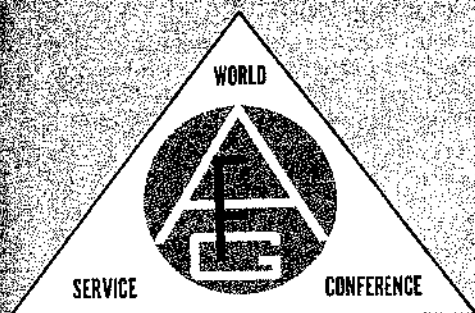


Summary 1977

Check p. 17
April 18-23, 1977



17th World Service Conference

AL-ANON

Al-Anon Family Groups New York, New York

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Our Conference Theme:

COMMUNICATION—OUR LIFELINE

The spiritual principles of the program are offered to every member as Al-Anon's message of hope. We are joined together by that message, and, as each of us receives it, we are given the opportunity for a new and better way of living. With the return of hope, we become the loving caretakers of the message, responsible for keeping it safe and carrying it to others.

The 17th World Service Conference addressed itself to the most effective means of communication available to the fellowship. In doing so, the Conference recognized that how we carry the message, how we share it, are measures of our recovery and our willingness to serve. There are those who are still waiting for help!

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The Opening Banquet . . .

The World Service Conference (WSC) began officially with a formal dinner held Monday evening April 18, in the Bowman Room of the Biltmore Hotel, in New York City.

The invocation was read by Stephanie O'K., Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The new Conference Chairman, Jean A., from Ontario, Canada, gave the traditional welcome and introduced the guests, the WSO Officers and Staff, and called Lois W., our Founder, to the podium for a brief but warm hello.

The dinner speaker was Eledia S., Delegate from Missouri, whose story reflected her wit and depth of character. Her remarkable recovery story was heightened by her personal losses. Challenged by the program and its offer of help and hope, Eledia climbed three flights of stairs "a hundred times" to open AA meetings before she "climbed" into Al-Anon. Believing that "the rain falls on the just and the unjust," she reaffirmed her belief in her Higher Power to meet the many obstacles in her life. She forged ahead, convinced that her own recovery lay in "learning the lessons of the drinking years."

She exemplified the member who perseveres through a dedicated adherence to Al-Anon principles. The dinner guests were enthralled by her use of the English language and her marvelous delivery. Her message was one of unselfish sharing and gratitude.

After dinner, the most recently-elected Delegates (Panel 17) met in the Park Lounge for

OPERATION DELEGATES' HEADSTART,

which is the name given to a briefing meeting that has, for six years, introduced the incoming Panel of Delegates to the services provided by the Standing Committees and World Service Office (WSO) Staff. Assisting Eleanor O'B., the General Secretary, were: Holly C., and Helen G., Conference; Timmy W., Darcy W., Alateen; Ann S., Institutions; Margaret O'D., Public Information (P.I.); Linda McF., Staff Writer; Hildegard M., Editor of the *FORUM*; and Myrna H., Assistant to the General Secretary. They were joined by experienced Delegates, Lois B., Saskatchewan, Betty O'B., CT; and Barbara S., NH, who chaired the discussions.

Barbara began with

Getting the Most Out of the Conference

Her key words: "Enjoy" and "Participate." She recommended using a notebook and a camera to form the necessary "groundwork," and touching the lives of other Delegates and WSO members to cement the impressions of the "beauty and wonderment of it all."

Reporting Back After the Conference

Noting the value of a daily diary and notes written in the margins of material in the brochure, Barbara used these as well as her pictures and souvenirs to give her report as much interest and feeling as possible. She has also found "visual aids and charts add much to the understanding of the World Service Conference and service work for all the Al-Anon members."

And Betty spoke on

Working in the Assembly Area

Remembering always that she is an Al-Anon member first, Betty tries to share her Delegate experience with an open mind. At a May Assembly, she gave a report which included mention of revised or new material made available through the World Service Office. "During this time when we are all together, Alateen enjoys entertaining us and our Special Services (P.I., Alateen, Institutions) have the opportunity to give their reports," so, for Betty, communication includes listening and sharing as well.

At 9:30 p.m., the Panel and the WSO Staff joined the full Conference,

for the

Opening Session, Monday night, April 18

With the calling of the roll, the business sessions of the Conference were begun. Excited participants were seated and the proceedings began with a warm welcome from the Conference Chairman, Jean A. There followed a report from the

Admissions Committee,

and Julie J., of New Mexico, announced the Committee's recommendations which included seating (with voice but no vote) of: Eamon Timoney, Controller; Alberte C., Chairman of the French Literature Committee; Cay C., the French Translator; Jan B., Representatives from the U.K. and Eire; and Marjatta P., from Finland.

The Committee also seated (without voice or vote): Helen G., Assistant to Holly C., Conference Secretary; Darcy W., Assistant Alateen Secretary; and Teresa M., Spanish Translator.

Stephanie's Welcome to the Conference

Stephanie O'K., The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, opened the Conference by reading the Twelve Traditions. Stephanie's welcome delightfully acknowledged that as the "President of the Corporation," her official title under the law in New York State, she wasn't even allowed to sign the checks. "There is," she continued, "no *President* of Al-Anon." She was just another member who knew in her heart that the Conference was going to be an extraordinary one.

Open Session—Green Light/Red Light with Ted K., as Moderator

During the "Red Light" portion of the session, of 90 or more topics introduced, those which sparked the greatest show of hands appeared to be handling the interest of professionals, new literature proposals, anonymity, films and tapes, Alateen sponsorship, and Area concerns.

After two and one half hours, the session was brought to a halt with appropriate topics having been referred to committees, and to later sessions for further discussions. For the second time, members seemed genuinely pleased with the open, all inclusive meeting of many minds.

* * * * *

"Communication can be a smile, a touch, a look."

Tuesday Morning, April 19

After Jean called the roll, we then had a brief welcome from Lois W., one of Al-Anon's founders, who asked us to look at each day with continued enthusiasm. Cheered by our theme, Lois recounted part of her own story which emphasized her realization that her individual experience with alcoholism required a program of spiritual renewal for her. Her conclusion: "Let us communicate with each other—with our children, our mates and with the world-at-large."

Conference Voting Procedure

Our Conference has grown so large that an established method was needed to present recommendations requiring a full membership vote. When more than 100 people meet together, there is more formality than would be found at a local Al-Anon meeting. Eleanor O'B. briefly explained the use of a modified form of parliamentary procedure and answered questions regarding its use.

FORUM

Hildegard M., Editor, spoke of her gratitude to former editors Margaret D. and Louise G., and said that she felt privileged to work at WSO as it enlarged her picture of Al-Anon to include worldwide sharing.

Hildegard's zeal, talent and enthusiasm were evident as she presented an idea for an Al-Anon magazine. The proposal, made to the Conference for its approval, encompassed a 32-page publication incorporating the *FORUM*. The *FORUM* section would include the present publication and the magazine format would make it possible to also publish longer personal stories, articles on general topics dealt with in depth, interviews with and articles from professionals who work in the field of family help and who understand Al-Anon, and features such as suggestions for meeting programs, the history of Al-Anon, and service work. Considerations such as cost and price are dependent on materials and the economy, but overall reception was overwhelmingly favorable. It was also proposed that *AREA HIGHLIGHTS*, a newsletter for sharing Delegates' experiences, be expanded to better inform all members.

Motion was made, seconded and carried—that the Conference approve development and production of the new Al-Anon magazine, incorporating the *FORUM*, to have a target date of May 1978, with first distribution at the 1978 WSC; and at that time *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* be expanded and sent free to all groups. (2 abstentions)

* * * * *

"I came in helpless and hopeless . . ."

Bette O'B., from Connecticut, recovered from her rebellion and began to put order in her life by applying the Al-Anon program little by little. She learned to share a "whole" picture openly and to use time to her advantage. "Think" was her slogan and she used it to change her attitudes and form realistic relationships with those she loved.

* * * * *

"I heard you smiling in here."

said Agnes L., AR., to her husband. In beginning her conversation this way, she had come a long way. She spoke of her former difficulties in communication. Recalling her use of ugly words to the alcoholic, she noted that "the Golden Rule" might have helped her with her tendency to speak "too fast and too long." She added that the phrase, "What's the matter?" seemed to be a signal to fight an expression of self-justification and guilt. She has since learned to enjoy comfortable silences, to enjoy listening and increasing her awareness of other people's feelings.

* * * * *

The Morning Session ended with all Conference members braving the elevator system for the trip to the Standing Committee Meetings on the first floor.

"What can words do to me unless I take them to heart."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

[Holly had previously announced that the appointments of new members of the Standing Committees had been made by mail.]

	PANEL 16 1976-1978		PANEL 17 1977-1979	
ADMISSIONS:	IND.	Ada R.	ARIZ.	Lorain S.
	OHIO	Roslyn C.	B.C.	Joanne B.
	(W)TEX.	Mary H.	N.J.	Suzanne B.
AGENDA:	(N)ILL.	Irene K.	ALTA.	Era S.
	KY.	Marge G.	MONT.	Beatrice H.
	R.I.	Bev. S.	W.V.	Esther S.
ALATEEN:	(S)CAL.	Betty R.	OKLA.	Mary N.
	MICH.	Anne S.	VA.	Helen V.
	(N)N.Y.	Maxine B.	WASH.	Connie D.
HANDBOOK:	MINN.	Dorothy B.	MISS.	Bill M.
	PENNA.	Bob D.	N.D.	Mary Frances T.
	(E)TEX.	Allie Mae R.		
	MAN.	Gwenn L.		
INSTITUTIONS:	HAWAII	Marlene D.	AT. PROV.	Jessica B.
	KAN.	Betty B.	N.C.	Ruth H.
	MD.	Isabel F.	WISC.	Mabel H.
LITERATURE:	DEL.	James S.	GA.	Vernie S.
	FLA.	Joan S.	MASS.	Marilyn M.
	(S)ONT.	Willie H.	ORE.	Jean T.
PUBLIC	(N)CALIF.	Irma C.	ALA.	Mel W.
INFORMATION	(W)QUE.	Simone M.	COLO.	Judene G.
	TENN.	Edith S.	(E)QUE.	Fernande B.

Tuesday Afternoon

Fed and content, we moved on to the talk by Betty W., Iowa, whose favorite form of pre-Al-Anon communication was "ordering and yelling." However, her greatest experience in Al-Anon came when she learned to listen. Her communication with her Higher Power was vastly improved when she learned to "thank Him no matter what!" Her earnest joy in sharing has resulted in an experience of growth in interest in world service. She concluded: "If I don't give the Al-Anon program away, there is no way I'll be able to keep it!"

* * * * *

"I'm totally powerless over other people, their feelings and situations."

Rose M., NY (S) recalled how her recovery in the program had helped her to understand that she no longer needed to convince anyone of anything. She knew she could offer her experience, strength, and hope, but she did not expect people to do as she did. In expressing her firm belief that there is a time when communication is made easy by receptive attitudes, Rose felt certain that she could only concern herself with her own convictions and that time and healing would be responsible for the change in another person's point of view.

"I polished my halo a lot."

Audrey B., WY, reluctantly started an Al-Anon group after she married for the second time. Her husband was a recovering alcoholic in A.A. To counter the difficulties she had with her family members, Audrey "reread the Al-Anon books, listened to what the members had to say about communication and worked at facing problems one day at a time." She said, "In time my family and I could sit down and talk . . . we found that communication is sharing your feelings with another person without fear of emotional reprisal. We don't always agree but we can each have his own opinion. My husband and I travel separate roads in AA and Al-Anon, but we walk hand in hand, and communication is our lifeline, thanks to our Higher Power and this fellowship."

ALATEEN TOWN HALL— ALATEEN COMMUNICATES

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Secretary
Darcy W., Assistant

Carole K., introduced Martha E., Co-Chairman; the In-Town members, and Timmy's Staff Assistant, Darcy W.

Sponsorship and Speaker Exchange

Amanda M., of the In-Town committee, noted that the overall answers to the questionnaires sent to Delegates prior to the Conference were enlightening. Some suggestions for improving the relationship between Alateens and Al-Anons, which would help in your Area to get more Sponsors are:

- To have more *open* Alateen meetings,
 - To have Alateen speak at Al-Anon meetings,
 - To have Al-Anon speak at Alateen meetings, and
 - To display Alateen literature at all meetings, including speaker-exchange meetings.
- Delegates noted that when Sponsors are needed for Alateen groups, it would be helpful:
- To encourage Alateen Sponsors to speak at Al-Anon meetings about Alateen,
 - To use your newsletter as an appeal,
 - To make appeals at Assembly and District Meetings, and
 - To make Alateen functions, i.e., anniversaries, dances, cake sales, etc., open to Al-Anon members.

The question which seemed to trouble many was "Have you found any new or effective ways to make Al-Anons aware of their responsibilities to sponsor Alateen groups?" Some ideas were:

- Introduce the Alateen book and encourage Al-Anons and prospective Sponsors to read it, as well as all other Alateen literature:
- Use *ALATEEN TALK*, the Alateen newsletter, at Al-Anon meetings;
- Make appeals for sponsors at Alateen Conferences, Alateen Workshops, and Al-Anon Conferences;
- Hold Workshops for Sponsors to relieve anxieties, share hopes and encourage one another.

It was amazing to learn the majority response to the question "Have you found any new or effective ways to make Al-Anons aware of their responsibilities to sponsor Alateen groups?" was "NO!" A very rewarding fact was that 15 Delegates have sponsored, and still do, sponsor Alateen groups. Also, sponsors feel more confident in working with teenagers when well-informed; therefore, a good suggestion is to reserve a portion of Al-Anon meetings for the discussion of Alateen by using the "Sponsorship" section of the Alateen book. As Al-Anon members become more knowledgeable about Alateen, they will feel more comfortable, willing and able to sponsor Alateen groups.

In answer to the question, "Are Alateen and Al-Anons encouraged to exchange speakers and/or meetings?" 46 answered, "YES."

Amanda concluded with the answers to the final question, "Was there any feedback from these meetings?" Some of them were: Al-Anons learn that the teenagers are and were hurt, just like the Al-Anons, and are also forgiving; Al-Anons who speak at Alateen meetings are asked to return to speak again; Al-Anons encourage their children to attend meetings. Speaker exchange meetings promote understanding and unity in our fellowship as Al-Anon and Alateen are the SAME PROGRAM! *Personal Reflections of a Sponsor* were brought to us by Edith G. who began,

"Five years ago, I was not afraid to become an Alateen Sponsor—I was terrified! If there had been someone, anyone, who was ever so slightly interested in starting and sponsoring the Alateen group we needed, I would have gladly stepped back. Fortunately, for me, there was nobody and I, as I thought then, sacrificed myself.

"In retrospect, it was one of the most significant steps I ever took. In spite of trials and errors, some disappointments and a few heartbreaks, sponsoring Alateen groups more than any other experience brought me to use and enjoy the program. I found my sanity through Al-Anon but I found happiness in Alateen."

Edith felt that the Delegates could start a "chain of encouragement" which would increase Al-Anon members' familiarity with the Alateen program and relieve the fears which prevent them from sponsoring. She wound up by saying, "For me, being an Alateen Sponsor has been the most gratifying, educational and rewarding way of working the Twelfth Step."

Alateen Coordinator

The Alateen Coordinator was defined by Martha E., Co-chairman, as "one who sees to it that Alateen affairs and activities within an Area are not a duplication of efforts and events." She noted that the Coordinator's role within an Area is an active one which requires communication and awareness. "It is very important that the Alateens are kept aware and informed of Conference-Approved Literature, either new or old." She felt that Alateen and Al-Anon should both be continually aware that Alateen is a part of Al-Anon, not a separate fellowship, or a part of AA.

Delegates' answers to questions regarding the establishment of a working relationship with the Alateen Coordinator were, on the whole, favorable. For those who answered, "NO", Martha suggested, "ASK YOURSELF, WHY NOT?" The existence of an Alateen Coordinator seems to be slowly improving communication and encouraging Alateen Sponsorship. The Alateen Coordinator appears to stimulate interest and involvement in Alateen by acting as a liaison between Al-Anon and Alateen. Some misconceptions are being straightened out.

If there is no Coordinator, Martha suggested making appeals for one at District and Assembly meetings as, "The Alateen Coordinator should be the Delegate's help-mate and make the Delegate's job just a bit easier."

Alateen Literature was covered by Chris D.

"Many of the Alateens I met were introduced into the program by Al-Anon members. They could have been given Alateen literature before they ever got to their first meeting. If they had had some exposure to Alateen before they went the first time, some of their fear and confusion could have been reduced. The other major reason to distribute Alateen literature in Al-Anon meetings is to explain Alateen to Al-Anon members, as there are still fears and misconceptions to alleviate. On the whole, distribution of Alateen literature is encouraged but the amount of encouragement and the amount of literature varies from Area to Area. Something that you or your local Alateen Coordinator could do is to make sure that each Al-Anon group sees an Alateen literature order form and that some Alateen literature gets ordered.

"The Alateen ONE DAY AT A TIME book is beginning to be more than a dream. For it to continue growing, we need more material. We asked, 'How are Alateen members and Sponsors encouraged to send in material to the WSO for the Alateen ODAT?' We've gotten a series of good answers: 1. by word of mouth; 2. from separate meetings for discussion and writing; 3. through Assembly meetings; 4. by announcements at all meetings; 5. by newsletter; 6. through the FORUM; 7. at conferences; 8. at District meetings and; 9. at Sponsor Workshops.

"My last point is, 'How closely do you work with your

Alateen Coordinator in placing Alateen literature in schools, libraries and other community agencies?' From the answers we've received, it's plain that you (Delegates) do not have much to do with the distribution of Alateen literature outside of the program. That's okay because, at District levels, distribution is taken care of by the Public Information Coordinator and at local levels, distribution is taken care of by the groups. The only suggestion we've come up with is that you (Delegates) remind the PI Coordinator to include Alateen literature in displays at conferences and in groups.

"Alateen is a part of Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateen literature is part of Al-Anon literature. Please work with us to help spread the program."

Alateen Conferences

Kathy McD. described the cooperation between Delegates and the Alateen Conference in which their Areas participate by saying that information is exchanged through word of mouth; newsletters; having Coordinators present at the planning sessions; and inviting Delegates to the Alateen Conference (and paying their expenses).

While attending Alateen conferences, some Delegates reported on Alateen matters which had been brought up at the World Service Conference. For greater sharing, Kathy said that it would help if Delegates wrote ahead giving the Alateen planners sufficient notice to set aside time for these reports. It was also suggested that the Delegates explain his responsibilities as well as the purpose and structure of the World Service Conference during these discussions.

Kathy also reported that, "The love, understanding and enthusiasm at Alateen conferences helps to show the basis of the program. The good fellowship and belonging that is shown at these conferences allows people to give back to the program what they've gotten; Alateens develop a better understanding of themselves and the program at conferences; better communication of ideas and an exposure to literature often occurs; ability to work out problems is greater because of the sharing and caring that takes place between groups, as well as between individual Alateen members; and an awareness of ways in which to participate is increased."

Delegates at the WSC added: getting involved in Alateen keeps an Al-Anon member young. One Delegate noted her group's sponsorship was on a rotation basis, while another added that her welcome to new Al-Anon registrations always included information about starting and sponsoring an Alateen group. It was a rewarding session!

* * * * *

"Wouldn't it be nice to be as sure of anything we do as some people are of everything they say?"

CONCEPTS—PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Stephanie O'K, Moderator

In a letter to all Conference members, Stephanie related the decision of the Board of Trustees re the traditional role of the FORUM Editor as a Trustee. After considerable discussion of all the points, the Board made a recommendation to the 1977 Conference that the FORUM Editor no longer be a member of the Board of Trustees and that the Concepts and bylaws be changed accordingly. The Conference Committee placed this topic on the Agenda and provided ample time for consideration of the question. After lengthy deliberation, the Conference decided that the FORUM Editor should retain her position as a member of the Board.

INSTITUTIONS COMMUNICATES

Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Secretary

Edwina F. began her hello's with the announcement that the long-awaited Institutions Kit was ready and had been distributed to members of the Conference in anticipation of wider distribution to groups. She expressed her gratitude for Delegates' response to requests for material for the new *INSTITUTIONS GUIDELINES*. It is this type of involvement which makes the material in them "come alive."

Ann recounted the background for including a history of Institutions work and then she and Edwina introduced the participants in the question and answer format for the afternoon.

"How can one member do Institutions work if there are no other volunteers?" was Charleen La P's., question. She answered:

"I proceeded to go to the only mental health facility in the District and spoke to the alcohol abuse coordinator in regard to Al-Anon as a community service and how it helps others. He was quite interested and willing to hear what I had to say. He arranged for us to present A-Meeting-On-Wheels to the staff. I got a few Al-Anon members together to help present the meeting. I used copies of the WSO Meeting-On-Wheels to help explain how a meeting is done. About 22 doctors and counselors were present. I've been asked to participate in other functions in the District and I just ask other members if they are willing to go. It's important for me to be practical and to remember that I am only one person. I must be realistic. I can put in the effort but then I have to let go. Although it started out as one member wanting to do Institutions work, it has grown. Due to that effort, the community is now aware of the Al-Anon program."

Betty B., from Kansas, suggested that it would be necessary to break the natural dependence on an Institutions group before a member would continue at other meetings closer to home. She felt that the committee might help by providing some written material which would encourage members to leave the group at the facility.

Fran P., In-Town, told how an Institutions group could be supported with literature and other necessities for proper functioning through District support. White elephant sales and penny jars provide money to be distributed by the coordinator. Free packets of literature are sent to new groups when they register at the WSO and established groups often contribute material to Institution groups which are just getting started. In some Areas, literature is distributed to local ambulance corps personnel who often come in contact with people who need Al-Anon. In others, the local Information Services provide money for literature.

"How can we stimulate membership in an Institutions group when no one shows up week after week?" was Sara P.'s question. As an In-Town Committee member, her response was, "The membership of an Institutions group is transient in nature, and consistent attendance cannot be foreseen. It is to be remembered that two or three Al-Anon members together constitute a meeting." She suggested cooperation with a local District P.I. Committee and, "If a 'Meeting-on-Wheels' has not already been presented to the professionals and staff at the facility, this could be arranged through the Institution sponsor of the facility. Additional 'Meetings-on-Wheels' can be suggested as a follow-up, hoping to reach the entire staff."

Other possibilities included: "Perhaps, if space is available at the facility, an Open Meeting with Al-Anon and Alateen speakers can be scheduled either before or after visiting hours. New members can then attend following introduction to Al-Anon at the Institutions meeting. Often, a closed Al-Anon meeting at the same facility is inappropriate. It is a good suggestion to

encourage occasional attendance by regular Al-Anon and Alateen members who might be able to assist new members in attending regular meetings near their homes."

Further, "It is most important to always keep alert for ways to acquaint the staff and personnel of the facility with the benefits toward family recovery within the Al-Anon and Alateen program. Our literature offers the hope of Al-Anon and Alateen in brief and inspired clarity. Every effort to make these pamphlets, together with local meeting lists, available is our ever-present Twelfth-Step opportunity."

"Cooperation between the District P.I. Committee and the Institutions Committee can result in the purchase of Al-Anon and Alateen posters as well as Literature Display Boards for tables in waiting rooms."

Pat McC., LA., tackled, "How can a successful Institutions Workshop be presented at the District level including both Al-Anon and Alateen?" and her response was: "This, of course, must be a coordinated effort between the District Representative, Group Representatives and the Institutions Coordinator. Advance publicity will be a great help, notifying the groups and all state officers. It would also be helpful if all groups would hold a meeting prior to the workshop on the *INSTITUTIONS GUIDELINES* so that those attending would be better informed." She continued:

"The DR or Institutions Committee, if there is one, together with the Coordinator, should be responsible for the program. The material for this and other helps can be found in the *GUIDELINES*. Having Alateens on the program is very effective thereby showing the involvement of the total family."

Isabel F., from Maryland, queried, "What are the necessary ingredients for good communication of an Institutions Committee and a Public Information Committee?" She answered: "Since P.I. and Institutions Committees are so closely allied, it is important there be good communication and that they clearly define the Area each will cover; work together to insure help for the greatest number; be sure each committee is knowledgeable where literature has been placed, and where it is needed; and to have a good speakers' committee to carry the message to hospitals, schools, social workers and the clergy."

"We avoid overlaps when the institutions have been contacted by a volunteer from the District in which they are located, a schedule prepared, and the groups have signed up to be responsible for the meeting. The speaker's chairman sends out a speaker or a 'Meeting-on-Wheels' to hospitals, doctors, nurses, medical students, churches, schools and social workers. This combines the P.I. and Institutions work at the same time."

Dottie D., from Nevada, considered, "What can be done to make the judiciary more aware of Al-Anon and also use us as a referral source?" and said, "Al-Anon has taught me that, in service, if I'm going to try something new, I should be selective. I like to start out with success and if I can have one success, then it's easier to handle the rejections. By success, I mean getting an appointment and speaking directly with a judge."

