sessions ended, the suggestions were reported in a summary.

"I feel that this is one area where we are making some noticeable progress. Several years ago, South Dakota was divided into eight Districts, with eight District Representatives. The Districts were encouraged to have District Meetings. There are several Districts that have been quite active for many years, but most of them have had a difficult time planning one meeting in a year. South Dakota has about 60 active groups within the state, but many of them are small, rural area groups, widely scattered throughout the state. Quite often, it is not a simple matter for Al-Anons to attend a District Meeting, 60 to 100 miles away: it takes time and money.

"Last fall, the Assembly voted to pay the expenses of the Delegate to each District once during the year. This was definitely a breakthrough, as up to this time, the Delegate was paying almost all her own expenses to all meetings. The Area Newsletter has been helpful in encouraging the Districts to have meetings. Each DR is asked to report about his District, including information about District meetings, topics of discussion, problem, etc. All the groups are beginning to see the importance of meetings; they want to be informed in all matters of Al-Anon concern.

"In District 2 (my District) we have meetings every two months, the second Sunday of the month. The groups take turns alphabetically to host the meeting. The host group has a chairman to open the meeting and take care of the program, the DR takes charge of the business meeting. GRs are invited to present ideas, or discuss problems of their group. We discuss such things as literature, finances, Institutions work, Alateen, PI ideas, matters to be brought up at Assembly, etc. In our

District, we pass the hat to help pay expenses of the District.”  
Irene S., South Dakota

\* \* \* \* \*

“Alberta is divided into 13 Districts at present. Four Districts cover the two metropolitan cities of Edmonton and Calgary. Only one DR holds District Meetings regularly, once a month, of one hour duration. Group problems are discussed and used in planning workshops. The work of PI and Institutions in both cities are looked after by Intergroup.

“The remaining nine Districts, two without DRs, take in the rest of the province. Distance between groups ranges from five to over 100 miles. Because of this, District Meetings are not held on a regular basis, except to elect a DR or hear the Delegate’s report. Sometimes Al-Anon will take advantage of a Round-up where both AA and Al-Anon participate to hold a District Meeting, as is the case in District 5C, our most northern District. The GRs are having a District Meeting to elect their first DR this May. It’s a fact, in Alberta when AA travels, Al-Anon does too, e.g., we have better attendance at our Fall Assembly because it is held at the same time as AAs.

“The work of PI and Institutions in these Districts is looked after by the individual groups.” Jean P., Alberta, Can.

## SUMMARY REPORT OF DISTRICT WORKSHOPS:

Irene K., Illinois (N)

“District Meetings should be informative, trying to strive to understand the program as a whole—so that groups in their District feel a part of the fellowship world wide.

### Possible Suggestions for Meetings:

- “1) *The Twelve Traditions*—The District studies the Traditions and their value in maintaining Area and Group unity and growth. “The Tradition Skit” is a suggestion to acquaint the groups with the importance of using the Traditions. Also asking a Group Representative to share how a certain Tradition was used to help in handling a difficult situation—or to present a Tradition break and proper actions to take.
- “2) *Study and Discussion meetings* using our four service manuals are very beneficial to those in service. They help you become aware of the structure of Al-Anon and Alateen Family Groups worldwide.
- “3) *Conference Approved Literature (CAL)* reflects the experiences of members worldwide and it has the truest expression of Al-Anon and Alateen thought “Why Conference Approved Literature” workshop is very informative and explains the breaks in the Traditions that can happen in groups and Areas, if non-Conference Approved Literature is used.
- “4) *Institutional Work* contributes the ray of hope and help in the rehabilitation of a family, hopeless and ignorant of the disease concept, and separation due to the institutionalization of a relative through alcoholism. It gives us an added purpose in life and strengthens our growth. Invite your Institutions Coordinator to a District Meeting to inform groups how members can become aware of all the different chores this important work covers.
- “5) *Alateen* is an integral part of Al-Anon and should be included in all District Meetings and at the Assembly levels. A District meeting on the study of Alateen litera-

ture would be very helpful. Encourage Alateens to have open meetings.

