

Summary 1978

April 17-22, 1978

18th World Service Conference

AL-ANON

Al-Anon Family Groups New York, New York

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Our Conference Theme:

COOPERATION THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

The shared experiences of Al-Anon members involved in service work assure us that the rewards are doubled when we work together toward a common goal: When we cooperate by following the principles of the program with unity of purpose and action, Al-Anon grows and each of us benefits.

Our individual growth and the growth of our groups comes from generous, tolerant, and often anonymous service. Our recovery begins as we understand our own needs; it continues as we live the program, developing our awareness of the needs of others.

In Al-Anon, this awareness helps us to serve as leaders who are "but trusted servants." We are followers even as we lead and leaders who have learned to follow.

The Opening Banquet . . .

held in the Madison Room of the Biltmore Hotel in New York City, officially began the 18th World Service Conference (WSC). A truly-inspired invocation was given by Stephanie O'K., Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Conference Chairman, Jean A., from Ontario, Canada, welcomed guests, Delegates, the World Service Office (WSO) Conference members and staff. In calling Lois W., Al-Anon's co-founder, to the podium, Jean said that Bill W., AA's co-founder, was "with us spiritually."

In her brief, but loving welcome, Lois noted her joy in the knowledge that "Al-Anon and AA were walking hand-in-hand along a similar route."

The Banquet speaker was Margaret D., first Editor of the FORUM. Gracious and ageless, she recounted her early days in an office where ink froze in pens in the winter and summers turned the first Al-Anon Clearing House into "Lois' sweatshop." It was there that Margaret joined three volunteers on a shirt-cardboard-and-string-budget, answering those first letters from Family Groups which later became Al-Anon.

It was through this service in those very early days and her only child's wisdom, that Margaret truly learned acceptance, and began to give the disease concept of alcoholism more than lip service. Coming out of her shell, believing that the first few Al-Anon volunteers were "in God's pocket," she began to write inspiring messages of hope in the monthly newsletter, later called, Al-Anon Family Groups FORUM.

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For Margaret, Al-Anon "has brought joy, comfort and hope to people in every corner of the world" and she feels she had a "God-given privilege to have had a part in its early growth."

Opening Session, Monday, April 17

began as enthusiastic voices answered "here" and "aloha" to the calling of the roll. Conference members, many still wearing their banquet clothes, slipped happily into a seat they would come to know, only too well during the five full Conference days ahead, to hear a report from the

Admissions Committee,

which announced its recommendations to seat representatives Brian M., from the U.K. and Eire, and Alberto S., from Argentina.

(Also seated: With voice and vote—Sandra F., WSO Staff Overseas Coordinator;

with voice but no vote—Eamon Timoney, Controller; Cay C., Chairman of Publications Francaises; Alberte C., French translator; Eileen McS., Junior Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary.

with no voice or vote —Helen G., Assistant to the Conference Secretary; Teresa M., Spanish Translator; Martha E., Assistant to the Alateen Secretary.

Admissions Committee Report Back—Mary H., Texas (W)

Ada R. (IN); Roslyn C. (OH); Mary H. (TX)W.; Lorain S. (AZ); Joanne B. (Brit.Col.); Suzanne B. (NJ); Virginia W. (LA); Irene P. (ME); and Mary D. (WY) met with Holly C. and Helen G. of the WSO and Paul L., Trustee liaison to consider the petition of the Atlantic Provinces to divide and become two Assembly Areas, The Atlantic Provinces and Newfoundland-Labrador. Jessie B., Delegate from the Atlantic Provinces was asked to explain the extraordinary travel conditions and the Al-Anon interest in both localities which would sustain two Assembly Areas, with its own Delegate. The committee was in favor and presented a motion to divide, (see p. 36) and a motion to have the current Delegate available when any future petitions to divide were presented. A third motion was made to have the seating of non-voting WSO personnel subject to the recommendation of the committee. (see p. 36)

Stephanie's Welcome to the Conference

included the reading of the Twelve Traditions. She then asked all Conference newcomers to rise so they could know "You may be new, but you are not alone." She touched briefly on the move of the World Service Office (WSO) to its new quarters at 1 Park Avenue, New York, NY, noting the extraordinary growth from 4 volunteers to over 50 staff members. She mentioned the additional space now provided for an archives room which would house the historical data of early Al-Anon and the tape recordings of past Conferences. The nature of this year's Conference she termed, "Show and Tell," because of the presentation of much new material for use in reaching an ever-expanding fellowship. In closing, she urged all to consider how well they have carried the message to those whose cooperation they seek.

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

provided an opportunity for members to freely express themselves. The symbolic "green light" indicates that all ideas are "GO." Each member at this session was given a turn to recommend a topic for full Conference discussion and the

suggestions were listed with a bold marker on large pieces of paper which were hung where everyone could see them. During the "red light" portion, of the more than 40 topics introduced, those chosen for further consideration were: WSO Participation in Regional Forums; problems with encroachment by professionals; the ramifications of assembly autonomy, and appropriate action when Conference decisions were not observed; and a discussion on "freezing" the content of ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON. These topics were covered during open sessions held later in the week.

Open Sessions

WSO Participation in Regional Forums—Eleanor O'B., Moderator

It was suggested that Al-Anon consider having a series of regional forum meetings in order to bring the WSO closer to the service arms of the fellowship and the groups they represent. Such "mini" conferences, strictly on service matters, are now in an experimental stage in AA. It was the general consensus that this topic be placed on the Agenda of the 1979 WSC for examination. In the meantime, several avenues will be considered by Staff, Delegates, and Board of Trustee members to determine the feasibility of planning such gatherings.

Resolving Problems with Professionals

—Dot B., MN, Margaret O'D., Staff WSO

Al-Anon has always tried to remain "friendly with our friends." With growth, our scope and contacts with the professional community have broadened. Now, more than ever, it is important to encourage an atmosphere of cooperation while fostering understanding of the Al-Anon program.

Conference members expressed ways they had solved difficulties experienced in Areas where professionals were not aware of the Traditions, were passing out other recovery literature, using the meetings as training programs for personnel, or asking members to sign attendance cards for court officers. It was suggested that professionals not attend closed meetings but be directed to open meetings where they would be welcomed; persistent visitors, unwilling to observe the Traditions could be asked to leave. Keeping the focus on the Al-Anon program, many groups limit the number of outside speakers invited as experts. Group conscience has been formed by members aware of the Traditions who exercise their knowledge in a gracious and loving manner. Court referrals were handled by asking the court to appoint its own officer who could confirm attendance. In one Area, groups took a "Meeting On Wheels" to the court and started an Institutions group in the courthouse. Other solutions were a weekly meeting held in the Judge's chambers, and using the pamphlet, "Working As, For, or With Professionals," which shares experiences in effecting a balance between being a cooperative community resource while maintaining the special nature of the Al-Anon program.

Autonomy—Marilyn M. (MA), Moderator

Several of the "Greenlight" issues dealing with autonomy were addressed during this time period. Essentially, they concerned "enforcing the unenforceable," asking what could be done when a District or Assembly chose to function independently, making decisions contrary to the Conference decisions which affirm Al-Anon policy.

When an Assembly decided to insist on having GRs and DRs, who were also members of AA, the issue was brought to the 1977 WSC where the Admissions Committee proposed what became a unanimous decision not to seat a Delegate who was a dual member of AA and Al-Anon Alateen. This year's discussion acknowledged that an Assembly choosing to ignore the Conference decision would be acting in a spirit which did not

support Al-Anon unity of purpose and action. Recognizing the many benefits gained by service participation, a Delegate suggested that AA members are free to join the AA service structure.

In situations where a District cited autonomy to support and list groups which acted contrary to the Traditions, ignored anonymity, ran meetings using recovery methods from professional sources, or established meetings of a teaching or preaching nature, Conference members could only offer their love and hope. Most groups understand the Al-Anon program is suggested, but policy statements are interpretations of the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service which keep the program consistent, loving and helpful. Those members who see the difficulties can plant a seed, asking groups to check-out a decision by consulting the Policy Digest or bringing the matter to a District or Assembly Meeting.

ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON—Joan S., FL; Alice B.

The next topic was freezing the contents of ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON with no changes or revisions to be made in the material. Those in favor noted the wide use of ODAT which has been translated into many languages and they felt freezing the material would assure consistency of references at meetings and preserve the beauty and nature of the work.

Views were expressed in opposition: The principle of freezing material denied the value of change; if Al-Anon material reflected the fellowship as a whole, then shouldn't the fellowship be permitted to change it when, and if it was necessary to do so? The matter was resolved by a motion which recommended that no change be made without majority approval of the full Conference in session.

Tuesday Morning, April 18

New Delegates Meet the WSO Staff*

This year's meeting for the incoming * Panel 18 was held following a continental breakfast. Fed and coffeed, the new Delegates were introduced to the services provided by the Standing Committees and their World Service Office (WSO) Staff liaison members. The General Secretary, Eleanor O'B. explained her role at the office. She called on Holly C., and Helen G., Conference; Darcy W., and Martha E., Alateen; Ann S., Institutions; Margaret O'D., Public Information (PI); Linda McF., Staff Writer; Hildegard M., Editor of The FORUM magazine; Myrna H., Deputy General Secretary; Sandra F., Coordinator of groups overseas; and Eileen McS., Junior Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary. The contents of the Conference Brochure were discussed. This valuable collection of instructions and back-up material is made available to all Conference members each year to help them in making Conference Decisions.

**A Panel consists of one-third of the Delegates and is elected every third year for a three-year term. The elections of the three Panels are staggered so that a Conference always includes one Panel of Delegates with two years' experience.*

At 8:30 the new Panel and the Staff joined the full Conference for the

morning sessions:

Jean's greeting at roll call included an opening prayer for our loved ones whose cooperation had helped us to be free to serve. She then introduced Lois W. who sparked the proceedings with her pleasant "good morning" talk. Diminutive in stature, she delivered a big message. "In AA and Al-Anon," she said, "there is happiness, usefulness and joy . . . and a love found nowhere else. Members stay for a lifetime . . . there is no resigning." She concluded by emphasizing that in all conference proceedings, as in Al-Anon itself, "the word is 'love'."

Conference Voting Procedure

Eleanor O'B. covered the method needed to present recommendations in the form of motions for a full Conference vote. Because there are more than 100 voting Conference members, there is a bit more formality than would be needed at a local group. Full explanations appeared in the Conference Brochure.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Holly C., Conference Staff Secretary

Holly read the appointments of new members of the Conference Standing Committees which had been made by mail.

	PANEL 17 1977-1979		PANEL 18 1978-1980	
ADMISSIONS:	Lorain S. AZ Joanne B. B.C. Suzanne B. NJ		Virginia W. LA Irene P. ME Mary D. WY	
AGENDA:	Ena S. ALTA Beatrice H. MT Esther S. WV		Mairi S. CT Syntha E. NB Carolyn McC. NY(S)	
ALATEEN:	Mary N. OK Helen V. VA Connie D. WA		Bessie L. SC Irene B. SD Loretta R. MO	
HANDBOOK:	Bill M. MS Mary Frances T. ND		Marsha N. NH Blanca R. PR	
INSTITUTIONS:	Jessica B. AT. PROV Ruth H. NC Mabel H. WI		Adean M. UT Beulah duG. ONT(N) Rosemarie G. NM	
LITERATURE:	Vernie S. CA Marilyn M. MA Jean T. OR		Barbara P. AR Lodema S. ID Audrey G. SASK	
PUBLIC INFORMATION	Mel W. AL Judene G. CO Fernande B. QUEBEC(E)		Edna C. IL(S) Helen W. IA Winnie G. NV	

Standing Committee Report-backs follow each committee's Annual Report.

After a delightful luncheon held in the suite adjacent to the main meeting room, the Conference members were treated to the

ALATEEN TOWN HALL—Bonnie R., Chairman;

Darcy W., Staff Secretary;
Martha E., Assistant

Darcy W., the new Alateen Staff Secretary, introduced Bonnie R., who replaced Carole K., as Chairman of the Committee, when Carole found it necessary to resign. Bonnie, a resident of South Bound Brook, NJ, has long been involved in Alateen.

Bonnie explained that the committee would present a play in three acts, "Saturday Night Sponsor Fever," involving the challenges and benefits of being an Alateen Sponsor. After each act, discussion would be welcomed; the suggestions and solutions would be compiled and included in a pamphlet already in progress for Alateen Sponsors. The In-Town Committeemen, Dave B., Kathy McD., Edith G., Timmy W., and Amanda M. were the cast.

The First Act dramatized the Sponsor's relationship with the Alateen Group, "The Dictator", featured the Sponsor who arranges the meeting, from speaker to closing, without consulting the members; "The Nag," an overt disciplinarian; "The Cut-Offs," a chronic interrupter; and "No Favorites," an obviously biased Sponsor. "But the World Service Office Says . . ." showed a Sponsor bedeviled by the absence of the program and "No Laughing Matter," concentrated on the difficulties presented by a member who is "high."

The Second Act dealt with Sponsor-Parent relationships. It began with "The Big Smoke Screen," which asked, "What Can a Sponsor Do when a parent asks questions about his child's progress?" "En Garde" and "Decisions, Decisions," delved into how a Sponsor can deal with parents' resentments toward him and his relationship with their children, and whether a

Sponsor should warn parents that their teenager is headed for trouble.

Act Three's theme was the relationship between the Sponsor and the Alateen member.

"The Nose Knows," had a Sponsor who asked personal questions, while "Sloganed To Death," introduced a *spouter* whose knowledge of the program appeared to be only slogan-deep. A more serious moment came with the scene, "Truth," which presented the problem of physical violence. "Tempered Anger," indicated that not all Alateen Sponsors are emotionally detached and "Rest Rooms," showed consideration for a Sponsor's needs. The final scene, "The Big Lie" and the "Great Escape," exemplified the lengths to which an Alateen member may go in order to evade telling the more simple truths.

Conference members responded with applause and then offered some answers to the questions posed by the scenes.

Comments included: keeping a confidence helps to develop trust; getting assistance from some members of AA in solving a difficult problem. Other suggestions were: helping the Alateen members develop group conscience and self-discipline; keeping older and younger teens separate; having older members speak to younger troubled members; having an Area Coordinator for Alateen Sponsors; and encouraging groups to send WSO suggested answers for the new pamphlet.

The skit scripts were given to Delegates and are also available from the Alateen Staff at the WSO. They can be presented locally or at larger meetings to help stimulate interest in Alateen Sponsorship—and if the "book" is as good as the play, the new pamphlet for Alateen Sponsors should be a smash hit!

After a welcome coffee break, we heard about

Proposing New Literature

Staff Writer, Linda McF., noted that, of the many services offered by the WSO, the production of Conference-Approved Literature can be one of the most demanding. Authorized by the Conference to publish all the literature for the fellowship, the WSO has the responsibility to present new and revised material which is subject to review by the Literature Committee, the General Secretary and two members of the Policy Committee. In addition, attention must be given to quality in design, print faces, paper, color and costs. Linda urged that those proposing new literature, first consider how well it reflects the universality of the Al-Anon program and its principles. Our members have varied experiences and life-styles, so material must take the broadest view, concentrating on how we are alike instead of how we are different.

Tape Recordings

Myrna H., responding to a 1977 Conference Decision to develop and provide listening tapes based on the six beginners' meetings, reported on an Executive Committee decision to secure the production services of a professional firm. Scripts were written and submitted to a WSO Committee for revisions, additions, accuracy and tone. "It was important to make certain the leaders were not authoritative," said Myrna. She and Sandy F. assisted in choosing voices for the tape recordings and provided technical assistance at the studio. Time did not permit completion of all six tapes, but the three that were ready, were played during the Conference and a vote for approval of the tape contents affirmed the continuation of the work. While these tapes are not substitutes for an Al-Anon meeting, they can provide ideas for starting discussions at beginners' meetings, they are a valuable tool for non-readers, and they provide a means for professionals to gain understanding of the Al-Anon program. All six tapes will be available as a set and are Conference-Approved material. They will eventually be translated into other languages.