"If possible, select one whom you know is knowledgeable, sympathetic, or a member of AA or Al-Anon. You can't communicate with people who don't want to listen. A second suggested approach is through an attorney. Our experience indicates that, generally, the younger judge is more receptive. If you do get the name of an interested judge through rosters of alcoholism schools, or councils on alcoholism, or even newspaper articles, then write your letter or make your telephone call as soon as possible—and then be patient!"

"Remember, if you are successful in making contact, and if the judge is ready to work with you, BE RESPONSIBLE, be prepared to follow through as he or she may not have the time to give you a second chance."

Marlene D., from Hawaii, emphasized personal contact by the Delegate's newsletter articles and special workshops to alleviate the situation where there is little Institutions activity in an Area.

"Don't push it, shove it or ram it," implored Rose M., New York (S), "as the Al-Anon message is best passed along in penal institutions by members who are willing and already filled with a desire to do this rewarding work."

Ruth H., RT Canada, gave a comprehensive report which focused on "How to cooperate with professionals and AA in order to devise systems which may be used to discover, from amongst the patient population, those who are in need of Al-Anon."

Ruth felt that experience had shown the greatest success when her Area established orientation-type meetings which focused on the disease concept of alcoholism dispelling guilt and bringing some assurance of hope.

Of the many flexible systems, in Ruth's city of Winnipeg, which have evolved in the last three years, the "triage" system appears to be the most "effective system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors," of the disease of alcoholism.

At the Health Service Centre, the alcoholic is identified as are those within the patient population who may be suffering because of a suspected drinking problem in another person. They are soon visited by treatment center personnel made aware of AA and Al-Anon meetings which are going on in the hospital. Patients' family members are advised of the availability of meetings at the facility and literature is left. The Al-Anon Institutions meeting is notified and contacts are made with Alateen where children are involved.

Ruth also described programs at the Grace Hospital, the Victoria Hospital, and the Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Manitoba. Cooperation between the Al-Anon members and the professionals in these institutions has helped to establish good working relationships and appreciation of Al-Anon as a community resource.

Wednesday Morning

Jean A. began with an editorial from AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS and pointed out the importance of using our literature to find answers to problems.

Members of the out-going Panel 15 had been asked by Jean to briefly relate their experiences with communication. Each year these presentations are lovingly called, 'Bluebirds' talks because the nametags of out-going Delegates are blue. Another farewell was delivered by Louise J., ME.

"Communication was my lifetime to a life worth living." For Louise, life had been mere existence for years as a "squeaky-voiced child." She had been shy and felt unwanted. Her marriage seemed, at first, to be "Heaven-sent." As her husband's drinking progressed, her desperation grew. When his drinking drove him to AA, his sponsor's wife introduced Louise to Al-Anon where she continued her pattern of "existing—my thoughts came and went before I could get them out." Angry at her own refusal to speak at a meeting, she roused her conscience and spirit and did the impossible: She spoke!

The following seven years, she did more impossible things with confidence and an "inner feeling of acceptance." She went from GR to DR to Alternate to Delegate. Service, and the need for communication, helped her to do "50 years of growing up." For her, life is not "a problem to be solved but a mystery to be lived."

"A good listener does more than wait for a turn to talk."

ANNUAL REPORTS: WSO ACTIVITIES

In April each year, the Al-Anon World Service Office reports to the entire fellowship through its Delegates to the World Service Conference. These annual reports of office and Committee work summarize those made each quarter to the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., by the General Secretary, the Administrative Staff and Committee Chairmen.

The presentation to the Conference of the Annual Reports is made each year with the understanding that Conference members have received them 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 Stephanie O'K., Chairman, Board of Trustees:

In speaking of the inevitability of change and our capacity for handling it, Stephanie mentioned the recent retirement of Henrietta S., as General Secretary, and the resignation of Louise G., as FORUM Editor.

Stephanie reflected that sad goodbyes are often followed by joyous hellos. She reminded us that these very important positions were filled by extremely competent people; that Eleanor O'B., Henrietta's successor, has shown "great dedication" to her new job; that Margaret O'D., the former Secretary for PI group relations has filled in "magnificently for Josie C., who left to pursue other projects;" and that Hildegard M. has shown herself to be a great asset as the new FORUM Editor.

In recapping the year's activities, Stephanie said, "It has been a year of many meetings, many committees and much work accomplished. Problems were opportunities for growth; difficulties became challenges met, and most of all, I saw members working in various positions of our service structure giving daily witness that our principles and program do work.

"It has been a year of travel for me. How can I thank you for the warmth of your welcome, the excitement of your sharing Al-Anon at work in so many areas and regions? While hard to assess in words that generosity has been a dimension of this past year, unique as a source of strength, humility and love.

"A new Conference is about to begin, the days long and probably tiring but filled with a special sense of purpose and responsibility. The theme, 'Communication—Our Lifeline,' particularly appropriate, is the opportunity of each of us to speak and to listen. These are the priceless gifts of individuals sharing world-wide concerns.

"I know that God will bless this Conference and everyone here, giving us exactly what we need each day. My gratitude to all of you and may God bless and keep you all."

TREASURER'S REPORT*

Carter C.

"The rewarding growth of Al-Anon and Alateen in 1976 is reflected in the highlights of the year's financial results which can be quickly summarized. Income from all sources amounted to \$1,561,000 of which sales of publications were \$1,232,000 or 79%, contributions were \$231,000 or 15% and other income was \$98,000 or 6% of the total.

"Revenues from the sale of Conference Approved Literature increased \$216,000—21%—over the prior year. Again, ODAT was the best seller although the number of copies sold was less than in 1975. ODAT's sales were higher by almost \$49,000 over the year before because of the price increase of January 1, 1976. Sales of all books increased by \$64,000 while sales of other

literature increased by \$152,000, an impressive jump of 31%. Subscriptions to the FORUM were up by \$12,500 or 26% over 1975 compared with the 1975 over 1974 increase of \$7,800 or 19%.

"Contributions increased by \$36,800—19%—from \$194,500 in 1975 to \$231,300 in 1976. It is interesting to note that contributions amounted to 15% of total income in 1976 and also to 15% of total income in 1975.

"While the growth in contributions year to year over the past five years has been heartening, we still are well below a contributions level that would connote sound financial health for our fellowship. The 1976 ratio of contributions to publications sales is about 1 to 6. That is, there was about \$1.00 received via contributions for every \$6.00 that came in from publications. A ratio of 50-50 is an objective worth serious effort because contributions represent more of a sense of commitment and participation in the fellowship than do publication sales. That is why we have to be concerned by the fact that about one-half of the Al-Anon groups do not make any contributions. Again, we acknowledge our thanks to the Delegates for all they have done to sensitize the groups about the importance of contributions and request continued attention to the matter.

"In contrast with the almost 22% increase in total income noted above was the increase in the cost of World Service Office operations in 1976. This came to \$1,347,000, a rise of \$172,000 or 15% over 1975. The main elements of this increase are the following:

"—The largest factor was employees' salaries which were higher by \$113,300 or 26%. Of this amount, some \$58,600 represented staff additions and \$20,100 represented increased overtime and temporary help costs. The balance of \$34,600 represented merit and cost of living increments. Employee benefits decreased \$22,000 due to lower retirement plan costs as to which there is more information to follow.

"—Shipping and postage costs were up \$21,000 on account of greater volume of mail shipped, some use of UPS to improve delivery service and the postal rate increase effective January 1, 1976.

"—Printing costs of literature were up \$31,800.

"—Office services, including computer service costs, increased \$9,000.

"The final observation on the matters of incomes and expense is that there was \$214,089 excess of income over expense. This contrasts with \$104,991 the 1975 excess of income figure.

"Again, we thank the volunteer workers who come to WSO and give generously of their time in assisting the staff with WSO functions. Their valuable help tends to keep our operating costs lower than they otherwise would be."

[In addition to those volunteers at the WSO, we benefit from the volunteer work of Committee Chairmen, the contributions of time and manpower of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and the 62 Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Committee Chairmen, District Representatives, Group Representatives, Group Officers—the list goes on forever. We couldn't possibly put a dollar value on the service work done by all these people.]

"The Board of Trustees decided in July 1976 to establish a ceiling on the Reserve Fund of \$500,000 and accordingly a transfer of \$73,000 was made from the General Fund to bring the Reserve Fund up to this level. The Board feels that a Reserve Fund of \$500,000, at this time is adequate to provide for such developments as might threaten the economic existence of Al-Anon.

"The retirement plan for employees adopted in 1970 to be

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

funded by annual premium annuity policies was affected by requirements of the Employees Income Security Act (ERISA), (also known as the Pension Reform Act of 1974). To meet the requirements of ERISA, a "defined benefit plan" was adopted effective August 1, 1976 to replace the original plan of 1970. The new plan provides substantially the same benefits as the prior plan but at a lower cost. Under the new plan all employees who have had one year of service, have reached age 25, but are not over 60 years of age, are eligible to participate. Normal retirement is at age 65, with an early retirement provision at age 55 at a reduced benefit; and, there is full vesting after 10 years of service. The basic retirement benefit provided by the new plan is 1% of a participant's average annual earnings—for the last five years of consecutive service—multiplied by the total years of credited service (up to 30 years), less a partial offset of Social Security benefits attributable to employer contributions.

"The establishment of the new plan involved an unfunded liability of some \$70,400 as determined by the plan actuaries. This sum will be amortized over a thirty year period by annual payments of \$5,100. That sum in combination with the normal annual costs of funding of \$11,200 bring the total annual contribution to \$16,300. This means that we have a very reasonably priced retirement benefit program."

MOTION was made, seconded and carried—that the Conference approve the Treasurer's Annual Report for 1976. (Unanimous)

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—that the extension of bulk discounts, insofar as Al-Anon Information Services are concerned (including Intergroups and distribution centers) be limited to such of those services as distribute only Conference-Approved Literature for Al-Anon and Alateen and other items as may be furnished by the Al-Anon World Service Office.

* * * * *

"You never get a second chance to make a good first impression."

BUDGET—1977

Eamon Timoney, Controller

	BUDGET 1977	ACTUAL 1976
<i>Publications Sales</i>		
LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC	\$ 61,900	\$ 60,442
AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM	40,200	43,009
DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC		
MARRIAGE	48,600	47,934
ONE DAY AT A TIME	354,000	382,642
FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS	22,600	24,523
ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN	34,600	36,379
Other Literature	650,000	637,213
	1,211,900	1,232,142
FORUM Subscriptions	70,000	60,423
Film, Radio & TV Spots	6,000	5,126
Interest Earned	51,000	31,923
INCOME FROM BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	1,338,900	1,329,614
Contributions	240,000	231,278
TOTAL INCOME	1,578,900	1,560,892
(Sch.2) TOTAL EXPENSES	1,575,000	1,346,803
EXCESS INCOME—1977	3,900	214,089

EXPENSE BUDGET

1977

	TOTAL	ACTUAL 1976
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Sales		
Books	\$ 150,500	\$ 144,669
Other Literature	22,000	198,843
	370,500	343,512
Salaries	572,500	549,385
Employee Benefits	78,000	65,600
Building Occupancy		
—115 E. 23rd St.	60,000	58,707
Packing	14,000	12,771
Shipping Charges	63,000	58,588
Postage	45,000	43,635
Telephone	11,000	10,388
Stationery & Office		
Supplies	28,000	27,582
Computer Services etc.	20,000	8,539
Repairs and		
maintenance	3,500	8,027
Travel and meetings	15,000	13,694
Professional Fees	12,000	12,200
Printing:		
FORUM	25,000	23,592
Directory	12,500	14,846
Conference Summary	7,000	6,678
ALATEEN TALK	4,000	3,499
Other	1,500	427
Direct Conference		
Costs (net)	14,000	10,597
Exhibitions	8,500	6,428
French Literature		
Service	23,000	32,503
TV and Radio Spots	25,000	5,668
Miscellaneous	9,000	6,703
Special Projects		
Lois' Book	6,000	—
Other	35,000	—
Total:		
Operating Expenses	1,463,000	1,323,569
NON-OPERATING EXPENSES		
Furniture and		
equipment	12,000	14,828
Relocation expenses	100,000	8,406
Office Reconstruction		
Total: Non-Operating		
Expenses	112,000	23,234
Total Expenses	1,575,000	1,346,803

MOTION was made, seconded and carried that the Conference approve the 1977 Budget. (Unanimous)

"A good example is the best sermon."

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary S., Chairman; Lois W., Co-Chairman; Myrna H., Secretary

"Once again it is time for us to jointly consider the actions of the Policy Committee during the past year. The statements listed below have come about as a result of requests for clarification on matters affecting Al-Anon as a whole and have been passed on by the Board of Trustees. Now it is your turn. We hope you will take time to think about them before our Conference Session on Policy so that we may have a thoughtful discussion and/or approval:

Policy Committee Meeting

Motions

- 1) To re-word the Policy Re: MEMBERSHIP (page 30, Section II, c., Policy Digest) as follows:

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.

- 2) That the following statement on Clubhouses be added to the Policy Digest as follows:

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, 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 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."

Note—All motions made at the March 16, 1976 Policy Committee Meeting as reported above were approved at the 1976 WSC and no further action is needed. These now appear in the current Policy Digest. At subsequent Policy Committee meetings it was decided to bring the following to the full Conference in April, 1977 where, as a result, motions were made, seconded and carried to adopt the following policies:

1. The Policy Committee recommends to the WSC to adopt a policy which allows for creative cover designs on pieces of literature which are developed for special purposes and that the designs currently in use be approved. (Note—This would allow for continued use of the triangle/slash, as well as creative designs for new literature as developed.)

2. To expand the existing Policy re: SPONSORS (page 19, Paragraph I, Policy Digest) as follows:

An AA member may co-sponsor a group. If, however, the AA member is also an Al-Anon member, he may serve as the Sponsor by virtue of his Al-Anon membership. Emphasis should be placed on the Al-Anon/Alateen interpretation of the program at all times.

3. For further emphasis, a similar insertion following the first sentence in the revised Policy on DUAL MEMBERSHIP IN AL-ANON AND AA (Page 30, Sec. II c, Policy Digest) as approved at the 1976 World Service Conference follows:

AAs who also belong to Al-Anon may serve as the Sponsors of Alateen groups by virtue of their Al-Anon membership, instead of being limited co-sponsorship. Emphasis should be placed on the Al-Anon/Alateen interpretation of the program at all times.

4. To revise the Policy re: MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY (Page 30, Sec. II a, Policy Digest) and wherever else it appears in CAL, (which has read: "Anyone whose personal life is or has been deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker is eligible for membership in Al-Anon.")

to read:

"Anyone who feels his/her personal life is or has been deeply affected . . ."

Mary also noted that the Policy Committee made a recommendation "to the World Service Conference Handbook Committee that the Handbook be expanded to include a section covering the functions and prerogatives of the Board of Trustees and the duties and responsibilities of all other WSO Conference members so that it would more clearly reflect and define the functions of all other service arms of the Conference."

It was further recommended "that the Chairman of the Handbook Committee request that such descriptive material for inclusion covering make-up, functions, and prerogatives of the Board of Trustees, and the functions of all WSO members be furnished to the Handbook Committee by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the WSO General Secretary respectively."

Note—The Handbook Committee met and completed its assignment as recommended by the Policy Committee. For the results, see "Handbook Committee Meeting" in this Summary.

Mary continued by reporting that the Committee had decided to "place the question of group representation with the Conference Agenda Committee for possible inclusion in the 1977 Conference Agenda along with the Policy Committee recommendation that the policy should remain unchanged, (See page 30, Policy Digest). The Policy Committee, wishing to set the matter to rest, requests a firm decision by the Admissions Committee as to whether or not it would, in fact, seat a Delegate who held dual membership in Al-Anon and AA and had been elected to serve by an Area which had chosen to over-ride the existing policy.

Note—The Admissions Committee decision not to seat such a Delegate is explained under "Admissions Committee Meeting" in this Summary.

Once these matters were covered, Mary led discussions which resulted in the following:

An amended MOTION was made, seconded and carried—that the 1977 WSC affirm the recommendation to continue the practice of supporting a standing committee's decision to use articles and reprints of articles from major publications which are effective in spreading the message of Al-Anon's value as a

community resource for families of alcoholics. Further, the Policy Committee submits that such use does not endanger our Traditions; on the contrary such current and timely pieces enhance the public's view of the Al-Anon program of recovery and that the use of such pieces of literature as committee tools be explained in the pamphlet, "Why CAL?" (5 opposed, 3 abstentions)

In addition, there was a full Conference vote not to change the Policy regarding the availability of the WORLD DIRECTORY. It will remain available only to Al-Anon and Alateen members.

1976 GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Henrietta S.
Reported by Eleanor O'B.

The WSO prepares and publishes a summary of Conference Reports and decisions, distributing it to each registered English-speaking group, and sending copies to General and Central Service Offices and Committees overseas for distribution.

Henrietta S. served as General Secretary in 1976, until the end of the year, when she retired after 24 years of service to Al-Anon, at the Clearinghouse in the early days and since then at the incorporated office. Eleanor O'B., her successor, served as Deputy General Secretary. This report summarizes Henrietta's quarterly reports on the activities of the World Service Office.

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. is a membership corporation responsible for 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; publication, distribution of Conference Approved Literature—all with the approval of the Board of Trustees. Between quarterly Board meetings, business and administrative matters are the responsibility of the Executive Committee, and these interim decisions are reported to the Board of Trustees. To insure unity, actions taken are within the framework of our Traditions.

Personnel Administration

The General Secretary of the WSO, who is known to outside contacts as the Executive Director, is also Secretary of the Board of Trustees. She reports to and confers with the Executive Committee and the Trustees on supervisory and administrative actions and policies of the organization. She also serves on ad hoc committees such as bylaws, Pension Plan and Organizational Structure, or such responsibility may be assigned to or shared with the Deputy General Secretary or the Staff Administrative Assistant, Myrna H. Employment and supervision of the Al-Anon Administrative Staff, and of the Controller and the Office Supervisor, are the functions of the General Secretary, with approval of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Employment and supervision of business personnel, those in Group Records, Mimeography, FORUM Subscriptions, Mailings, Stenography, Typing and General Clerical are the functions of the Office Supervisor, Margaret O'B., with the approval of the General Secretary.

In January 1976, Eamon Timoney joined the staff as Controller, replacing Henny Neiger who retired after 12 years of service to Al-Anon. Eamon is responsible for employment and supervision of business personnel in Bookkeeping and shipping, with the approval of the General Secretary.

Staff Concerns

The basic responsibilities of the General Secretary include coordinating the work of the Standing Committees, the Administrative Staff—all concerned with giving the best possible service to our ever-growing membership. The Administrative Staff, all voting members of the World Service Conference, consisted of the following: Henrietta S., General Secretary; Eleanor O'B., Deputy General Secretary; Myrna H., Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary and Convention Secretary; Timmy W., Alateen Staff Secretary; Holly C., Conference; Ann S.—Institutions; Margaret O'D.—P.I. for Group Relations, also for Public Relations after Josie left; Linda McF., Staff Writer; and Louise M.G., FORUM Editor.

In addition to Committee work, the Administrative Staff members handle a broad variety of group and individual problems received at the WSO in the mail, and by phone, assigned according to a pre-determined geographical division of the world. Correspondence with Information Services (Intergroups) is the function of the Administrative Assistant.

Weekly Staff meetings are held to consider current problem letters, suggestions from the office staff and members in the field, and to discuss improvement in procedures. Staff members report progress of their projects and ask for guidance. All the Administrative Staff meet with the Conference Chairman regularly to work on the World Service Conference Agenda and many other details in connection with the WSO.

The General Secretary continued to handle much of the communication to overseas Al-Anon in regard to setting up their national structures; handled the administrative details in connection with reprinting CAL overseas, in English and other languages. Sharing her vast knowledge and experience in development of national structure overseas, Henrietta counseled Staff assigned to work with the General Service Boards or Committees in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The business staff, together with the Administrative Staff, made for a total payroll of 47, including a few part-time workers. In addition, there were six temporary employees. The dedication of the many Al-Anon and Alateen volunteers, the fine cooperation between staff and volunteers, made it possible to handle the increasingly large volume of work at the office. Volunteers served as Trustees, Executive Committee members, Committee Chairmen and Committee members. Other members, working as volunteers collated group packets, P.I., Institutional and other mailings to the membership. Still others updated the display boards for the WSC.

Publications (Report in conjunction with Eamon Timoney, Controller)

The Controller, reported that ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON continued to be Al-Anon's best selling hardcover book, although sales were slightly lower than the previous year.

Compared to 1975, book shipments were as follows:

	1976	1975
LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC	15,160	13,257
AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM	8,578	9,062
DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE	11,815	12,194
ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON	106,830	110,889

Distribution of pamphlets and leaflets included over 200,000 copies of the following: So You Love an Alcoholic; A Guide for the Family; Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial; Alcoholism, The Family Disease; Just For Today; and Are You Living With . . . and over 100,000 copies of 16 other pieces of literature.

During 1976, the World Service Office (WSO) published three new pieces of literature, the sales of which have been gratifying. Blueprint for Progress sold 90,000 copies since its

publication in March, 1976; Working As, For or With Professionals reached sales figures of 30,000; and, our new P.I. booklet, A Pebble in the Pond, in four months achieved sales of 7,000 copies.

Volume of the distribution of service literature indicated an ever-growing interest in service and in keeping alive those principles upon which Al-Anon was founded. Distribution of the four pieces of service literature in 1976 were as follows:

World Service Handbook	35,170
Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work	22,013
Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies	6,740
Twelve Concepts of Service	3,137

105,813 pieces of free literature were distributed to proposed groups, individuals, students and public relations contacts. This figure does not include the 12,803 World Directories sent free to groups and given to Conference members.

FORUM

This year, 377,733 *FORUMS* were mailed, an increase of over 19% above the previous year. Free copies were distributed to a large number of groups and paid subscriptions increased. At the year's end, subscriptions compared to 1976 were as follows:

	1975	1976
Multiple	7,369	9,104
Individual	11,162	13,109

Mimeography

Over 500,000 mimeographed sheets were processed. These included various form letters, World Service Conference (WSC) materials, *guidelines* and supplementary material, announcements, the tri-annual contribution appeal and various other announcements and material from all departments.

Shipping (Report by Eamon Timoney, Controller)

The Controller's responsibility includes supervision of the shipping department which experienced an increase of 6% in the volume of packages shipped in 1976 over the prior year; a total of 62,133 packages.

Bookkeeping & Accounting (Report by Eamon Timoney, Controller)

Our accounting system was changed not only to provide for better cost analysis, making for more effective budget management controls, but also to provide for changes in the law concerning our reporting requirements to the New York Board of Social Welfare. Legal changes brought about also by the Pension Reform Act of 1974 also required heavy expenditure of time on the revamping of our Employee Pension Plan. The Plan developed with the help of insurance company representatives, Don H., a volunteer expert in the field and WSO members of the ad hoc Committee, was adopted by the Board of Trustees in April, 1976, and submitted to the IRS for approval. Our Plan covering hospitalization and major medical coverage also needed to be amended.

In August, 1976, we were visited by auditors from the Internal Revenue Service who conducted an audit of our accounts for 1974. They informed us that they found everything in order and that, accordingly, our tax-exempt status would continue.

As in prior years, our own auditors, Hauser, O'Conner and Hyland, performed an interim audit for the half-year ending June 30, and all WSC members were furnished with audited financial statements for the year-ended December 31, 1976.

Increased work in the Accounting Department necessitated the purchase of an additional bookkeeping machine. As a result of a survey conducted by the auditors, a new Literature Order

Form was developed with the assistance and counsel of the Administrative Staff. It is hoped that this new form will speed up the processing of incoming literature orders.

Early in 1976, our Controller recommended that consideration be given to computerizing our Group Records. Ted K., the Chairman of the Executive Committee—an expert in the computer field—played an important role in the changeover from a manual to a computerized system. This system, approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, went into effect in November, 1976. The financial benefits of this change will manifest themselves in future years.

Group Records & Directory

Registered Groups

In 1976, 2,445 new groups registered and 1,306 were dropped from the active list. Total registrations, worldwide, as of December 31, 1976 were:

Al-Anon Groups	10,445*
Alateen Groups	1,810
Lone Members	231
Alateen Contacts	28
	12,514

Group Data

Often the free *FORUM* and other mail, which is sent to the permanent mailing address of record, is returned. This occurs either when the group has not notified the WSO of mailing address change or when the rent has not been paid on the P.O. Box. Group Records' staff re-mail to another address on file with a request for correction. Postage (13¢) is paid on each return, plus 13¢ to resend it.

Some groups use the GR's name for the permanent mailing address, but when they notify the WSO of changes in their list of group officers, they do not indicate any change in the group's mailing address. In such cases, we can only assume the address of record to be correct.