- “6) *Public Information*: Newcomers as well as long-time members in Al-Anon and Alateen should become aware that a very important part of our program is carrying our Al-Anon and Alateen message. Discuss the FACT FILE available from our WSO. The Public Information Coordinator receives all up-dated information from our World Service Office. The PI Coordinator will then be able to enlighten the GR with new projects and suggestions.

“Our service structure rests on the dedication and ability of thousands of Group Representatives, Area Committee members and Delegates. These are the direct agents of the Al-Anon and Alateen groups and are the indispensable links between our fellowship and WSO. They are the primary representatives of Al-Anon and Alateen group conscience.”

## REGIONAL TRUSTEE NOMINATION

In mid-1975, the Delegates and Chairmen of the nine Assembly Areas in Canada were asked to propose candidates for nomination as a Regional Trustee. This nomination would be the first to use the amended Experimental Plan: Every third year, when the Regional Trustee candidate is elected from Canada, the nine Canadian Delegates and three other Delegates plus three Trustees will be the voting members. This amendment was designed to assure the majority of the Canadian vote. Six resumes had been submitted and mailed to those voting: The Canadian Delegates, and those of Nevada, Wisconsin and New Mexico, plus the three Trustees.

The nominees were: Catherine S., Alberta; Norma H., British Columbia; Ruth Lenore H., Manitoba; Ruth F., Ontario (N); Cay C., Quebec (W); and Marj B., Saskatchewan. After several ballots, Ruth Lenore H. was nominated the Regional Trustee and Cay C., as the Alternate Regional Trustee. They were later elected at the Board meeting.

In 1977, a new RT nominee will be elected for the U.S. Eastern Region. Delegates from Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois (N), Illinois (S), Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (S), New York (N), North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia met at a Special Luncheon to hear Loretta L. explain the procedure for the 1977 Eastern Region nominations for candidates. The talk included: 1) past experiences and pitfalls when nominating a candidate, 2) qualifications, 3) responsibilities of a Regional Trustee, 4) nominating methods in detail, 5) how to use the Sample Letter as a guide, 6) the Resume Form, 7) notifying World Service Office, and 8) each Delegate’s responsibility.

## AL-ANON IN THE UNITED KINGDOM & EIRE

Jean G., Secretary, G.S.O. London

If anyone had told me way back in 1959, when Al-Anon found me, that I would be here at the World Service Conference representing our members in the U.K. and Eire, I just wouldn’t have believed them!

Pat D., who was our WSC Representative last year was my sponsor into Al-Anon; she called, quite unexpectedly, at my home together with two members of AA—but that’s quite another story and much too long to tell you now!

In those days, in 1959, we only had ten groups and I joined the meetings which were held once a month in Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire. In 1960 I can remember Pat telling us that there was to be a meeting in London to form the United Kingdom Central Services Committee. She was trying to en-

courage some of us to attend and I clearly recall thinking "What is she going on about? How can I be expected to attend a business meeting? I have quite enough problems with my own family!" And I just didn't want to know. And that's the way it was!

It was ten years and two more children later, before I was encouraged by Helen M.S., another WSC Representative to come and help at the newly-opened General Service Office in Camberwell, London. I worked first with Dorothy H., our first Representative from U.K. and Eire.

I had grown a little bit by this time and so had Al-Anon in our Area; we then had just over 100 groups. Our small room sounds as though it was just like the original Clearinghouse—dripping walls, freezing cold and very dingy. That's the way it was!

Today we have 338 Al-Anon groups and 26 Alateen groups. Compared with your vast areas, our islands seem very small, but we have a total population of some 60 million. So, from this you can judge what the potential membership for Al-Anon could be.