The second theatrical experience to be shared was a melodrama presented at the

INSTITUTIONS TOWN HALL—Edwina F., Chairman; Ann S., Staff Secretary

Before the first act curtain, Ann S. said there are "still many in the health and helping fields who are unaware of how Al-Anon can supplement their own efforts in helping the family of the alcoholic." She said it was hoped that Conference members could effect an ideal and encourage the members to help establish an Institutions group in every facility where the need exists. She then called Edwina F., to get the "show on the road."

"Al-Anon in Institutions" began with a scene in court. The Judge (Ann S.) grants an Al-Anon member (Sarah P.) an interview, but really doesn't have time to talk to her. The Al-Anon member responds and then gives her experience cooperating with the judiciary. In the wings, Mabel H., WI, plays the "devil's advocate" tossing in all the negative thoughts that get in the way of service.

In the second scene, an AA member (Marlene D., HA) contacts an Al-Anon member (Ruth H., Regional Trustee, Can.) about trying to get Al-Anon started in a penal institution. In explaining the program at a correctional facility in Winnipeg, Ruth manages to get the villain to recite the Institutions theme for this year, "Cooperate in '78."

A scene in a rehabilitation center followed. There, a local Al-Anon (Jessica B.) is doing Institutions work and runs into problems: Facing interference by professionals and seeing the need for the establishment of an Institutions Group in addition to the regular group, she goes to her Institutions Coordinator (Betty B., KS) for help.

Next, a counselor (Adean, M., UT) approaches an Al-Anon member (Isabel F., MD) and asks about starting something for teenagers who have family problems. The member tells what can be done and the pitfalls to watch for.

The last presentation involves a nurse (Jean H., In-Town) at the clinic in a state hospital who approaches a member (Ruth H., NC) about starting an Al-Anon group. There is already an AA group there. The member then sets out to get her District involved but finds resistance and reluctance. Part of the answer to her difficulties includes having an Institutions Chairman with a committee, if possible, in each District. Rose Marie G. (NM), Beulah duG., (Ont. N.) and Frank P. (In-Town) played committee members.

The Conference members were informed that the entire script for the melodrama was being given to them for the "road companies" in the Districts. Additional copies can be obtained by writing to the WSO, Box 182, Madison Square Station, NY, NY 10010. In addition, Conference members were asked to share "Notables, Quotables and Suggestions..." on work being accomplished or planned at juvenile homes, courts, penal institutions, rehabilitation centers and out-patient clinics at state hospitals.

Wednesday morning, April 19

Following the calling of the roll, there were a series of reports from the

AL-ANON WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

The presentation of Annual reports for Trustees, Staff and Committee Chairmen is made each year with the understanding that Conference members have received them in advance.

Report by Stephanie O'K., Chairman, Board of Trustees:

Commenting on the change in address of the WSO, she said:

"This move seems symbolic of our personal growth—never without struggle or pain. It is what distinguishes mere change from real growth, for change becomes growth when it is good, though possibly difficult, not just new or different. Change is growth when we apply and insure it to ourselves, our groups and world service, with Al-Anon's unchanging principles.

This is Al-Anon; these principles are our three legacies; using them, Al-Anon and we will grow together."

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Eleanor O'B,

The General Secretary serves as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, reports to and confers with the Executive Committee and Trustees on supervisory and administrative policies and actions of the organization. She serves on such committees as the Handbook, Budget and Regional Trustee Committees and on ad hoc committees such as Relocation and bylaws. Among the basic responsibilities of the General Secretary is coordination of the work of the Standing Committees and the office staff.

1. Staff Personnel

Employment and supervision of the staff is a function of the General Secretary assisted by the Deputy General Secretary. In 1977, we had a total payroll of 53 people including two part-time workers. In addition, several employees worked on a temporary basis.

2. Volunteers

Volunteers served as Trustees, Executive Committee members, Committee Chairman and Committee members. Other Al-Anon members collated and stuffed envelopes with group packets, mailings for P.I., Institutions, *FORUM* and other material for the membership. Still others made up displays for the WSO. We could not have handled the increasingly large volume of work at the WSO without the dedication and cooperation of our Al-Anon and Alateen volunteers.

3. Staff Concerns

Staff members, who were voting members of the World Service Conference, consisted of the following: Eleanor O'B., General Secretary; Myrna H., Administrative Assistant to the General Secretary and Convention Secretary; Timmy W., until her retirement at the end of September and then Darcy W., Alateen Secretary; Holly D., Conference Secretary; Ann S., Institutions Secretary; Margaret O'D., Public Information (P.I.) Secretary; Hildegard M., *FORUM* Editor (Louise Goodman worked with her through February during the transition period); and Linda McF., Staff Writer.

Each Staff member handled the work of her respective Committee. The many group and individual problems which come to the WSO were assigned to various Staff Secretaries based on a pre-determined geographical division. Aiding new Information Services (Intergroups) as well as answering questions from those already organized, was the function of the Administrative Assistant, Myrna H.

Weekly staff meetings were held to consider problem letters and other concerns. Staff members reported progress of assigned projects and asked for guidance. The Staff and their assistants met monthly with the Conference Chairman to work on the World Service Conference agenda and other plans for the WSO.

Communication with Al-Anon overseas regarding structure and reprinting CAL in English and other languages, were the responsibility of the General Secretary and her Administrative Assistant. Due to the increased volume of overseas correspondence, the General Secretary drew up an analysis and submitted a proposal for establishing a new position, overseas Al-Anon, to be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval and implementation in 1978.

4. Publications (Report by Eamon Timoney)

ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON continued to be Al-Anon's best selling book in 1977 and the table shows comparisons of our 1977 and 1976 book sales:

	1977	1976
ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON	112,716	106,830
LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC	15,322	15,160
AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM	9,036	8,578
DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC		
MARRIAGE	12,641	11,815
AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM		
EDITORIALS	5,444	4,818
ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF		
ALCOHOLICS	11,394	11,607

Our book sales reveal a disappointing trend. Despite increased sales

of ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON, the sale of our other books tend to remain much the same and reveal that sales approximate, on average, little more than one book per group per year.

During 1977 the World Service Office published three new pamphlets, the sales of which were as follows:

What's "Drunk", Mama?	65,690
"Double Winners"	83,487
The Role of AL-ANON Groups in the Treatment Program	
of a VA Alcoholism Unit	29,979

A total of more than four million copies of pamphlets and leaflets were distributed in 1977.

5. FORUM Subscriptions

In 1977, 440,211 copies of *The FORUM* were mailed, (plus 7,326 back issues), an increase of over 16½% over 1976. Monthly circulation rose from 34,000 to 40,000. Free copies were distributed to all English-Speaking groups and paid subscriptions increased. At the end of 1977, multiple subscriptions have dropped slightly from 1976: from 9,104 to 9,022. Individual subscriptions had increased from 13,109 in 1976 to 15,086 in 1977.

6. Mimeography

With the purchase of a new stencil-making machine which has the capability of reproducing typewritten material as well as drawings, we were able to handle a larger volume of work. Material reproduced for distribution included form letters, WSO materials, guidelines and supplementary aids, material in Spanish, the tri-annual contribution appeal and many other announcements.

7. Shipping (Report by Eamon Timoney)

The revision of the discount policy, implemented in the fall of 1976, has stimulated purchasing by Al-Anon Literature Distribution Centers. Although the number of individual literature orders remained substantially unchanged in 1977, large volume purchases resulted in a considerable decrease in the number of packages shipped in 1977 (46,641) compared with the 1976 total of 62,133.

8. Bookkeeping and Accounting (Report by Eamon Timoney)

The volume of work did not perceptibly increase over 1976 and the staff in the accounting department remained unchanged at eight persons.

Continuing inflation and the areas of our future expansion has resulted in much time being spent on evaluating mailing and shipping procedures etc., with a view to reducing our continually increasing cost spiral. And, of course, the relocation of our offices to our new addresses meant that much time was spent on seeking and evaluating quotations from contractors, moving companies and so forth.

Our auditors performed their usual interim audit for the half year ended June 30, and all Conference members were furnished with audited financial statements for the year ended in December 31, 1976.

9. Group Records & Directory (Report by Pat Reilly)

a. Registered Groups and Lone Members

In 1977, 2,564 new groups, Lone Members and Alateen Contracts were registered and 801 were dropped from the active list. Total registrations, worldwide, as of December 31, 1977 were:

Al-Anon Groups	11,643
Alateen Groups	2,263
Lone Members	203
Alateen Contracts	23
Information Services, GSO's, Intergroups	148
Total	14,280

A breakdown of these figures follows:

UNITED STATES

Al-Anon Groups	7,295
Alateen Groups	1,598
Lone Members	41
Alateen Contracts	10
Information Services (Intergroups), etc.	86

CANADA	
Al-Anon Groups	1,367
Alateen Groups	314
Lone Members	43
Alateen Contacts	7
Information Services (Intergroups), etc.	15
OVERSEAS	
Al-Anon Groups	2,351
Alateen Groups	351
Lone Members	119
Alateen Contracts	6
Information Services (Intergroups), GSO's	47

b. 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. A data sheet system replaced the data cards. It was designed by the computer company as a better means of checking and updating group information for the Directory.

Because the Directory, Part I, had become so large it was decided to divide the 1978 Directory, Part I, into three segments: U.S. East, U.S. West, and Canada.

World Directory—report by Eleanor O'B.

In the past five years, the number of Al-Anon and Alateen Groups throughout the world has more than doubled. This growth has been reflected in the increasing size of the **WORLD DIRECTORY**, resulting in higher printing and postage cost. In order to avoid a continuing price escalation, the Board of Trustees decided to subdivide the **DIRECTORY, PART I**, into three geographical sections: *United States East, United States West and Canada*. The boundary of U.S. east and U.S. west was situated so as to provide for two books of equal size. States on the east-west border are included in both United States sections in order to accommodate members who attend meetings in neighboring states.

Further, in keeping with geographical boundaries established in the expanded RT plan, all Areas in Al-Anon's Eastern Regions are included in the Directory, Part I, U.S. East; those in the Western Regions are in Part I, U.S. West.

Each group will be sent a free copy of that **DIRECTORY** which is applicable to its Area. Additional copies are available at \$1.00 each section.

AND

To assist in keeping the new registration and disbanded group listings up-to-date, Delegates will be sent the monthly computer print-outs for their states.

10. Group Services

In 1977, the WSO served over 14,000 groups and Lone Members worldwide. Each of the 1,974 proposed groups and loners received a welcoming letter and free introductory material. 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), and the Group Service Manuals. All English-speaking groups received a free **FORUM** subscription and a Conference Summary. The French **FORUM** was 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 and Alateen groups and Lone Members.

Approximately 1,900 individuals affected by family members or friends with drinking problems were referred to nearby groups.

Some of the volume mailings made in 1977, compared with the previous year, follows:

	1977	1976
ALATEEN TALK	64,149	58,887
FORUM	440,211	377,733

Spanish Newsletter	16,455	9,878
INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS	15,161	11,119
Directory	13,011	12,083
Conference Summary	11,331	11,752
Contribution Appeals	32,397	28,980

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

Al-Anon **GUIDELINES** for Members Interested In Speaking were developed. The material was taken from **GUIDELINES** for Al-Anon Speakers and Speaking at Non-Al-Anon/Alateen Meetings. The final manuscript was reviewed by others of the staff and was then submitted for publication. We also developed a set of **GUIDELINES** for distribution to Alateen groups from the mimeographed sheets: *Organizing an Alateen Group, Suggested Alateen Welcome, Preamble and the Alateen Traditions*.

We distributed over 5,000 copies of the Suggested Beginner's Meeting Format.

12. Audio-Visual Aids and Tapes

a. World Service Office Presentation (Report by Margaret O'D.)

The Public Information Staff proceeded with plans for development of a film strip as directed by the 1977 WSC. The audio visual presentation will illustrate the activities of the World Service Office. An outline has been submitted and accepted for the final script and it is hoped that the finished presentation will be distributed at the 1978 World Service Conference.

b. Tapes of Beginners' Meetings

In keeping with a 1977 Conference decision, work was started on development of scripts for tapes in six 15 minute segments, based on the format of the six beginners' meetings. An outside company, specializing in production of tapes, was contacted to do the work.

c. Film Questionnaire (Report by Margaret O'D.)

At the request of the Policy Committee, a questionnaire concerning the use of films within an Area was prepared by the Public Information staff and sent to all Conference members. The results will be given to the Policy Committee to aid them in presenting to the Conference the issue of whether or not the World Service Office could provide film information to Al-Anon members upon request.

13. AREA HIGHLIGHTS (Report by Margaret O'D.)

AREA HIGHLIGHTS continues to be a very valuable vehicle for sharing ideas and information. It is a means for the Delegates to share their Area's highlights; it gives current information from the WSO to PI Coordinators, current and past Delegates, Regional Trustees, Information Services, as well as to Newsletter Editors. It is sent out from the WSO four times a year, in March, June, September and December.

14. Handbook

In accordance with a Conference decision, a draft of revisions to the World Service Handbook was submitted to the Delegate members of the Handbook Committee and to In-town Committee members. The additional section entitled "The World Service Office" explains what the office does, how it is structured in relation to the Conference and includes information on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. The committee, with Alice B., Chairman, reviewed all suggestions and comments received and prepared the final draft; to be incorporated in the next printing.

15. General Correspondence

A significant drop in the volume of "problem" letters received from individuals and groups shows that more members are using the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies as a reference or are discussing problems at their District or Area Meetings. Letters received from the membership were handled by the Administrative Staff who replied to a variety of questions from the groups. The Staff shared their knowledge of Traditions and Concepts in light of group experience. Typical of these were:

- A member wanted an explanation of "Green Light" Sessions which was provided.
- A member sent her group's contribution and earmarked it for institutional purposes. We explained that all monies go into the

- General Fund and are then apportioned for all phases of service.
- A member asked to have her name removed from the World Directory because a professional gave out her number to a potential member. She felt that the statement in Working As, For, or With Professionals condoned such actions, but it does not. It was suggested that she re-read the passage on page 5 of this booklet because she may have misinterpreted the meaning;
- A letter was sent to an agency refusing permission to rent them Lois's Story because it is not for general public showing;
- A member in Mexico used the World Directory to write a friendly letter to an English-speaking group in Italy, but inadvertently broke the recipient's anonymity by using her name and the name of the Al-Anon group on the outside of the envelope;
- The Director of the Senior Citizen's Center asked the Petersburg Council on Alcoholism to obtain for the center, copies of Al-Anon's card, WHO YOU SEE HERE . . . for "those old ladies (who) really fight and gossip so much!";
- A member was concerned that too few men attended Al-Anon meetings in her locality;
- Were we in order when we invited an alcoholic counseling service speaker to speak at our open group meeting? This speaker and the service she works for fully understand and supports the Al-Anon program and refers families of alcoholics to Al-Anon;
- A request for guidance on interesting ways to improve group meetings.

16. Relocation of the World Service Office (WSO)

The WSO negotiated leasing larger space. Presently we are in a loft building on three floors; the new space at One Park Avenue is all on one floor. It's conveniently located near AA's General Service Office, near transportation and the Post Office. Since we leased the space "as is," it had to be renovated to fit our needs. Much time was spent working with an attorney on a long-term agreement and with the architect and contractors on planning and construction. The target date for completion of our move is March 6, 1978.