In many instances, the WSO was not notified of change in the group telephone contact; thus an incorrect referral was made to a group, when an individual asked about the nearest meeting. We urge Delegates to remind groups in their Areas, of the importance of notifying the WSO of change in permanent mailing address and phone contact immediately, and to pay the rent on time when the group uses a P.O. Box, so that groups will not be deprived of receiving their mail.

c. World Service Directory

The World Directory—Part I, listing mailing addresses and group contacts for the U.S. and Canada, was published in the spring; Part II, covering all other countries, appeared in the fall. We continued to experience delay in receiving data cards from many groups, making it impossible to produce the Directory on schedule.

Group Services

In 1976, the WSO served over 12,500 groups and Lone Members throughout the world. Each of the 1,749 proposed groups received a welcoming letter, free packet of literature and a copy of the *FORUM*. After registration, additional material was sent, including the current Directory (Part I to 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* sent to the registered French-speaking groups, and the mimeographed AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION went each month to the Spanish groups. The bi-monthly publication, ALATEEN TALK, was sent to all Al-Anon, Alateen groups and Lone Members.

Various other mailings amounting to 135,401 pieces, distributed groupwide, included World Service Handbook (revised), and "My Name is Em"; announcements of the change in the discount policy, and of the Blueprint for Progress; Working As, For or With Professionals; the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions parchments; Reader's Digest reprint, Computerization or Group Records; as well as the Tri-annual contributions appeal.

Approximately 1,849 individuals affected by family members or friends with drinking problems were referred to groups nearest them. The balance of correspondence included communications to Delegates and others referred to in Committee reports; replies to groups with problems; correspondence about translating and reprinting CAL; suggestions on structure to overseas General Service Committees; and business correspondence.

Guidelines (Report by Myrna H. and Margaret O'D.)

The material considered to be a guideline was removed from the Supplementary Material page of the three-fold price list and replaced by a boxed section explaining that the guidelines were offered free of charge and that members may send for a separate list showing the items available.

A Request for Project Approval was approved by the Executive Committee, to print the four sets of guidelines, including: "Guidelines for Institutions Work," "Guidelines for Public Information Work," and "Suggested Beginner's Meeting Format." The fourth set was a compilation of several sheets relating to group structure. It incorporated, "How to Start a Group," "Group Structure," "The Suggested Preamble, Welcome and Closing," and The Twelve Steps and Traditions. Copy was prepared for the printer, proof-read in its different stages of production and readied for distribution after the first of the year.

Permission To Translate and Reprint

Following many consultations with our attorney, Michael Alexander, two types of forms were developed for extending permissions to Al-Anon Service bodies outside the U.S. to publish Conference Approved Literature (CAL). One form covers the right to reprint English CAL; the other provides for translation and production of the material in foreign languages.

The appropriate forms were prepared in duplicate for each item of CAL produced in other countries and sent for signature, with a long explanatory letter to the General Service Offices in: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, U.K. & Eire, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and South Africa. The required forms were also sent to the Central Service Offices in Victoria, and New South Wales in Australia, with the understanding that all permissions to print will be relinquished to their GSO when it is established.

By year's end, several of the countries had returned the signed forms. The copies are being retained in the WSO files and the originals countersigned and mailed back. Eventually there will be a comprehensive record on file of Permissions Forms for all CAL which is being reprinted in English and foreign languages outside of the World Service Office, as well as samples of all such reprints.

Trademark Registrations

Registrations of the following trademarks have been received by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., as of the dates indicated:

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS February 24, 1976
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS with triangular design
..... March 9, 1976

These registrations remain in force for 20 years but are

subject to cancellation at the end of six years following the date of registration, unless within one year next preceding the expiration of such six years, the registrant files in the Patent and Trademark Office an affidavit showing that said mark is still in use or showing that its non-use is due to special circumstances which excuse such non-use and is not due to any intention to abandon the mark.

The application for one other trademark registration is still pending, i.e. AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS (with triangular design, initials "A", "F", and "G" with words "WORLD," "SERVICE," and "CONFERENCE").

Information Services (Intergroups) (Report by Myrna H.)

A representative from the Minneapolis Information Service suggested that a section from the "Blue Book" entitled "Aims and Purposes" be made a part of our conference Approved Literature. We replied that "Purpose and Suggestions" already covers everything in this material and there would be no point in our repeating it.

The AA Intergroup in Lexington, Ky., has written to inform us that their office is providing service for the Al-Anon groups in their locality by maintaining a stock of literature and making group referrals. Because of this, they have invited Al-Anon representation to their monthly meeting to involve Al-Anon in all facets of their operation. They were concerned, however, as to whether this violated any Traditions. We quoted Al-Anon's Policy Statement and responded that as long as AA and Al-Anon remain separate entities, and that Al-Anon and Alateen met its financial responsibility, there should be no problem in the mutual sharing of such a venture.

The Delegate from New Mexico wrote on behalf of a Chairman of an Information Service within her Area, who had written to her objecting to the practice of an Al-Anon "Home" Group, to which she belonged, that had become exclusive and selective about its membership. Since her conscience dictated that she no longer remain a member of this group, she wondered if she would be able to retain her office as Chairman of the Information Service, since she also withdrew from the office of the group's Information Service Representative (ISR). We replied it all depended on how the Information Service was structured. In some instances, the officers of an Information Service are ISRs; in others, it is not required.

General Correspondence

A large volume of letters from the membership were handled by Administrative Staff who replied to a variety of questions from the groups. Staff members tried to share knowledge of the Traditions and Concepts and of Al-Anon's policies which other groups have applied successfully to similar problems. Typical of these were:

- is it a break with the Sixth Tradition for an Al-Anon group to send contributions to a Half-Way House?;
- should an Al-Anon member sponsor an AA member?;
- request for suggestions in developing a literature display for handicapped members;
- numerous requests from outside agencies involved with referrals to Al-Anon to buy our World Directory;
- is it within Traditions to applaud a speaker—members of the group were in dispute over this;
- is it considered a form of endorsement for an Information Service to provide a list of people with whom members could take the Fifth Step?;
- can a Lone Member be identified as an Al-Anon sharing the platform with her AA husband?;
- can a couple with two years sobriety in AA join Al-Anon?;

- should a group permit attendance at an Al-Anon meeting by a counselor-in-training, who wishes to become an Alateen sponsor?;
- a prisoner asked the WSO to write to his probation officer attesting to his rehabilitation;
- can the group's CR continue to serve another term, if no one else will take the job;
- a request for interpretation of the Third Concept of Service from an Al-Anon Information Service, to clarify who is responsible for decision making;
- is it wise to have a library of non-CAL books and frequent discussion based on outside therapies?;
- does it violate Traditions for members to participate in surveys as individuals?;
- request for guidance on participation in an AA Convention;
- why don't Al-Anons celebrate their anniversaries as AAs do?

Although many of the questions, problems, were properly directed to the WSO, many others could have been resolved at the group level, by members applying knowledge of the Traditions and by referring to the Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies for examples in application of the Traditions. Often, simply remembering to place principles above personalities could have contributed greatly to solving the problem. Letting the Group Representative bring the problem to a District meeting or seeking the help of the District Representative or Area Delegate could have served to put the emphasis on principles, thereby bringing a logical, simple solution.

Material for the Visually Handicapped

Permission was extended to the Division for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20542, for transcription into embossed, recorded and/or large type form, selections from the pamphlet, *Alcoholism, The Family Disease*. They were requested to notify the WSO as soon as the material is available for distribution.

Foreign Language Al-Anon

a. Spanish (Report by Myrna H., Teresa M., Translator)

(1) *Argentina*—The translation of the DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE was returned to the General Service Office in Buenos Aires, after it had been reviewed and corrected by Fr. Roberto C., of California, and Teresa M., of the WSO staff. Permission to print was extended to them, with the suggestion that the WSO would willingly trade 500 copies of these books produced in Argentina for the number of copies of the Spanish ONE DAY AT A TIME in Al-Anon, of equivalent dollar value.

Nilda, Secretary of the Al-Anon GSO, reported that the Spanish DILEMMA went to press in early August. To finance publication of the book, 15 Al-Anon members each advanced either 1,000,000 or 500,000 pesos without interest when the order was placed; the balance, due on delivery in 90 days, was expected to be raised by pre-publication sales of the book.

Four thousand copies of the book were printed. Of these, the General Service Committee retained 3,000 copies for general distribution throughout Argentina. In acknowledgement of their appreciation to the WSO, they sent 1,000 complimentary copies having a dollar value of \$300. This was to be considered as a contribution from their GSO and all the groups in Argentina for 1976 and 1977.

Since it would be impossible to purchase DILEMMAS directly through the Argentinian GSO, the WSO was informed

that it could arrange to purchase the books through an exporter who would buy the books from the GSO and send them to us at a charge of 10% of the total value. Because of government regulations, a trade with Spanish ODATS would be impossible.

Because of the DILEMMAS tremendous success, the publisher requested permission to sell them to bookstores in Argentina. We explained that the book printers who produce our books hold no title to them; this belongs to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters.

(2) *Colombia*—The Al-Anon GSO in Bucaramanga has placed several orders for books and literature during the year. The groups in that country, however, have continued to complain because their GSO is unable to supply all that they need. The major problem stems from the fact that the GSO is having difficulty placing sizable orders because of the government's restriction on sending currency outside of the country.

(3) *Costa Rica*—A General Service Office had been opened in San Jose and the Chairman, Hermina de F., wrote to us for guidance which we provided. Hermina also asked for more material on Tradition Nine since members seemed to be having difficulty in its application. Several quotations from the literature, which had not yet been translated, were incorporated in the reply to help further their understanding.

(4) *El Salvador*—The GSO in El Salvador produced the Serenity Prayer card for the groups in their country. Their next project will be the production of *Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial*.

(5) *Guatemala*—A group in Guatemala requested reprint permission on the pamphlet, *Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial*, in time for their fourth anniversary in December, 1976. We replied explaining the complexities involved in granting such permission and that they would need to complete a form before permission could be extended. We also explained that if such permission were to be granted, their group would have to relinquish all publishing rights if a national Al-Anon Service Committee were formed.

(6) *Mexico*—Al-Anon and Alateen participated in the AA National Convention in early April. Over 1,100 Al-Anon/Alateen members, mostly from outside Mexico City, registered. There was excellent audience participation in all of the fourteen Al-Anon, six Alateen and four young Al-Anon meetings scheduled.

Teresa accompanied Lois to Merida/Yucatan, Mexico to the AA Convention on November 19-21 in which Al-Anon and Alateen participated. They attended workshops, open and closed meetings, and shared their message with everyone. Teresa stated: "Our gratitude will be eternal to every member who attended this Convention, and in a special way to the Renacimiento AA group members who made it possible for Lois and me to be there with them. . . ."

Susy K. of the Al-Anon General Service Office in Mexico City wrote that after four months labor, revision of their adaption of the *World Service Handbook* had been completed. Because their last Conference provided for a two-year term for Delegate, it was necessary to change the term of office of the GR, DR and officers to two years to balance their structure. Initially, their Conference had not provided for development of districts; now, they realize the benefits of having them.

Due to the devaluation of the peso, the cost of literature has increased 70%. Susy explained that the only way out of this tragic situation would be for them to reprint the Spanish books and all other CAL. She requested permission to proceed and was sent permission forms.

(7) *Puerto Rico*—Two items submitted by the members in Puerto Rico for use at their First Area Convention were reviewed at the WSO. One item, a revised version of "Drink,

Drunk, Drunk Quiz on Drinking" seemed to be geared to the wife of an alcoholic only. Because of this, we suggested that a good substitute would be "Veinte Preguntas," ("Twenty Questions from Alcoholism the Family Disease"). The other item, a questionnaire for Alateen, was quite adequate and we granted permission for its use as a giveaway for the Convention.

The Area Newsletter Editor, Blanca, a dedicated member, had submitted the translated material of the Alateen book, **ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS**, for our review. Their idea was to reproduce it in mimeography for local group use and would discontinue doing so at such a time as the book would appear in print. Teresa, our Translator, reviewed the translation and found that it could not be used by the entire fellowship as submitted. She is preparing a corrected copy and will compare it with the translation of the book that has been undertaken in Mexico. This is one of the items the Spanish department would like to publish at the WSO when there is sufficient call for it.

Blanca has been very helpful in providing translations for the Spanish-speaking groups worldwide. She has submitted translations of many WSO guidelines and other mimeographed items. When Teresa has completed review of this material, it will be available upon request.

(8) *Spain*—An AA member with radio connections asked our permission to read passages from Al-Anon and Alateen literature over the air. We granted this permission and supplied PI material geared more to prospective members than the items he originally suggested.

(9) *Other Spanish*—The eighth convention for Al-Anon and Alateen groups of Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Caribbean Islands was held in Managua *Nicaragua* during the month of April. The WSO gave guidance and encouragement to the Host Committee. The Spanish-speaking groups in the *Southern California* Area held their first convention in September. *Paraguay* formed its first Al-Anon and Alateen groups this year. Groups in *Uruguay* have written in gratitude for the help they have received through literature and the monthly bulletin. *Ecuador* and *Peru* reported that they participated in radio and TV programs to inform the public about the Al-Anon program. AIMS Newsletter published for the *Northern Illinois* Area now has one-page added every month for Spanish-speaking members. A *New York* radio station, WADO, invited Al-Anon participation for their regular broadcast of Gilda Miros, The Feminine World Program. Teresa, our Spanish Translator, appeared with one of our regular volunteers to the WSO, Aurora, and reported that more than 100 calls came into the station requesting information about Al-Anon.

(10) *Office Work*—The newspaper mats, proof sheets for Al-Anon and Alateen, and three of our picture posters were all reproduced in Spanish. A sample of each and the Spanish translation of the pamphlet *A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial*, have been completed and a sample of each was sent to every Spanish-speaking General Service and Information Service. In countries where there is no such arm of service, the material was sent to the group judged to be the most active.

Effective January 1, 1977, **AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION** will be made available to the fellowship on a bulk-subscription basis for First Class mailing in quantities of ten, twenty or thirty at fixed rates for the U.S., Canada and Mexico. An announcement to this effect and the rate schedule appeared in three issues of the Spanish bulletin.

Two order forms, one for the U.S. and one for all other countries, have been prepared in Spanish offering a discount package of the Spanish literature suitable for Institutions work. Several of the mimeographed items for Institutions work have been translated for the Spanish-speaking members who are interested in this aspect of service.

The revised "Guidelines for Participating in an AA Area Convention" had been translated to meet the need among the Spanish-speaking groups.

When inquiries were received in English from social workers, counselors, and other people who were interested in providing Al-Anon and Alateen information to the Spanish-speaking world we responded in English. There were also approximately 30 PI letters answered and, in Spanish, 250 orders for literature and books filled from groups in the U.S. and overseas and over 100 telephone inquiries answered from social workers, doctors and others requesting information relating to Spanish Al-Anon.

b. Portuguese (Report by Myrna H.)

Don L., our AA friend from Sao Paulo, Brazil, who has reviewed three pieces of literature in Portuguese now in circulation, visited New York during AA's World Service Conference. We learned that some of our problems concerning lack of communication with the Al-Anon GSO in Rio de Janeiro was being solved. His wife, Sonia, a long-time Al-Anon member, had agreed to handle literature production in Sao Paulo in cooperation with GSO. We asked that the Conference Approved seals and the copyright symbols be added to each piece as it's printed and Don assured us that this would be done.

We also learned that a member who is proficient in English is re-writing **LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC**, but it would probably take at least a year before the revision could go into production. In the meantime, we suggested that the one in current use be reprinted since it seems better to have something for the membership, although it may need extensive revision, than nothing at all.

c. French

(1) Alberte C., Chairman of the French Literature Committee—Montreal. (Publications Francaises, P.F.A., Inc.), informed us that the cartoon booklets will be available early in 1977, and that they will soon be publishing Al-Anon Family Treatment Tool in French. The Committee has made good headway in translating service literature. The digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies is almost complete, as is Al-Anon and Alateen Groups At Work, and they expect to have a final draft of the Handbook completed by April, 1977.

The copy for our two comic booklets, *Jane's Husband Drank Too Much* and *If Your Parents Drink Too Much*, has been translated by Harriet L. into French some time ago; they are to be printed in Montreal for the Committee. In addition, the 1976 revision of the PI Kit has been translated. The translation of **THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE** has been undertaken.

Alberte C. and Harriet L. attended the World Service Conference in 1976, but Harriet informed us that she will be unable to attend in 1977. In her place, it was hoped that Cay C. would attend.

Copies of the revised and expanded lists of the groups in France and French Groups in Belgium, received from the General Services Committee in Paris and the Intergroupe Brabant in Belgium, respectively, were forwarded to the Montreal French Literature Committee in Quebec to update their records.

Efforts to regularize the Committee's operations continued in 1976. The attorney for the WSO, the Canadian attorney for the F.L.C. worked with the General Secretary to formulate an agreement. With WSO Trustees' approval, further steps were taken to incorporate the F.L.C. as a separate body, with only French Al-Anon members to serve on that Board. Primarily a publishing effect, the French office will continue to be subsidized by the WSO, to reimburse it for services performed for

the French groups. Two past Delegates from Quebec West, Cay C., and Clare B., agreed to be the incorporators with Alberte C., Chairman of the Committee. Canadian law required the submission of three possible names for the corporation formed to carry on the functions of the F.L.C. The name, "Publications Francaises P.F.A., Inc." was officially approved and their attorney processed the application for incorporation which was approved in the fall. Regular financial reports of the monthly Committee operation were submitted by Alberte.

(2) *France*—Marie Helene R.-P., the member who represented the Al-Anon Groups of France at the Denver Convention, accompanied her husband when he attended the AA World Service Meeting in early October as Delegate. She spent some time with the staff at the WSO.

The 1976 Directories—Part II were mailed in bulk to the Al-Anon General Service Office in Paris for distribution to all groups in France; to the General Service Board for the French Al-Anon groups in Brussels for mailing to the French groups in Belgium; and sufficient copies were sent to the secretary of the German Al-Anon General Service Committee in Zurich for distribution to both the German and French-speaking groups in Switzerland.

The secretary of the French General Services in Brussels wrote about the possibility of translating and producing either *THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE* or *AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM* to have them available for the French members in Belgium.

The March, 1976 issue of *LA CHAINE*, the mimeographed monthly bulletin distributed by the General Services in France, was accompanied by a letter from Marie-Claire, Secretary, announcing that an Al-Anon party, open to all Al-Anon members and friends, followed the annual General Assembly scheduled for April. The event was to take place in the new expanded offices at 24 rue St. Roch, Paris, to which the General Services moved early in the year, and was to be concluded by the modest buffet dinner.

(3) *Switzerland*—Le Jet d'Eau Groupe in Geneva wrote for a clarification of policy about wine being served at a 10th Al-Anon Anniversary in France, where AA members were present. The writer felt that in deference to the AA guests no alcoholic beverage should have been served, but others thought that the non-alcoholics should not be deprived of the right to drink. Maita F., the Phoenix, Arizona member who assists the French Literature Committee in reviewing translations, was asked this same question on a recent visit to French groups in Switzerland. She explained that it is not customary to serve alcoholic beverages at joint AA/Al-Anon functions. She was also asked why the Lord's Prayer is used in Al-Anon meetings when ours is a non-religious fellowship.

d. Danish (Report in conjunction with Ann S.)

Patricia J., an American living in Denmark for the past 10 years, visited the WSO the latter part of May. She has been a member of the Copenhagen group, but is now living in Gentofte. She took back a new group packet to start what is to be the second Al-Anon group in the country, and also material to help with the formation of the first two Alateen groups.

e. Dutch/Flemish (Report in conjunction with Myrna H.)

(1) *The Netherlands*—A fairly new member of an Al-Anon group in Amsterdam, Anneke S.-B., wrote to the WSO with questions about CAL translations and copyrights. Since most of the members are agnostics, she said, there is general resistance to what they consider to be religious overtones in Al-Anon literature. She referred to such phrases as "a loving God," "a Higher Power," "praying," and "meditation." Her group requested permission to translate and publish CAL, changing the

wording in order "... not to scare off newcomers."

In our reply, we referred to applicable statements in the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies relating to copyrights, review and approval of other translations and said that to change, replace or delete words in our published literature would destroy the spiritual essence of the Al-Anon program. We suggested that they work to develop a closer relationship with the A.D.B. in Belgium, which has already published considerable CAL, the fact of which the member seemed unaware.

Several copies of the recently published Dutch Merry-Go-Round Named Denial were sent to the WSO for review. The professional translating service, engaged to do this review, brought to light that the Dutch Committee's translation had been made from the original version of the piece by Reverend Kellermann. We asked Anneke that it be revised at the next printing to agree with the one in current use by Al-Anon.

A member of the International English-speaking AA/Al-Anon Family Group (not registered at the WSO) in Den Haag, Netherlands, wrote for material to start an Al-Anon and Alateen group. For the two Dutch couples who attended the Saturday night joint meeting, she was referred to the A.D.B. for Flemish Al-Anon material.

(2) *Belgium*—A copy of the Flemish translation of ODAT was received from the A.D.B. with a request for permission to print. The cost of having this translation professionally reviewed was prohibitive. Therefore, we decided to place our confidence in the Flemish Committee, for handling such reviews in their own country. They asked whether they could make changes in the phrasing of the First Step in ODAT. We replied that this would dilute the Al-Anon program to the detriment of our fellowship as a whole. Permission was granted for them to produce a dust jacket for the book, but it was explained that it would be difficult to have any members write their own impressions on the jacket without breaking anonymity. In late August, the WSO received 12 complimentary copies of the Flemish ODAT. The book was distributed at the AA/Al-Anon Convention in Belgium in June; 250 copies were sold.

Rit J. representing the Dutch/Flemish groups, attended the 7th U.K. & Eire Service Conference in September as an observer. She told of having had the opportunity to speak to 10 groups throughout the Flemish part of Belgium to relate her experiences at the previous year's Conference. She expressed her appreciation for the day spent at the GSO in London, where she gained much that would help in planning their first Service Conference and future GSO in Belgium. She mentioned that newly made contacts with an Amsterdam group had strengthened their unity between the two countries.

f. Finnish

The WSO received the manuscript of an improved translation of *Alcoholism, The Family Disease*, from Marjatta P.; permission to print was granted. In the spring of 1976, 22 copies of their printed translation were received at the WSO as a contribution from the Al-Anon Kuttanus r.y. in Helsinki, Finland.

Permission was extended to the Al-Anon General Services to translate and print *Blueprint for Progress* with the usual provisions for proper credit and inclusion of copyright notice. It was decided to rely on Marjatta's excellent qualifications for accuracy of the translation, since the WSO has no volunteer at present competent to review the translation. Marjatta reported that she is working on a translation of *Youth and the Alcoholic Parent*.

Marjatta attended the 7th U.K. & Eire General Service Conference, where she brought greetings from all the Districts in Finland. She reported on the structure of Al-Anon in her country where they have an office in Helsinki and one paid staff

member. Thus far, they have published three books and many pamphlets and leaflets. At present, there are over 70 groups in Finland.

g. German

(1) *Germany*—Minutes of the semi-annual General Services Committee meeting held in Frankfurt in early April, were translated by Alice B. All four Intergroups (Middle, North, West and South) submitted activity reports, indicating continuing growth of groups. A consensus was reached that future reports should include more about Alateen; and that Erich would accept chairmanship of the Literature Team. Literatur Versand (literature distribution) became the responsibility of Helga U., a member in Kahl M., at the beginning of 1976.

Minutes of the October meeting at Augsburg, chaired by Melanie, Secretary of the ZK (Zentrale Kontaktstelle), revealed that Al-Anon affairs throughout the country were conducted most effectively. Various financial matters were reported by Horst, the retiring Treasurer.

Reports from Intergroup Representatives at this meeting indicated Al-Anon is making amazing progress throughout the country through cooperation and increasing activities.

In early December, Melanie wrote of her involvement with the big meeting sponsored by the Intergroup West in Gelsenkirchen, and that "There were over 1,000 present, and . . . that ain't hay! When I came into Al-Anon eight years ago, there were only that many at an all-Germany meeting. We are certainly growing here. . . . Also the media, TV and newspapers always publicize our activities." She also wrote that the German edition of the Reader's Digest will carry the article, "An Oasis Called Al-Anon."

Gerlind, a member of the Committee's Literature Team who had volunteered to correspond with Alice B. in regard to the German translation of ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON, mailed eight chapters of the book to Alice for review, in December. Gerlind also requested permission to translate the poster, "If someone in your family has a drinking problem . . ." and have it printed in German.

(2) *Switzerland*—A most enthusiastic report of Al-Anon/Alateen participation in AA's German-speaking Convention in Basel in May was received from Jean B. Special arrangements had been made to show LOIS' STORY using a translated script. All who viewed the film were most appreciative of "saying hello to you finally on the screen. . . ." In planning the Al-Anon/Alateen meetings, Jean referred to the newly revised "Guidelines for Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an AA Convention."