Our northernmost groups are in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, and I hear from Ann S., our Scottish Board Member, about one newcomer who walked in the dark over bracken and across streams until her feet were bleeding to reach an Al-Anon group. Others came by boat with their AA relatives, and throughout Scotland there is tremendous enthusiasm. There are twelve Al-Anon groups in Glasgow alone.

Moving across to Northern Ireland, Leah B., who was our WSC Representative in 1974, reports that Al-Anon has grown in spite of many difficulties. If traveling becomes too dodgy, then a group is formed locally. AA Conventions and mini-Conventions are always well attended—there are no border boundaries in the Al-Anon fellowship. Last year, in April 1975, I attended the All-Ireland AA Convention in Portrush and I can assure you our Irish AA friends really know how to have a good time without the aid of booze! Present difficulties are seldom mentioned, but Leah wrote to tell me of one family where a member survived a shooting incident in his home; he produced his Serenity Prayer card which was damaged, but which was the means of diverting a bullet which otherwise would have caused him serious injury, or even death. At their Al-Anon meetings in Northern Ireland they come together with nothing but love and caring for each other. Leah asks me to send her greetings to you all.

Sally McG., our retiring Board member for Eire, The Republic of Southern Ireland, has had a very busy and exciting year beginning with the opening of the Dublin Information Centre. They all worked so hard to raise funds to furnish and equip the room and to pay for the installation of the telephone; then there is the rent to find. It has all proved really worthwhile, especially with major campaigns in Eire for the treatment of alcoholism, Al-Anon has been very much involved. They had one particular radio programme which made quite an impact and brought many newcomers to our fellowship.

Sally has been trying very hard to interest the Irish TV network in showing DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK; she arranged viewings for various interested people, including the Health Education Department. Sadly, no one was rushing to screen it, but there is hope that in October or November when they are having another campaign about alcoholism geared towards the families, they will show the film, or parts of it.

Our own U.K. & Eire 6th Service Conference was held last September at Nottingham University. It was our second weekend Conference, modelled on the World Service Conference, and was attended by our District Representatives, our General Service Board, some Committee chairmen and some GSO staff. At our first one-day Conference in 1970, 11 out of 14 Districts were represented. Last year, 1975, out of a total of 21 Districts we had 18 DRs and 1 District Observer, plus a European Observer, RIT J., from Belgium.

It is because we have our own structure in the U.K. & Eire and

hold our own annual Conference that we send a Representative to the World Service Conference with a voice, but no vote. And I know that I have had the opportunity to do my share of talking, and have learnt a great deal by listening too!

We have a Literature Committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. They are now finalising our Service Handbook for approval at our Conference this autumn, after a three-year experimental period. It is, of course, based on the World Service Handbook. Our Literature Committee have also prepared many Guidelines for Conventions, for our Editorial Committee, for our Alateen Coordinators and for Al-Anon working with the Penal Services (that is for families of people in prison or on probation). All these Guidelines are seen by World Service Office.

We have gradually achieved rotation of committees for Editorial, Conventions and our Conference, thus shifting the work to Districts, even though it is for our entire Area. In this way, more Al-Anon members have the opportunity to serve our fellowship and experience all the hard work which is necessary to produce our monthly magazine, *NEWS & VIEWS*, Al-Anon's participation in the numerous AA Conventions and last, but by no means least, our annual Service Conference.

Our magazine, *NEWS & VIEWS*, which is printed, has now reached a monthly circulation of 2,000, this has doubled since 1971 and the profit on the sale contributes quite reasonably to our income. Anyone who would like a 12 month subscription, please give me their name and address and \$4.25. A copy will be mailed every month.

We are absolutely delighted with our new office in Great Dover Street, London S.E.1, which is close to London Bridge over the River Thames. It seems as though now we have room to spread, we are growing at an even greater pace. It is quite incredible the ways things are developing since we moved in October, 1975. Our Auditor's draft accounts show a very healthy state, but this must take in the increased sales of books, just prior to an increase in their prices. Our January, 1976 *NEWS & VIEWS* magazine, which some of you will have seen in the Hospitality Room, shows how our volunteers reacted to our move to the new "office" which was formerly used as a United Reform Church, built in 1956.