17. Staff Secretaries Participating at Conferences/Conventions (Report by Myrna H.)

It has been the practice of many Areas to invite Trustees and Al-Anon WSO Staff to speak at various Conferences and Conventions to give their personal messages of recovery and to discuss their work during specially defined workshops. This year, Staff Secretaries were asked to provide a report of their activities at these momentous events so that documentation would be available. The following is a summarization of reports to date, with apologies to those not mentioned. (We'll catch up in the 1979 Summary.)

May 19-21, 1977—The Sixth Manitoba Al-Anon Seminar, Winnipeg
Eleanor O'B., General Secretary and Margaret O'D., P.I. Secretary were the keynote speakers. In addition, both participated in the World Service Meeting, with Gwen L., Delegate. Margaret conducted a workshop on Public Information with the Area P.I. Coordinator and Eleanor participated in a large round-table discussion and attended a "Meeting on Wheels."

May 20-22—Missouri Al-Anon Round Up for Al-Anon/Alateen and AA, Cape Girardeau
Linda McF., Staff Writer, was the banquet speaker and attended the WSO report session with Eledia S., Delegate.

June 10-12—2nd Al-Anon Convention, Petersburg, Virginia
Ann S. spoke about institutions work. Letters followed, asking for direction and GUIDELINES. Paul L., Regional Trustee (US East) was also on a Panel.

July 14th—New York State AA Convention, Albany
Ann's talk encompassed her work at the WSO. Groups there are hoping to have an institutions group as well as a regular group at each facility. Edwina F., Trustee, and Holly C., Conference Secretary, also were speakers.

July 22-24, 1977—Illinois Third Annual Al-Anon/Alateen Conference
Linda McF. was the dinner speaker and lead a session on communication. The Conference theme was "Free to be Me" and there was heavy Alateen participation.

August 12-14, 1977—Fifth Annual Red River Valley Round-Up, Minnesota, Moorhead St. U.

Margaret O'D. and Hank G., Chairman of the PI Committee, were speakers at the opening session, a panel and a meeting on service. Hank spoke at the Round-Up's close.

September 23-25, 1977—The 14th Massachusetts AA Convention—Lenox

"The Group—Where it Begins," was the theme and Eleanor O'B. was invited to tell her story and discuss the work of the WSO.

September 23-25, 1977—Skyline Conference of Utah—Salt Lake City
Linda participated in a Literature Workshop and spoke at the banquet. She attended the Al-Anon Area Assembly with the Delegate, Anna Marie B.

September 30-October 2, 1977—Saskatchewan AA 29th Provincial Conference, North Battleford

Hildegard M., FORUM Editor, gave an impromptu editorial to close an imaginatively structured Al-Anon meeting and was the Sunday morning speaker as well. During her extended stay she went to several meetings and was interviewed for a local radio station where she answered follow-up phone calls.

October 20-23, 1977—AA State Convention, Tucson, Arizona

Linda addressed the Saturday afternoon Al-Anon meeting and the Sunday morning Spiritual meeting. There were several hundred Al-Anon and Alateen members registered.

November 18-21, 1977—Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference, Saddle Brook, NJ

Martha E., Assistant to the Alateen Secretary answered questions about the WSO, the progress of the Alateen ODAT and gathered ideas for material to be used in a possible Sponsors' pamphlet.

Without exception, WSO members were high in their praise for the amount of work being done by local and Area service people. Each was exhilarated and enriched by her experience and found the visits personally rewarding. Reports contained phrases like, "The whole weekend was filled with love and sharing," "reassuring," "There are well-functioning Districts and an ardent Delegate." . . . they showed that there is a great interest in the service aspect of our fellowship." and "There is such growth and enthusiasm!"

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

During 1977, a number of letters were received from people regarding Information Service (Intergroup) concerns. The following is a summation of the letters which required more than a routine response:

During the first quarter, a member told that she was admonished by the members in her group for using the booklet, "Me, Myself and You" as a reference source while chairing the meeting. She was quite bewildered by this as she had purchased the book from an intergroup in the mid-west which listed this item on their price list and so she just assumed it was Conference-Approved Literature. Her question to the WSO revolved around the identification of Conference-Approved Literature to avoid a recurrence of such a situation.

An Information Service Officer was concerned that the Service would lose their bulk-rate discount if they were to continue distributing mimeographed allegories written by one of their members as an inexpensive giveaway item. We replied that these memento items did not fall into the same classification as the standard published pieces of literature that were copyrighted by persons or agencies which hoped to gain a profit from sales through resale by an Information Service. We did caution them, however, that if they were to begin *printing* these in leaflet form, had them copyrighted and decided to produce them for wholesale distribution, then the WSO might have some question as to whether they would still be entitled to the bulk-rate discount. But, in its present mimeographed form, there is no problem.

A member questioned the election of a Chairman for a local Intergroup Office as she felt the person had held too many offices in the past. We explained that while rotation of office is always suggested, it is still a good idea to have experienced members available to call upon for their knowledge and expertise. We referred to Al-Anon's Policy Digest and suggested that she discuss this matter openly at the appropriate meeting.

In the latter part of the year, a member representing an Information Service questioned the wisdom of holding a regular Al-Anon meeting at their office since members in the locality are objecting to the practice. We suggested that the Information Service Representatives decide by taking a vote as to whether this should be continued.

Another overseas Information Service had changed its title from Al-Anon Central Services to Information Service. We explained that the latter designation was inappropriate because an Information Service cannot cover an entire state or province according to Al-Anon's definition.

19. Foreign Language Al-Anon

a. Danish (Report by Myrna H.)

"Permission to Print and Reprint" forms were sent to Al-Anon groups in Denmark for production of several items that were already produced by Danish members in mimeography. We had also arranged to have the "Suggested Preamble" reviewed by two Danish-speaking Al-Anon members in the U.S. This, too, is to be produced in mimeography in Denmark. Gerda R., our contact in Denmark, reported they are taping weekly meetings and sending tapes to Lone Members in Jutland. They also keep in contact with these Loners by phone and have encouraged their registration with the WSO.

The Danish edition of the Reader's Digest carried the article "An Oasis Called Al-Anon" and the editorial staff of the magazine contacted several members beforehand for their comments. When the members found out that reprints had been made available in English, they requested the same of the Danish publisher. The magazine staff was anxious to comply but could not do so because of the huge expense involved. They did, however, grant the Al-Anon members permission to make as many photocopies as they wished for general PI distribution. September, 1977 was their target date for this photocopying and distribution.

b. Dutch/Flemish

Karel M., Secretary of Algemeen Dienst-Bureau Der Nederlandstalige Al-Anon (A.B.D.), Belgium and the Netherlands, returned signed copies of all the "Request for Permission to Translate and Reprint CAL" which had been sent previously. Myrna H. reported that in answer to Karel's request for permission to translate and print the Alateen book, we sent four copies along with Permission forms. We also requested 25 copies each of the Flemish pamphlets of *So You Love an Alcoholic* and *This Is Al-Anon* to replenish our supply.

c. Finnish

Marjatta P., translator and Foreign Correspondent for Al-Anon in Finland, was elected as Representative from Finland to the 1977 WSC. In advance of her trip to New York, she sent us a copy of their recently published Blueprint for Progress. Twenty-one more copies of this pamphlet and 22 copies of the Finnish DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE were sent as a contribution to the WSO. Marjatta was translating the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies, Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work, the World Service Handbook and Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service. Marjatta translated and answered in Finnish, a letter we received at the WSO from a member who wanted a pen pal here and also information on AA groups in Chicago and Lake Bluff, Illinois where her husband planned to visit. She reported that Al-Anon participated in AA's Conference in Hameenlinna in July, 1977.

d. French

(1) *Belgium*—Rit T. who attended the Al-Anon U.K. & Eire Service Conference reported there that "... the French part of Belgium held their first General Service Meeting and invited our Chairman to give some support."

(2) *France*—Antoinette, the General Secretary of the General Service Office in Paris, wrote in October, telling of extensive Al-Anon participation in AA's Convention held there in the spring. Members from the U.S. were well represented and she said "... we had a splendid chance to see and hear Lois W."

As reported in LA CHAÎNE, the French language Bulletin of the French Al-Anon Family Groups published in Paris, the Quimper Group, responsible for the "mini-cassette" service, held a meeting to determine the most interesting subjects to be used for the tapes. In

December, LA CHAÎNE printed their French translation of a letter which appeared in the FORUM. It was from a member who gave her reasons for never having returned to a particular group. In the December 1976 issue, Antoinette, General Secretary of French General Services, wrote an interesting piece addressed to new groups, containing many ideas for helping such of these groups containing only new Al-Anon members. Another issue contained an appeal letter and listed the services provided by the General Service Office, including free literature sent to Al-Anon and Alateen Groups. The number of Al-Anon and Alateen French-speaking groups is growing steadily, and the new appeal is expected to spark a greater response than in 1976 when only one-fourth responded.

In May, Antoinette reported that the Alateen members expressed their pleasure and gratitude for being permitted to participate in the general service meetings. She said that it was a great help to have the Alateens present as they knew best what their needs were.

French members met at Luxembourg, in late October, with representatives from France, Belgium and Switzerland. Their aim was to establish a "Francophone Committee." Antoinette hoped that a French-speaking representative—perhaps representing the 3 countries—would be able to attend the 1978 WSC.

(3) *French Literature Committee Montreal*, (Publications Francaises) P.F.A. Inc.)—Early in the year, Alberte C., Secretary, made plans to attend the WSC with Cay C., Chairman, past Delegate from Quebec West, now working with Alberte. Harriet L., Translator, was unable to attend. Harriet L. reported that the translation of the Handbook was complete and was being reviewed by the revision committee.

The French Literature Committee, officially incorporated in 1976, continued to be subsidized by the World Service Office. A six-months' audit of their office and distribution expenses and income was submitted to the WSO; the year-end audit will be completed after the year's end. A full report of the activities of the French Literature Committee will be made at the 1978 WSC.

e. German

The German translation of ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON has been undergoing review by Alice B. and another bilingual member in the U.S., for publication by the Zentrale Kontaktstelle in Germany. The first three months were completed in mid-December and sent to Gerlind, member of the Literatur Team (Literature Committee) of Z.K. and Alice's contact on the translation. Three more months were sent to Gerlind in late December. Alice expects to have the remaining pages fully checked by April of 1978.

The Chairman of the Literature Committee, Erich H., and the Z.K. are most anxious to produce the German ODAT. He said he expects their "territory" for German language CAL distribution to extend to Switzerland and Austria. Groups in Southern Germany and Switzerland "sponsor" the few groups that were started in Austria.

Minutes of the General Service Committee meeting held in Aschaffenburg June 10 and 11, 1977, were translated by Alice B. The meeting was hosted by the Intergroup Middle. There was a covering letter from Melanie, Secretary of the Z.K., indicating that the work has been taken over by Lisa K. and would henceforth take place at Aschaffenburg, where Lisa had already established a post office address. The new address would replace the Essen address. Melanie closed her letter with a very moving statement about how much the work and Al-Anon meant to her. She asked everyone to keep in mind the wonderful cause that holds Al-Anon people together, to do our best and not to place too much importance on unimportant matters.

During Erich's report of the Literature Committee, representatives were asked to continue to search for translators. It was decided to accept Erich's proposal to reduce the price of Al-Anon Is for Men, effective July 1st, and produce the German ODAT.

Helga U., responsible for the Literatur Versand (literature distribution) reported that as a result of "An Oasis Called Al-Anon" appearing in the German Reader's Digest, their mail was heavier. Melanie obtained 10M copies of the article for distribution.

Hebert M. provided information and free samples of Al-Anon literature to the AA Zentrale in Munich at their request. The use of a form letter, to be used in answering inquiries from relatives of alcoholics, be approved. The Intergroup proposal that each group contribute one

dollar to the WSO was approved, but deferred until the payment for producing ODAT was attained.

The minutes of the Committee meeting in Hamburg, September 10 and 11, 1977, translated by Alice B. stated that Lisa K., the new Secretary of the Z.K. opened the meeting. Claus, of Intergroup North, expressed his delight the meeting was taking place in the northern Intergroup's area for the first time. There were Delegates from the four Intergroups and guests from Berlin and Hamburg and the use of a form letter, to be used in answering inquiries from relatives of alcoholics, was approved.

f. Italian (Report by Myrna H.)

The Italian translation of Freedom From Despair is now available for 10¢ each from the WSO in mimeography. A member has submitted the Twelve Steps in Italian and this was sent to Jo K., a former Trustee, for review. Since then, another member in Virginia has offered her services as an Italian translator. We accepted gratefully and suggested that she begin translating Purpose and Suggestions. Once she completes this assignment, we will have it reviewed for style and content before having it reproduced in mimeography.

g. Japanese

In February, Peter T., a young priest who is an AA member in Tokyo, visited the WSO and offered to translate one of our books into Japanese. Peter said that Harumi K. plans to translate either the DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE or LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and he will translate the other. We thanked him and gave him copies of both books to take back to Japan.

h. Polish (Report by Myrna H.)

A Polish-speaking member from Illinois has submitted the first page of ODAT in Polish as a sample of her work. Just before the year ended, we sent her several pamphlets and suggested that she begin translating one of them. In the meantime, we are announcing in The FORUM that we are looking for a member who would be willing to do a review of Josephine's work.

i. Punjabi and Urdu

Judy B., Chairman of the GSO Executive Committee, U.K. & Eire reported that translations into Punjabi and Urdu were done, then translated back into English for checking accuracy. The translators told Judy they found it very difficult because "... the message is aimed at the Western rather than the Asian mind." Judy felt, however, that this would not pose a problem to members.

j. Spanish (Report by Myrna H. and Teresa M., translator)

(1) *Argentina* Lilian C., the member who worked closely with Henrietta Sutphin when the Argentinean General Service Committee was first established, wrote of the wonderful progress of Al-Anon in their country since the GSO's inception five years ago. She told how they had started out with an empty fruit box for seating and a borrowed desk on which to place a typewriter. Today, thanks to the raffling of an original Spanish ODAT and the holding of group-sponsored events, they have raised sufficient funds to purchase two new desks and other essential office equipment. They are now able to keep their office open five days instead of two and Nilda, their secretary, is paid a small salary for part-time work. During the period ending June 30, 1977, 1,026 people have visited the GSO and 720 letters were written. As of that date, there were 168 registered Spanish-speaking groups plus one English group. They had 26 Spanish items in print and had distributed 4,493 pieces of free literature for PI purposes.

Lilian reported that the GSO was no longer in the "red" and their capital sums invested in reserves of literature shows how much they had advanced during the last 5 years. During the first quarter of 1977, we learned that plans were also underway for the GSO to publish the Spanish ODAT for distribution in Argentina. They were required to give the publishers 30 million pesos as a down payment and after selling 200 advance copies, they would have gained 20 million pesos more to give the printer for the proofs. On receipt of the books, an additional 50 million pesos would be paid to the printer.

Another of the books published in Argentina is the Spanish DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE which the WSO purchases for resale to the entire fellowship. During the latter quarter, we ordered 2,500 of these books and they arrived at Kennedy Airport after

Christmas. Arrangements were made through an air-cargo service for pick-up from the airport and delivery to the WSO. The Spanish Department worked diligently to fill all the back orders of this book as our supply had been depleted.

The GSO is now undertaking the transaction of the book, ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS. They hope to print it in Argentina after their translation has been approved by the WSO. This information was relayed by Albert R., who has been designated by the GSO to be their liaison to the World Service Office since he travels to the U.S. frequently because of his work with the airlines. P.I. work is also one of the major efforts of the GSO. Members have appeared before church groups as well as federally sponsored social agencies. More than 100 welfare workers and representatives of the Federal Police were in attendance at one of these events. On Friday, December 16, 1977, the GSO participated at the 25th Anniversary of AA groups in their country.