Jean requested permission to reprint excerpts from the Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies to the German M + F, their monthly magazine. She said the Digest has proved most helpful at committee meetings.

h. Hebrew

Penina Eldar, the National Coordinator for Alcoholism in Israel, visited the Al-Anon GSO in London in September where she obtained Al-Anon information and literature. Since Penina is fluent in Spanish as well as in English, the WSO sent her material in both languages. She was advised of the two Lone Members in Israel, one in Jerusalem, the other in Ramallah. Penina indicated to Jean G. in the London office, that she was interested in translating some of our literature into Hebrew.

We asked Penina to keep us informed of the progress of Al-Anon in Israel. With her help, it is hoped that Al-Anon groups will become a reality there.

i. Icelandic (Report by Eleanor O'B. and Ann S.)

With the help of Anna G., a member from New York and a native of Iceland, Al-Anon groups were established in Iceland.

She was instrumental in bringing numerous alcoholics to the United States for rehabilitation, but nothing had been done for the spouses. There were AA meetings in Reykjavik, but no Al-Anon, and so the wives asked for help in starting a group. Initially, Anna ordered a sizeable quantity of literature, in English, along with a starter kit, which she took to Iceland in the spring. She visits her family there four times a year; she took more material with her on each of her trips. No one there being familiar with the Al-Anon program, Anna worked with the women, interpreting the program and translating when necessary.

Since then, Anna has been involved with starting two other groups, a second one in Reykjavik and one in Vestmannaeyjar. Membership in all three groups is growing rapidly.

In May, Vilborg, a member of the Reykjavik group, came to the U.S. and visited the WSO with Anna. Later, Vilborg's translation of Freedom From Despair was received at the WSO and reviewed by Anna G. Permission was given to print piece in Iceland, with the understanding that the right to publish would be relinquished to a national service body when formed.

j. India, Languages in (Report by Ann S.)

Al-Anon and Alateen members participated in an AA Convention in Bombay in October, 1976. The fellowship was well represented and there were many requests for literature. Florie A. asked that the WSO send some literature to two groups: one Al-Anon and one Alateen, which had given away so much of their literature.

k. Japanese

From the Japan AA Intergroup Newsletter, published bimonthly, we learned of Al-Anon participation in the October '75 Far East Round-Up. A generous contribution was sent to the WSO from the proceeds of this event. Our faithful correspondent, Harumi K., was among the Japanese Al-Anon speakers, and Ann K. of Zama Al-Anon urged the alcoholics' wives to join Al-Anon, helping to "eliminate the misconception that Al-Anon consists only of wives of alcoholics." The March issue of the newsletter printed a letter from Eleanor O'B. She had written to Don H., the editor, to coordinate this listing of Al-Anon groups in Japan, with groups registered at the WSO.

l. Norwegian

The WSO received a contribution attached to a note from a small isolated group in Stavanger, Norway. Winifred B., an American, told how she and her husband started the AA and Al-Anon fellowships in their community by advertising for people to attend open meetings. She said that each time they would decide to cancel their ad, another phone call would come through. This is how they grew. Some of the original members have since moved away, but they still keep in touch with their "home" group. Winifred said that she had word from the Oslo members that ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON is now being translated into Norwegian.

m. Other Languages

A new group in Libya requested material in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Italian. The WSO also received requests for ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON in Japanese and Polish.

English Al-Anon Overseas

a. Australia (Report by Margaret O'D.)

1. General Service Committee

Norma S., secretary of the Australian General Service com-

mittee (AGSC) reported that "One very important decision that was reached at the 7th Trial Conference is that we are no longer to have 'Trial' Conferences! Next year we are to have our 8th Australian Service Conference." This real progress has been made in Australia; "we can now see where we are going." The Conference serves the more than 290 Al-Anon groups now registered in Australia.

At their 1976 Conference, there were two Delegates each from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, W. Australia and one Delegate from Tasmania along with Australian General Service Committee members.

The Australian General Service committee has since formed a Secretariat with a cooperating committee of seven. They urgently requested eight Handbooks for study which we sent immediately.

Though Norma S. has retired, she will still be a member of AGSC. The other members expressed gratitude for a continuing benefits of her administrative knowledge.

Norma shared her beautiful sentiments about Henrietta's retirement in a recent letter: "Even though we are a long way from WSO, we too felt a great sadness on reading of Henrietta's forthcoming retirement. Along with many others from all over the world it seems that I have been writing to Henrietta or hearing of others who have received letters from her for many, many years. She has given us so much help and encouragement. However, no one can go on forever and although it is not easy we must accept change. We in Australia are very confident that the ground work laid by those who have so unselfishly given their time and energy from the very beginning will keep Al-Anon very much alive for all time."

The WSO sent the Australian General Service Committee (AGSC) the following material at their request for their study and information:

- A copy of the bylaws

- The Experimental Plan for an Al-Anon World Service Conference

- Copies of all the guidelines for committees

- Two copies of a draft of the newly revised Handbook (with the stipulation that there may be still other minor revisions)

Later in the years we sent them copies of the Handbook with the latest revisions to assist them in developing a Handbook of their own.

2. Victorian Central Service Committee

Mary R., now the General Secretary of the Victorian CSC in Melbourne, reported that two Assemblies and two Area Committees, each operated according to the World Service Handbook. She further explained that each of the seven Australian states plan to divide into Areas; the number of which would depend on the size and the location of Al-Anon and Alateen groups. The vast, sparsely populated states of West Australia has remained one Area.

The Trial Conference Sub-Committees are being phased out (this has already been done in Victoria). Area Committees now relate directly to the Area General Service Committee and all Delegates at the 1977 Australian Service Conference were elected as outlined in the World Service Handbook. A decision was reached by the Delegates, to have all the states in Australia use uniform terminology. Groups are being encouraged to use the manual, Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work.

The Delegate from Victoria wrote asking some very specific questions about the formation and structure of Al-Anon in America. She requested information concerning the Al-Anon World Service Committees and who may serve on them, how Delegates expenses are handled, and how Areas are divided. Among her other concerns were the WSO bylaws, which were sent, with the explanation that they were written in keeping with the New York State laws. In addition, we sent copies of the

duties of each of the Al-Anon committees and a copy of the "Experimental Plan for an Al-Anon World Service Conference."

DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK, was tremendously successful throughout Australia, typified by the results reported in Victoria. From the December 29th "showing" 160 calls came through to the Al-Anon phone answering services plus 120 congratulatory and repeat request calls received by the TV station itself. Tom F., the PI officer of Victoria CSC, wrote: "3M made it possible. A strong sense of gratitude of 3M is felt throughout Al-Anon for making the film available, plus their cooperation, and courtesy to us in arranging for its screening."

3. Victorian Information Service

Mary R. sent us a copy of the bylaws that were finally adopted by the Victorian Information Service on December 5, 1976. In amending the bylaws, they described their purpose as similar to that set forth in Al-Anon Headquarters Certificate of Incorporation, as follows: "to encourage, assist and serve the families and friends of alcoholics in dealing with the problems concerning the attendant on the disease of alcoholism; to foster his or her restoration to normal life; and to reinforce their efforts to understand the alcoholic; to disseminate information in relation thereto and to conduct, and participate in, any class of service consistent with the 12 Traditions of the Al-Anon Family Groups."

4. South Queensland Conference Committee

The South Queensland Conference Committee were sent five copies of the World Service Handbook to assist them in helping to draft an Australian Handbook.

Veronica C., of Queensland, wrote a long letter asking for suggestions and comments in helping Australia finalize a national structure. She included in her letter the Articles of Association of the General Service Board of the Al-Anon Family Groups in Australia, a draft copy of the Australian General Service Committee's constitution, as well as various other letters and enclosures including a draft copy of the bylaws. We gave considerable thought to a response that might be of help to them in serving the Australian Al-Anon groups in the future. Since the history of the structural development of Al-Anon in America and Australia is so dissimilar, it was difficult for us to advise them. We did, however, offer them suggestions which, to us, seemed to make the most sense, particularly mentioning how important it was for them not to commit themselves to any structure that may prove financially unfeasible in the future. We are hopeful that our comments were helpful in bringing their goal of a national structure closer to realization. In response to her questions about the business aspects of an Information Service, we gathered data from Canadian and American services along with the revised guidelines, "The Al-Anon Information Service—What It Is and How It Serves."

Mavis H., of Queensland, in her recent letter stressed the important role "Lois's Story" continues to play in stimulating the growth of Al-Anon in Australia. members never tire of seeing the birth of Al-Anon illustrated so beautifully.

5. New South Wales Central Service Committee

Barbara P., the National Alateen Coordinator for New South Wales, visited the WSO in September; we talked extensively about Alateen, Public Information work, between WSO and the Victorian Central Service Committee (CSC) concerning Information Services and Central Services in Australia. Our talks combined with an outstanding letter from Mary R., of the Victorian CSC have helped clear away the confusion that existed. The Australian structure allows for the phasing out of Central Services as more Information Services form, and after the national Australian General Service is firmly established. The Central Service Committee concept was looked upon as an "interim measure" by the VCSC, while the WSO, having reserved the term "Al-Anon Central Services" for overseas

service centers serving entire states or provinces, had seen it as a permanent title.

Another member in Queensland, wrote in March asking our opinion about changing the name of their Central Service Committee to Information Service when referring to state offices. We again defined our policy on "Al-Anon Central Services" and added that the "Al-Anon Information Service" is defined as a local service center established by one or more Districts, or by groups located close enough to one another for easy access and communication. Geographical boundaries such as state or county lines need not be observed, unless one Information Service conflicts with another nearby, in which case a geographical division should be set by mutual agreement. It was suggested that establishment of a national General Service Office will not lessen the function of State Central Services but will in fact, be the connecting link between the various services.

6. Literature in Australia

Cec, of the AGSC, wrote asking permission to publish Australian editions of items of literature where they considered it necessary. Cec stated: "We feel that the American quotations detract from the impact of such pamphlets in Australia and it would be better if they were replaced by quotes from Australian sources, . . . in Victoria they have been using quotes from Dr. J. Santamaria, Director of the Alcoholism Clinic of St. Vincent's Hospital, in conjunction with "Family Treatment Tool." Our results were beneficial and we wish to extend this by obtaining and using similar statements from medical and clerical personnel in all our mainland States and, we hope, Tasmania. Alterations to the service and structure sections of the pamphlet to conform to Australian conditions would also be necessary."

WSO granted this permission explaining that there was a precedent for this in the United Kingdom which proved to be beneficial and we are looking forward to seeing the draft for consideration.

Mary R., former Chairman of the Al-Anon General Service Committee, resigned to become secretary at the Melbourne office of the Victorian Central Services Committee. She wrote about a request from the secretary of the New South Wales CSC, that all CSCs that mark up the selling price of ODAT more than 50¢ per copy should return any net profit to the Trust Account being administered by NSW. Funds in this Trust Account would revert eventually to an Australian National Service Office. We replied to Mary that our suggestion to NSW at the time permission was extended to reprint ODAT, only provided that the net profit from bulk sales be placed in this Trust Account. It did not seem feasible for NSW to exercise an oversight responsibility for other Central Service Committees in the conduct of their internal financial affairs.

Mary informed us that any deviations in locally printed literature will be corrected in future printings.

The pamphlets they have permission to reprint thus far are:

Freedom From Despair
So You Love an Alcoholic
Purpose of the Al-Anon Family Groups and Suggestions For Those Who Need Help
Just For Today
A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic
Alcoholism The Family Disease
Alcoholism: A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial
This Is Al-Anon

We have also extended permission for them to reproduce the supplementary items "Guidelines for Al-Anon/Alateen Parti-

cipation in Area AA Conventions" and "Suggested Beginner's Meeting Format."

In late March, Yvonne, secretary of the Victoria CSC, wrote about the need to re-order ODAT, as there were only 40 copies of the printing left. "Paper costs in NSW have risen 48% in the last two years, hence, the cost per copy on 5,000 copies will be \$1.69 . . . 44¢ more than the first printing." The WSO advised her that they were justified in raising the interstate selling price to \$3.50 and to \$4.00 to groups within NSW. On the question of CSCs sending a rebate on sales of ODAT to the Trust Account, we suggested that there may well be differences in operating expenses of each of the CSCs and it might not be possible for all to hold to one price. However, we agreed that it would be desirable to establish a uniform national selling price of ODAT, as well as any other piece of CAL. Yvonne also sent WSO their beautifully done version of the Alateen poster. "If your Mum or Dad has a drinking problem, you can see what it's doing to them. . . ." They believe more Australian teens will relate to this version. The WSO continues to receive the monthly Journals of the AFG Victoria Service Center which keeps the World Service Office posted on much of the news from Victoria.

New South Wales always requests the most current edition of an item they wish to reprint. For example, they recently requested the latest edition of It's a Teenaged Affair.

They have returned signed copies of the WSO reprint permission forms for each of the pieces they have assumed the responsibility of reprinting for their country.

The New South Wales Central Office thus far has permission to reprint:

Al-Anon You and the Alcoholic
Alateen Just for Today Card
Alateen Wallet Card
Information for the Newcomer
It's a Teenaged Affair
Lois' Story
Facts About Alateen
Youth and the Alcoholic Parent
Al-Anon Posters
Alateen Posters
ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON (hardcover)

The need in Australia for foreign language literature is increasingly evident. We were able to send them both Spanish and German literature, but unfortunately, nothing is available in Italian and Greek translation. The government in Australia has requested information on foreign language pamphlets Al-Anon can provide for their community.

b. New Zealand (Report by Margaret O'D.)

The Assembly structure has been functioning very well; they adopted the District Plan as outlined in the World Service Handbook. Members, in cooperation with the WSO, are planned to revise all service material to suit new Zealand conditions.

The complexion of the New Zealand General Service Board will be changed somewhat as new members have replaced Mavis, the Public Information Officer; Molly, the Newsletter Editor; and Glad, the Secretary-Treasurer. The WSO has extended fond wishes to all these fine members who have given so much, so consistently, in the service of Al-Anon.

There are now 61 Al-Anon groups registered with the World Service Office and meeting regularly in New Zealand.

The New Zealand General Services are considering reprinting some pamphlets locally, in order to meet growing demand,

combat rising costs of resale, and falling dollar value. Meanwhile, New Zealand members expressed gratitude to the WSO for replacing a consignment of literature which arrived damaged by salt water.

A copy of the 1976 New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups magazine was sent by Audrey F., of Auckland, current editor; it included many inspirational messages from members. One article was a compilation of excerpts from letters by Jean T., of Auckland, who traveled widely in the U.S. before going to the Denver Convention, where she enjoyed wonderful warmth and good fellowship at the Al-Anon meetings. About the break-fast with Lois, she remarked, "Lois is a miracle of serenity and we all feel we owe much to our founder."

The New Zealand newsletters continue to arrive regularly. Because of the increased postal rates, the price of Newsletter subscriptions has reluctantly been raised.

A member in Upper Hutt wrote inquiring whether we had any Japanese literature for an AA member's wife; we sent "A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic" in Japanese, some other pamphlets, two foreign literature lists, and the keepsake program from the 40th International Convention in Denver. We received a letter of gratitude for the help these items afforded.

c. U.K. & Eire

Jean G., who participated in our 16th World Service Conference as Representative from the U.K. & Eire, spent the week preceding the Conference at the World Service Office, observing office procedures that might be adapted for the work at London General Service Office in London. She had an opportunity to discuss mutual concerns with each Al-Anon Staff Secretary.

A draft of a proposed pamphlet, "Why the Concepts," a condensed version based on Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service was reviewed at the WSO and returned to Jean G. after some minor corrections were made, with permission to print and distribute to their groups.

Following her return from New York, Jean's report on the WSC aroused "keen interest" in the many District Meetings to which she traveled. Her report was also taped, so that it could receive wider attention.

The 7th U.K. & Eire Service Conference held in September at Nottingham University, was an extremely busy and productive one and was attended by 19 DRs, 11 General Service Board members, two Observers and two Conference Committee Members.

In connection with two workshops, one on Sponsorship and one on Public Information, Jean G. wrote: "I was able to use all the valuable ideas which I had brought back from the World Service Conference. The new booklet, *A Pebble In The Pond* was received most enthusiastically and all our District Representatives are anxious to receive copies. Our two observers, Rit J. Belgium and Marjatta P. from Finland . . . felt they had gained much that would benefit Al-Anon in their countries." A summary of that Conference will be distributed by the Conference Committee, which is based in Leeds.

Dorothy H., Literature Committee Chairman, sent copies of recently completed material. One leaflet, "Al-Anon Family Groups U.K. & Eire," had previously been reviewed and approved at the WSO. The following line will be inserted: "Approved by the World Service Office, Al-Anon Family Groups and the Conference of the Al-Anon Family Groups of the U.K. & Eire."

Re: Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies, Dorothy forwarded a sheet of amendments for the U.K. & Eire. All of these appeared appropriate to make the book useful in their groups. She also made suggestions for several changes in wording the body of the book itself, we agreed these would make the text more universally applicable.

Their finalized "Guidelines for Alateen Coordinators" were reviewed by Timmy W., who commented, "They are really terrific. These suggestions should help the growth and unity of Alateen throughout the U.K. & Eire."

Permission was extended to the U.K. & Eire General Service Board to reprint *ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON* and the illustrated poster, which can be produced in England at a favorable cost.

Their Conference asked Jean to raise a point with WSO about the booklet, "A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon," which they felt would affect our fellowship as a whole. In the booklet a teacher explains that she asked to go to an Al-Anon meeting with a colleague, but that she herself had no one in her family with alcoholism. It is apparent that she later attended Al-Anon on many occasions. Jean added: "Our Conference felt that any teachers reading this particular pamphlet would feel entitled to attend any Al-Anon meeting at any time and that this would spread and cause an influx of people coming out of curiosity and undermine the confidence of newer Al-Anon members. . . . The Conference voted to withdraw this item of CAL from their list and to advise the WSO accordingly. It was suggested we clarify the wording to indicate the purpose of "open" Al-Anon meetings. Jean said our assistance in overcoming this problem within their area will be much appreciated. After review the WSO Literature Committee added an explanation on closed and open meetings for the next printing of this pamphlet and Jean was advised accordingly.

Jean reported that the copy of the film *LOIS' STORY* which has been in circulation in the U.K. & Eire for the past year, was rented out by GSO 12 times, though it was used more than once each time in the various Districts. It was greatly enjoyed by both AA and Al-Anon members.

Jean G., also serving as Public Information Committee Chairman, asked for suggestions as to how best to cooperate with C.T.V.C., film producers in England. The film company is planning a movie about the families of alcoholics, their problems, and possible sources of help ". . . which would, of course, include Al-Anon Family Groups." Margaret O'D., our PI Staff Secretary outlined various ways in which lend technical assistance to the producers. Jean was encouraged to send a copy of the completed film to the WSO.

Dorothy H., whose three-year term as Literature Committee Chairman ended in December, wrote that "this year will see the end of the three year experimental period for the United Kingdom and Eire Service Handbook." Henrietta's review of their Handbook was much appreciated and very helpful to the Committee. Also, Dorothy wrote that the Committee was very pleased to hear that reading the portion of their Handbook which outlines the duties and responsibilities of the members of their General Service Board and Office inspired Henrietta to recommend inclusion of similar material in our Handbook. Dorothy said that this caused the Literature Committee members to feel that ". . . all their hard work over the past three years had been well worth while."

The General Service Board voted to send a Representative to the WSC in 1977; the Conference elected Jan B., who was editor of their *News & Views* for three years and is currently secretary of the GSB.

d. South Africa (Report by Eleanor O'B.)

Kinsa K., formerly Chairman of the South African Al-Anon General Service Board, now National Public Information Coordinator, sent us an article on Al-Anon which appeared in the *Rand Daily Mail* in January. As a result of the article, they have been approached to take part in the TV program in the near future. They have ordered a tape of *DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK*, which they hoped to show at an open AA/Al-Anon meeting during their Al-Anon Convention in the spring.

Joan Van Z., secretary of the Al-Anon General Service office in Johannesburg, updated their group records and forwarded this information to the WSO. Although the number of Al-Anon and Alateen groups continued to grow, Joan said that "... some of these groups are very shaky, and we are doing all we can to encourage them to keep going." She also reported that Annetjie V.L., from Johannesburg, was the new Alateen Secretary for South Africa.

Joan listed six provincial Al-Anon Information Services (A.I.S.) In Cape Providence there are A.I.S. offices located in Cape Town, Western Province and in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Province. The Witwatersrand A.I.S. shares a post office box with the National Public Information Committee in Johannesburg. The Information Services in Durban, Natal; Pretoria, Transvaal; and East Rand, Benoni, Transvaal use postal box addresses.

Kinsa K. sent the Minutes of the Al-Anon Conference of the Republic of South Africa, held in April. At this conference, it was decided to shelve the translation of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and to use the translation fund money for translations into Afrikaans, and some into the Bantu languages, of CAL pamphlets and booklets. Leonie, the Assistant Editor of UNITAS was asked to take over as Editor after Bobby resigned.

Kinsa K. asked the WSO to review the Minutes of the Conference; also, the revised Structure. The Al-Anon General Service Office and its officers, together with the Conference body, have done a prodigious amount of work over a period of time to build their national structure.

There were some points in their structure which might need their further consideration. For instance, they have created the office of District Coordinator. Their Districts are comparable to Areas in the U.S. and Canada. The U.K. & Eire tried this and are thinking of dropping the office. In our structure (U.S. and Canada) coordinators handle specific services: i.e., Alateen, Institutions, Literature, Public Information.

FORUM REPORT

Louise G., Editor, 1976

Over 34,000 FORUMS are now mailed out each month. This is an increase of 7000 over last year. 23,000 of these are paid subscriptions, an increase of 6000 over last year (33%).

The volume of mail has also increased. These signs of growing interest in the FORUM no doubt reflect the Delegates' dedication in encouraging subscriptions and contributions to the FORUM. In 1976, 707 letters were answered, as compared to 482 in 1975. Approximately half of these were used in the FORUM. In keeping with our policy, all those whose articles were published received a complimentary copy of the issue in which their article appeared. These totaled 339, as compared to 360 in 1975, reflecting the tendency to use longer, more substantial article. Many readers wrote to say they had noticed this change and liked it.

Special features:

- The Prince Frog story appeared in the January issue. Readers loved it and the Coordinator of Alcoholism Programs for the U.S. Army of West Point asked and received permission to use the story as the basis for a TV realization to become part of the Cadet Library.
- One Tradition was discussed each month. Attitudes were the subject of the editorials.
- Other highlights of the year: February—many articles on love. March—a section on the adjustment to sobriety. April—articles on communication in response to an earlier article. August—an article on depression that elicited a

tremendous response. A feature article in November was based on these responses. September—an issue featuring Alateen.

Some changes were made in FORUM Committee structure and function to allow for greater participation of the volunteer members.

In October, the editor regretfully submitted her resignation because personal and professional pressures prevented her from being able to meet the position's additional demands on her time. A qualified Al-Anon member, Hildegard M., was then hired as a replacement, to begin work on January 3, 1977. Hildegard is most enthusiastic about her new position and all of those who have met her feel confident that she will do very well.

A MOTION was made, seconded and carried—to accept the FORUM report.

ALATEEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Carole K., Chairman; Timmy W., Staff Secretary; Darcy W., Assistant

Darcy W., who had been Timmy's secretary for a year and a half, became Assistant Alateen Secretary in February. Unfortunately, both Alateen members of the committee, Robin G., New Jersey and Meg M., New York resigned simultaneously near the end of the year.

Theme

"Building Better Communication Between Al-Anon and Alateen" was the project chosen by the Alateen Committee at the WSC for the coming year. There has been an increase in the number of exchange meetings/speakers, open Alateen meetings, Al-Anon and Alateen groups meeting together periodically, Sponsors' Workshops and greater attendance of Delegates and Alateen Coordinators at Alateen Conferences.

More and more Alateen groups are holding open meetings. The Chimo Alateens (Sudbury, Ontario) have held a "Parents' Night" for the past three years with fantastic results. Seven-Mile Morang Alateens (Detroit, MI) had their first Parents' Night in '76 and found the experience most rewarding.

To determine how better communication between Al-Anon and Alateen had been built during the year, the In-Town Committee developed a questionnaire which was sent to all Delegates. Five categories were covered: Sponsorship, Alateen Coordinators, Conferences, Speaker Exchange and Literature. Several questions were asked in each category so that a general report could be formulated for the 1977 WSC. The questions will also be discussed at the Alateen Town-Hall Meeting at the Conference.

Workshops

This year was a "first" for Arkansas, Oklahoma and Utah. The Arkansas Alateens reported to their Al-Anon group on the workshop. This resulted in Al-Anon's encouragement of the Alateens' participation in District and Assembly meetings. The Oklahoma Delegate reported: "Truly it was gratifying to see so much interest and to watch these teenagers take on responsibilities." As a result of the Utah Delegate's efforts, her Area now has a better understanding of the needs of the teenagers in the family and Alateen is progressing. The first Michigan Alateen Rally was held early in the year with workshops for Alateens and Sponsors. It was so successful that a decision was made to have three rallies each year.