In November we had an 'At Home.' It meant that we had to make a special effort to get straight! We invited lots of people interested in the field of alcoholism—leading doctors, Headquarters of Samaritans, Marriage Guidance, the National Council on Alcoholism, the newly-formed London Council on Alcoholism, some journalists and our friends at AA GSO in London. Even those who could not attend wrote wishing us well in our new office. Those who came, however, were very impressed and extremely interested in our various displays of literature, maps pinpointing Al-Anon and Alateen groups in our Area, as well as a world-wide map. They all enjoyed talking together and with Al-Anon volunteers who help at GSO—and also lapped up our English tea and coffee and delicious refreshments!

One of the doctors who came is now working very closely with AA and Al-Anon. He is at the Maudesley Hospital in London which does considerable work in the field of alcoholism. Our 'At Home' was so successful that we hope to make it an annual event—apart from anything else it will make sure we give the office a good clean-up!

I am fairly certain that as a result of information about Al-Anon via our 'At Home,' we have recently taken part in an educational film entitled, 'The Alcoholic in General Practice.' I must explain that the American translation of this English would be 'The Alcoholic as recognized by the Doctor in General Practice!' Anyway, this film is one of a series made for General Practitioners and financed by a Drug Company. They are small video-cassettes which are brought to doctors by the

representatives of the Drug Company and shown on the small monitors they carry with them. The film only takes 12 minutes so that Doctors in Group Practices will be interested in a showing after they have finished seeing their patients. The film in question was only shot during the middle of March and the Producer was very understanding about us guarding our anonymity. They filmed from behind and showed someone (me in fact!) talking to another lady as we walked along a road, and saying briefly that alcoholism was a family disease and that if a wife or relative consulted their doctor he could tell them about Al-Anon Family Groups where they would get a great deal of help. The whole Al-Anon spot lasts about ten seconds, but we feel that it will be really worthwhile if it informs just some doctors of the existence of Al-Anon; it is incredible how many have not yet heard of us!

Last year Pat D. arranged for us to have a copy of the film *LOIS' STORY* and since September 1975 when we received it, it has already been shown and enjoyed at several AA Conventions and Al-Anon District and Group meetings. The bookings diary is rapidly filling up and I have the headache of keeping track of the film and crossing my fingers that it will be returned on time to mail on to the next address.

We felt quite frustrated that our Television Stations, both BBC and Independent, were not rushing to screen *DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK*. Pat D., who returned from last year's World Service Conference simply full of enthusiasm for the film, has worked tremendously hard approaching TV companies and just about anyone who might have been able to help us get it shown. Somehow we have felt that perhaps the delay was meant to be and that we would have better results by possessing our souls in patience.

However, just three weeks ago we learnt that Granada TV in the northwest of England were preparing a half-hour programme about alcoholism and would, in all probability, include the 'WASTE YOUR LIFE' skit. This particular TV programme, called *REPORTS ACTION*, is screened locally by Granada every Monday at 10:30 in the evening and this one was to go out on Monday, 12th April. The week before I left London we had been so excited and so busy writing to advise all the groups in that District and liaising with the TV people and local Al-Anons. And then on Friday, 9th April, just before I left we heard that they were putting it back to Monday, 26th April. I guess they realised how important it was to plan their programme thoroughly and that it would have a big impact on their viewers. I have received a letter from one of the local Al-Anons saying that we have a team all ready to take calls. Can you imagine how I'll feel in London when I get home on the 27th, not being able to see the programme because it's only on the Granada network!

And now, in conclusion, I must tell you that when our Area was new we, too, had teething troubles; now we, too, sometimes have our growing pains. Although we may differ in some small details in the organisation of our Area, we do appreciate the essential framework of the Traditions and Concepts for the maintenance and security of our fellowship in the U.K. and Eire. Without them, there would be the danger of our becoming so fragmented that we lose contact with the original spirit which built Al-Anon, and cements it together for the future for those yet to come. And that's the way it is!!