(2) *El Salvador* The GSO in El Salvador has reprinted the pamphlet, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial, which they now distribute throughout their country. The first printing failed to carry the proper copyright notice and they were urged to correct this omission at the next printing to protect the value of WSO's copyright. Since El Salvador prints and distributes the Serenity Prayer cards, an order was placed for 5,000 of these for resale to the fellowship by the WSO.

(3) *Mexico* In June of this year, the Twenty-four Hour Group of Alcoholics Anonymous invited Henrietta and Teresa M. to speak at their 2nd Anniversary in Mexico City. Approximately 1,300 people attended their big meeting. There was considerable press and radio coverage of this event and representatives of the media were extremely cautious about guarding the anonymity of speakers. The Al-Anon members also held a closed meeting with more than 450 members in attendance.

Henrietta and Teresa met with members of the GSO and learned that they have already translated many of our pamphlets and books into Spanish. After having been given reprint authorization from the WSO, they began distributing material within their own country. In June, they requested and received permission to reprint the book, THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE.

A major accomplishment of the GSO this year was the development of a monthly bulletin entitled "Delta." They are now considering the creation of a special fund for the purpose of sending a Representative to the 1979 World Service Conference, a valuable move to enhance worldwide unity.

(4) United States

a. *Arizona* The DO IT NOW Foundation In Phoenix contacted the WSO and requested and received 2,000 price lists in other languages. This organization had prepared a booklet in Spanish which relates to alcohol and drug problems and the price list is to be included in their mailings of this booklet.

b. *California* The annual convention for Spanish-speaking members was held in September. Earlier in the year, a Research Analyst from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services requested and received information and literature from the WSO to bring with him on a visit to Mexico and Central America. He felt strongly that he could help spread the word of Al-Anon's value where Al-Anon was nonexistent.

c. *Illinois* Spanish literature was placed on display at the Al-Anon portion of the Northern Illinois AA Conference. Items were purchased by English-speaking members for people in their groups.

d. *New York* The Fifth Spanish AA Convention was held in New York City with the participation of the Spanish Al-Anon groups from the New York and New Jersey Areas. The WSO cooperated by supplying guidelines on How to Start an Al-Anon Group, P.I. material and other informative pieces. A display board with samples of all Spanish literature was available at the Al-Anon meetings. Teresa M., our Spanish translator, represented the WSO at this national event. Four new Spanish Al-Anon groups were started as a direct result of this Convention. The Sixth Spanish AA Convention will be held in California in 1978.

WADO Radio in Manhattan, delivered a 45-minute program about Al-Anon and invited Teresa and Socorro P., a local member, to be

interviewed. The response was overwhelming as more than 200 callers inquired about the program after the show.

e. *Puerto Rico* The Delegate from Puerto Rico, Isabel R., visited the WSO early in the year. She asked that permission be granted to their Area newsletter to reprint, in Spanish, items from Al-Anon and Alateen literature which had not as yet been made available to the fellowship in translation. The Policy Committee carefully reviewed the request and was able to inform Isabel that their newsletter may indeed carry excerpts from untranslated service material. Among these are: The Twelve Concepts of Service, The Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies, the World Service Handbook and The Pebble In the Pond.

Isabel also offered guidance to all Spanish-speaking members in the U.S. and overseas who wished to help in the development of a Conference or Convention. An announcement to this effect was placed in AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION and Isabel subsequently reported that she received a wonderful response.

The editor of Puerto Rico's newsletter announced that it had been renamed "Faro de Al-Anon" because the former title was almost identical with the one published by the WSO for the Spanish-speaking community worldwide.

f. *Texas* The Al-Anon Information Center in Dallas, Texas reported on their participation in Cultura Y Salud 77. This is a large health fair held for the Mexican-American community in Dallas sponsored by Los Barrios Unidos. The WSO cooperated by sending price lists in other languages as well as regular catalogs and price lists.

(5) *Other Spanish-speaking Countries* An AA member from El Salvador carried the message of Al-Anon to *Chile* and the first Al-Anon group in the country was formed in the city of Santiago. The Al-Anon P.I. Committee in *Costa Rica* cooperated with the media by providing speakers for a radio interview broadcast. Radio NAC in San Marcos, *Guatemala*, yielded one hour of air time for a national broadcast about Al-Anon. The members of the San Pedro Al-Anon group appeared on behalf of our fellowship and explained how Al-Anon works for families of alcoholics. There are two new Information Services for the Spanish community; one is in Managua, *Nicaragua*, and the other in Lima, *Peru*. *Panama* has reported that professionals in the medical field have expressed interest in our program. The first group in *Paraguay* formed in 1976. Since then, five more have been started. An Al-Anon member from the group Gemini in Barcelona, *Spain*, visited the WSO in June. She expressed a great deal of enthusiasm for the program and shared with Teresa and others of the staff her viewpoint of Al-Anon in her country. Members in *Venezuela* expressed interest in policies, particularly the one on "Open" and "Closed" meetings.

(6) *WSO Activities* The Reader's Digest reprinted in Spanish the article "An Oasis Called Al-Anon" in the March 1977 Spanish edition. This was a contributory factor toward the increasing number of inquiries made by individuals and professionals from the Spanish-speaking communities around the world.

To help members conduct P.I. work in their localities, the Spanish Staff worked assiduously on the translation of the Public Information Kit which contains such items in mimeography as: Guidelines for P.I. Work, Guidelines For Speaking, Sample Letter to the Clergy, Suggested Radio Interview, Suggested Letter From Groups to Professionals, Al-Anon: A Resource for Labor Management and much more. In addition, translations were completed on all Institutional material including the Institutions Guidelines.

The following pieces of literature were also translated and it is to be determined in 1978 which are to be printed and which are to be reproduced in mimeography: Why CAL?, Al-Anon Group Impact; Working As, For, or With Professionals; Al-Anon Treatment Tool; Facts About Alateen; The 12 Concepts of Service; The Policy Digest; What's "Drunk," Mama?; Blueprint for Progress; and Homeward Bound. In addition, Purpose and Suggestions was updated along with the Spanish price list for outside of U.S. and Canada. A review of the World Service Handbook, submitted by Puerto Rico, was also accomplished. The Public Information Guidelines and the translation of How To Start an Al-Anon Group were included in the complimentary Spanish New Group Packet.

The bulk-subscription for AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION proved

very popular with the Spanish-speaking membership. Approximately 60 groups have subscribed and will receive no less than ten copies. Eighteen hundred copies were mailed in total to every Spanish-speaking group in the U.S. and overseas.

There were 240 new Spanish Al-Anon groups formed this year and 40 new Alateen groups. Because of this growth factor and the increasing need for services, we found that an assistant translator to aid Teresa was essential. Dora T., a staff member who had proven her competency in another department, fit into this job with ease. With Raquel, Teresa's clerical assistant, this makes a total of three capable people in the Spanish Department.

k. *Swedish* Two copies of the Swedish translation of A Guide for the Family were received at the World Service Office.

20. English-speaking Al-Anon Overseas

a. *Africa*

(1) *South Africa* Joan Van Z., Secretary of the Al-Anon General Service (A.G.S.) in Johannesburg, returned the reprint permission forms for This Is Al-Anon in Afrikaans. A new translation had been done by a team of members working together, including a university professor and the wife of a Professor of Languages. Copies will be sent to the WSO as soon as they are printed. Joan wrote that their next Conference will be held in Port Elizabeth, the 8th of April, at which time, "... a few changes will be made to the "Structure" again ..."

Kinza K. wrote to the WSO, enclosing a copy of the Journal of the South African Attorney's Profession, March, 1976, in which an article by Kinza, "Alcoholism—the family disease" appeared. The article, which was excellent, has been copyrighted by the Al-Anon Groups of South Africa.

With her letter, Kinza also enclosed copies of other articles which had appeared locally: One of them, written for family radio and TV, reads in part: "... They (the wives) get together for the express purpose of trying to help each other help their husbands overcome drinking problems ...". In writing to Kinza, Margaret O'D. complimented her on her efforts to correct such misconceptions about Al-Anon's purpose.

Excerpts were reprinted from Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work, for use in Public Information work. These were the sections on "Understanding Alcoholism" and "Understanding Ourselves." The Twelve Steps and Traditions, Just for Today and the Serenity Prayer are now available in Zulu, Xhosa and Sotho. Two copies of This Is Al-Anon, translated into Afrikaans, were sent to us by Elvira D., Assistant Secretary, GSO.

Gertie T. was appointed Loner Secretary. It was reported that she is doing an excellent job of corresponding with all Lone Members.

Joan V. sent us a copy of "Structure of the Al-Anon Family Groups in South Africa," and asked for comments on it. Among other points we noted was that they named a "District Coordinator," defined in part as "... nominated by the Board of Trustees and elected by the Conference for a three-year term. She is a member of Al-Anon General Service Executive who acts as a link between the Districts of South Africa, South West Africa and Rhodesia and Loners (members). She keeps the Delegates throughout Southern Africa informed on developments at a National and International level." Information will be distributed by her to the Delegates through the Information Service in each District Assembly. Since their Board of Trustees meets twice a year, once prior to their Conference in early spring and once in August, the Coordinator will serve as an important information link with all Districts. Where there is no Information Service, elected observers to the Conference will be seated with voice but no vote.

Since the Al-Anon General Service is no longer permitted by the government of South Africa to send the total amount of contributions to the WSO, the Information Service Offices will send individual contributions.

Late in the year, Kinza K., Chairman of the National Public Information Committee sent Margaret O'D. newspaper clippings of interest to P.I. With her letter Kinza enclosed a draft of a pamphlet which has a working title of "Tell Me About Al-Anon." Since there is now a 15% surcharge on all imported literature, the A.G.S. would like to produce this leaflet (one folded page), they compiled.

(2) *Tanzania* A man in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa, interested in obtaining information about Al-Anon, was put in touch with the WSO through the AA Grapevine. We sent a packet of literature and referred him to Kinza K., at the Information Service in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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

Cec. R., a member of the Australian General Service Committee's Secretariat, stated in a recent letter that the Australian Conference was successful and displayed a tremendous amount of work by service-minded members in Australia. The Conference decided to have the General Service Committee appoint five Trustees when the bylaws are ready to be implemented.

Area Assemblies are working out very nicely according to the reports given at the Conference. The need was recognized for a paid secretary and an office; therefore, the Conference decided to take positive steps towards this goal. It is difficult because rents are high and there is a 14% inflation rate; however, Al-Anon continues to grow. Cec stated that the AGSC's Secretariat is assuming more responsibility though important matters are still referred to full General Service Committee Meetings.

Marj. also of the Australian General Service Committee, visited the World Service Office in August with a great many questions concerning the Handbook. With Henrietta's assistance, we answered these questions and complimented the tremendous effort members in South Queensland extended in developing it. As Henrietta said, "It really is a wonderful achievement."

Mary R. has resigned as General Secretary of the Victoria Information Service because of extenuating personal circumstances. The WSO wrote words of encouragement to Mary and sent a letter of welcome to Lisa Parry who will be acting as General Secretary until the Information Service Meeting in April.

In Mary's letter, she mentioned that they feel the value of structuring is in keeping with the World Service Handbook and were pleased to learn that the Northern Area has decided to discuss its own IS to serve the six Districts in the center of the Northern Area. She also informed us that members working on P.I. in Victoria have been encouraged by the interest shown from radio and TV channels. Particular attention is being paid to ethnic groups needing the Al-Anon recovery programs.

We informed Mary that their countersigned copies of the request for permission to reprint Al-Anon/Alateen CA literature is being sent to them. We wrote to Lisa P., the acting General Secretary of the Victorian Information Service, inquiring about Marjorie since she did not attend the WSC as anticipated. Lisa replied that a national airline strike had prevented her attendance. Lisa also commented that they have been successful in using the Conference theme, "Communication—Our Lifeline" in the Victorian Group News, as an editorial. She also described the progress they are making with the new structure. The telephone and electric bills are in Lisa's name which is too great a responsibility, especially, as there is no indemnification for any Victoria Information Service Officers. Because of a shortage of personnel in Victoria, the Literature and Alateen Committees are being centered in New South Wales as an interim measure.

An inquiry arrived from Queensland concerning the use of films at Al-Anon events. We explained that the Policy Committee had decided at the June 1976 meeting that decisions as to whether films from outside sources should be used at meetings would remain within the autonomy of each group.

Another question was whether the WSC would always remain the final authority when Australia becomes a national body. We explained the importance of Al-Anon maintaining worldwide unity; therefore, WSC has designated Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters to be the service arm for groups throughout the world by disseminating policy and information.

Berle, in Queensland, wrote in September telling us that she is the Editor of their Area Newsheet. She is pleased about her new assignment and we have put her in touch with various editors of newsletters in the United States so they may share their experiences with her.

Rex, in New South Wales, asked questions about raising funds for Delegate representation at the Conference. It seems that American colloquialisms, such as, "pot luck dinners", "garage sales" and

"round robin" meetings, as used in the Policy Digest, are causing confusion in Australia. We wrote explaining the use of these terms. A recommendation has been made that the Policy Committee look into more universal terms. Rex also had some questions concerning raffles; we explained that any decision they made concerning raffles would have to be in keeping with their local laws. For example, in the U.S., we have a federal law which prohibits sending raffle tickets in the mail.

We received a letter from Yvonne in New South Wales explaining that "An Open Letter to my Doctor" from the pamphlet "A Pebble in the Pond" is being distributed to doctors in their Area. She wanted to know if she could have permission to reprint the letter. We explained that "A Pebble in the Pond" was designed so that members could reproduce any part of it at their discretion in doing Public Information Work.

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

DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK was shown nationally in New Zealand in August. It is having a measurable impact on the membership there. Members in New Zealand are expressing hope that it will not take as long for them to see the film, A SLIGHT DRINKING PROBLEM.

The annual New Zealand Al-Anon Family Group magazine was sent by Audrey F., the editor, and, as usual, it was interesting and inspirational.

Lane C., the Secretary of the Northern Area Assembly, mentioned in her recent letter how much they appreciated the P.I. Kit and that they have added it to their Area assembly data. Gratitude was also expressed for AREA HIGHLIGHTS and the labor/management packet. Lane said that industry has not yet been reached by AA and that perhaps "Al-Anon could lead the way."

Presently there are 71 Al-Anon groups, 6 Alateen groups and 3 Loners and Alateen Contacts in New Zealand.

d. U.K. & Eire

Jean G., PI Staff Secretary of the General Service Office (GSO) Al-Anon Family Groups, U.K. & Eire, sent us two copies of Al-Anon IS for Men, embodying the copyright and the permission to reprint clause. Jean said that in the next printing of each piece of literature the necessary clauses will be incorporated, and record copies sent to the WSO. Later, new copies of Merry-Go-Round, Alateen's Just For Today bookmark and leaflet, Homeward Bound, Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?, and This Is Al-Anon were received.

With the increasing demands made upon the GSO in London, a second telephone line was installed.

Before finalizing their Handbook, a postal vote was taken of all Conference members, as to whether they still needed District Coordinators whose terms of office expired December 31, 1976. The General Service Board (GSB) felt that during their three years, the coordinators had served to make the service structure function properly. Funds could then be allocated to establishing coordinators for Alateen, Public Information, etc.

In the Summary of the 7th Annual Al-Anon U.K. & Eire Service Conference held September 17th to 19th in Nottingham, it was reported that the final version of the Handbook was discussed and approved. The Conference comprised the Conference Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, ten members of the GSB, and 21 DRs, the equivalent of Delegates to the WSC. The theme was "Al-Anon Has But One Purpose."