P.I.

The airing of FRANCESCA, BABY on the ABC Television AFTERSCHOOL SPECIAL, October 6th, was an exciting event for Alateen nationwide. This story of a girl who found

help and hope in Alateen generated interest, added new members to groups and resulted in other television shows including Alateen in their programming.

Ann Landers received a request from an Alateen member which said: "Please print this letter for other teenagers who have an alcoholic parent." Almost 350 inquiries were received at the WSO, many of them from professional people and agencies interested in learning more about Alateen.

The December issue of *Family Circle* carried a story entitled, "28 Million Forgotten Children: Help for Young Victims of Alcoholic Homes." Alateen was featured as a source of help.

Coordinators

The In-Town Committee revised the "Guidelines for Area Alateen Coordinators." Each Area Coordinator and Delegate was sent a copy with a covering letter at the end of August.

Barbara P., Alateen Coordinator for all of Australia, visited the WSO and gathered information on structure, Alateen Conferences, finances, sponsorship, etc. She took all she learned back to the National Alateen Committee to help the growth of Alateen in the various states of Australia, all of which have Alateen Coordinators now.

Publications

The first expanded issue (six pages) of *ALATEEN TALK* was published in February and sent to all Al-Anon groups as well as Alateen groups. The expanded publication was sent to Al-Anon groups on a trial basis during 1976 and many favorable comments were received. One DR ordered enough copies to give to all the GRs in her District. A petition, signed by more than 50 Colorado members, urged that we continue sending *ALATEEN TALK* to all Al-Anon groups. Because of the tremendous response and interest of Al-Anons, they will continue to receive this newsletter. It was published six times in 1976.

ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS continues to be placed in many libraries. The Dallas (Texas) Al-Anon Information Center reported they had donated copies to each secondary public school library in the greater Dallas area. An order for 160 books was enclosed! The Alateen Coordinator in New South Wales, Australia, wrote that the book had been placed in 14 suburban public libraries close to established or prospective Alateen groups. When a school requests an Alateen speaker, the Australian P.I. committee donates a copy of the book for placement in the school's library.

The Conference members voted unanimously to support project approval for an Alateen ONE DAY AT A TIME. Now that an Alateen ODAT has been approved, we are asking Delegates, Alateen Coordinators and Newsletter editors to help us motivate the membership to write their ideas and send them to WSO.

New Groups Overseas

Some exciting news: We received the registration for the first Alateen group in Bern, Switzerland. Eight new groups were formed in South Africa—four in Transvaal, three in Natal and one in Orange Free State.

Conferences

Carole K. and Martha E., attended the Mid-Eastern Alateen Conference (MEAC) in Harrisonburg, Virginia; the Eastern Seaboard Conference (ESAC) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Timmy went to the Alateen Interprovincial Conference in Winnipeg, Canada; the New England Conference (NEAC) in Saratoga Springs, NY; the Ohio-Michigan-Indiana Conference (OMIAC) in Perrysburg, OH; and the annual Mid-Western Conference (AMAC) in Des Moines, IA. Darcy went to NEAC and ESAC, too. Edith G., (formerly Edith McC.) went to MINI-MAAC in Frederick, MD; NO-MAAC in Huntington, Pennsylvania and METRO in Madison, NJ.

There were many other Alateen Conferences during 1976 including those held in New South Wales and Adelaide, Au-

stralia. In addition, Alateens participated in AA and Al-Anon Conventions in many Areas including Omaha, Nebraska, where Timmy spoke, Mexico City and Puerto Rico.

Carole, her husband Jack, and her daughter Karen, spoke at the First New Jersey Al-Anon/Alateen Convention in Madison and at the AA Northeast Regional Convention in Washington, D.C.

New Business—1976 WSC

Delegate committee members reported their findings on the project for the year; namely, to "get the feeling" in their Areas of the feasibility of encouraging separate Alateen Assemblies. During the year they talked with Alateens, the Alateen Coordinator, and Al-Anon members. Although there was some interest and enthusiasm in one or two Areas for this plan (which has been operating successfully in Saskatchewan, Canada for six years), the majority felt their Areas were not ready for such an idea and considered it more logical to encourage greater Alateen participation at District and Assembly meetings.

Correspondence

During the year 690 letters were written to new or proposed Alateen groups, enclosing the free complete starter packet.

We received 24 requests from outside agencies (or individual professionals) wanting to start Alateen groups. We wrote to each of them, attaching the special sheet giving information about Alateen's relationship to Al-Anon and the necessity for Al-Anon sponsors. Basic Alateen literature was enclosed and the contact for the nearest Al-Anon group given. At the same time, we wrote to the Al-Anon group, sending copies of the letter received from the outside agency and our reply, as well as similar basic Alateen literature. A questionnaire for Sponsors was also enclosed and we asked them to contact the agency and cooperate by sponsoring the Alateens. When a group does start and the questionnaire is returned, we then send the complete starter packet of material.

Twenty-eight letters were received requesting information about starting preteen groups. We send them the sheets explaining our policy regarding these younger family members—not to register and service them as separate groups. We sometimes give them the name and address of a preteen Sponsor who has written, telling us how well her group is functioning and giving us permission to use her name for referrals.

There were 197 letters written to groups and a total of 420 letters to individual inquirers during the year with appropriate literature enclosed.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jean A., Chairman; Holly C., Secretary

Unlike other committees whose yearly work begins and ends around the first of January, the Conference Committee concentrates on the mid-year when the WSC is held. It reviews the past Conference and prepares for the one to come.

Conference Summary

The 1976 Summary carries the fully report of the committee's activities during that year, and in addition to the 1515 copies requested by the Delegates for Area distribution, Summaries were sent to every group.

Plans for 1977 WSC

As soon as the Conference was over, the committee began to plan for 1977. Our wonderful Chairman, Penny, was followed by Jean A., past Panel Delegate from Ontario and past Canadian Regional Trustee. Our theme was to be "Communication—Our Lifeline." Our agenda would cover unfinished business from last year's sessions as well as planned panels on PI, Alateen, and Institutions; a workshop on communication problems;

participants would include Delegates as moderators, speakers and reporters.

Budget changes reflected increased costs of an additional day. Provisions were made for refreshments served at the WSO for arriving Delegates; buses and refreshments at Stepping Stones, a souvenir, the opening banquet and luncheons at the Biltmore Hotel where the WSO would meet from April 18-23. Payments were included for the cost of a technician to tape record the proceedings and a stop watch timer to fairly limit discussions.

Hospitality considerations would be handled by Helen G., assisted by a number of volunteers to handle registrations, preparation and distribution of 100 portfolios and badges.

FORUM editions would carry articles submitted by the committee.

The 1977 Summary would concentrate on a more concise review of annual reports, activities and Conference actions and decisions.

Office procedures continued on a daily basis. Correspondence responses reviewed information concerning District and Area structure, names of newly-appointed coordinators, newsletter editors, Area officers; and Area Newsletters were examined; Delegates were kept up-to-date on inactive and newly-formed groups, group contributions and necessary correspondence was forwarded for the attention of the Delegate and/or Area action.

The World Service Handbook is being amended to include an additional chapter covering duties of Trustees, WSO Officers and committees.

The Regional Trustee Experimental Plan was presented by Loretta L., Chairman, who, with her committee, completed a report on the expanded plan for mailing to all Conference members. The matter will come to a vote at the 1977 Conference.

The members of this committee are deeply grateful to all the other committees for their cooperation throughout the year.

INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Staff Secretary

During the past year, ten full committee meetings were held. Edwina and Ann met almost weekly. After writing many rough drafts with the help of Delegates, Standing Committee and individual members, the Institutions Committee has completed **GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTIONS WORK**. The **GUIDELINES** which were mimeographed will now be printed. It is our hope that these will be utilized with considerable success.

Also revised was "What Is An Institutions Group?." Changes were made to coincide with the growth and changing needs of members of the fellowship meeting in institutions.

New Institutions Material

"Guidelines for Institutions Coordinators" were developed from the experience shared by the coordinators from the U.S. & Canada. In addition, it was necessary to develop the following helpful institutions material:

- A sample, "Institutions Letter to the Professional";
- An "Institutions Meeting Format";
- A sample, "Round Robin Letter" for the Institutions Coordinators use; and
- A sample letter to be used by coordinators to groups for group information.

With the help of Teresa M., WSO Spanish Translator, an Institutions Discount Package of Spanish literature has been developed. This has evolved because of a need expressed by Spanish-speaking members. The package contains 10 titles and

38 pieces of literature priced at \$4.95 for the discount price of \$3.65 prepaid. Two order forms were prepared, one for the U.S. and one for all other countries.

Project Approval

Again this year, the Executive Committee has approved an Institutions project of a one-time mailing to all groups in the U.S. and Canada and to the General and Central Services overseas. A covering letter, **INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**, revised and expanded **GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTIONS WORK**; "A Meeting-on-Wheels"; sample "Institutions Letter to Professionals"; "Institutions Meeting Format"; and "What Is An Institutions Group Meeting?" were all sent 1st Class to registered Institutions groups. All others were sent via bulk mail. Spanish-speaking groups will receive an edited, translated version done by Teresa M., the WSO Spanish Translator.

FORUM

Institutions articles were prepared for the monthly edition of the **FORUM**. Because of the monthly articles, many additional volunteers were involved in this phase of Al-Anon service.

P.I. and Institutions Joint Meeting

To keep the lines of communication open, the Institutions Committee joined the P.I. meeting during the past year.

Institutions Kit

With the Institutions Kit closer in view, we are investigating prices for a folder with inside pockets to hold the enclosed material.

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

We are most grateful to those members who shared informative material and varied experiences in Institutions work for our quarterly publication. The January 1977 issue was completed in December of 1976 to accommodate the large mailing to all groups. Members have requested additional copies for distribution at their Assembly for DRs and GRs and to those wishing to become involved in this work.

Reprint

A request for Project Approval will be submitted to the Executive Committee for reprinting of an article of merit written by a social worker in a V.A. Hospital. The American Psychiatric Association has granted Al-Anon permission to reprint and make this article available to our fellowship. The article appeared in the **HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRY** magazine, a major publication. It is the intention of the Institutions Committee to use this article as another tool in carrying the message. This is in keeping with a precedent set in the early days of Al-Anon for the office to make reprinted articles available, from highly-acclaimed sources, to the fellowship.

New Groups

Institutions groups have started in: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Washington, D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington. In Canada, groups formed in: Ontario and Manitoba. New Alateen Institutions Groups started in: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina.

Correspondence

Copies of orders from professionals and outside agents for literature and books continue to be sent to either the Institutions Coordinator, or Delegate, if there is no coordinator. This information has created an awareness for the need of Al-Anon in institutions.

Personal requests for Al-Anon literature are still being received from prisoners, asking that we send Al-Anon information to their families. The address of a group meeting close to their

home is given. Many times it is possible to give them a phone contact. In all cases, a reply is sent which includes a few pieces of suitable literature.

When the name of a new Institutions Coordinator is sent to WSO, a letter of welcome is sent stressing the importance of advising the WSO of any change of address, meeting time and contact. In addition, the coordinator is sent pertinent material and information to help in carrying out her duties. Interested members are referred to the coordinator or Delegate in their Area.

Groups have written asking if their meeting can be classified as an Institutions group because regular members return. Our reply encourages them to start an orientation or beginner's meeting, to function as an Institutions group, in addition to the established group.

It is the hope of the Institutions Committee that the new expanded and revised *GUIDELINES* will clarify many questions in the minds of the membership.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Alice B., Chairman; Linda McF., Staff Writer

It was a busy, productive year with the helpful cooperation of all the members of the committee.

Revisions

Most of our literature now carries a small capital @ placed at the lower right-hand corner of the word, "Alateen," and on the logo with the words, "Al-Anon Family groups." As each remaining piece is reprinted, the Registered Trademark will be added.

Minor Revisions have continued on a regular basis. Dates and numbers have been made current, and typos, misspelled words, punctuation changes, etc., have accompanied occasional replacements of words or phrases that seem out-of-place today.

Major Revisions completed after Conference Approval on "The Policy Digest," "The Twelve Concepts of Service," "Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work," and "The World Service Handbook."

The Fourth-Step Inventory Checklist was amended to include all the qualities and shortcomings mentioned in the Blueprint For Progress section on character traits.

A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon was revised for its second and third printings to include several paragraphs concerning Alateen, and the introductory remarks were expanded to include material about the difference between open and closed meetings so that teachers, who were considering visiting Al-Anon, would be more apt to choose an open meeting.

Revised and New

The Conference-Approved Literature pamphlet has been amended and redesigned. It will appear in a less-expensive leaflet form and will have the original title, "Why CAL?"

The Al-Anon/Alateen Price List and the Alateen Price List have been redesigned and reflect a new code which identifies our literature by letter and number.

New Material

The Catalog of CAL for Al-Anon/Alateen will now include descriptive material which appeared in the former price list.

Blueprint For Progress, the guide for the Fourth-Step Inventory is in its third printing and since its appearance in February, 1976, eighty-five thousand copies have been purchased.

Working As, For, or With Professionals is in its third printing. The pamphlet covers some of the problems posed by the attention Al-Anon is receiving from those interested in "wearing two hats," and what can be done to handle the professional response to Al-Anon as a community resource in the recovery of families of alcoholics.

Em, a history of our emblem logo was printed and illustrated. Just For Today for Al-Anon and Just For Today for Alateen were reproduced on blue and white and red and white coated bookmarks.

A facsimile of Blueprint's cover and a composite picture of our service manuals were designed and printed as supplements for our Literature Display Packs.

The 1976 Conference Summary included the 25 historical anecdotes delivered at the Conference. These brief, humorous stories were taken from a commemorative souvenir booklet written for the 25th Anniversary and presented to all Conference members.

Sobriety: Another Beginning! was rewritten and sent to the Committee for review.

What's "Drunk," Mama? was written from an idea submitted by a member. Developed and enlarged, the manuscript for a children's book was also sent to the Committee.

"Double Winners", a leaflet explaining how Al-Anon can help members of AA whose lives are affected by someone else's drinking, is in outline form.

The Literature Standing Committee at the 1976 World Service Conference, welcomed the addition of three Delegate members to the Literature Committee, James S., Delaware; Joan S., Florida; and Willie H., Ontario (S) Canada. It recommended:

The production of a Twelve and Twelve book for Al-Anon: Holding off on an ONE DAY AT A TIME for Alateen; however, the entire Conference voted to pursue this project; Dropping the NCA pamphlet, "How To Know An Alcoholic," from our price list; Maintaining unified, consistent and, in some cases, simplified literature; Continuing to publish our books, in hardcover after an in-depth study of printing in paperbacks; and, Printing Just For Today for Al-Anon and Alateen as bookmarks.

Copyright Requests

Requests for permission to reprint our material were received from WORLD HELLO, Gamanon, "Viva Mejor," The Southwest Nebraska Communities Alcohol Safety Action Project; an authoress in Lorain, Ohio; a songwriter in Angola, New York, and a record and cassette company in Baltimore, Maryland.

Correspondence

All letters with suggestions for new pieces, and comments on existing literature were gratefully acknowledged.

Area Literature Coordinators

WSO Staff Secretaries in PI, Institutions and Alateen will make any and all of their committee pamphlets, reprints, etc., available to the Staff Writer so that they may be forwarded, as they are produced, to Literature Coordinators.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Hank G., Chairman; Margaret O'D., Staff Secretary

Conference 1976—A P.I. Workshop was prepared and developed as an attractive folder memento for Conference members. It contained P.I. material from various Areas for P.I., Alateen, industry, the media, medical profession and others. Many Delegates, along with P.I. Committee members, and Trustees participated. The folder named, "A Pebble in the Pond," stimulated discussion at the Workshop. The Conference voted to have the folder produced as a pamphlet for groups, committees and individual members.

The Standing Committee agreed that P.I. expansion be considered in areas of the world not previously covered. Members also agreed that consideration be given to translations of

P.I. materials, starting with the posters and mat ads, and that more time and thought also be given to the development of P.I. projects and activities at the international level.

Poster/Mat Ads in Spanish—Our new posters and mat ads were translated into Spanish and are available from the WSO.

French Translations of 30-second TV Spots made with the cooperation of the French Literature Committee in Montreal, are being distributed to TV stations in Canada.

New Floor Display, 1976—The original display, created in 1970, to cover national events needed to be replaced this year. We purchased an exact duplicate of the one produced in 1975. The copy and photographs from our TV spots are now the theme for both displays.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS was sent quarterly to past and present Delegates, Trustees, Information Services here and abroad, Newsletter Editors as well as Public Information Coordinators. The most recent issue, along with general information, holiday greetings and P.I. tips from members of the fellowship, contained two poignant messages; a tribute from Eleanor O'B., the Deputy General Secretary to Henrietta, our retiring General Secretary, and a farewell from the *FORUM* editor, Louise G.

P.I. Kit has two new additions: Working As, For, Or With Professionals, and A Pebble in the Pond. The price of the kit has not been increased. A collage of hardcover books and one of Spanish material were prepared. Regular attention is given to keep the kit serviceable and reasonable. Material is being collected to improve the Labor/Management pack which, in its present form, has been reduced from \$.35 to \$.15.

General—Telephone conversations with writers of major magazines, newsletter editors, industrial leaders and individuals were held and appropriate follow-up activities were instituted.

In response to a request from the United Kingdom, A Teacher Finds Guidance in Al-Anon was amended to include several paragraphs on Alateen. It was amended again, in cooperation with the Staff Writer, to include a preface explaining the difference between open and closed meetings, recommending that professionals choose open meetings for their scholarly pursuits.

Many personal interviews were conducted with writers as well as executives from professional agencies and organizations for furthering information about Al-Anon and Alateen as a resource. In addition, appointments were kept with salesmen and suppliers of materials used in P.I. work.

A filing system of professional correspondence and publications has been instituted so that P.I. will have comprehensive current public information available in the field of alcoholism. Separate files are being maintained for news articles, P.I. projects and Area P.I. activities.

New systems are being instituted and further developed to facilitate coordinating national exhibits.

P.I. processed a total of 2543 individual inquiries in 1976 (over 200 per month). Almost one-third resulted from participation in national exhibits and represented additions to our mailing list of various disciplines in the helping professions in a position to make referrals to Al-Anon and Alateen. The majority of inquiries received were from the fields of education, medicine and mental health.

A log book was maintained listing those professional inquiries received which were evaluated and recorded on a regular basis.

Form letters used by P.I. to answer inquiries from professionals, students, military personnel, labor-management and individuals were revised and updated. Unusual questions receive a personal response.

As names of the new P.I. Coordinators were received, each

was sent a welcoming letter with **GUIDELINES FOR P.I. WORK**, the most recent issue of **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**, and an order blank for the P. I. Kit. Throughout the year, the P.I. Coordinator in each Area is kept informed of inquiries from their state; Al-Anon members throughout the fellowship are encouraged to continue their P.I. activities and to inform their P.I. Coordinator of any project in which they are involved. Personal responses are sent to every member asking advice on P.I. work.

"Francesca, Baby"—The TV Film story of a 15-year-old girl trying to cope with the problems caused by her alcoholic mother, was shown on October 6th on the ABC **AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIALS**, and represented the first Alateen spotlight on a national TV network.

Announcements of the showing were sent to all groups, Public Information Coordinators, past and present Delegates, Newsletter Editors and Information Services. The announcements encouraged everyone to call or write their local PBS-TV station and make our Al-Anon and Alateen TV and Radio Spot announcements available.

The producer, Martin Tahse, informed us that he sold the film to Walt Disney Productions. We were in close contact with two members of the Disney staff and shared our past TV experience with them. We are waiting to learn about the purchase or rental of the film.

"Reader's Digest"—The September issue carried an article, "An Oasis Called Al-Anon" written by an Al-Anon member who is the husband of an alcoholic. Al-Anon worked closely with the "Reader's Digest" Research Department in preparing this article.

"Family Health Magazine"—"Oasis" was first published in the August issue of "Family Health" magazine titled, "My Wife is an Alcoholic."

Radio Interview—Mr. Al Sperber, the host of the radio program "Out of Sight" (for the sightless) interviewed the author of "An Oasis Called Al-Anon." Mr. Sperber offered us a tape of the interview to reproduce and use at our discretion.

Reprints—At the 1976 WSC, the Delegates expressed a need for an inexpensive piece of literature for groups to put in church foyers, libraries, doctors' offices and other public places. To fill this need, the WSO purchased reprints of the *Reader's Digest* article, "An Oasis Called Al-Anon." An announcement stating the availability of this article, including a reprint, had been sent to the current Delegates, P.I. Coordinators, Information Services (U.S. and Foreign) and Newsletter Editors. The P.I. Department worked closely with Reader's Digest and learned that 400 agencies purchased 50,000 copies of "An Oasis Called Al-Anon," in addition to the 60,000 ordered by the WSO.

National Council on Alcoholism—We were in contact with Bill Dunkin of NCA who informed us that he plans to do a series of articles on employees affected by a family member with alcoholism in upcoming issues of their Labor-Management Alcoholism Journal. The P.I. Committee Chairman offered to cooperate with NCA in this project. A P.I. Poll was conducted to find out how Al-Anon members discovered the program. This poll was sent to all groups along with the announcement of "Francesca, Baby." To date, 2,492 groups have responded. This information was helpful to the P.I. Committee when determining the best directions for P.I. efforts.

Our Clipping Service started sending articles in the last quarter of 1976. The articles are filled in an orderly fashion; however, there is the large task of sorting and filing articles from previous years. Preserving these articles is a vital step towards the development of an Al-Anon archive department.

A Slide Film describing the activities at the WSO similar to the film AA has describing the GSO, was investigated. Estimates

for this audio-visual film presentation are being submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration.]

Ms. Magazine gave Al-Anon a full-page public service announcement in their July, 1976 issue.

Public Information Questionnaire was sent to Coordinators and their Delegates concerning P.I. activities in their Areas. The responses were filled with reports of P.I. activities. This valuable aid provides a primary means of communication between the WSO and the P.I. Coordinators. This communication often helps to clear up or avoid many problems.

TV Spots—In recognition of the need to develop and improve communications with professionals in the fields of medicine, religion, education, industry, government, courts, prisons, mental hospitals and others who deal with the family disease aspects of alcoholism, we are investigating the creation of a new theme to be used to update our TV spots. Bill Fucci, of Fucci/Stone Productions, has access to talented people in the communications field and is presently cooperating with P.I. in this project.

Town Hall Meeting 1977 WSC was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, at 2 P.M. The meeting will be expanded from 1½ to 2 hours. The P.I. Committee developed a workshop dramatizing P.I. situations and possible solutions. The theme of the workshop is "Anonymity: Bridge or Barrier."

Participation At National and International Annual Meetings includes shipping floor and/or table displays. Representatives attended where possible.

American Association for Higher Education, Chicago, Illinois
Marian A., P.I. Coordinator, Illinois (N), representing the WSO.

American Association of Sex Educators and Counselors, Washington, D.C.

Free take-one table.

American Personnel & Guidance Association, Chicago, Illinois
Connie S., P.I. Coordinator.

American Occupational Health Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio
Pat H., representing the WSO.

National Council on Alcoholism, Washington, D.C.

We participated in the NCA program with two Al-Anon/Alateen Workshops on two consecutive afternoons. Our panel members included, the Reverend Joseph L. Kellermann, Executive Director of the Charlotte Council on Alcoholism, Charlotte, N.C.; Virginia Grady, PAR Representative (Program Alcoholism Recovery) at the U.S. Postal Service, St. Louis, Missouri; Joan Baker, R.N., M.S. Assistant Professor of the Alcoholism Nursing Program, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; and Josie C., WSO, acted as the moderator.

We were also included in an all-day program called, "The Family and Alcoholism," which gave us an opportunity to participate at NCA's first plenary session on "Alcoholism and the Family." Josie C., represented the WSO.

At the Exhibit, Isabel F., the Maryland Delegate, and Sarah R., shared the responsibility for attending our booth.

Caribbean Congress on Psychiatry, San Juan, Puerto Rico
Isabel R., Delegate. It was the first time the WSO participated at a national meeting in Puerto Rico. We sent two table displays, one in English and one in Spanish. Participation at this event enabled Al-Anon to reach many professionals throughout the Caribbean.

Southern Area Forum on Alcoholism/Alcohol Problems Prevention, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Virginia H., Delegate, Alabama.

National Council on Social Welfare, Washington, D.C.
Isabel F., representing the WSO.

American Medical Association, Dallas, Texas
Mary H., Delegate, Texas (W).

North Conway Institute, Byfield, Massachusetts
Margaret O'D., PI Secretary, WSO. This ecumenical meeting marked the first opportunity for Al-Anon participation in a conference geared towards professionals in the religious community.

Armed Forces Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana
This was the first Army-wide Conference of the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention & Control Program (ADAPCP) of the Department of the Army. Josie C., covered this event. We were given display space and meetings were scheduled with individuals and small groups of all Conference participants, including Educational Directors of the 40 largest Army installations throughout the United States, as well as representatives from the Department of Defense.