Jean's remarks were punctuated with a loud ringing of the bell, and when that bell rang—well guess what happened?  
"ODAT"

In 1966 the WSC voted unanimously to have an Al-Anon book of daily readings. As Chairman of the Literature Committee, the job of writing *ONE DAY AT A TIME* fell to me. And I loved it!

*Lois'* 1st inscription in my copy was embarrassingly complimentary. After a year or so I asked her to enscribe a copy of

the second printing for me. She wrote: "Our gratitude to the transcriber, for we all know who the Author of this book is." How right she was!

I'm *AFFE* and that's the way it was!"

"AFFE"

Margaret D. had been hard at work compiling *FORUM* editorials into a book. *AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS*, lovingly called, "AFFE," was published in time for its debut at the AA International Convention in 1970. Margaret became an instant celebrity and was besieged by autograph hunters. She signed every copy purchased and there were 1,000 books sold. It was a long time before her fingers uncurled.

I'm *Chick* and that's the way it was!"

"Columbine on the Rocks"

The 40th AA Anniversary International Convention was held in Denver. The theme of the Columbine flower showed up everywhere at Al-Anon's Headquarters hotel. There were over 5,000 Al-Anon/Alateen members in attendance. All might have wanted the special souvenir but the State government would have objected to the removal of an entire mountain; as it was, 2,000 guests at the breakfast for Lois were given a hand-painted local rock, prepared by the Rock Committee. There were sub-committees for "rock-gathering," "rock-painting" and "rock-distribution."

I'm *Foretta* and that's the way it was!"

## ASK-IT-BASKET

This session is of interest to many Conference members since the questions asked by others are often those they would like answered themselves.

The panel: Mary S., Chairman of the Policy Committee; Myrna H., Staff; Norris R., RT, U.S. (W); Virginia H., Alabama; and Bette O., Connecticut.

Q. What can you do in a situation where a single group separates itself from the Area Committee and then interferes with the work of that Committee in sponsoring groups, appearing on TV shows, etc.? This situation is made more difficult because group members insist they alone keep Al-Anon traditions.

A. Use the tools of the program: Look at each problem and make a decision which is based on changing what you can. Once you feel you have done what can be done, then "Let Go," detach, pray for them with the knowledge that everything changes sooner or later, and "This too shall pass."

Q. Is there any way we can get copies of the first five years of the *FORUM*?

A. Write to WSO and request them. Whatever back copies are still available can be purchased @ 25¢ a copy.

Q. Al-Anon is spelled with a hyphen; Alateen is not. Some people feel both should be spelled the same way as Alateen, with the hyphen dropped. Could someone give us a history of why these are spelled this way?

A. The name, Al-Anon, was among several submitted to the original groups and chosen by a majority as an appropriate one; it is a contraction of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The hyphen is a part of the corporate name and Al-Anon, with the hyphen, is a registered trademark of the fellowship.

The name Alateen, was coined by the original teenage group in California, subsequently used by our other such groups, and has now also been registered as a trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C. Despite the obvious inconsistency in the spellings, both names have been used as they originated in legal documents and throughout our

*Conference Approved Literature. Neither could now be changed without enormous difficulty.*

Q. Is there a possibility of having literature for Alateen on "Understanding Your Non-Alcoholic Parent?"

A. *The Literature Committee will take it under consideration if more requests for this type of literature are received.*

Q. Why can't Delegates get a condensed Conference Report suitable for use in a 15 minutes' Area report? As AA does!

A. *The WSO doesn't have the time or Staff to prepare such a report, as it is committed to produce a full Summary. This job is more the responsibility of the Delegate who would also know his or her Area's special interests and concerns.*

Q. How can we better inform the fellowship of the availability of Trustee speakers for Conventions, with the board paying their expenses?