The Executive Committee, experimental for six months, was made permanent at the Board meeting held during the Conference. The committee is to "... assist with the smooth running of the GSO and make decisions that are necessary between Board meetings. . ."

Dorothy H., Chairman of the Literature Committee, reported that the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies "... marks a major moment in the continuing development of group conscience and responsibility." Also at the Conference, Josette H. reported that there were 45 cassette tapes (65 hours of listening) available for sale through the tape service; 135 cassettes had been distributed to members between November 1975 and March 1976. "... Our Service is becoming known worldwide," she said, with requests coming from as far away as Australia. Josette indicated "... predominant interest in one hour or longer single speaker talks ... wherein speakers have adequate time to

develop what they were like, what happened and what they are like now . . ."

Two observers attended the 1977 Conference, Rit J. from Belgium and Marjatta P. from Finland. Marjatta told the members, "I now have many ideas to carry home with me . . ." and, ". . . It is marvelous that one can go to another country and after a short while find that people there are your best friends." Rit said that groups all over the Flemish part of Belgium, to whom she reported on the 6th U.K. & Eire Conference, ". . . were very interested and asked me to come back this year."

Jean G. informed us that Jan B., who joined the GSB as Secretary in May, 1976, was named Representative from the U.K. & Eire, to attend the 1977 WSC. Jean, who preceded Jan as Representative to the WSC, told how very pleased they had been to have Mary S. (WSO) visit the GSO and attend their Executive Committee meeting. At their May Board meeting, Jan was named Chairman of the Board. Jan told us "I was thrilled with the help and participation by the new Northern Ireland Regional member—the first male member the GSB has had. . . ."

Bina, a member of an Al-Anon group in London, wrote in NEWS and VIEWS of the Irish National AA Convention in Galway in April. Al-Anon's theme was "Recovery Through Al-Anon." Bina reported the meetings were excellent, including one on "Courage to Change." She said she was ". . . very impressed at the number of young people, teenagers, young wives and mothers, and also the men in Al-Anon." She added, "I think we have come a long way toward overcoming the stigma of alcoholism in Ireland."

At the Conference in September, held at Nottingham University, Brian M. of Belfast, was named Representative to the 1978 WSC. Since the first registered group was in Belfast in 1952—25 years ago—Jan felt it fitting ". . . that this year's Conference elect a candidate from that city to be with you next April!"

Their "panels," such as the P.I. Panel, Literature Panel, etc., which were experimental for one year, became full committees.

"Why the Concepts?" a mimeographed booklet, produced by the AA GSO, was sent to the WSO. Alice B. and Linda McF., (WSO) assisted in the editing of this piece.

The GSO sent a special contribution to the WSO in memory of Noelene L., who passed away in Australia earlier in the year. Noelene was one of the first volunteers at the GSO when it started in 1970. During her five-year stay near London, she served on the editorial committee of NEWS and VIEWS. After her return to Australia, she joined the office staff in Sydney.

For the AA Convention held in Selsey, Sussex in September, Al-Anon planned one meeting on the growth of Al-Anon: from one group in Belfast in 1952 to 400 groups in the U.K. & Eire in 1977. Jan B., who was to chair the meeting reported that ". . . District Representatives from all corners of England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire (will) foregather."

FRENCH LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Publications Francaises

Alberte C., Secretary

Cay C., Chairman; Harriet L., Translator

For legal reasons our Committee was incorporated and, since September 1976, we have been operating under the name of Publications Francaises PFA, Inc. (French Publications for the Families of Alcoholics, Inc.) Because of this incorporation, we became an independent entity, but only at the legal level. We are, indeed, far from being autonomous, quite the contrary, we greatly need the guidance and financial support of the World Service Office.

Our only source of income being the profit from the sales of our pamphlets and the two hardcoverd books presently available in French, we would be incapable of assuring adequate service to all French groups, without help.

There are three full-time employees working in our office, Alberte, Jeannine and Carmen. With the amount of work this service entails, I can assure you they have not time to sit and twiddle their thumbs.

Mail is picked up twice weekly and consists of an average of 60 letters per week. All literature orders are filled promptly and shipped the same week. In 1977, we shipped approximately 2,000 packages,

540 letters besides the 1,532 letters for group inscriptions and the tri-annual appeal letters. In order to economize, certain pamphlets and all service material, including the Handbook, is mimeographed in our office. We mimeographed 100,00 sheets of paper last year. Alberte is responsible for the overall management of the office, contact with printers, preparation of all material for printing, financial reports, etc.

A group of volunteers usually give a helping hand once a week, or if something urgent comes up. Their work consists of assembling the FORUM, or other publications, that is, sorting the pages, putting them in order, folding, stapling, counting and separating into lots of 10. Their help is much appreciated and they are very enthusiastic. The fact that our office consists of five rooms, not separate ones but, rather, communicating rooms, does sometimes make rather hectic working conditions.

One of our big problems is keeping our material up-to-date. Having both French and English groups in our Areas, we strive to maintain unity by using the same GUIDELINES in both languages, as well as all other Al-Anon and Alateen literature.

Since the beginning of the first French groups in Quebec, Harriet has been, and still is, responsible for the translation of all service literature. If we take into account the rate of production and revisions of our English material, I am sure you will agree that she is in no danger of becoming unemployed.

Cay is still conscientiously translating the FORUM. The translations are up to date, even though a backlog still exists in the printing.

Literature proposed for 1977 has not yet been published, because our revisory committee (volunteers) is unable to work on a regular basis. The revisory committee is responsible for reviewing all translated material, with particular attention to the interpretation of the English text. Interpreting someone else's words is really the most difficult part of translating and this is especially true where the FORUM is concerned because most of the articles are personal ones. We do try our best to give an accurate translation.

Hopefully, we will be able to realize our projects this year. We did publish the French version of Why CAL? This is Al-Anon, Sponsorship, What It's All About, Al-Anon slogans, excerpt from Alcoholism The Family Disease (not yet published in French), Do's and Don'ts for Alateen Sponsors, the new leaflet in the Institutions Kit, Suggested Alateen Preamble, two pieces included in Addenda of Conference Brochure, Responsibilities of a Group Representative and Cooperation Through Understanding, Al-Anon Group Impact, Questions & Answers, Fran L., FORUM. We produced revised editions of Al-Anon I.P., Al-Anon & Alateen Groups At Work and the Handbook. We also put together two notebooks containing all material pertinent to a new group.

The Institutions Kit will soon be completed and we are planning to publish GUIDELINES in the same format as English ones, which are very attractive. We also plan to publish, What's "Drunk," Mama? as soon as we find a suitable French title. Here again, translating is not an easy task.

Total sales receipts amounted to \$55,844.19 in 1977, an increase of \$1,800 over the preceding year. Of course, expenditures increased, especially postage and we were obliged to ask groups to add 5% to total amount of orders to help pay postage. Prices of all our material will have to be revised and adjusted this year.

Presently, we serve approximately 476 groups (French) in Canada, 168 in France, Switzerland and Belgium, as well as 125 Lone Members.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve in Al-Anon. In spite of many difficulties, we have much hope for the future. We are grateful for your love and support. It gives us the courage to do our best, one day at a time.

ALATEEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Carole K., Chairman

Darcy W., Staff

Timmy W., who served Alateen faithfully for 14 years as Alateen Staff Secretary, retired in the fall of this year. She continues to sit in on Alateen In-Town Committee meetings offering her knowledge and vast experience. Darcy W., having served as Assistant Staff Secretary, became the new Alateen Staff Secretary as of October 1, 1977. Martha

E., long-time member of the Alateen Committee, joined the staff as the Assistant to the Alateen Secretary.

Public Information

As a result of personal interviews with magazine writers seeking information on Alateen, specific literature, and contacts with Alateen members, articles appeared in the following magazines: "Co-ed", "Circus", "Teen Favorites", and "Common Sense."

We continue speaking personally to writers, health workers, and various other professionals. Many times distraught teenagers, who seek help from their guidance counselors, are spoken with and directed to an Alateen group in their vicinity. Literature is always included in follow-up letters.

An Assistant to a New York Senator felt the need for more Institutions Alateen groups in New York. Various pamphlets were sent, along with the names of both Alateen and Institutions Coordinators to contact for further help.

Alateen Coordinators

Alateen Coordinator, Halina W., (New South Wales) sent a letter reporting on the fantastic cooperation between Al-Anon and Alateen in her Area. "Each Alateen group has three Sponsors and we are fortunate they are enthusiastic; communication between Sponsors and Alateen is very good. We have had problems, but with the aid of the Traditions and the Alateen book, ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS, we have learned from our mistakes and grown." An article on this mutual cooperation was featured in the April issue of ALATEEN TALK.

An incredible amount of work was sent to us by the Alateen Coordinator from Northern Illinois, Joan K. She has put material together, gathered from many sources, for every new Alateen Sponsor in her Area. Inside her folio, Joan has included What is Expected of an Alateen Sponsor?, and our latest sheet, Try To's and Try Not To's for Sponsors and Co-Sponsors of Alateen Groups, Area Newsletter questions and answers from an Alateen/Sponsor's Workshop, various articles on and about Alateen and some sheets on an Alateen Fourth-Step Inventory.

We received word of the first Alateen Coordinator for New Zealand. New Alateen Coordinators were sent a welcoming letter, GUIDELINES FOR AREA ALATEEN COORDINATORS, What is Expected of an Alateen Sponsor?, and the current issue of ALATEEN TALK. The new red, plastic folder of material, sent to all new Alateen groups was also included, beginning with the last quarter of this year. Alateen Coordinators were continually urged to keep us informed of Alateen activities in their Area to be shared with all in ALATEEN TALK.

ALATEEN TALK

ALATEEN TALK was published six times this year. To celebrate Alateen's 20th Anniversary, this publication has been tracing Alateen's "Roots" in many issues. Members were asked in the December issue to let us know if they desired a change in format. The response has been overwhelmingly in favor of seeing a publication more like the FORUM, with personal stories of Alateen members.

World Service Conference

The Alateen Town Hall Meeting at the 1978 Conference might include an Alateen skit. Towards the goal of improving Al-Anon involvement in Alateen sponsorship, (project for the year, decided at the 1977 WSC), the In-Town Committee completed a mimeographed sheet entitled, Do-It-Yourself Wallet Card for Alateen Group Sponsors and Co-Sponsors. A sheet was sent to every Al-Anon and Alateen group; have received several requests for them in bulk quantities.

Alateen Conferences

In May, Martha E. attended the Eastern Alateen Round-Up (E.A.R.) in North Carolina. In June, Timmy attended METRO (N.Y. and N.J. Alateen Conference). Darcy attended R.M.A.C. (First Rocky Mountain Alateen Conference). Timmy and Darcy attended N.E.A.C. (New England Alateen Conference). In August, Martha attended M.E.A.C. (Mid-Eastern Alateen Conference). In September, Timmy attended O.M.I.A.C. (Ohio Michigan, Indiana Alateen Conference). In November Carole and Martha attended E.S.A.C. (Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference).

The March, July and November appeal letters were slightly reworded for Alateen.

Alateen Committee

Carole K., Chairman of the Alateen Committee, resigned as she could not presently devote time to this Committee. She will be greatly missed by us all. A new Chairman will be chosen and appointed. The Committee has been working on a new pamphlet which will include questions and answers often asked by Sponsors. We received several good suggestions from a Sponsor's Workshop at the 1977 Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference. The Alateen Committee recommended to the Literature Committee that all future references to Alateen in the literature be changed from: "Alateen, the junior segment of Al-Anon" to: "Alateen, a part of Al-Anon."

Alateen ONE DAY AT A TIME Book

The initial gathering of material for this new book was begun by the Literature Committee, after we reviewed it. Suggested topics were submitted to us by the Literature Committee, as well as a few pages of initial writings and thoughts. We are pleased with the direction of the book. All letters contributing material are answered, thanking members for their work.

New Literature and Sheets

An Alateen 12 x 12 Wallet Card with Preamble.

Three mimeographed sheets are now included in guideline form for Alateen groups. Organizing an Alateen Group, Suggested Alateen Welcome, Preamble to the Twelve Steps and Closing. The Twelve Traditions have been incorporated and printed, along with the Twelve Steps.

Mimeographed sheet for Sponsors entitled, Do-It-Yourself Wallet Card for Alateen Group Sponsors and Co-Sponsors.

A form letter was written for professionals who need general information about Alateen. Professionals who require more information are sent a personal letter and literature.

Review of Literature

The book, ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS, was reviewed and partially reworded. The history of Alateen was updated to include the years from 1973 to 1976. Recommendations were then sent to the Literature Committee. AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM and LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC were also reviewed.

A former Alateen member submitted material on resentment towards the non-alcoholic parent. This material and other suggestions were used to update the pamphlet, Youth and the Alcoholic Parent.

We suggested to the Literature Committee that the word "Alateen" which appears on page 14 of the booklet, What's "Drunk," Mama?, be printed larger and placed in its own box like "Al-Anon" and "AA", so it would stand out more on the page.

We continually send Alateen packets to new groups, information to professionals interested in starting Alateen groups along with Al-Anon contacts, information to teenagers requesting materials, information to libraries, hospitals, schools and other agencies. During the year, 755 letters were written to new or proposed Alateen groups, enclosing material. This number includes 15 Institutions, 12 Post Alateen, 11 Young Al-Anon. In addition, 64 possible proposed group letters were sent. One proposed Alateen Contact letter was written.

We received 44 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 more material.

Thirty-nine letters were received requesting information about starting a Preteen group. We sent them the sheets explaining the policy regarding these groups.

There were 197 letters written to groups. A total of 297 letters went to

individual inquirers during the year with appropriate literature enclosed. Sixty-two letters on Public Information relating to Alateen were written, 13 to WSC Delegates, 89 to Alateen Committee members, 21 to (or about) Alateen Conferences, 74 to Alateen Coordinators and 26 miscellaneous.

Alateen Standing Committee Report-Back

Anne S., MI

Several successful activities were cited on Al-Anon involvement in Alateen Sponsorship: Area workshops, Sponsors' meetings, having Alateen speakers at Al-Anon meetings, open Alateen meetings with Al-Anon participation, Alateen reports given at Area Assemblies, rotating Sponsors on a four-to-six-month basis, getting Al-Anon members to make a commitment to serve Alateen for two years, and having an Al-Anon Fund Raising Chairman who is not a Sponsor of the group but takes responsibility to plan and direct Alateen fund-raising activities.

In talking over the reasons Alateen members drop the program after their teen years, the committee reasoned that Alateen members are not always welcomed at Al-Anon although they are "qualified" to attend as family members. Encouraging groups to accept Alateens as maturing adults means remembering that, as children, they were deeply affected, too. Having a welcoming committee, listening carefully and holding a group conscience meeting might help.

Other topics included Sponsorship, the need for attendance at Al-Anon meetings as well as a willingness to allow the Alateen group to grow and be accepting of teenagers and their problems: disruptive members—they may be taken aside privately, guidelines can be written which include "no drugs, no booze," and a level of trust could be established: Posters—might be hung in a counselor's office to discourage the curiosity seekers; ways to help Alateen groups expand—Sponsors and group members express their expectations, Sponsor and two members visit one group where that Sponsor and two members have gone to yet another group in a series of visits; and all night Alateen sessions—have a Sponsor's meeting to help prevent Sponsor stress.

Four questions were suggested for Al-Anon members: "Would you like to have one hour per week just to grow in the program? Can you celebrate just because you are special? Can you listen with a velvet ear? Would you like to see the real meaning of love? If you answered yes to any of these, please come to six Alateen meetings in a row. You will make a fantastic Sponsor."