International Conference on Social Welfare, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Isabel R., Delegate, Puerto Rico. Both English and Spanish table displays were supplied, together with respective literature.

National Medical Association, Nashville, Tennessee
Edith S., Delegate, Tennessee.

Alcohol & Drug Problems Association of North America, New Orleans, Louisiana

An Al-Anon and Alateen meeting was conducted with Josie C., P.I. Secretary, coordinating the event and the Reverend Joseph L. Kellermann presiding as guest speaker. The Greater New Orleans Al-Anon Information Service prepared a flyer announcing this event to all local Al-Anon and AA groups, as well as press releases to local newspapers. Dot S., acting representative.

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, Honolulu, Hawaii

Marlene D., Delegate, Hawaii.

American Public Health Association, Miami, Florida

Selma L., representative for the WSO reported that our booth was visited by 258 professionals in the public health field who were supplied with information and pamphlets about Al-Anon. After the exhibit WSO filled 91 requests for additional information.

Association of Labor-Management Administrators and Consultants on Alcoholism, San Diego, California.

A workshop, entitled, "Al-Anon: A Worldwide Community Resource for Labor-Management Alcoholism Programs," was conducted. Margaret O'D., WSO, chaired the panel. A special mailing of our labor-management material, including copies of "An Oasis Called Al-Anon," was sent to all participants at the meeting and to our complete ALMACA mailing list.

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Alberte C., Secretary; Cay C., Chairman; Harriet L., Translator

Alberte and Cay's personal remarks made special note of their gratitude for the love and rewarding experiences they had gained in their service work.

Cay read Alberte's report to the Conference:

"Les Publication Francaises, (PFA, Inc.) which, roughly translated, is French Publications for the Families of Alcoholics, formerly known as the French Literature Committee, assures the same service to all French language groups throughout the world; that is, translation, publication and distribution of French Al-Anon and Alateen literature, translation and mailing of all WSO communications to all French language groups such as, appeal letters, data cards, etc.

"We now have 395 French Al-Anon and Alateen groups in Quebec, 5 Al-Anon groups in New Brunswick, 1 in Newfoundland, 12 in Ontario, 1 in Manchester, NH, 1 in Hartford, CT, and approximately 50 Al-Anon groups in France, Belgium and Switzerland.

"As the number of groups increase, so do the literature sales. Last year, sales amounted to approximately \$8,000 as compared to the previous year. More growth means more work and this has surely increased. We still have difficulty finding and keeping competent employees because we are not yet able to offer them the same fringe benefits as other employers such as group insurance, retirement plans, etc. Since last September, a responsible and very dedicated Al-Anon member has been sharing my responsibilities. In shipping, we have changed our sole employee three times.

"Harriet continues to translate and update all our service material. She has just finished translating our Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies. During 1976, she translated the Twelve Concepts and updated Al-Anon and Alateen Groups At Work. Presently, Harriet is working on the Handbook.

"We have just finished the publication of the new P.I. Kit and as yet, we don't have the new, attractive blue cover, however, all P.I. material has been updated.

"During 1976 and 1977, we produced, in French, the new illustrated posters, newspaper ads and the table display. Also, Al-Anon Family Treatment Tool, Al-Anon Group Impact on Professional Rehabilitation of the Alcoholic, Do's and Don'ts for Alateen, Just For Today (Alateen), the two new booklets for Al-Anon and Alateen, and the two cartoon booklets.

"The third edition of the French version of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC has just been printed.

"As we have had quite a backlog in our FORUM translations, I am happy to say that this year we are up-to-date. Our project for the coming months is to try to get them into print before the new FORUM (magazine) is published.

"Our plans for the fall are the publication of the French version of the Merry-Go-Round Named Denial, and Operation Alateen, following which we will study with WSO, the possibility of publishing THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE.

MOTION was made, seconded and carried to accept the report of the French Literature Committee in Montreal. (Unanimous)

REPORT: AL-ANON/ALATEEN SITE PLANNING FOR THE AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, 1980

Myrna H.,

"On Wednesday, June 23, 1976, I was invited to join the members of AA's ad hoc Site Inspection Committee on their tour of the facilities for the International Convention to be held in New Orleans in 1980. At the airport, I was met by our own Louisiana Delegate, Pat McC., along with the Area Chairman, Vivian. I can't begin to tell you how much their presence meant to me.

"After registering, I spent the rest of the evening with the members of the ad hoc committee consisting of: Dave C., AA Southeast Regional Trustee; Ted Driscoll, Convention Consultant; Betty L., AA's Convention Secretary; Dennis Manders, Controller and Bob P., General Manager of AA GSO. Dede H., current AA Delegate and Don Engler, Assistant Convention Sales Manager were also present.

"An inspection tour of suggested facilities for Al-Anon and Alateen activities was undertaken which allowed me to bring

back a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The Rivergate Convention & Exhibition Center has a hall of over 130,000 sq. ft. which can be broken down into two sections. I suggested renting the North Hall which is approximately 34,500 sq. ft. and has a seating capacity of 4,500. Rental costs, including chairs, would be \$1,000 per day. There are 16 other rooms with movable walls which lend themselves to all types of meetings (panels, workshops, etc.).

"The new super-deluxe New Orleans Hilton anticipates opening July, 1977 and I thought this would be an excellent choice as Al-Anon's Headquarters Hotel. It has more than adequate space which we can use for registration, displays, hospitality room, meetings, foreign language meetings, the reunion luncheon, a Host Committee reception (if one is scheduled), films, night owl meetings and so much more.

"I would not recommend using the facilities after 5 or 6 p.m. because we would then run into heavy, overtime charges.

"Dining facilities in, or near the site of our activities seem to be more than adequate. In addition to the restaurants and coffee shops in the Hilton, the Rivergate can set up a cafeteria or restaurant to accommodate Conventioneers during the daytime meetings.

"I explained to Pat and Vivian that the Host Committee is an extension of the WSO Convention and we would have to have direct communication at all times in matters relating to Host Committee activities. The Al-Anon and Alateen population in New Orleans is rather small though they make up for this in enthusiasm. Membership will surely increase during the next four years but they will still need to draw upon members in the rest of the state for workers. I suggested they consider forming a local "Accommodations Committee" whereby the people in New Orleans will house other members when they come in for Committee meetings. We have never suggested anything of this nature before; however, I'm sure it was done informally at previous Conventions.

"The Superdome, purported to be the largest indoor sports arena in existence, will be the site of AA's meetings. There will be supplemental meeting space at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel which adjoins and connects with the Superdome. The opening dance will probably be held at the Rivergate Convention Complex. The expected overall registration is approximately 28,000 to 35,000 people depending upon the degree of one's optimism.

"Working with the members of the AA Site Selection Committee has been a joy, with cooperation at its best! An equitable financial arrangement, proportionately based on Al-Anon and Alateen registration, is under consideration, subject to the approval of the AA General Service Conference.

"The Board of Trustees approved my recommendations and named me to serve you all again as Convention Secretary. Margaret O'D. was also appointed to assist me.

"It is far too early to begin planning our program; however, the Host Committee is anxious to stir enthusiasm throughout the state. Later, Margaret and I will fly out to New Orleans to tour the hotel and make future tentative plans. All of us at WSO are hoping to make the next International Convention the best ever for our members throughout the world, who will come together once more in love and fellowship!"

At the conclusion of the office reports, Eleanor asked that a MOTION be made, seconded and carried to approve the WSO 1976 Annual Reports as presented. (Unanimous)

* * * * *

"The trouble with people who talk too fast is that they often say something they haven't thought of yet."

Isabel R., from Puerto Rico said, "Since 1956, I have been an active member of the San Juan Al-Anon group. I would like to share some experiences in which communication has been vital, both for me and my family, and more recently with Headquarters. One of the first things I realized with the help of the program was that I was not communicating, but simply talking endlessly to my husband about his drinking and to my daughters about how it was affecting me. How much they understood, I'll never know. What they would have answered—I never gave them a chance! All I ever did was talk, even to myself. This got me to a dreadful state of frustration which then turned into anger and resentment. Not having mastered the art of expressing myself in a constructive way, I became silent to punish those who were not understanding my needs. Finally, with the help of the program, my eyes opened and I became aware. I started working on my resentments, fears, and self-pity. I also had to accept my shortcomings as well as my assets. Al-Anon showed me the way to use whatever good qualities I had, to make necessary changes in my life and to make amendments. Communication has been my lifeline, for how else would I have been able to get back into the world."

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMUNICATES

"Anonymity—Bridge or Barrier"

Hank G., Chairman; Margaret O'D., Secretary

Hank G. and Margaret O'D., presented a series of situations in which a public information decision would have to be made. Working from a workshop developed by Jean A. of Ontario in cooperation with Margaret, members of the In-Town and Delegate Committee posed the questions which led to Conference involvement in the discussion. What would your answers be? Some of the answers are good; some are not; some are absurd. We hope all of them will stimulate discussion.

I. A professional person approaches you with the idea of starting a group. You say:

- 1) Yes, how wonderful—go ahead.
- 2) Thank you very, very much. I'll arrange for an Al-Anon member to visit you because a group can only be formed by Al-Anon members.
- 3) Oh no, we're anonymous.

Lodema S., AZ

II. You're attending a meeting explaining Al-Anon to the public. Also attending are doctors, lawyers, social workers and government agency representatives. They want to know who in Al-Anon they can contact, or if we can give them a list of contacts so that they can refer clients to Al-Anon groups in their Area.

- 1) You explain that we cannot give out any names because we are anonymous and our directory is confidential.
- 2) You suggest that they write to World Services to obtain contacts in their Area although this requires extensive correspondence.
- 3) You tell them to look Al-Anon up in the yellow pages of their telephone directory.

Irma C., CA (N)

III. John is a naval officer and Al-Anon member. His wife, Mary is an alcoholic who has been sober in A.A. for 16 years. John and Mary are transferred and it soon becomes obvious to them that the commanding officer's wife has a severe drinking problem. Many social functions end in

disaster as the very distraught commanding officer tries to cover up and make excuses for his wife's shameful behavior.

- 1) Should John break his own, and in turn his wife's anonymity by telling his commanding officer about their problem and the help they received?
- 2) Should he try to ignore the situation and be silently grateful for the help he and Mary are receiving?
- 3) When at a social function where this problem is obvious, should John and Mary try to understand and dismiss it by saying "But for the Grace of God."
- 4) Should Mary call on the wife and try to carry the A.A. message to her?
- 5) Should they invite them both to a special A.A. Open Meeting making them feel that it is a way of increasing one's knowledge?

Ruby D., SC

IV. Jane works in a legal office. One of the lawyers has a drinking problem that is interfering with his career. Jane knows his future is at stake. She is concerned with his health and that of his family. Sometimes when taking dictation she recognizes his agony and feelings of desperation.

- 1) Should Jane speak to this sick man (her boss) about his problem?
- 2) Should she hand him a piece of A.A. literature and ask him to read it?
- 3) Should she pick a slack time during the day and tell him a little about her husband's problem and recovery in A.A.?
- 4) Should she arrange to go to his home and talk to his wife whom she has only met once at a social function?
- 5) Should Jane ignore the whole thing and say "What will be, will be?"
- 6) Should Jane ask permission to bring a sampling of literature to the office and place it where all staff members have access to it?

Rolf S., In-Town

V. Tom is an active member of A.A. His wife Sue is an enthusiastic Al-Anon member. They both sing in the church choir and contribute a great deal in many areas of the life of the church. Their minister asked them if they would arrange for a meeting within the church in order to let the congregation know what help is available in A.A. and Al-Anon.

- 1) Should Tom and Sue agree to do this?
- 2) Is this attraction?
- 3) Is this promotion?
- 4) When the number of alcoholic problems in that congregation is not known is such a meeting a worthy undertaking?
- 5) How should inquiries resulting from such a meeting be handled?
- 6) By reference to Tom and Sue?
- 7) By reference to the minister?
- 8) By giving a box number if one is available?
- 9) By giving an answering service number if one exists?

Irene R., SD

VI. Your committee has set up a display booth at a local fair, or a national exhibit and many professionals are expressing an interest in learning the location of local meetings. Should you use the World Service Directory to inform them of local meetings?

Hank G., Chairman

VII. Jane is distraught due to her husband's excessive drinking. She tells her doctor about the situation and how badly it is affecting her. He tells her that she would be just fine if her husband would cut down on his drinking. In the meantime he prescribes tranquilizers and nerve pills to help her to cope. This doctor has been contacted by our P.I. Committee.

- 1) Knowing of this situation, should I, an Al-Anon member, visit the doctor and suggest that his patient attend Al-Anon?
- 2) Should an Al-Anon member go directly to Jane and offer help?
- 3) Should there be no interference between doctor and patient?

Rosanna S., (Rosanna also designed and painted the communications posters used to illustrate the presentation.) In-Town
Judene G., CO.

VIII. While visiting your friend, and co-worker, in a hospital, her father comes in drunk, humiliates her, and she is fighting back tears. You feel that since she knows your family, by telling her that you are a member of Al-Anon you would break your husband's anonymity. Do you:

- 1) say, "Have you ever heard about Al-Anon?"
- 2) say, "I know just how you feel, the same thing has happened to me."
- 3) Try to leave or pretend you didn't notice the situation?

Mary M., In-Town

IX. At a local penal institution where A.A. meetings are held twice weekly:

- 1) Should Al-Anon ask to cooperate with A.A. in making the inmate aware of the Al-Anon program?
- 2) Should the spouse of the inmate be made aware of Al-Anon before or after the alcoholic's release?
- 3) What kind of follow-up should Al-Anon be prepared to do after the inmate is released and returns home?

Simone M., Quebec (W)

X. Gail is a teenager attending school, but she is emotionally upset because both of her parents have drinking problems. She called a "Crisis Center" seeking help. Gail is referred to an Al-Anon member and explains that she doesn't want her parents to know of her plea for help, so, therefore, cannot be called at home.

- 1) Should the Al-Anon member help Gail in devising a plan for her to get to meetings?
- 2) Should the Al-Anon member refuse to help her if this is unknown to her parents?
- 3) Should the Al-Anon member give her the phone number of Alateen?
- 4) Should she take the teenager to an Alateen meeting and introduce her to some of the members?

Edith S., In-Town

XI. The Al-Anon groups in our town appointed a Public Information Committee sometime ago. This enthusiastic Committee put on a real blitz. They ordered a quantity of literature to give away. Then, in pairs, these people took the responsibility of covering the town. All professionals were called on as were guidance departments of schools, personnel managers of local industries, clergymen, and the hospital.

Should this be a "one time call?" If not, when should a second call be made?

and

How far apart should they be? Should several pieces of literature be left the first time?

or

Should one type of literature be left the first time and a different free piece each time a call back is made?

Mel W., AL

Margaret closed the workshop by explaining that,

"all situations presented were typical of those encountered by members involved in P.I. projects and activities. We hope that exploring various methods of handling these situations was stimulating and will be of aid in your efforts to BRIDGE any gaps in carrying the message.

It is important to realize, however, that there is no one right way to carry the message. Each circumstance requires the discretion of the members involved in trying to remove as many BARRIERS as possible in informing the public about the existence and availability of the Al-Anon recovery program."

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Admissions Committee Meeting

It was the announced decision of the committee to support the policy which encourages members who are also AA members to limit their service activities to participation within their groups and not to seek Area office.

MOTION made, seconded and carried—that our policy is clearly defined, that Al-Anon/Alateens holding dual membership are not eligible for (the office of) Group Representative; therefore, this committee would refuse admission of a Delegate who holds dual membership in AA and Al-Anon/Alateen. (Unanimous)

In response to a request from British Columbia, Canada, there was a recommendation in the form of a Conference motion:

MOTION made, seconded and carried—that British Columbia and Yukon petition for two fully accredited Delegates be denied at this time, because this presents a precedent setting situation of two Delegates and one Assembly. (1 opposed, 5 abstentions)

Julie J., NM

Agenda Committee Meeting

General recommendations which did not need Conference Approval but were simply suggestions for consideration by next year's Conference Committee were: That every Delegate be sent Agenda blanks and encouraged to fill them out and send them to the WSO or a member of the Agenda Committee; that the "Green Light" session be continued but it be earlier and shorter; that the most popular subjects brought up at open discussion periods be utilized as agenda items; that there be workshops scheduled on District involvement and awareness of CAL; that a "third party" guest luncheon speaker be considered for future Conferences; that next year's theme be either "Cooperation, With One and All;" or, "Cooperation, Within and Without." It was also suggested having a laminated cover to put on the first edition of the new magazine as a Conference souvenir.

The final reminder noted that Agenda items for the 1978 Conference should be submitted by November 1, 1977.
Jackie O'C., NB

Alateen Committee Meeting

The Alateen version of ONE DAY AT A TIME appears to be moving toward a starting date this year. As the quality of material submitted has improved, the editing and compilation may begin this summer. Considerations for its format reflected a flexible set-up with dated pages but subject matter directed toward young people and independent of the Al-Anon book. The committee thought the cover should be red, and that all speed be brought to bear on production.

In covering suggestions submitted, the committee favored putting off work on an Alateen Fourth-Step inventory book. To deal with increasing needs for literature, the committee suggested hiring a former Alateen as a Staff Writer and instituting an all-Alateen Literature Committee.

Sponsorship difficulties brought ideas for a rotation system (which was reported working well in one Area) and more literature to help sponsors. The consensus of opinion seemed to reflect the greater need to encourage more Al-Anon sponsorship of Alateen groups. In fact, the committee felt that getting more Al-Anon involvement in Alateen sponsorship should be its project for the coming year.

Agnes L., AR

Handbook Committee Meeting

The extensive suggestions for amending the new Handbook material necessitated the postponement of a decision by the Conference. The committee agreed that the proposed expansion should include material on the duties of the Board of Trustees and World Service Office personnel but decided to defer its decision on the final version. All changes will be sent to the Delegate members of the committee for review.

The committee did decide not to include a copy of the bylaws in the new version as they apply only in New York State.

The two motions submitted for full Conference vote were:

MOTION made, seconded and carried—that any written material submitted to a Delegate member for corrections should be returned to the committee chairman in advance of the Conference, particularly when major changes are involved. (Unanimous)

and

MOTION made, seconded and carried—that the proposed material for the Handbook as submitted in the 1977 Conference Brochure be referred to the WSO Handbook Committee for further consideration and revision. It will be then submitted to the Delegate members of the Handbook Committee. (Unanimous)

Alice B., Chairman

Institutions Committee Meeting

In reporting on committee activities it was announced that the long-awaited kit for Institutions work was now available to all groups. This inclusive collection of material contains the printed GUIDELINES, a "round robin" letter in which local activities can be reported and sent along to those members who are involved, and timely articles which note progress and cooperation between Area PI and Institutions workers.

The problems of having unqualified volunteers, fear of committing oneself to this area of service, and inactive coordinators were discussed. By far, the assets of personal growth in service, the experience gained, and the love which could be shared, outweighed any negative observations.

It was suggested by the committee that those who were reaching out to potential members emphasize the development of a good rapport with facility probation officers. It was also proposed that we remember that we attract rather than promote, that we are not authorities on alcoholism, that we not attempt to answer questions other than the ones which relate to Al-Anon.

To counter resistance by professionals who feel threatened by our activities, it was suggested that we contact them and offer our assistance.

Mabel (Butch) H., WI

Literature Committee Meeting

All of the varied and valuable suggestions which are made to this committee are discussed by the In-Town committee and those which require full Conference consideration are brought before the Delegate members in person at the Conference Standing Committee meeting. The primary jobs of revision and creation of material require time as well as inspiration.

The goal of the committee this year is to review all literature for possible changes and revitalization. Toward this end it has plans to include suggested material in existing pamphlets, wherever possible, rather than proceed with entirely new titles. It is hoped that members will make use of the considerable amount of information which is contained in our existing literature.

Cooperating with the Staff Writer, the committee has produced much of the work proposed by past Conference members, and other committees. It proposed:

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—that an Alateen Wallet card be developed to include the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alateen, etc. (similar to that which serves Al-Anon)

In response to the many suggestions which came from the Green Light Session, the committee agreed that there should be continued broad coverage of the Twelve Concepts in all publications where feasible. There followed this:

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—that the Twelve Concepts of Service be included in a revision of Al-Anon and Alateen Groups At Work. (3 abstentions)

In addition, it was hoped that time would permit producing some literature with simple, more easily understood language and that inconsistencies and archaic language would eventually be removed.

When requested to do so, the WSO would send advance notice of publications to literature distribution centers so they might be informed and prepared for increased orders from local groups.

The Staff Writer announced that the Executive Committee had approved the production of a 32-page, illustrated booklet for Al-Anon and Alateen members to use as a shared reading experience with young children. One free copy of What's "Drunk", Mama?, would be distributed to every English-speaking group in the United States and Canada, and to Information Services and General Service Offices overseas. Modestly priced at \$.50, the booklet was presented to each Conference member in advance of its mailing in May, 1977.

Bo H., Chairman

P.I. Committee Meeting

In studying the various media and membership requests, the committee concluded that its activities should center on the creation of new TV spots. Then, there would follow the subsequent development of new radio spots, posters, mat ads, table displays and exhibit materials presenting a unified theme with a maximum impact. Delegate members of the committee would be drawn into these efforts by an increase in communication between them, the Staff Secretary and the In-Town committee. Greater emphasis would be placed on reflecting the universal nature of the program through visual representation of a diverse ethnic membership.

Motions to further PI work included:

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—that a pamphlet be

created making professionals, who are dealing with families and friends of alcoholics, aware of Al-Anon as a worldwide community resource. (Unanimous)

MOTION, made seconded and carried—that the Literature Committee develop 15 to 30 minute Conference Approved tapes, based on the format of the series of six beginners' meetings, to be used by members. This material would be translated into other languages as needed. (1 opposed)
Hank G., Chairman

The reports were followed by a
MOTION, made and seconded—that the Standing Committee reports be accepted as presented. (Carried Unanimously)

REGIONAL TRUSTEE PLAN

Loretta L., Chairman

Originally, the Board of Trustees was made up of In-Town Trustees. In order to broaden the scope of representation, a plan was proposed to provide for nominations of Board members who lived outside the greater New York area. The geographic United States was divided into two Regions, East and West, and Canada became the third. Every three years the plan was reviewed, and some modifications were made in procedures, but the number of Regions remained the same.

Feeling the need to increase the number of Regional Trustees, the Board directed its Regional Trustee Committee to prepare a proposal for expanding the number of Regions to six. Regional lines were redrawn to include a like number of groups in each Region. These lines did not follow AA's Regional divisions nor did they act as a limitation of activities to members living in each part of the country; they were merely to provide equal representation for the purpose of nominating new Regional Trustees.

The Expanded Proposed Plan was mailed to all Conference members in November of 1976. At the 1977 WSC, there was general agreement to expand the number of Regions, to increase the number of Regional Trustees and to make the new plan an experimental one for the next three years. There was a

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—to accept the Regional Trustee Plan as expanded and amended; the plan to be experimental for three years.

Therefore, the three Regions have been expanded to six. The first to divide will be the Western Region. A Northwest Regional Trustee and a Southwest Regional Trustee will be nominated from among names submitted to the World Service Office. Each Assembly Area will consider and vote on its own candidate. The Area's choice will complete a resume form, which is supplied by the WSO, and send it to the WSO before January 1, 1978. All the resumes will be mimeographed and sent to members of the 1978 World Service Conference.
(see below for RT election procedures)

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NOMINATION

In mid 1976, the Delegates and Chairmen of the 27 Eastern Region Assembly Areas were asked to submit candidates for nomination as Regional Trustee. Fourteen resumes were received and copied for mailing to those who would be voting at the Conference; the Eastern Region Area Delegates, six Trustees, and six additional Delegates from outside the Region.

After many ballots, Paul L., KY, was chosen as nominee for Regional Trustee and Ruth F., GA was to be the alternate. Both were later elected at the Annual Board Meeting.

In 1978, a new Regional Trustee nominee will be proposed by the Northwest and the Southwest. In 1979, the Canadian Western and Eastern Regions will select a nominee, and

finally, in 1980, the Northeast and Southeast Regions will complete the expansion.

At a special luncheon, Delegates who will choose the two western Regional nominees met with Loretta L., Chairman of the Regional Trustee Committee to discuss (1) past experiences and pitfalls when nominating a candidate, (2) qualifications, (3) responsibilities of the Regional Trustee, (4) nominating methods, (5) how to use the sample letter as a guide, (6) the Resume Form, (7) notifying World Service Office, (8) Delegates' responsibilities, and (9) how candidates are nominated according to the "Rotation System."

OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Professionals

It was at this time that the members were to consider topics proposed earlier. Margaret O'D. and Ann S. had been asked to handle the overall subject of "Problems with Professionals." Of prime concern was the injection of treatment center philosophy and terms during Al-Anon meetings. Equally difficult situations seemed to involve: counselors who were using the groups as confrontation-therapy units; referrals of non-eligible drug-related family members; presentation of an attendance card to be signed by Al-Anon group officers; and the continuous promotion by local Information Services of professionals as speakers.