A. *When substantial Al-Anon activity is scheduled on the agenda of an AA Regional Conference, and such Al-Anon Conferences and Conventions that are truly Regional in nature, the WSO will reimburse the Regional Trustee attending, up to a stipulated limit for each RT per year. This does not apply to Al-Anon Area Conventions. The Area is expected to reimburse the expenses of any invited speaker, be it a Trustee or other WSO member.*

Q. Why aren't questions (directed to New York from various groups) sent to the Delegate who, in turn, can refer them to committee members and Group Representatives for personal follow-up?

A. *Appropriate problems are usually referred to the Delegate. Often, questions asked are simply a matter of group autonomy and require only proper application of the Traditions. In some cases the varied experiences of the WSO are brought to bear; in others, the WSO has been asked specifically to respect the confidence of the writer.*

Q. How can a military group be self-supporting when the U.S. Government furnishes a meeting room, literature, etc.?

A. *This is a unique situation. Rather than deny membership to those who are specially situated, Al-Anon follows a precedent set by AA and does register these groups, confident that they will abide by the Traditions in so far as they possibly can.*

Q. What are your recommendations for an educational program for GRs in the working of their group relations and the Coordinators with the Headquarters (WSO) and also the Chairman of the WS Committee?

A. *A lot of answers can come about through the District Workshops. Also refer to the Handbook. A good many of these answers are simply learned through experience and practice in the program.*

Q. Can an Al-Anon Information Service pay for a telephone listing to the "Hot-line" of assorted crucial situations?

A. *Yes. This is no different from paying for an ad in a newspaper.*

Q. Some groups hold hands when saying the Lord's Prayer or the Serenity Prayer. There is an increasing objection on the part of some members who regard this as a religious ceremony. Is there any basis to this?

A. *For many people, holding hands has no religious connotation, but there do seem to be members who have a reserve against a public display of affection even to the extent of holding hands. This is a matter of group autonomy. Truly concerned members can make their objections known to the group.*

## 1975 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Shirley B., Colorado

Shirley's report was complete and well presented. She spoke of the dedicated efforts of the Denver Host Committee and the marvelous results which had ensued. She told of the earnest desire of the Committee to be of financial help to the future Host Committee and presented a check which was to be designated for its use. Because of the long-standing policy not to accept "ear-marked" funds, the WSO was unable to accept this most generous offer. Ted explained that the Conference decision to change the operational procedures of future International Conventions would eliminate the necessity for a special Host Committee fund; under the new plan, these costs would be covered by the WSO General Fund.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Stephanie O'K., Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of members proposed to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees. She alluded to the fact that she had always considered the spot at the head of "that" Committee a "safe" place to be. Seldom does one in this position suffer the pangs which accompany a decision to "run or not to run." She was unnecessarily modest, if embarrassed, to announce the committee's decision to nominate her as the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees to replace Ted, whose term as Chairman would end at the Annual Meeting on the Saturday following the Conference. Nominees for other offices were: Paul L., Vice-Chairman; Carter C., Treasurer. Those members nominated to serve a three-year term were: Penny B., for a second-term; Alice B., who had become eligible after a year's absence from the Board; and Edwina F., known to many for her work as Institutions Chairman, for her first term. The names of Ruth H., as nominee for Regional Trustee, and Cay C., as Alternate, were placed before the Conference body.

In accordance with our Charter, no Trustee may serve for a period of more than six consecutive years; as an incorporated Trusteeship, the Board chooses its own successors. This choice is subject to the approval of the Conference. The vote was unanimously in favor of seating the entire slate of Officers, In-Town and Regional Trustees.