The Alateen project for 1979 will be "Al-Anon—a continuation of Alateen growth," with more Alateen attendance at Al-Anon meetings and a growing awareness on the part of Al-Anon members of the sometimes difficult transition from Alateen to Al-Anon.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jean A., Chairman
Ruth H., Assistant Chairman
Holly C., Secretary

The Conference Committee, concentrates on the mid-year when the World Service Conference is held. It reviews the past Conference and prepares for the one to come.

Conference Summary

The 1977 Summary carries the Annual Reports of the World Service Office Activities as well as coverage of the Conference proceedings and decisions. In addition to the 1747 copies requested by the Delegates for Area distribution, Summaries were sent to all English-Speaking groups and service entities and to the General Service Offices abroad.

With our wonderful Chairman, Jean A., past Panel Delegate from Ontario and past Canadian Regional Trustee, the committee began to plan for 1978 as soon as the 1977 Conference was over.

Plans for the 1978 WSC

Our theme will be "Cooperation Through Understanding." It was hoped that all members would come to see that they are part of the Conference, too. Through their Group Representatives, they share the responsibility of providing help for families and friends of alcoholics worldwide. Our agenda would cover unfinished business from last year's sessions as well as panels of P.I., Alateen and Institutions; workshops on duties of Area Treasurer and responsibilities of the Group Representative; a slide presentation describing the Al-Anon World Service Office; the introduction of the new *FORUM* magazine and the newly-developed TV spots. Participants would include Delegates as moderators, speakers and reporters along with In-Town committee members and WSO Staff.

Budget costs reflected the refreshments to be served to arriving Delegates at the new location of the World Service Office and the opening banquet and the luncheons at the Biltmore Hotel where the World Service Conference would meet from April 17-22. Payments were included for the cost of providing all conference members with a more durable carrying case for portfolios and other necessary materials. It was decided to hire a professional technician to tape-record the proceedings.

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

FORUM Issues would continue to carry articles covering all phases of the Conference.

Office procedures continued on a daily basis. Correspondence responses included: information concerning District and Area structure; names of newly-appointed coordinators, newsletter editors and Area officers. Area Newsletters were read. Delegates were kept up-to-date on inactive and new groups, group contributions and correspondence which required Area attention and/or action.

The Regional Trustee Experimental Plan adopted at the 1977 Conference was put into effect and notification was sent to all Assembly Areas in the Northwest and the Areas in the Southwest regions. Chaired by Loretta L. the committee received resumes from 14 out of a possible 23 Areas.

SUB-COMMITTEES

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| AGENDA | Ruth H. is the liaison member of the Board. The sheets distributed last April were filled with suggestions for the coming Conference. Members were sent a list of 12 possible agenda subjects under consideration. |
| ADMISSIONS | Paul L. is liaison member of the Board. Guidelines for this committee were revised to incorporate the suggestions approved at '77 Conference. |
| HANDBOOK | Alice B. headed this committee. The pages describing the Trustees relationship to the Conference were completed and are included in the latest printing of the Handbook. |

Agenda Committee Report back—Lavinia B., RI

Looking forward to next year's Conference is not a matter of projecting for this committee. Plans for the 1979 Conference are begun at this meeting which suggested several items for consideration. A suggested theme—Service, Within and Without, —a suitable souvenir, a book cover for ODATs or a case for service manuals or the *FORUM*. The Committee recommended a workshop on Sponsorship, Town Halls and the continued use of Green Light or Open sessions. Agenda items can be proposed until November, 1978. All suggestions are welcome and

the committee requested Conference members to return agenda forms to the WSO Conference Committee.

Handbook Committee Report-back—Alice B., Chairman

The handbook required a few additional phrases to comply with a Board of Trustees decision which affects the Delegates' Equalized Expenses. *[This amount for the 1979 WSC, and Conferences to follow, will be based on a formula where 20% of the Delegates' Conference expenses will be covered by the WSO General Fund which also pays the cost of the WSO member's attendance. The remaining 80% of the Delegates' projected costs will be divided equally among all the Areas. The Conference approved the changes. (See MOTIONS p. 36) PLEASE NOTE the amended pages may have different numbers in your Handbook. In the 1977 printing, the changes appear as stated on pages 16 and 23. In older versions, How the Conference is Financed, Delegates Expenses and Finances appear on pages 11 and 17-19.]*

The committee asked that additions be compiled on insert sheets for unsold copies of the Handbook. Several members had second thoughts about the motion proposed to abolish the Committee unless and until a special issue necessitated its convening. The motion was defeated and the committee will continue.

FORUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Hildegard M., Editor

Enthusiasm for the *FORUM* during 1977 has been expressed by members through the rising number of subscriptions, increasing contributions of high quality articles to be published and many letters of appreciation.

Monthly circulation rose from 34,000 to 40,000. A total of 440,211 of the current issues of the *FORUM* were mailed during 1977 plus 7,326 back issues. A total of 920 letters were answered. This is nearly double the number of letters received two years ago and a substantial increase over the letters received last year. Letters have come from every state and nearly every Canadian province, as well as from Australia, Europe, South America and India and other overseas countries. Complimentary copies of the *FORUM* were sent to 328 members whose work was published.

Features that elicited a sizeable response included Meeting Minutes and Pen Pals. One member who had requested a pen pal wrote, "The experience of this outpouring of love has been indescribable. Where I thought I was alone, now I know I have many dear friends."

Specific problems to which members responded generously: "Stepmother Needs Help"—coping with stepchildren; "Am I Expecting Too Much?"—living with sobriety; "Feeling Rejected"—the despair of a divorced mother whose children chose to live with their father; "Looking for Helpful Acceptance"—a plea for understanding from an unmarried, agnostic, career woman. The answers to these requests were published in subsequent issues.

During the year an article on each of the Twelve Concepts and an editorial on various aspects of the Al-Anon program were included monthly.

The *FORUM* Committee (Alice B., Rita McC. and Bo H.) has been busy during this year planning for the expansion of the *FORUM* to magazine format. Articles, features and art work are already being prepared. Subscription rates have been prorated since October.

Being editor this year has been a privilege and a great pleasure to me. I thank Louise for giving generously of her time and experience during the transition period and the *FORUM* Committee for its invaluable help during the year. We appreciate more than we can say, the frank, open, thoughtful and helpful letters that have been sent to the *FORUM* and also the work of the Delegates in helping to encourage members to write these letters. We look forward to receiving ideas, suggestions and inspiring help to make the new magazine of the

FORUM a better tool to describe, explain and illuminate the Al-Anon program so that it is truly the Voice of the Fellowship.

The *FORUM* Conference Presentation—Hildegard M. Editor

At the end of an "exciting and inspiring year" since the 1977 WSC approved the idea of a new expanded magazine, Hildegard was ready to present "The *FORUM*." Before that momentous event, she introduced Myrna H., to announce:

"Last year, it was pointed out that when The *FORUM* would become a magazine, it would not be financially feasible to continue sending it free to the groups. A thought was offered to expand *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* and send it free to the groups.

"After a year of thinking and planning, we were able to take this one step further. A communication is needed at the Area level and *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* should remain that vehicle. Since The *FORUM* addresses itself principally to the individual member, a new publication is needed, one that would be specifically designed to meet group needs.

"At the Board of Trustees' meeting last night, this new publication was approved and we're looking for suggestions on what you would like to see in this publication. Sandy F. will be its editor and she will be eager to hear from you.

"The groups will continue to receive complimentary copies of The *FORUM* through the October issue. The new publication will start coming the first of the year (1979) and every month after that.

But, I know you can't wait to see your new *FORUM*. I won't keep you waiting any longer. So, here's Hildegard."

"Letters are the lifeblood of The *FORUM*," Hildegard continued, "but I was appalled to read one from Iowa which said, 'I have never seen The *FORUM* and most members don't know it exists.'" Hildegard called on Bo H. and Alice B., long-time members of The *FORUM* Committee who suggested ways to put a copy of the new magazine into the hands of every member. Bo read a message from Rita McC., another committee member, which reminded the Conference that "One of the duties and privileges of Group Representatives is to acquaint members with The *FORUM* and its uses for growth and recovery." Bo then suggested: increasing subscriptions to raise funds (the group purchases several subscriptions, then sells individual copies); giving a sick member a subscription instead of flowers; using the brief but potent feature, "Stopper," as a meeting idea; and making subscription forms available.

Alice B., who many know as the author of *ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON*, spoke of the need for members to submit their personal experiences in using the program to meet the growing need for material.

Margaret D., former editor of The *FORUM*, related past experiences with filling every page because she "couldn't bear to leave any space," when people were waiting to read how others had practiced the Al-Anon program.

In summing up, Hildegard reported 40,000 copies are sent out monthly and "we could break even if we double our subscriptions. Mailing is now computerized, but multiple subscriptions continue to be mailed from the WSO. While not all material submitted is useable, all letters are acknowledged." Urging members to write for The *FORUM*, Hildegard emphasized, "Everyone can write; everyone has something to share if they 'Think,' 'Keep it simple,' 'Let go and let God,' and remember 'Easy does it,' but DO it."

INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Edwina F., Chairman

Ann S., Staff

Delegates, Institutions Coordinators, Chairmen, members throughout the world did a fantastic job this year of carrying the message of

hope to families in need of Al-Anon. They "Came Alive in 75," gained momentum with the "Spirit of 76," and forged ahead with "Institutions in 77." Now, we will continue to "Cooperate in 78."

We have been most fortunate in gaining two new members who will be sharing their expertise with the Institutions Committee: Ruth H., Regional Trustee from Canada and Jean H., from Lake Grove, New York. Both Ruth and Jean have had experience in bringing Al-Anon to institutions. Monthly committee meetings were held. Ann and Edwina maintained close contact between meetings.

Those involved in this work have shared a wealth of valuable material on meetings, formats, programming and workshops held in prisons and at the end of Assembly meetings. All this reflects the deep concern and dedication of our membership.

All groups meeting in institutions were listed on the computer print-out sheet and recoded to show which were regular groups and which were Institutions groups. We were amazed to find approximately 600 groups, registered as regular groups, meet in institutions throughout the U.S. and Canada, U.K. & Eire and Australia. Some are, in fact, functioning as should Institutions groups but are not aware of it. With this information, the committee hopes by means of a special letter to encourage regular group members who are now meeting in an institution to start an additional Institutions group.

Visitors to the WSO in August included Dr. Bill and Ruth., from Georgia and Drs. T., (husband and wife) from North Carolina who reviewed the sample letter to professionals in the Institutions Kit. They agreed it was valuable for other professionals. We all enjoyed our visit with Jo K., past Chairman of the Institutions Committee and were extremely happy to see her looking so well and in good spirits.

Project Approvals

"You can render a great service to families of problem drinkers," a pocket-sized leaflet, was approved by the Executive Committee. This leaflet is geared to the professional and others who come in contact with people affected by someone else's drinking. It will be included in the Institutions Kit and can be used extensively by all involved in Institutions and Public Information work as well as by the entire membership. It is hoped more doctors will be encouraged to use Al-Anon for referral, just as they would when recommending a patient to any specialist.

Other projects approved are two groupwide mailings, to be sent in February and in August of 1978. The advisability of these mailings is to be evaluated early in 1979. Because of the groupwide mailing in January, 1977 which was translated into Spanish, many requests were received for additional information from various agencies and the membership.

Institutions Coordinators

We now have 55 Institutions Coordinators. There still are a few Areas without a volunteer covering this arm of service. We hope 1978 will be the year for every Area to be represented by a coordinator. New coordinators were sent letters of welcome and an Institutions Kit to aid them in fulfilling their responsibilities in service. They were also encouraged to send items for *INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS*.

Institutions Kit

Early in April, the In-town Institutions Committee members and other dedicated volunteers assembled about 400 Kits for distribution to the Conference members with this new material: the history of Al-Anon in Institutions for the past 21 years; material for a District Project, a sample letter to the secretary of an AA group in prison; sample letter to families of inmates which has a space for a contact and address of a nearby meeting, and list of appropriate recommended literature.

INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

This quarterly publication was mailed in January, April, July and October to Institutions groups, bilingual Spanish groups, Delegates (past and Present) Representatives, Institutions Coordinators, Newsletter Editors and Information Services. Involved members have written enthusiastic letters telling us about the results of their endeavors. We are grateful for this wonderful two-way communication.

New Group

Institutions groups, (82) have started in the following states and provinces:

Al-Anon U.S.—Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington.

Canada —Manitoba, Ontario.

Alateen U.S. —Arkansas, California, Florida, Indiana, New Jersey, New York.

FORUM

Because of the monthly articles in the *FORUM* new volunteers have joined others in serving Al-Anon in institutions. We will continue to submit articles, monthly.

Standing Committee

Delegate members of this committee have been most cooperative. Many worthwhile thoughts have been shared through their close communication. When called upon, they have been exceedingly responsive.

Correspondence—Telephone Contacts—Mail

We are delighted with the many requests received for copies of the revised *GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTIONS WORK*. They have been responsible for the increase in volunteers to this phase of service.

Professionals continue to write for information about the Al-Anon program. Copies of orders received from outside agencies, courts, prisons, rehabilitation facilities etc., were sent to coordinators. They have found this information helpful when initiating District Projects. In some Areas, a "Meeting-On-Wheels" is presented before a group is started.

In the past months, there have been an unusually high number of calls from professionals asking that an Al-Anon group be formed at their facility. Where the professional treating the alcoholic patient found that Al-Anon meetings for family members were lacking, letters were sent and, when possible, calls made to local members and District Representatives who followed through in bringing Al-Anon to the specific institution.

Inmates of penal institutions have continued to write and ask that literature be sent to their families. All requests were answered and appropriate literature sent.

Literature orders have increased in number from Alcoholic Recovery Units for distribution to families.

The Comité de Publications Françaises advised that most of the pieces in the Institutions Kit are now available in French.

New Group Packet

In keeping with a staff recommendation, all new groups will be getting less material when they are proposed and more material when they register. After review, it was agreed that proposed Institutions groups will receive the following:

1. Covering letter.
2. *GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTIONS WORK*.
3. *INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS*.
4. Registration card.
5. Literature order form.

When they register they receive an Institutions Kit and the four service manuals (Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies, World Service Handbook, the Twelve Concepts of Service, Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work) and the Conference Summary.

Revisions

Minor revisions were made on some of the mimeographed Institutions material. It was recommended to the Literature Committee for current and future revisions to include, where omitted, information concerning the Institutions Kit and Institutions groups or committees in Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work and *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC*.

Visits

In September, Ann traveled to Europe and made contact with Jean G., in London, England. Jean mentioned that although there isn't much activity in institutions, there is a need for it. We hope more interest can be stimulated within the membership of the U.K. & Eire.

In Amsterdam, Holland, Ann met with Anneke S., Al-Anon and John S., AA, who held a meeting in their home in Diemen, just outside of Amsterdam. Institutions was one of the topics of conversation.

In Paris, France, Ann contacted Marie-Odile R., the English-speaking liaison for the Paris Intergroup, who had visited the WSO several years ago. She arranged a meeting in her home in the suburbs of Versailles with 10 other members. Some of those present are involved in the General Services in Paris and there was much discussion about their involvement in Institutions work. Ann had an interesting evening with these Al-Anon friends and thanked them all.

In November, Ann attended a seminar which was part of a series given by the New York Affiliate, Inc. of the NCA and the Task Force on Alcoholism of the Commission on Synagogue Relations entitled, "Alcoholism and the Jewish Community." This is important as members of the Rabbinate still need to be educated about the effects of alcoholism on the entire family if they are to be of service to their congregational community.