Solutions proposed by Conference members indicated that some of these difficulties could be directly met at the group level. Professionals would have to be informed that *we* are not professionals, that we are not interested in learning to be better group therapists. Members would have to personally challenge attending professionals who were "out of line." Referral agencies should be notified that a group is responsible only to help those whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. Local Newsletters and the *FORUM* could carry articles reminding Information Services that professionals and/or their writings are not a primary source for study for Al-Anon members, neither should an Al-Anon meeting be used as a testing service or laboratory for those studying the effects of the disease on family life. It seems that it is the responsibility of every Al-Anon member to let professionals know *who* and *what we are*, now that they know *where* we are.

A Delegate summed up the need to let our friends know the limits of their activities in this very important field of recovery, with the pun, "Let's separate the wheat from the *shaft*!"

Mailing list

All open sessions were marked by active participation by Conference members. It was remarkable to hear the varied suggestions and experiences offered on the topics which had been proposed for consideration. In the case of the question "Should the Alternate Delegate be added to the mailing list?" there were many points of view expressed. The points raised included: sending two copies to the Delegate, one of which could be passed on to the Alternate or an active Chairman; not sending the mail to the Alternate as the contact between Delegate and Alternate often depends on the need to transfer information and would, perhaps, disappear should the WSO handle the job; sending a selective amount of material from the WSO to the Alternate. Bob D., PA, presided at this discussion period and asked for a show of hands which would indicate a general preference that could be presented to the Conference Committee as a suggestion. A majority was in favor of adding the Alternate Delegate to the mailing list and favored sending the same material to both the Delegate and the Alternate.

Duties of the Regional Trustee

Paul L., RT of the Eastern Region shared the podium with several Delegates in order to bring to light the many ways in

which a Trustee acts with and for the fellowship. It was Paul's feeling that a Trustee owes no particular loyalty to a Region but acts within the dictates of his conscience as a member of the Board of Trustees. A Trustee, therefore, is not a "super Delegate" with his or her ear tuned only to the workings within a geographical area. He suggested that there should be guidelines for Regional Trustees in light of the increased demands for closer ties between the Board and the members across the nation and Canada.

Specialization of Groups

In a spirited but healthy exercise in differing opinions, Conference members addressed themselves to the specialization and subdivision of members into groups which cite a particular life-style or condition in their names; i.e. Parents, Separated, Stag, etc. Those who proposed a change in the Policy advocated not registering groups who used a name which would imply a restricted membership. Others felt that a group name was part of its autonomy and that the policy should remain the same. Currently, the WSO will register "any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that meetings will be open to any Al-Anon member." The decision of the Conference was not to amend the policy. Marleen D., Hawaii, presided at this exchange.

Anonymity

It fell to Dottie D., NV, to oversee the dialogue on using full names at a service level. In the light of the earlier discussions which pointed out how anonymity can be a barrier to communications, many Conference members felt there was a tendency to confuse the Traditional anonymity required at the level of press, radio, films and TV with the personal choice not to remain anonymous at a service level. Here, each member of Al-Anon may decide for himself whether or not to use a last name. The many difficulties of anonymity were noted: Without a last name, new members are often helpless in recontacting a member; at a public level, using an initial may draw more attention than not using a last name.

It was further stated that those members who have considered working at a public level might best serve as an acknowledged member of Al-Anon. Conference members spoke of reaching an agreement with a cooperative spouse to make themselves fully available as a contact by using a last name.

To resolve one of the discussions on anonymity at the Conference level, there followed a

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—that full names appear on badges worn at the World Service Conference. (1 opposed, 1 abstention)

WORKSHOP ON COMMUNICATION

To introduce the break-up meetings the "Twenty-third Street Players" put on a skit. The WSO Staff Secretaries, the representative from the United Kingdom and Eire, and our distinguished Chairman of the Board of Trustees donned early Elizabethan costumes and complete with props, presented its version of the "Can't-Ever-Bury-It-Tales." This spoof of communication difficulties centered on the Kingdom of Al-Anon where a newcomer in search of the message of hope found the message a bit obscured by local, District and Area problems. Amid the laughter which welcomed the Representative from Puerto Rico, Isabel R., the French-speaking antics of two Canadians, Fern B., Quebec (E), and Simone M., Quebec (W), and the remarks in Finnish of our visitor Marjatta P., was the idea that disrupted communications can bring the flow of information to a standstill. The Conference was asked to discuss ways in which these problems might be solved.

SUMMARY REPORT OF WORKSHOP MEETINGS

The job of gathering the many suggestions offered by each of the five separate workshop meetings fell to Joan S., the Delegate from Florida. To remedy the inconsistency of terms used by members in service, it was proposed that every effort be made to follow the use of Handbook terms and it was further hoped that there be a limited use of initials when newcomers were involved. It might, therefore, be helpful for Delegates to encourage discussions of Al-Anon terminology at all levels, from the group right on up to the Area.

To aid the Area Newsletter Editors, it was suggested that an Editorial Committee would help to review submitted material and catch errors in Traditions or inconsistency in language. Such a committee would make suggestions rather than orders and could guard against the wholesale use of quotes from Al-Anon literature. It was noted that reprinting of our material, without written permission, endangered our copyright.

Communication difficulties were smoothed out in many instances by contact on a one-to-one basis, however, this is not always possible or practical. The other offerings of opinion centered on the possibility of the WSO sending copies of its correspondence with District members to the Area Delegate; using the publication *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* to share good news (and bad); exchanging newsletters; and encouraging people on all levels of service to communicate with one another, sharing all news and sending it along to the World Service Office.

Assembly meetings posed added communication interruptions. Unless those attending were informed and enthusiastic, information doesn't always filter on down the line to the groups and individual members. District workshops and meetings appear to serve as better information centers, and when visual aids, pictures, posters and maps are used there is a greater opportunity for absorbing the shared knowledge and experience. Visits to Districts by Delegates and Alternate Delegates stimulate interest as well. Using an open discussion session (Green Light) has worked in broadening involvement at District and Assembly levels.

Language differences are being overcome in Areas where there is a bi-lingual coordinator who is able to take information from the Assembly to the District levels. It is very helpful to use translations in Newsletters for non-English speaking groups. Personal and Area interest in groups which are having language difficulties has helped to draw them into the service structure.

* * * * *

"We decided to have . . . a 'marriage inventory.'"

For Joy C., of Ontario (N), Al-Anon truths were learned "intellectually" before they were put into practice. Those which she was able to use so beautifully "during the active phase of the disease of alcoholism", she realized, she no longer felt in her heart. "Sobriety was a reality."

"I often felt lonely and rejected when he would pull the blind, mentally." Recognizing that it was difficult for her husband to express warmth and approval during the early years of sobriety, Joy had to learn to share her feelings to "feel the healing taking place."

The knowledge that her own "noble acts" were "irritating" helped in beginning to learn "at a level never experienced before."

"As individuals, we were developing more healthy attitudes . . . we were slowly maturing emotionally, and both of us were prepared to work on our marriage. Sharing our feelings with each other, changed the course of our lives. It allowed us a second chance."

"To say what I mean, and mean what I say, is not easy."

For Lois B., Saskatchewan, being brought up in a loving home where "appreciation of another person was expressed

openly," there still remained the tacit agreement not to express feelings of pain, fear or anger. As she grew older, she lost her ability to express herself verbally and "soon learned not to express love openly," in her alcoholic marriage.

It was through Al-Anon and service that she developed her ability to communicate and to recognize that she needn't be the middle-man between her husband and her children and that with her own personal growth, her home life could be improved.

Her demanding service life helped her to gain self-confidence, to handle the many difficulties as they were presented, and to grow in cooperation, trust and love.

SHARING AREA HIGHLIGHTS MEETING

This meeting is held primarily for Delegates to deal with items which would not require full Conference attention nor resolution. Topics under consideration are general in nature and not part of the Conference agenda.

Irene R., who had been elected last year to chair the meeting, had written several questions to Delegates which they were to consider. The meeting was open to all Conference members who cared to observe, and it was Irene who brought us the

Meeting Report

Delegates who were contributing material to the publication, *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* were asked to note the destination of their remarks on the envelope and to share the "low lights" and the "highlights."

In discussing how to plan/coordinate workshops held prior to an Assembly, Delegates offered plans for meeting structures and formats. It was a decided advantage to gather material for these meetings well in advance and to let District Representatives help to publicize the topics to be handled.

Increased communications, letters and phone conversations, were offered as counterbalances for overlapping of the responsibilities of the Delegate and the Area Chairman.

Having meetings at the Area Assembly creates an opportunity for better coordination of Area Activities. One Delegate said she had asked Alateen groups to plan a session.

There were many suggestions put forth to help make the Traditions come alive. Groups may avail themselves of several skits from the WSO and many local members have developed their own presentations which are more interesting and vital than just reading the Traditions out of the literature.

Under-active service committees might be stimulated after taking a group inventory, and Al-Anon guidelines, it was noted, are always more helpful when they are kept up-to-date by Delegates' sharing of effective activities.

Many Delegates commented on the need to answer all letters sent in by members even if the Delegate was only able to acknowledge their receipt while she searched for an appropriate answer.

There was a request that Conference agenda material be supplied to Delegates early enough for them to bring matters to the attention of those attending District and Assembly Meetings.

Irene K., IL (N), was chosen as the meeting's chairperson next year and Joan S., FL, was asked to be her alternate.

* * * * *

"Why don't you try Al-Anon?"

Barbara S., NH, finally "heard" that important message and in listening, she began to actively participate in a meaningful form of communication. She said that she believed that her Higher Power had continued to help her focus her attention on matters that were meaningful.

It was through experience and an effort to serve the best way she could that Barbara began to grow and share, and experience had taught her that each and every day we are given an opportunity to help ourselves by helping others.

In thinking what she might best say about communication, Barbara had decided to relate the needs expressed to her on one day in April. Her activities were to center around a speaking engagement at the New Hampshire State Hospital where she would address social workers regarding Al-Anon as a resource tool. Two calls presented her with the needs of people who had been affected by another person's drinking: The first call was from a young woman who was concerned about her mother; the second was from a guidance counselor. In helping these people find answers, Barbara found great comfort. It was and is her firm conviction that it is important to be "available to my Higher Power daily should He call on me to serve, however He chooses."

REPORT FROM FINLAND

Marjatta P.

"My name is Marjatta and I am a most grateful Al-Anon member. It is so marvelous to be here.

"My whole trip is a great adventure. When I left my home on Friday morning, I didn't know that I would be in Sudbury, Canada the next day. I had written to my friends in Toronto that I could visit them if that is all right with them, but I got no answer and I thought that I am not going. However, when I arrived at New York airport I called Toronto and my friend said that all things are ready for me. They had written to me but I never got that letter.

"After a moment I was in the Toronto plane. My friends, an AA-couple, met me at the airport and told me that on the next day we would drive with a car to Sudbury and they said too that I should speak there about Al-Anon in a special Finnish AA meeting. I heard from them that the Finnish relatives of alcoholics had had an Al-Anon group before, but it had stopped meeting two years ago. Now they have decided to start it again, because they heard that I was coming all the way to New York for the Al-Anon Conference. They said to me later, that they thought there must be something in Al-Anon because somebody is coming such a long way for Al-Anon.

"The next night I could not sleep because I thought of my speech. I am not a speaker. I don't even remember what I said. Maybe somebody knows. At all events they started an Al-Anon group on Monday evening. The next night after the meeting I couldn't sleep either, because I was so grateful and excited over all the things that had happened. I thought how I nearly didn't go there, and they would have made all the arrangements in vain.

"I have many times found out that especially in Al-Anon, affairs are taken care of by the fingers of the higher power arranging the things. In my own affairs too, but I don't always accept the way and means of my higher power. I am so stubborn.

"Now I am here in this Conference and I am feeling happy. You have been so very marvelous to me. Hildegard has shared her room with me, because I had none and you the others have been very friendly too. Love is shining from the faces of all of you. I am hoping that I have understood enough that I can report my knowledge to my Area.

"Communication is our lifeline and we in Finland are waking up to take part in this communication. Someone here said, that without communication we begin to go in different directions and this is it, what we have done. But maybe, when we take part

in this communication we will grow with you all in the same direction.

"I have not much to say because I am here to learn something. I am hoping that one day the representative of Finland can share some from our own experiences too. But so far we are only learning. Last year I attended the U.K. & Eire Conference and I wrote about it in our newsletter. Now I am thinking that something is happening and we need some more information.

"We have about 90 groups in Finland. We have an Al-Anon Office in Helsinki with one regular and one part-time staff member. Some group representatives and some district representatives come together in a Service Meeting that meets 10-12 times in a year. We have a Board too. Both of the meetings are held at different times. We do not have activities on the district level in all our districts. Some have but some have not.

"We have no officers either on the group level or on the district level. In the groups we have only one officer at a time. She opens the doors, makes coffee, is a treasurer and chairman at the same time. This office is rotating. Maybe it is so because we have no instructions. The only instructions we have are in the book *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC* but we are saying that they are only suggestions.

"Participation is the Key to Harmony" is the 4th Concept. We have not translated the Concepts yet, but when I am looking to you, I can see that it is true.

"We have lots of books and pamphlets but no service books and we must get our own Handbook, where we have instructions for all the activities of service. I am thinking that the structure of U.K. & Eire is nearer to us than yours. But something is happening in Finland. We will see.

"Thank you all that I could come here and see all your wonderful sharing."

REPORT ON AL-ANON IN THE UNITED KINGDOM & EIRE

Jan B., Secretary, C.S.O. London

I realise that—with one gap in 1971—my visit here is completing a decade of participation from the United Kingdom & Eire in Al-Anon's World Service Conference. This is the 9th time that one of us has attended. Also I am privileged to know personally and to count among my greatest friends, each of those who have preceded me. At our own Service Conference last September, when I was elected to serve in this job, there were already—although it was only our 7th Conference—a total of 24 members who fell into the category of having attended 3 U.K. & Eire Conferences—the one stipulation for candidates for consideration. From these 24, six were willing to stand; although I am thrilled to be here, I would also like to say that those 6 names comprised: 1 from Northern Ireland; 1 from Eire; 2 from Scotland; and 2 from England. So willingness to SERVE, if asked, was widely spread over our Area.

I well remember the excitement in our local group when we received all the papers relating to the "one-year-trial-period" for setting up a structure, dividing our Area into 14 Districts. This was in January 1970. But this was quickly followed by a letter from our newly opened GSO in London, saying they realised that, due to our isolation, (just our one group for many, many miles in any direction) we would be unable to be a part of a District for the time being. But they had reckoned without our enthusiasm—and so began our Sunday trips every 3 months down into Yorkshire to join up with other groups there. Today there are 22 Districts, each one beyond the original 14 being a natural sub-division due to growth. Last September, when we only had 21 Districts, all but 2 of these 21 were able to send a DR to Conference; this year it now looks as though there may

be 21 out of the 22 Districts represented—so the gap is getting smaller. From the 10 known groups in 1960, we'd grown to 100 by the time our first office opened in January 1970. October 1975 saw the move to our present larger office, and by January 1st to just over 400 groups.

[And a brief personal touch here, that might interest you: in my own home group, and in several others within our District 9 (Yorkshire and Northeast Counties) the membership is now about 50-50 male and female. In one group I know of, the girls were outnumbered by the men at one meeting! I hasten to add this does not pertain all over our Area; other districts keep asking us what we've got that they have not]

I would like to draw your attention to the off-shore Island groups; Isolation from the mainland in no way reduces—it might even accelerate—the spread of alcoholism. Our Area takes in the Channel Island of Jersey and Guernsey, which are not shown to scale—they are in fact nearer to France than to England. Apart from our London General Service Office, there is also a flourishing Al-Anon Information Centre in Dublin. I received a letter 2 weeks ago from one of the members who was instrumental in getting this started, and she reports great strides recently in co-operation with all the medical services there. Another point: "the Border" so often in the news in Ireland is frequently crossed by members who live near it. If the nearest group is "across the border" according to which side they happen to live—then that is often where they go.

I would like to tell you of three things that happened in 1976 which I personally feel are important:

1. *The U.K. & Eire Service Handbook*. After a 3 year trial period, this was adopted by Conference in September last. I would like to pay tribute to the hidden hours of unremitting service, spread over more than 4 years, given by that Committee, which began as a Handbook Committee and later became our Literature Committee. We all owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their perseverance, concentration, and sheer hard work in adopting and adapting the World Service handbook, and tailoring it to the needs of our Area. It is NOT a set of rules; it will serve us well, and allows for additions and/or alterations as we continue to grow.

One point from within here I have been expressly asked to tell you about, in case some Delegates may find the idea helpful. Among the listed duties of our *World Service Conference Representative* are included the following:

- a) To pass on some of the knowledge he has gained to Districts, and through them to their Groups, by making a tape for them.
- b) He sends this tape to General Service Office with a request to have it copied and sent to each DR free, together with a cover in letter from him; and further down the line:
- c) He is an ex-officio member of the General Service Board and attends U.K. & Eire Service Conference, where he should answer questions arising from his tape, which by then DRs and their Committees should have heard.

(Personally, I intend making one side of the tape for use at District Meetings and on the other side to give only a 20 minute talk aimed at all members listening in ordinary Closed meetings; thus not taking up too much meeting time.)

2. *The Literature Committee*—as such—have now completed their 3 year term and have retired. I know WSO are aware of the vast amount of work they have accomplished. But, for continuity, and with the approval of our General Service Board, they have set in motion a Literature Panel,

experimental for one year. The Board have elected a Literature Liaison Member (an outgoing DR this year) who in turn has asked a member from Eire and one from Scotland, to joining her in this work. This will all be done by correspondence from their homes; the Panel is to report in writing to our General Service Board meetings in May and September. It is now part of a WSCR's job to take back copies of any CAL items which have been revised in the past year, and which are printed in the U.K. (and we do print a total of 19 items, plus ODAT, in our own country) so that the Panel can, when necessary, "anglicise" them and substitute local statistics applicable to our Area.

3. *U.K. & Eire Service Conference.* For its first 4 years, this was a one-day affair held in London. In 1974 we moved it away from London and made it into a whole week-end. It continues to be held in Nottingham University each September. But up to and including 1975, much of the preparation for it had to be done in the London office. Last year our CSB took a bold step; they invited one of our ex-DRs to be the next Conference Chairman, and to form her Committee from her own District. She recruited her Conference Secretary and Conference Treasurer (neither of whom had yet attended a previous Conference) and these 3 members, working from their homes, organised for us a wonderful conference. They produced the Brochure, mailing it well in advance to all DRs, Board Members and GSO Staff attending; and they also produced and despatched well over 450 copies of the Summary. They were supported in this latter task of despatching by willing support from other members of the Leeds Group. This same committee is now hard at work preparing for this year's Conference.

1976 also saw the rotation of the Editorial Committee, in February, to a new team of volunteers from Reading. GSO receives the finished product from the printers—and pays their bill!; volunteer workers in GSO do all the despatching etc., and circulation is now over 2,100 per month. *New & Views* also makes a good profit!

Thus 2 major parts of our service: both Conference and our magazine are achieved away from GSO, which is always busy with all the other things it has to do. I have two special messages for you from Jean G.: she reports that as a direct result of her visit here last year, our Districts are gradually becoming more PI conscious.

Her second message is this: during one day at the office, in between other things, she handled: an enquiry about Al-Anon in Libertyville, Illinois; an enquiry as to whether there was any Al-Anon in Egypt; and finally a call from a Royal Air Force Officer about to be posted to München Gladbach in West Germany;—was Al-Anon within reach?—if not, then he would try to start a group. As Jean said, London's GSO feels very much a part of World Al-Anon.

Finally, some personal thoughts on the theme of this Conference—Communication our Lifeline. I was thrilled when I heard of it; having for over 3 years been responsible for the editorship of *New & Views* (and incidentally in the process learned a complete new "trade" which is a skill I hope to re-use in other ways in the future)—I know all too well the value of the written word. But to be fully effective, every written word needs a reader. In all communication there is both an active and a passive role, isn't there?

I shall be forever grateful for an Open Al-Anon meeting held during the first big AA Convention that I attended; it was in Bristol in 1971. The theme of the meeting was Our Three Legacies. I'd only been a member for about 18 months at the time, and consider myself fortunate to have "cottoned-on" right there and then, to the indestructibility of our triangular

emblem, provided the three sides are of equal strength. Teresa from Memphis was there, and spoke so well on Unity through the Traditions; and then our previous Secretary to the General Service Board, Ann F., spoke on Service. Her talk made a profound impression on me; maybe this is why I did not hesitate when—out of the blue—a telephone called from GSO asked me, in 1972, whether I could take over the magazine job, as they were so short staffed, and it was a job that *could* be done through the post. I'd absolutely NO idea of the work involved; I was as green as grass. but how glad I was of my answer. The rewards I received in return have been both lasting and are without price. One thing that struck me particularly while doing that job was the vital need for our GRs to be encouraged to serve their full term and thus keep the links in the chain working. Communication is weakened when this does not occur.

I am delighted to see my WSC Annual Reports, that the former title "WHY CAL?" is being restored to that leaflet—for, to my mind it is one of the most essential. I know there is no compulsory reading in Al-Anon, *but*, if there were, then this would be my choice for all who wish to serve our fellowship. But, having said that, it takes for granted, doesn't it, that all members can read? During 1976 there has been a big campaign in England on the BBC, both Radio and TV, to help those adults who have a reading problem. I read the introductory article, which—cutting things down to size—very aptly explained that for every double-decker bus full of adults (and that means about 70 people) there would be at least 3 who had a literacy problem. Then, with consummate insensitivity, the article ended by asking anyone who could not read to fill up and send off a coupon from the bottom of the page! But when we were having a Workshop on Sponsorship at last year's Conference, and were discussing which, and how much, literature to give to the newcomer, I was prompted to apply what I had read about adult illiteracy to Al-Anon. I suggested that we should always be alert enough to notice if any newcomer seemed reluctant to take literature; might he or she perhaps—be someone suffering from the stigma of being unable to read? After the session was over, a very new DR came over and thanked me; she could not read properly when she came to Al-Anon but was too ashamed to admit it. Her sponsor rubbed the fact though, and taught her to read fluently, using CAL instead of a textbook.

I feel sure that, through Al-Anon, most of my 5 Senses now have a heightened awareness. *Sight*: an example—for me—is in reverse; namely, to remember *not* to watch my partner too closely! *Sound/Hearing* I was on holiday in the far northwest of Scotland a few years ago, and walked along a shingly beach at low tide about 6 o'clock on a gorgeous morning. Eventually I sat down to soak up the peace and quiet. Not a tripple; for once no birdsong; even our dog was absolutely still. And I listened—really listened—to that deep silence. Very gradually however, I realised it was *not* completely silent. There was just a tiny whisper; a very, very faint rustle. I tracked it down—of all things—to the damp seaweed all around me drying out in the sun. I'd *never* have noticed that before Al-Anon! *Touch*: let us never forget some of the silent forms of communication; the quiet hand on another's shoulder in passing—this and others like it can express so much. A smile across a crowded room; and a wink (something I cannot give, but love to receive!) *Smell*: how not to react to the whiff of alcohol when and where we least expect it! *Taste*: I'm stumped here for an example, though I'm sure there must be one. . . .

For me, the paradox is this: only since making a later marriage when I was 48 did I come face to face with alcoholism, and it stopped me in my tracks. My adult education began at 50 when I joined Al-Anon. Yet, through the rough and the smooth since then—and it has not all been smooth—I have been constantly provided for, and enjoy a security, married to some-

one recovering from alcoholism, that I've never before known. For you see, I was twice widowed in my younger years, and for many years brought up those two sons I mentioned at the beginning of this talk as the sole breadwinner. From among the many pleasures and pursuits that I now follow I would pick the joy of reading as my favourite. All kinds of reading. Somewhere recently I found a tid-bit that—for me—highlights the difference between my attitudes *now*, and what they were before I came to Al-Anon.

An author was giving some advice to his daughter about the art of writing and said: "Remember, there are really only 2 types of people. Those who come into a room and say: 'Well, HERE I AM,' and those who come in and say: 'Ah, THERE YOU ARE.'" The difference between the two sums up very neatly the whole art of the two-way topic of that lifeline of our, *Communication*. What an utter fool I would have felt, and looked, in the last 20 minutes if all of you had not been here to listen to me talking my head off!

* * * * *

"Communication is our Conference lifeline."

For Martin D., IL (S), the Conference was most valuable when good communication was the order of the day. Martin felt that Al-Anon at a service level had benefitted from honest and open sharing. He was no longer worried that diverse opinions would cause dissension among us. He believed that improved communications meant improved understanding; whether or not all Conference members agreed wasn't as important as their willingness to discuss how they felt. In this, his last opportunity to address the Conference as a Delegate, Martin expressed his joy in the release from past tensions and his optimism for the future of Al-Anon.