Ted K., was designated unanimously as a member of the Executive Committee and subsequently made its Chairman at the Annual Board Meeting. Barker H., and Valery Y., a new appointee, were also unanimously accepted as members of the Executive Committee. Carter C., was accepted as the Treasurer; Mary S., was named Policy Committee Chairman; Henrietta S., General Secretary, was reappointed to serve on this Committee until her retirement; and Eleanor O'B., became the Staff member named to fill the vacancy in accordance with the Conference approved amendments to the Concepts.

## REPORT FROM DELEGATES ONLY MEETING

Shirley B., Colorado (Secretary)

All Delegates were present when the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Walter H., North Carolina. "The consensus of the group was that if the Green Light Sessions were to continue next year and all meetings were to be 'open,' a Delegates Only Meeting, as such, would not be required. A motion was made and approved: We recommend to the World Service Conference that the Delegates Only Meeting name be changed to "Sharing Area Highlights," and that it be chaired by an elected Delegate Chairman. Those elected from Panel 15



were: Chairperson, Irene R., South Dakota; Alternate, Dottie D., Nevada."

A financial report was submitted by Walter H., covering the costs of the quarterly Delegates Only Newsletter.

When Shirley's report was presented to the full Conference the recommendation to change the name of the meeting was accepted by vote. It was further decided that the Delegates Only Newsletter would be discontinued and that the sharing of Area experiences and happenings could be accomplished through *AREA HIGHLIGHTS*, a quarterly, published by the World Service Office. It was evident that these unanimous decisions had been made with reflection, consideration and love. The need for free-flowing lines of communication among the Areas would be met in a spirit of unity and confidence in the future.

*"That's the way it was!"*

*The 25th Anniversary of Al-Anon Services was celebrated at the 1976 Al-Anon World Service Conference which happened to coincide with the Bicentennial of the United States. In keeping with the historical commemoration, the Delegates were given a souvenir booklet containing 25 capsule accounts of Al-Anon's own historical moments. These accounts had been presented throughout the week by Conference members.*

*I'm ~~very~~ and that's the way it was!"*

### Closing Session

Traditionally, the Conference is ended with the Spiritual Meeting. It was evident to all that this had been a "very special" Conference. It could be characterized by some members as having been one at which a great deal of work had been accomplished, others saw it as evidence of group conscience in action, still others, as an opportunity for total open sharing. For some of us it was all these things and more: Al-Anon had survived a quarter of century; the Conference was in its 16th year. The Traditions had created boundaries for different personalities but limitless opportunities for spiritual growth.

Dot H., Georgia, reaffirmed this thought when she addressed the Conference in its final hours.

"Without Al-Anon, my life would have been purposeless. Al-Anon has been the spring-board of my happiness to maturity, and to my spiritual growth." She made reference to the days of active drinking when she was "distracted, disturbed and hysterical," when her life was "consumed" with her husband's "imbibing activities." It was in Al-Anon where she learned to listen. "... it was there that I learned how to get back on an even keel ... to share ... to change and improve my attitude; to correct my reactions to things; to understand spirituality; and to make amends. ... it gave me a new life, a new joy, faith and gratitude. I truly believe that God in His *wisdom* gave me an alcoholic to love and God in His *mercy* gave me the Al-Anon program."

For Jean A., Regional Trustee from Canada, *fear* had been a "constant companion." Alcoholism in her family had reduced her to "fear of living." It was in her introduction to the Twelve Steps and the restoration of her confidence by the "therapy" of the group that she was "liberated from a prison of my own making." She was able to understand that "regardless of individual religious beliefs, we come together in Al-Anon fully aware of the presence of our Higher Power." She cautioned us all not to fall victim to the "cunning, evil, little monster, often referred to as complacency." She spoke of the job ahead, the need to carry a message of hope.

She closed by stating, "Our strength is in our simplicity of purpose, our Traditions and spiritual principles."

A most fitting closing is Lois' comment on the 1976 World Service Conference:

"I want to thank you all for your love and dedication and for the inspiration that passes from one to another. I really have no words to express what this Conference has meant to me and I am sure it will go down as a 'red-letter' Conference. Your spirit has been tremendous."