Institutions Standing Committee Report-back

Marlene D., Hawaii

The committee spoke first of changes for "A Meeting-On-Wheels." It was agreed there is a need to simplify the *GUIDELINES*, and time was given to noting appropriate revisions for "You Can Render a Great Service" leaflet. Another discussion centered on developing a workshop for Assemblies. Jessica B. told of her Area's use of the *GUIDELINES* for this presentation and Betty B. came up with a brief but effective outline. These ideas may be the basis for an addition to be included in the Institutions Kit.

The discussion on *INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS* concentrated on encouraging coordinators to write the WSO and share what is being done in this field.

Time was spent on discussion of having an Institutions Chairman in each District. In Jessica's Area, they have carried the idea further and are attempting to have one Institutions' person from each group to become part of a committee which assembles at District Meetings. This helps eliminate the problem of finding volunteers willing to cover an Institutions meeting on a regular basis, and counteracts the tendency to hold an Institutions meeting which turns into a regular meeting. Members could be asked to start an additional meeting for regular members allowing the Institutions meeting to serve its purpose as an orientation to the Al-Anon program and fellowship.

Where does Institutions begin and Public Information end? This question required affirmation that the relationship between coordinators can play an important part in avoiding duplication of effort. In Jessica's Area one Institutions Chairman attends both Institutions and P.I. meetings in her metropolitan area and is the liaison between them.

The final topic covered fund-raising activities to provide literature. Sarah P. shared the idea of showing Lois' Story and using moneys collected for this purpose. In Northern Illinois, groups contribute 25¢ a month for placement of literature in institutions within each District.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bo H., Chairman

Linda McF., Staff Writer

Committee

Chairman—it was with regret that the Chairman of the Board, Stephanie O.K. accepted Alice B.'s resignation early in the year. In appointing Barker (Bo) H. to fill out Alice's term, Stephanie noted his activity as a member of the Executive and the *FORUM* Committees and his professional background in editorial work.

Changes—Rita McC. accepted Bo's invitation to join Alice B., Mary Ann K., Paul K., Leah G., and Peggy T. as an In-Town Committee member serving with Panel 17 Delegates Vernie S., (GA); Jean T., (OR); Marilyn M., (MA); who were appointed to the Literature Standing Committee at the 1977 World Service Conference. Delegate members James S., (DE); Joan S., (FL); and Willie H., (Ont.S.); began their second term and joined in saying a grateful farewell to Martin D., (IL.S.); Louise J., (ME); and Anna Marie B., (UT); whose terms ended this year.

An *Alateen* member will be added to the Standing Committee to widen its scope. Several members have been recommended. It was also hoped that a special Alateen Committee might be formed to review the work being done on the Alateen ODAT.

Response—Without exception, committee members have graciously contributed an extraordinary amount of time and effort during the year's review of existing and proposed material. Schedules were adjusted without complaint and valuable suggestions for future printings were offered for consideration.

Revisions

Minor—Up-dating, misspelling, typographical errors, grammatical corrections and catalog code adjustments were made in: To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic; A Pebble in the Pond; Al-Anon's Just for Today bookmark; Al-Anon's Printed Poster; This Is Al-Anon; Al-Anon and Alateen Groups At Work; Lois' Story; What's Next? asks the Husband . . . ; Facts About Alateen; What's "Drunk," Mama?; Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service; Operation Alateen; The Twelve Steps and Traditions; Allies for Al-Anon; the Who You See Here placard; A Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups; Homeward Bound; Al-Anon Family Treatment Tool in Alcoholism; Alcoholism, The Family Disease; So You Love An Alcoholic; My Wife Drinks Too Much; and the publications Catalog and Price List. *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC* was up-dated for its 7th Printing and *ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON* had additions to the index when it was prepared for its 10th Printing and several printing corrections when going into its 11th. *ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS* had several grammatical changes and minor content additions which were fully approved by the Alateen Staff Secretary and the General Secretary before this book went into its 3rd Printing.

Major—THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE was prepared for its 4th Printing. In response to numerous suggestions, and with the approval of the full committee at the World Service Conference in April 1977, the two checklists at the end of the book were removed. In addition, ten sentences were deleted from the main body of the work. In each case, the committee decided the material was without popular support.

Proposed—To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic will be expanded and revised to include material on young alcoholics.

Youth and the Alcoholic Parent has been rewritten with the approval of the Alateen Committee and the Literature Committee. The manuscript is now being reviewed by the General Secretary and two members of the Policy Committee.

Al-Anon and Alateen Groups At Work will contain a list of the Twelve Concepts to comply with the decision reached at the 1977 WSC.

LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC—Minor and major revisions have been proposed. In addition to up-dating, and adding material defining Alateen and Institutions groups, there were also three suggestions made for revision where the language is confusing.

Revised and New

AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM has been reprinted with a new story replacing the chapter beginning on page 201. "A Mother of a Teenaged

Alcoholic" was written by Norma S. of the Literature Staff at the World Service Office. Announcements were sent to those on the advance notice list, Area Coordinators, and Delegates. The story deals with a single parent whose only child found *help* away from her while she found *hope* in Al-Anon. Those members with young alcoholics in the family will be impressed with the story of how one member profited from letting go of her feelings of uniqueness by concentrating on her own growth instead of trying to find someone who shared her circumstances.

The publications Catalog and Price Lists now contain all material available in the Winter-Spring of 1978.

Al-Anon, You and the Alcoholic—A new answer was approved to the question on page 5. The Handbook, revised by the Handbook Committee, now includes a description of the World Service Office and the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Style Changes—Twelve Concepts of Service—It was decided to change the color when the green stock was discontinued. It will be a soft buff with blue print, easier to recognize, and less like the Policy Digest in appearance.

New Material

What's "Drunk," Mama?, a 32-page illustrated booklet, to be used as a shared reading experience with young children, was written from an idea presented by a member, Peggy C., from Albany, Georgia. Priced at 50¢ to assure its wide use and availability, it was sent to every English-speaking Al-Anon and Alateen group. Since its appearance at the 1977 WSC, it has reached over 65,000 people. Widely used in P.I. work, the booklet has been donated to many libraries and school systems in the U.S. and Canada. Recently, a Chicago Alcoholic Treatment Center received permission to use the booklet as a script in a dramatic presentation to the Public Schools in Chicago, Illinois.

"Double Winners," a pamphlet written from shared experiences of AA members who are also members of Al-Anon, was approved for publication. In its 4th Printing, this material has had a yearly sale of 80,000 copies.

Alateen Program card, wallet-sized, folded laminated card, printed in red ink, contains the Suggested Alateen Preamble, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alateen and the Serenity Prayer. An announcement was sent to all groups with its prices set at 15/\$1.00 and 100/\$6.00.

Proposed—Sobriety: Another Beginning! has been submitted to the General Secretary. This third manuscript has been approved by the Literature Chairman and the committee and awaits final comments from two members of the Policy Committee.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS (a hardcoverd book) is under way. Six steps have been covered and the proposed chapters have been sent to the committee for comments.

ONE DAY AT A TIME IN ALATEEN—All material received has been sorted and divided according to topic. Several pages have been written and presented to the Alateen Committee for approval of form and matter covered.

A replacement for How to Know an Alcoholic—The Committee recommended further study of alternatives for the Marty Mann pamphlet and will bring the problem to the attention of the full committee after discussion at the In-Town meeting early in 1978.

Simplified literature for special groups and the handicapped has been requested. The topic will be discussed further.

The Adult Child of Alcoholics—Tim P. submitted material which has been reviewed by the Alateen Committee. The work has been edited by the Alateen Staff Secretary, Darcy W., and her assistant, Martha E. Further editing will take place before the material is submitted to the Literature Committee.

Tapes—Discussions on a suitable method for producing material for six, 15-minute tapes based on material for beginners' meetings have led to the Executive Committee decision to hire a professional production company to submit scripts for review by the Staff and the Staff Writer. If possible, the tapes will be produced for presentation to the Conference for approval in 1978.

In-Town Literature Committee

Five meetings were held. In establishing regular meetings, the Chairman hoped for continued cooperation in broadening the scope of committee action. The goal for 1977 was to fully review for consistency, clarity and relevance, all present literature produced by Al-Anon. Attention would be given to all suggestions for new material as well. Charged by the Concepts to "keep our literature fully abreast of our progress," and to "see that an adequate and comprehensive view of Al-Anon in its every aspect is presented in writing," the committee foresaw some proposals for revisions. Because so many of our readings are excellent, the committee hoped to see to it that in those few places where the language is confusing or contradictory, revisions would be made. All suggestions would be well thought out and continue to point out the universal nature of the program, its focus on helping families and friends, and its reluctance to advise, preach or condemn. Any new material would, as usual, be submitted to the entire committee as well as the General Secretary and the designated members of the Policy Committee for final approval. Up-to-date copies of pamphlets number 1-20 on the price list were sent to all members, as well as current copies of the six hardcoverd books. Comments were to be compiled on a specially designed evaluation sheet.

Area Literature Coordinators

All newly-appointed or elected Area Coordinators were sent a welcome letter, guidelines, advance notice of publications, suggestions on using the Catalog as a reference in answering literature inquiries and an illustrated vignette which used the titles of CAL in a most unique way. To prepare a program of ideas for Literature Displays to be presented at the 1978 WSC, coordinators were requested to send in slides which showed local displays and ideas for exhibiting Al-Anon pamphlets and books.

Office Procedures

Copyrights—Many requests to reprint brief excerpts of our material were received. Those which met the terms of the copyright law, were granted permission.

Copyright Registration—Copyrights were obtained from the Library of Congress copyright office for all new pamphlets and printed material, and for those works which had been substantially revised since their original copyright was issued.

ISBN Registration—We maintained a current listing of all International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) for our hardcoverd books, with the R.R. Bowker Company, producers of The Publishers' Trade List Annual, a compilation of catalogs and lists of all the books published in the United States. Monthly notices are sent with advance book information as each printing requires a new ISBN number.

Correspondence—Responses were sent to letters and phone inquiries from members and interested parties who offered suggestions for literature. All ideas were brought to the attention of the committee through the meetings of the In-Town Committee.

Production—Telephone conversations and appointments were held with company representatives for printers, paper manufacturers, and cover stock companies. In order to counteract the ever-increasing per-unit-cost factor in publishing, investigations were made of cover material other than linen cloth. New paper companies were sought to produce a competitive market; additional printers were invited to submit bids. These procedures resulted in lowering the cost of book bindings, improved quality in paper stock with a minimum inflationary cost increase, and additional services being offered by vendors through competitive bidding.

Literature Standing Committee Report-Back

Bo H., Chairman

Because it sees literature as the written expression of Al-Anon group conscience, the committee will continue its comprehensive review of existing literature in 1979 and it reaffirmed its pledge to make careful deliberations before suggesting any revisions. In addition to hearing a progress report

which noted revisions in Youth and the Alcoholic Parent, Al-Anon IS for Men, and LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, the committee concentrated on several other subjects: appropriate use of material written by professionals, their quotes, names and terminology (they reviewed and decided not to publish Reverend Kellermann's latest copyrighted work as CALiterature); recommendations for simplifying some written material which could serve the handicapped reader; presentation of artistic cover designs which would be in keeping with the Al-Anon "look"; recommendations for replacement of "How to Know an Alcoholic"; and encouraging the use of literature as a source for reflection, review and research.

New material is now being written for: revised pamphlets; a hardcoverd book on the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions; a pamphlet on living with sobriety; an expanded version of To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic; and adult children of alcoholics.

The committee expressed gratitude for the work done by Literature Coordinators and urged Delegates to encourage appointing them in those Areas which have none. Coordinators have helped in running workshops, expanding the use of Conference-Approved Literature, and finding answers to problems which have been covered in our books and pamphlets.

PUBLIC INFORMATION (P.I.) COMMITTEE REPORT

Hank G., Chairman

Margaret O'D., Staff

1977 World Service Conference

At the Town Hall meeting, the committee presented a workshop called Anonymity: Bridge or Barrier; copies were distributed to all Conference members. Rosanna S., of the P.I. Committee, prepared a poster depicting the workshop theme which was also distributed during the Town Hall meeting.

Our floor display was shipped to the World Service Conference and two literature displays were prepared for the hospitality room.

General Office Work

Telephone conversations with writers on major magazines, newsletter editors, industrial leaders and individuals were held and appropriate follow-up activities were instituted. 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 new system has been designed and instituted for coordinating national exhibits; it provides a method of evaluating the event, and provides the acting representative with carefully planned guidelines. A log book was maintained listing all professional inquiries. They were evaluated and recorded. Form letters were used to answer inquiries from professionals, students, military personnel, industrial personnel, and individuals. Anything more than a general inquiry was responded to with a personal letter. (In 1977, the P.I. Staff processed 2,699 routine inquiries, resulting in 542 new contacts for our outside mailing list.)

A form letter was designed to send to newspapers and other publications that misspell Al-Anon or Alateen, thanking them for mentioning us and tactfully correcting their spelling. Forty-six such letters were sent in 1977. All letters received from groups or individual members expressing an interest in doing P.I. work or expressing problems or successes in Public Information activities or projects were answered individually.

As names of the Coordinators were received, they were sent a P.I. Kit, the most recent issue of AREA HIGHLIGHTS and a letter welcoming them to this phase of Al-Anon service. Throughout the year the P.I. Coordinator in each Area was kept informed of inquiries from the Area; this step was initiated in 1977. In the absence of P.I. Coordinators, Delegates are sent inquiries for further follow-up. Sending the actual P.I. Kit instead of an order blank was initiated in 1977 at the direction of the Board of Trustees. Shortly after receiving the Kit, each Coordinator received a letter of encouragement for his or her effort in carrying the message.

Each P.I. Coordinator also received the annual questionnaire which is designed to keep the WSO informed of the direction and needs of those involved in Public Information work. All responses were acknowledged and questions answered.

P.I. Kit

The P.I. Kit has again been up-dated so that P.I. Coordinators constantly have the most efficient and current material possible to carry on their activities. New enclosures in the Kit are the Al-Anon catalog and order blank, a foreign price list, a montage of Spanish materials, a revised release on public service spot announcements and the newly created GUIDELINES FOR OPEN AL-ANON MEETINGS. New additions of P.I. material are sent to the Delegates.

Display Packet

The Display Packet has been updated and the following additions were made: montages of Spanish materials, hardcoverd books, service manuals; a facsimile of Blueprint for Progress, a foreign price list; a new catalog with order blanks as well as the pamphlets, Working As For or With Professionals, A Pebble in the Pond, "Double Winners," What's "Drunk," Mama?, Let It Begin With Me card and a new streamer.

Discount Package

The Discount Package has also been expanded to include, "Double Winners," and What's "Drunk," Mama?

The Influence of Al-Anon on Children of Alcoholics

The Influence of Al-Anon on Children of Alcoholics, a two-page mimeographed sheet, created by Alice B. has been updated. It will be used to answer educational, religious and medical P.I. requests in which the primary concern is the effects of alcoholism on children.

Fact Sheet

The Fact Sheet has been updated to include current Al-Anon statistics. It has also been redesigned and renamed, it is now called Facts and Figures.

Labor/Management Packet

By condensing the information and removing the order form for TV spots, the Labor/Management packet was reduced from six mimeographed sheets to four. Also, we removed the catalog and are only sending a price list. The new format not only reduces the cost of the packet itself, it also cuts the mailing costs of each packet in half.

Copies of the new Labor/Management packet were sent to Delegates, P.I. Coordinators, Newsletter Editors, and Information Service Offices (Intergroups). Copies were also sent to the ALMACA and L/M mailing list.

Library Shows

In 1977, the WSO participated in a total of nine library shows. This is another new area of involvement for Al-Anon and it is proving very valuable.

Clergy

A two-page flyer was prepared encouraging clergy to use Al-Anon as a community resource. Reverend Joseph Kellermann and Bishop Roger Blanchard both responded to a request for short statements endorsing Al-Anon. The flyer is presently being translated into Spanish.