PANEL ON COMMUNICATION

Many of the members of Al-Anon are not presently living with an alcoholic. They have, nonetheless, been affected by their previous experiences, or the alcoholic's previous experiences with drinking. Because they have a different life-style and circumstances they are able to add considerably to their Al-Anon meetings where members are asked to "identify not compare." All three speakers commented on how they sought to use the program's Twelve Steps toward their recovery in the same way they had heard them used by the other members.

Julie J., of NM, spoke of her experience as a widow:

"My feelings were not unlike those I had when I first found Al-Anon. The best way to work through my grief came through changing my attitudes by working the program.

"Do you remember the 'limbo' that many of us lived in prior to Al-Anon? That feeling of being out of touch with reality. A widow feels just as dazed, just as numb and just as lost. She wears an outside public image face and keeps her tears at bay, most of the time, until she's alone. Remember the 'aloneness' when the alcoholic was drinking? Well, it's back again! Resentment too comes to pay its respects. No one really understands what we are experiencing, and there are so many things to be taken care of, his duties and your own. Things break down; problems arise and there's no shoulder to cry on; no spouse to help you solve them. Doesn't this all sound familiar?

"What about the children? They were certainly affected by the drinking and our insane reaction to it. Now they grieve for their lost parent and they need a lot of our loving attention. But here we are all bound up in our own grief-work as we once were all bound up in our self-pity over having chosen an alcoholic for a mate.

"I can relate loss to the same feeling I felt when my alcoholic, while he was drinking cut me off from our warm, loving companionship. . . . It wasn't just a matter of his being sober, he

just wasn't there. My life style changed and I resisted it and presented it and practically refused to accept it. How pleasant and inviting my former world, my little cocoon appeared. I could go hide from reality in it. Thank God for Al-Anon. That cocoon didn't fit so comfortably anymore. There was nothing to do but fly free again.

"So I found myself once again trying to apply the first step to my life. What a struggle to accept what I had no choice but to accept. Then the state of confusion and indecision had to go! Order had to have a place in my life, so I made use of Steps Two and Three. When I turned by life over to 'H.P.' He told me the only way to create any order was to take the Fourth Step Inventory, to pinpoint the problems and then deal with them one at a time, putting first things first.

"When, after a while, 'patches' of joy came back into my life, I had to learn not to feel guilty about being happier. I began to open up and share myself with people once again. I had more calls for help then ever before. How did I manage those calls? Just as I had managed any calls before I was widowed. Answering those calls strengthened by our program.

"People have questioned me as to why I still attend meetings now that I'm no longer living with an alcoholic. Well, Al-Anon was never 'for the alcoholic,' it was for me! I came into it to find a happier, better way of living and now, having found it, I have no intention of going back to my former existence.

"Fortunately, I've never been made to feel out of place at a meeting now that I'm a widow. 'We're a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share our experience, strength and hope in order to solve our common problems.' Remember that there was no miraculous cure or healing for us when the alcoholic stopped drinking. We were still sick! Just because we weren't living with the active problem no one asked us to leave. The death of our alcoholic doesn't make us whole either. We're very likely to be more torn apart than before. At times I'm sure it's difficult for some members to really relate to us, but they do try to understand. We can still share our program with others at the meetings.

"There's a tendency to elevate the deceased, to forget he was terribly human and an alcoholic. We can neither dwell on the past nor entirely gloss over it. It's necessary to just look at it and accept it as it was. I've always been a forgiving person with a wall functioning 'forgettery,' so I never held onto bitter memories of the drinking days. But I need to be reminded enough to enable me to relate better with the troubled newcomer.

"I still don't understand why I had to face this 'separation,' but acceptance is coming gradually. I'm learning to live again and to want to live and enjoy life."

Marlene D., Hawaii, read "Jacquie's Story" as her presentation. Jacquie had married a sober alcoholic, a man who had celebrated four years in AA.

"I attended a few meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous before our marriage, but it didn't occur to me that the program should or would apply to me.

"Soon after our marriage I began feeling restricted. We couldn't seem to socialize as other young couples did. It was hard for me to understand why my husband couldn't take just one drink at a social event. I also couldn't understand why he had to leave the party when it was in full swing and some of the guests were imbibing freely.

"During that first year of marriage, I grew resentful and frustrated. In addition to my own mixed up feelings, I became mediator between my husband and his children since they had lost the ability to communicate. I had dreadful outbursts of anger and would waken my husband in the night to argue, just so he would give me some of his time—his days were filled with his business concerns and I had feelings of loneliness and

despair. I kept asking myself, 'Is this all there is to marriage? How long can I exist like this?' I accused the sober alcoholic of things non-existent, possible looking for an excuse to leave him. How incredibly self-centered I had become as I would share nothing in our marriage anymore except arguments and blame. "How did I come to know my rightful place Al-Anon?"

For Jacquie, a London conference proved to be the answer. There she sat beside a total stranger and told her 'tale of woe.' That stranger recommended Al-Anon, and while it took 'rock bottom' and one entire year before she went to her first meeting, it was there she received help.

Not all members understand her need for identification with those who lived with an 'alcoholic personality' and her first meetings were not all pleasant but she continued to go because her husband was going to AA and living his program while she was "still causing all the scenes and desperate for answers."

"I have learned our primary spiritual aim is to help one another without prejudice—that we are all equal in God's sight. Learning the nature of my feelings has given me answers to the torments of depression and anger.

"In helping another member, I know now that although I do not identify with another's environment, I can identify and empathize with feelings of emotional and physical suffering. *I have been there.* I know the hope I had and still have for my own recovery. My lifetime project is for continuous growth in Al-Anon,

"Now that Alcoholism is affecting so many of our youth, there are more people marrying sober alcoholics. They need Al-Anon. Please welcome people like me!"

Hildegard M., *FORUM* Editor, was the last to speak. She spoke as an Al-Anon member who continues to make Al-Anon meetings part of her life even though she is now divorced.

Her time in Al-Anon was divided into two parts—the first eight and a half years when she was married and lived with a drinking problem, and then the next three and a half years when she was separated and divorced. During the first part she hadn't realized what had happened to her, and had become withdrawn. In trying to hide the problem she had lost communication with her husband and her friends; a neighbor said to her, "All you ever talk to are the dogs and the children on the block." And since she had been brought up agnostically, she had no communication with her Higher Power.

Through Al-Anon she found her Higher Power, continued to grow and went back to editorial work. But it took a long time for her to be able to take the First Step and she finally decided to make the extremely difficult decision to separate.

When she moved to a nearby town she felt very grateful that her Higher Power had set her down near a Step meeting. "Even though I was no longer living with the problem I never considered not going to Al-Anon." She said, "I was an Al-Anon member and I didn't feel that I had become different." It was the loving and nonjudgmental acceptance of the group that gave her the confidence to regain her identity, to communicate honestly with the members of the group and with others, and to release her husband with love.

Referring to a letter that will appear in the June issue of the *FORUM*, she quoted, "Once we have taken the step to join Al-Anon, the alcoholic is no longer in the picture, we are here to help ourselves, so that makes us all equal." Hildegard pointed out that if we are aware of this we can reach out to all those who come into our Al-Anon group under seemingly different circumstances.

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"Nothing is quite so annoying as to have someone go right on talking when you're interrupting."

Friday Morning

Simone M., began with the Serenity Prayer in French; evaluation forms were given to all members for their welcome comments and suggestions for improving and planning the 1978 conference; the morning business began with a

Slide Presentation

AA has produced a slide film with sound to help members become familiar with the work done at its General Service Office. In her presentation, Margaret O'D., urged the completion of a similar project for Al-Anon membership, citing the value of showing the wide scope of activities and services handled by the many volunteers, employees and Staff members at the Al-Anon World Service Office. The Conference agreed and there followed this

MOTION, made, seconded and carried—that a slide film production illustrating the WSC activities be produced for distribution to the membership.

AL-ANON/ALATEEN PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MEETINGS

Anna Marie B., Moderator

There appears to be an increasing desire for Delegate involvement in meetings which are "regional" in nature. This has given rise to any number of difficulties: AA and Al-Anon Regional lines are not the same; there are three times as many AA Regions as Al-Anon. When an AA Regional Meeting is planned, Al-Anon Delegates have been confused. Which Areas should respond and participate? What Delegates should attend—past, present, or newly elected Panel members? Are Assembly funds supposed to be used to send Al-Anon Delegates to participate in AA Regional Meetings? and what about Al-Anon attendance at service oriented meetings such as AA Regional Forums?

The AA General Service Office helped to answer some questions. Service oriented *Regional Forums* are closed. They are more like an AA Assembly and not of general interest to the family members.

AA *Regional Meetings* have an open registration and Al-Anon participation is usually welcome. Each Regional has developed its own particular operating procedures and they may vary from one part of the country to another.

Anna Marie B., UT, attended the AA *North West Pacific Regional Service Assembly* in Seattle Washington, and was asked to bring her knowledge of that event to the Conference. She covered finances, the duties of a Chairman and Co-Chairman; the program, decoration, hospitality, registration, and literature committees. She noted that what was a workable plan in the AA NW Pacific Region would not necessarily apply elsewhere.

Al-Anon Regional lines were drawn for purposes of electing a Regional Trustee to serve on the Board of Trustees but they were not ever intended to be lines which would limit activities to members living in that part of the country.

Delegates are free to attend Al-Anon and AA *Conferences, Regionals, Get-togethers, Round-ups, Conventions, etc.*, at which they are welcome. Usually, if they are invited as speakers, their expenses are provided by those who issued the invitation.

There is no provision in the Handbook for an Al-Anon Assembly to provide funds for Delegates to travel to AA Regionals because Assembly treasuries are collected primarily to pay direct Assembly costs and the Delegates' Equalized Expenses share for the World Service Conference. Like group

treasuries, Assembly treasuries should not accumulate large balances "less problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary Spiritual aim." (Tradition Six)

Experience proposes that a greater involvement by Assembly members in *Al-Anon Area Conventions* is most rewarding. Myrna H., Assistant to the General Secretary, reported that the WSO will be producing guidelines for *Al-Anon Conventions* of this kind once it has received the necessary feedback from Areas where such meetings have been held.

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"There are no dumb questions, only the ones you do not ask."

Aware that her early communications with *Al-Anon* members were contradicted by her attitude and her body language, Anna Marie, UT, was surprised to find herself, as a Delegate, twisting her beads until they broke, bringing total silence at an Area meeting. She realized that until the very "human" moment some members had placed her on a "different plain," a kind of you're-a-Delegate-so-you're-supposed-to-be-in-full-control level.

Being pegged as the "expert" often reduces the opportunity for sharing because Anna Marie finds it necessary to remain silent when asked, "What do you think?" allowing others to recognize their own need to share.

It was at the Area Spring Rally that communication was put to the test. In response to an overwhelming, if silent, plea to "do something," Anna Marie responded by urging the members to follow the Handbook procedure, reminding them that not doing so in the past had caused great difficulties.

Service as a Delegate has helped Anna Marie to help others "on a larger scale."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Penny B., Chairman

Penny presented the Slate of nominees proposed to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

The Charter states that no Trustee may serve for a period of more than six consecutive years and that, as an incorporated trusteeship, the Board chooses its own successors. This choice is subject to the approval of the Conference.

Those proposed as members of the Board were: Stephanie O'K., for a second three-year term; Henry G., for a second three-year term; and Henrietta S., for her first three-year term. Nominations for officers included Stephanie as Chairman of the Board, Norris R., RT, as Vice-Chairman, and Henrietta as Treasurer. The Slate for the Executive Committee contained the names of Ted K., Val Y., F. Carter C., and Myrna H. Ted's name was proposed as Chairman. Paul L. was on the slate as regional Trustee for the East, and Ruth F. was suggested as alternate.

MOTION, made, seconded, and carried—to accept the slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee as submitted.

* * * * *

"Carrying the Message"

"If I had to do without verbal communication I would no doubt become the best left fielder you ever knew, as I would probably be out there most of the time," was Dotty's explanation of the need for *Al-Anon* meeting where her understanding and interpretation of the program was refined.

Dotty D., NE, felt that communication can take many forms: The acceptance and love for a newcomer and other members,

the moral support or faith that can also be transmitted by a smile, or a nod of the head; and the art of listening and paying attention.

Through an experience with her father she eventually "learned that sometimes it isn't necessary, or possible . . . to have the same degree of communication with everyone." Dotty stressed the idea that it isn't imperative to communicate everything one feels, especially if the other person isn't prepared to handle the message being sent. For Dotty a "feeling of serenity transmits the love and takes care of much of the talking."

Looking and touching are forms of communication, and with these one can communicate friendship and hope.

In summing up, Dotty used three words which she felt were outstanding examples of communication, "World Service Conference," for in the doing lies the success in getting the message to someone else and helping to make them aware of its value.

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"With the help of my Higher Power, I can speak softly."

For Jackie O'C., NB, communication lacked interchange—"I talked to my spouse, my spouse talked to me, each of us trying to impose our own opinion on the other, he telling me why he drank and me telling him why he should quit. Did I listen?—only for the purpose of using his words for ammunition to later throw back at him."

Jackie found release in words from the *FORUM*, "ventilate without hurting someone," and the Bible, "There is a time to speak and a time to keep silent." She used prayerful silence, not to punish but to reflect.

Today, Jackie is more positive with her conversation with those she loves and with co-workers and friends. She lets her feelings be known without anger and negative reactions.

* * * * *

"Communication is our lifeline—I want to remain a part of it."

Pat McC., LA, put a 100 mile roundtrip to meetings into use in the development of a new pattern of communication with her husband.

"As I look back now in retrospect, I know God was working in our lives by arranging things. . . ." This early personal *Al-Anon* experience equalled one she had had as an *Al-Anon* newcomer. She didn't hear much but she said, "I heard your feeling for me. I heard your warmth and your acceptance and your understanding. Later, I felt these things."

In their home, communication was the key factor in rebuilding a 32-year marriage, "turning our house into a home with our children and others."

She concluded by saying, "I hope I never forget what it was like to live with a severe drinking problem because if I do, I will lose my ability to communicate with the newcomer. Our past experience can be a wonderful asset if we can use it in this way. To dwell on the past with resentments and an unforgiving spirit will hinder spiritual growth, but forgiving is remembering without resentments."

"If only the hands that reach could touch."

"If I say 'this is my opinion' I am opening the way for debate, but if I say 'this is how I feel,' no one can argue with that."

ASK-IT-BASKET

This material is of interest to many Conference members since the questions asked by others are often those they would like answered themselves. Drawing on information which can be found in Al-Anon literature and their experience, the panel members answered the following:

Q. Can Al-Anon meetings be closed to Alateens?

A. *This is within the autonomy of a group. Some Al-Anon members are inhibited by the presence of teenagers and would prefer to have their meetings limited to adult members only.*

Q. How do you handle people who use very foul language at group meetings?

A. *Be patient. Realize they're troubled, do nothing until they've been around Al-Anon for some time. If they don't improve, gently suggest that they may be offending a sensitive member.*

Q. Are there different kinds of open meetings? Open to public? Open to only AA and Alateen?

A. *Our "digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies" states that "Closed meetings are for members only. . . . Open meetings may be attended by anyone interested in alcoholism."*

Q. Are all Al-Anon meetings automatically "closed meetings" unless listed as "open" in the WORLD DIRECTORY?

A. *We do not specify open or closed meetings in the WORLD DIRECTORY. Local meetings lists generally make such announcements.*

Q. Does a group have to have officers in order to register?

A. *No.*

Q. Is it important to register a group at the World Service Office and why?

A. *Yes, so it can receive our services and operate within the framework of Al-Anon's structure. Also, publication in the WORLD DIRECTORY provides local contacts for the member who has relocated or is visiting.*

Q. How do most Spanish-speaking groups get started in the USA?

A. *Members who recognize a need for a Spanish-speaking group usually write to the WSO and Teresa M., our Spanish translator, proceeds with registration as is usually done with all other groups.*

Q. Should the groups use variations in the circle of our triangle and not the "AFG" as approved by WSC or a circle without the AFG?

A. *No. Such misuse can jeopardize the registration of our trademarks since the fellowship is encouraged to use our registered trademarks on Al-Anon letterheads, announcements and newsletters.*

Q. Why does the Newsletter WORLD HELLO have a spot in the World Directory.

A. *WORLD HELLO is a meeting-by-mail group which distributes a mimeographed paper to Lone Members of Al-Anon and offers them the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences. As a group, it has a place in the World Directory.*

Q. How literally do we take the Policy regarding copying Conference-Approved Literature in Area Newsletters?

A. *It is permissible to use SHORT excerpts from our literature. As publishers of Newsletters, the editors have a right to quote the Policies and Traditions. The Traditions and Steps are in the public domain.*

Q. What is the policy on book stores selling Al-Anon books?

A. *As a publishing corporation, we are required by law to make our literature available to anyone wishing to purchase it. Book stores may and do carry Al-Anon literature for sale to the public.*

Q. With the new literature order forms, will it be easier to get a bulk supply of the order blank and catalog?

A. *Yes. The new price list and catalog cost less to produce and to distribute through the mail. They may be ordered in bulk for Conventions, etc.*

Q. Is it Al-Anon's business to display and sell AA material at meetings?

A. *We are spiritually allied with AA and we are grateful for their program; however, their material speaks from the AA point of view. If we want the true Al-Anon message, we should display and sell only Al-Anon Conference-Approved Literature.*

Q. Are people from other countries able to order literature from the World Service Office?

A. *Yes. Members wishing material in languages other than English or Spanish are sent a printed form of literature available from the WSO and addresses of Literature Distribution Centers Overseas. We stock a small supply of other language literature.*

Q. Is the money exchange a problem?

A. *Sometimes. We accept American Express money orders, Travelers checks, and, in some cases, foreign currency.*

Q. What is the explanation, as far as our Traditions are concerned, for use of excerpts from the Bible in our ONE DAY AT A TIME, when we are asked by members who do not believe in God as their Higher Power?

A. *Many other spiritual and inspirational quotes in ODAT come from various books, of which the Bible is only one. The author quoted from the Bible because it is a beautiful literary work of spiritual character. No one is required to believe the Higher Power to be God.*

Q. When an Al-Anon or Alateen member sees something in print which is totally wrong, should he try to correct it himself, report it to his District Representative or Delegate or send it along to the WSO?

A. *A newly-formulated Administrative Policy provides that the Public Information Committee will write to national publications to correct misinformation about Al-Anon or Alateen. However, any member is encouraged to do the same whenever he sees a glaring error in print.*

Q. What service does the WSO provide for members of Al-Anon who cannot read?

A. *We do offer some Braille material for people who are sightless. We also have information on how other Braille material and cassette tapes may be obtained by writing to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The Conference has determined that the WSO will be producing cassette tapes in the future. The only other alternative is to use the picture pamphlets or cartoon booklets geared to an easy-to-read level of literature.*

Q. Who is supposed to be the liaison between the group and the WSO? the group and the local Information Service?

A. *The secretary may be chosen by the group to receive all mail from the WSO or the group may name its Group Representative as the recipient. If there is no appointed or elected liaison member for the Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), the*

secretary may act in that capacity. (See Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work.)

Q. How can we encourage the group secretary's notebook to be passed along?

A. By educating each secretary that it belongs to the group and is not considered personal property.

Q. Is it a good idea to have liquor served at an Al-Anon function?

A. It is not too wise since it can cause controversy among members. However, it is matter of group autonomy.

Q. Is Twelfth-Step work for newcomers, sponsorship, or a phase of sponsorship?

A. "Twelfth-Step work" is a term that has been coined by members for carrying the Al-Anon message to others. It does not necessarily signify sponsorship; however, the "Twelfth-Stepper" can, if asked, become the sponsor.

Q. What are the duties and responsibilities of the person doing Twelfth-Step work with the newcomer?

A. It is important to stress the attendance of at least six meetings. If necessary the newcomer might be taken to meetings. The newcomer should be helped to feel that he or she belongs and that we, in Al-Anon, understand as no one else can. We might also explain Alateen and the help it offers children of alcoholics, and briefly tell how Al-Anon is a spiritual program; we do not discuss specific religious doctrines. We can convey the value of telephone therapy.

Q. What do you think of an Al-Anon member sponsoring an AA member?

A. Because of the unique nature of their mutual problem, it is wiser for an AA member to choose another AA as a sponsor. Experience has shown that it is unwise for an Al-Anon member to attempt to fully identify with an alcoholic because they do not share the same physical addiction or mental compulsion for alcohol.

Q. Are white elephant sales which are open to the public in violation of our Traditions?

A. No. Individual Al-Anon members who offer white elephant, flea market, or rummage sales of articles are contributing indirectly to the support of their group. The people who come to these sales are not contributing to Al-Anon: they are buying an article they wish to own. Cash receipts belong to those who donate the items. It is within the Traditions for them to turn over all monies to an Al-Anon group, if they wish to.

Q. Should the Al-Anon name be displayed or used as an advertisement for such sales?

A. No.

Q. Who pays the expenses for "outside speakers" at Conferences and Conventions?

A. In most instances, speakers' expenses are paid by those who issue the invitations.

Q. Would the WSO accept contributions from a group which is not registered?

A. If the group is clearly designated by the contributors as an Al-Anon Family group, the WSO would accept the gift and proceed with registration. Funds cannot be accepted unless they are submitted by an Al-Anon member.

Q. How does an adult go about attending an Alateen meeting?

A. Most Alateen meetings are closed to adults, except the sponsors, because the presence of other adults, especially parents of members, inhibits the free exchange of feelings and ideas. Some groups hold regular open meetings for a special

event, such as an anniversary. The well-established Alateen group may hold open meetings at regular intervals for parents and others to see Alateen in action.

Q. Can anyone attend an Alateen Conference?

A. Many Alateen Conferences have limited registration. Their program is designed for Alateens and Alateen Sponsors. Members of the WSO Alateen Committee often attend. Sometimes the World Service Conference Delegate and other members of the Area Committee are present. Alateen Conferences are announced in the FORUM and ALATEEN TALK, giving an address to write for further information.

Q. What are your opinions and recommendations in sponsoring Post Teen Groups? Should they be encouraged to have an Al-Anon sponsor or, do you consider that they are at an age where a sponsor is not longer deemed necessary?

A. Since the age range of most Post Teen Groups is 16-20, they are encouraged to have an Al-Anon Sponsor and most of them do. Some also have AA Co-Sponsors.

"Be sure your brain is engaged before putting your mouth in gear."

"A person who loses his temper usually loses."

"Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there."

"What does my face say?"

Closing Session

It is only fitting that the Conference should end with its Traditional Spiritual meeting. Theresa M., Spanish Translator, began the meeting by saying the Serenity Prayer in Spanish. Two speakers addressed the members at the final hour, reminding us that our program provides us with the opportunity for communication with a Higher Power.

Penny B., Trustee, former Conference Chairman, was the first to speak. Conditioned to enjoy and respect order and temperance, she had not been prepared to deal with many of the difficulties presented by marriage to an alcoholic. Her charming and diffident suitor suffered a personality change which had her "searching for bottles under the sofa, chairs and bathtub." Near death after the loss of her only child, she left the hospital to return home to utter chaos and disorder. With her husband's progressive drinking had come her own disintegration. Convinced that she had become more a mother than a wife, she knew there would have to be an end to her own bitterness, "resentment, projection, exaggeration, emotional extremes, frustration, suspicion and impatience."

When introduced to Al-Anon, Penny experienced a return of hope. A Registered nurse, with a keen sense of humor, she used the "light touch as a balm of healing." She also learned to *Let Go and Let God* by putting up an imaginary night sign that read, "Closed temporarily for repairs."

Penny's husband was blessed with sobriety and she, in turn, discovered that her personal growth depended on service. It was in her many years of dedicated attention to the needs of others that she gained the strength and ability to live her life to its fullest, ever grateful to share that strength with a "fellowship of equals."

"The essence of prayer is the unconditional acceptance of God's will."

"Happiness is a journey, not a destination."

Ruby D., SC, began "Has anyone told you today, I love you? I do." And it was evident that she did. For Ruby the slow disintegration of her husband's well being was more than she could bear to see. Preoccupied with concern, she spent her time preparing herself for his early death, unable to care for her own living.

It was in Al-Anon that she began her emotional spiritual and physical recovery. Here she learned that "happiness is a journey not a destination," and that she could be in charge of her own well-being. She learned also to communicate with rather than dictate to her children. Finally, her recovery led her to the service structure where, paradoxically, giving meant keeping.

Before the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer, Ruby offered a prayer of her own,

"Thank you God for teaching me to laugh again, but don't let me forget that I cried."

The Conference had looked into the open, far-reaching methods of carrying the message through the many channels of service in our fellowship. Delegates, WSO Staff members and Trustees had joined together supporting the approaches for effective service while cautioning each other to remember—The message is still more important than the means used to carry it. Our lifeline should span the world, free of internal rancor, sustained by our desire to bring hope to the friends and families of alcoholics.

"Don't miss the message just because you don't like the messenger."