Mailing Cards

Outside mailing cards which were formerly kept in the Accounting Department are now kept in P.I. The cards are being separated into categories by profession (education, legal, religious, etc.) so that mailings can be sent to separate target areas.

Clipping Service

We continue to gather clippings about Al-Anon from all over the world; Mary C., a volunteer, has been cataloging them.

Rutgers Summer School of Alcoholism Studies

There were 500 students from the field of alcoholism at Rutgers, which Margaret attended from June 26 through July 15. Margaret and Martha, the Assistant to the Alateen Staff Secretary, addressed the entire student body about Al-Anon and Alateen. At open Al-Anon

meetings consisting of students and interested faculty, a collection was taken; the money was used to donate books and pamphlets about our fellowship to the Rutgers Library. A letter was sent to the 500 students listed on the 1977 Rutgers School Alcoholism roster encouraging them to use Al-Anon as a resource. It also pointed out the need to focus on families in the curriculum of the summer school program.

"A Slight Drinking Problem"

The upcoming national television program, "A Slight Drinking Problem" was previewed by Margaret O'D. in Hollywood, California (while attending the NCA annual meeting in San Diego.) It is the story of a young couple; a husband who drinks and a wife who suffers from the effects of his drinking. Filmed from the wife's perspective, it shows how a family member can find help in Al-Anon independent of the alcoholic's recovery. The film stars Patty Duke as the wife and James Hampton as the husband. It was made in cooperation with Al-Anon members in California; members of the P.I. Committee, W.S.O. Staff and Board of Trustees viewed the video-cassette and agreed it was up to Al-Anon standards and could be an excellent vehicle to bring new members to our program.

It was produced for the "Insight Series" by Paulist Productions and was written by the author of DRINK, DRANK, DRUNK. At the end of the show, the producer consented to the inclusion of a national tag-on, referring people to Al-Anon. A letter was sent to P.I. Coordinators, Delegates, Newsletter Editors and Information Services telling them about the film and offering suggestions for P.I. preparing for an influx of new members. Individual letters were sent to these same service people in those locations.

"If You Loved Me"

Joan Kroc, founder of Operation Cork, an organization designed to help families of alcoholics, wrote Margaret saying she would arrange for local contact information concerning Al-Anon when the film "If You Loved Me" is shown nationally. Margaret explained that this is a complicated process; also, there aren't always local contacts available. In a follow-up telephone discussion among Margaret, Eleanor O'B., General Secretary and John Keller, the President of Operation Cork, the importance of a national tag-on at the film's conclusion was stressed.

Outside Films

The Public Information Secretary continues to receive requests and questions concerning the use of outside films by the fellowship. A file is being maintained containing these requests. A recommendation was sent to the Policy Committee that a list of films, in keeping with Al-Anon standards and Traditions, be made available to members upon request and that to be placed on this list, a film must be reviewed by members of the Board of Trustees and the P.I. Committee. The P.I. Committee asked the Policy Committee to help them in answering these queries in the interest of Al-Anon as a whole. The Policy Committee has decided to present the issues to the 1978 World Service Conference for resolution. (see p. 28)

Annual P.I. Bulletin

The P.I. Staff has created an annual bulletin to send to our complete mailing list to inform or remind them, of the availability of Al-Anon as a community resource. Sandy F., Assistant to the P.I. Secretary, was assigned this project. She worked very closely with Rosanna S., P.I. Committee member, in preparing this piece.

NCA Task Force

Margaret met regularly with Debbie Kostroun and other task force members to discuss, plan and encourage focusing attention on the effects of alcoholism on the alcoholic's family at the National Council on Alcoholism's annual meeting to be held in Missouri in 1978. An open Al-Anon meeting will be a new feature of this annual event.

As a direct result of the Task Force meetings, Bill D., the Editor of the Labor-Management Alcoholism Journal, requested and was provided with 400 copies of What's "Drunk," Mama? to be used in an educational packet the NCA is sending to all their councils in recognition of the families' needs.

Magazines and Booklets

The P.I. Staff has been involved with a number of publications giving technical advice to writers for articles that are being published. Among the publications that we have worked closely with are: "Ladies Home Journal," "Be Alive," "Youth Magazine," "Glamour," "Family Circle," "Better Homes and Gardens," and "Good Housekeeping."

Scriptographic Booklet

Timmy W., former Alateen Secretary, her assistant, Darcy and Margaret edited a booklet published by the Channing L. Bete Co., called Alcoholic in the Family, at their request. The changes altered the tone of the booklet from an emphasis on the alcoholic to a recognition of the needs of the family members.

Additional Mailings

A mailing consisting of a What's "Drunk," Mama?, flyer, a Fact and Figure sheet and the blue P.I. price list was sent to 4,144 individuals and organizations on our professional mailing list.

A two-part mailing was also sent to the complete outside mailing list, the first part was sent to the 700 contacts on the NCA, (National Council on Alcoholism) and ALMACA, (Association of Labor Management Consultants on Alcoholism) mailing lists. This portion of the mailing contained the Labor/Management packet along with a covering letter, a current Fact and Figure sheet, a catalog and an order blank. The second part of the mailing, consisted of a letter, a Fact and Figure sheet, a catalog and an order blank, went to the 3,200 other professionals on the Al-Anon mailing list.

Participation At National and International Annual Meetings

includes shipping our floor and/or table displays. Representatives attend where possible, and literature is often provided for a "free take-one table."

American Personnel and Guidance Association, Dallas, Texas

Babs B.

American Association for Higher Education, Chicago, Illinois

Connie S.

U.S. Public Health Service Meeting, San Francisco, California

Elva B.

American Orthopsychiatric Association, New York, New York

Peter S.

American Public Health Association, Southern Branch, Little Rock, Arkansas

Alemeda E.

American Association of Sex Educators and Therapists,

San Francisco, California

Elva B.

American Occupational Health Conference, Boston, Massachusetts

Marilyn M., Delegate

National Council on Alcoholism, San Diego, California

Irma C. and Betty R., Delegates

Margaret O'D., P.I. Staff Secretary went to this event and participated in a "Family Day," by making a presentation concerning the effects of alcoholism on family members. She also participated in the general activities.

National Conference on Social Welfare, Chicago, Illinois

Connie S.

American Medical Association, San Francisco, California

Elva B.

North Conway Institute, Byfield, Massachusetts

Margaret attended and provided a family focus on the theme, "Responsible Decisions about Alcohol."

Canadian Foundation of Alcohol and Drug Dependencies, Manitoba, Canada

Gloria P. and Ruth H., Regional Trustee, were at this, Al-Anon's first attendance at a Canadian National Meeting.

National Medical Association, Los Angeles, California

Faye F.

Alcohol and Drug Problems Association, Detroit, Michigan

Bill S., Margaret attended this event, participating in various workshops, providing a family focus.

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses, Miami, Florida
Selma L.

American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.

Elaine H.

Association of Labor/Management Administrators and Consultants
on Alcoholism (ALMACA), New York, New York

Rose M.

Margaret, Myrna H. and Sandy F., from WSO, attended and participated in this event.

P.I. Standing Committee Report-back—Irna C. (CA)

The committee's work had centered around the creation of new TV spots and the development of new radio spots, posters, table displays and exhibit materials which would have a unified theme. This year's primary job will be the completion of these projects. The committee is investigating the costs of French and Spanish sound tracks for the radio and TV spots. In keeping with the committee theme, "Making the media work for you," a discussion was held on ways to put TV spots on the air. Alateen involvement in this type of P.I. work was urged. All views, those suggestions from the full Conference during the P.I. Town-Hall and members' experiences will be compiled into complete guidelines to be included in the P.I. Kit. Revisions will be made in Pebble in the Pond as well. In addition, the committee will be collecting ideas for ways to reach the handicapped who have been affected by another person's drinking. Irma added that "P.I. is a way of reaching out your hand. Who knows—you may uncover some hidden talent."

PUBLIC INFORMATION TOWN HALL

Hank G., Chairman

Margaret O'D., Staff Secretary

Hank introduced the In-Town Committee members, Mary C., Barbara F., and Walter W. and referred to the excellent art work done by another member Rossana S., for the Annual Newsletter, "Al-Anon Speaks Out", and the exhibit booth used to display Al-Anon information to the public. He welcomed the new Delegate members.

Before showing the new TV spots, Margaret described the excitement of developing them. She stressed the P.I. goal: Getting the spots on each of the nation's 947 TV stations in hopes that every family suffering because of the disease of alcoholism will learn about Al-Anon & Alateen.

The first spot, in which an upset husband calls his family doctor for advice on how to deal with his alcoholic wife, was aimed at the professional community as well as being a source of information for men in this situation. The second involved a wife's dream where she finds herself being blamed for her husband's drinking. The next spot dealt with the frustrations of a teenage girl and her mother over the father/husband's alcoholism. It illustrated that help is needed for family members. A mail carrier was the subject of the fourth spot; it showed how an employee is affected by an alcoholic family member. The last spot suggested Alateen for teenagers, it portrays a boy struggling to deal with his father who is drunk.

After the viewing, Hank invited the Conference members to participate in a Town-Hall meeting from which the Committee planned to create guidelines for contacting TV and Radio stations. Hank said, "Public Information is love, and through the TV and radio spots, we are offering a helping hand to thousands of needy people."

Walter W., shared the experience he had with the networks in New York. He spoke of the need to make personal contact with media people and stressed the importance of a follow-up visit. Other suggestions included: Know what you are doing, be knowledgeable and articulate about Al-Anon and the spots you

are trying to put on the air. It is important to obtain the names of station personnel. To do this, watch credits at the end of other announcements, ask members if they have any contacts at local stations, and keep a list of names for reference.

In a series of questions and answers a number of tips and experiences were shared. Free time is made available by TV & radio stations as a public service. A slide can be made as a tag-on at the end of the tape to show the local mailing address. It isn't a good idea to ask to have tapes returned by the station. Caution is advised in giving a home phone number which might receive too many calls. Cooperation and communication with the local information service is essential; they should be advised of the possibility of an increase in inquiries. A personal follow-up helps encourage continued use of Al-Anon material and lowers the risk of having spots discarded. You can usually count on a tape lasting for 200 showings. Send thank you letters whenever possible to the stations.

Hank closed, underscoring the need for organization and advance planning.

TREASURER'S REPORT*

Henrietta S.,

(In addition to presenting the report below, Henrietta, formerly the General Secretary of the WSO asked those present to suggest ways in which the tri-annual appeal letter could be a better instrument in helping members to respond with an increase in contributions.)

Inflationary trends in the economy and the continuing effort to offer material to the membership at the lowest possible cost affected the financial outcome of the Al-Anon WSO operation in 1977. Though the number of Al-Anon and Alateen groups increased by 1,651, or more than 13% over the previous year and the WSO expanded its services in many areas, total gross income amounted to \$1,148,911, a decrease of \$68,469 or 5.6% under 1976. Operating expenses increased by \$99,400 or 10%. The net excess of income for the year was \$34,127, as compared with \$214,089 in the prior year.

In the past, subscription income for *The Forum* was recorded when received. In the last five years, however, the amount of such income has more than tripled. Further, in view of the decision to change the format to a magazine and increase the subscription price in May, it was advisable to change the method of accounting for *Forum* subscription income, so that each subscription will initially be credited to unearned income. From this account, it will be taken into current subscription income ratably as the subscription is fulfilled. Accordingly, an amount of \$31,733 was deferred as unearned subscription income as of December 31, 1977, which reduced the amount of reported *Forum* subscription income for the year. This change in accounting practice proportionately affected the net excess of income for the year.

Sales of books and other literature in 1977 were lower by \$71,900. Book sales decreased \$10,500, while sales of other literature were \$61,400 less. Since unit sales of books showed an overall increase of 5%, it was due to the liberalized book discounts which went into effect in September 1976, that there was a reduction in dollar sales of books in 1977. Only the Alateen book dropped slightly in the number sold. ODAT continued to be our best seller, accounting for 64.7% of total book sales in 1977, approximately the same percentage as the previous year. But even though 5,886 additional copies were distributed, the dollar revenue from sales of ODAT decreased \$4,300.

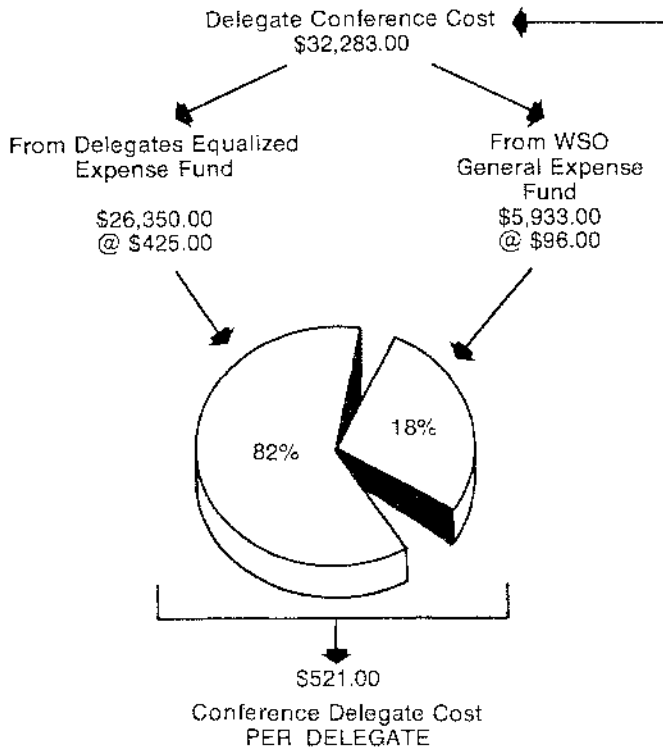
The decrease in sales of other literature can be partially attributed to a substantial increase in printed material distributed free to both groups, individuals and the professional community. Gross profit from literature amounted to \$813,631, a decrease of \$74,999, or 8.4% due to a 5% increase in production costs and the dollar decrease in literature sales.

Contributions increased by only \$12,400, or 5.4%, as compared with percentage increases of 19% and 9% respectively in the two preceding years. This disturbing trend indicates that the groups are well below a

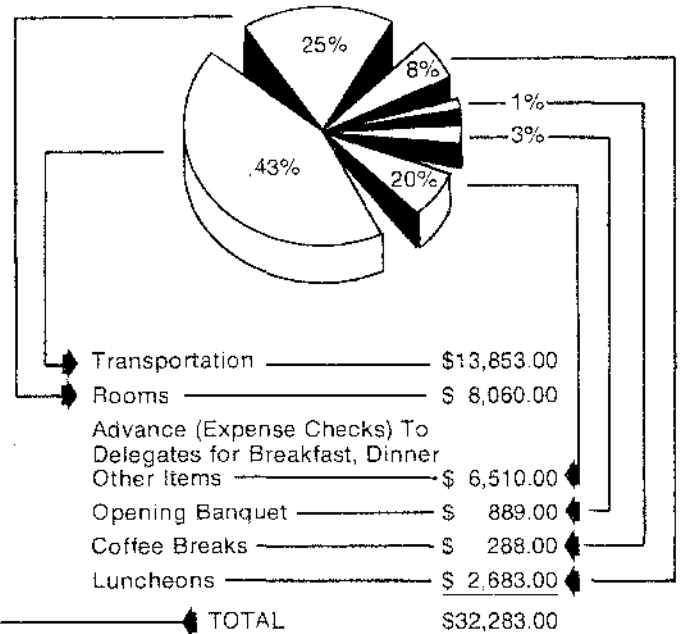
*The annual financial statement is available to any group on request.

1977 CONFERENCE-DELEGATE COST

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



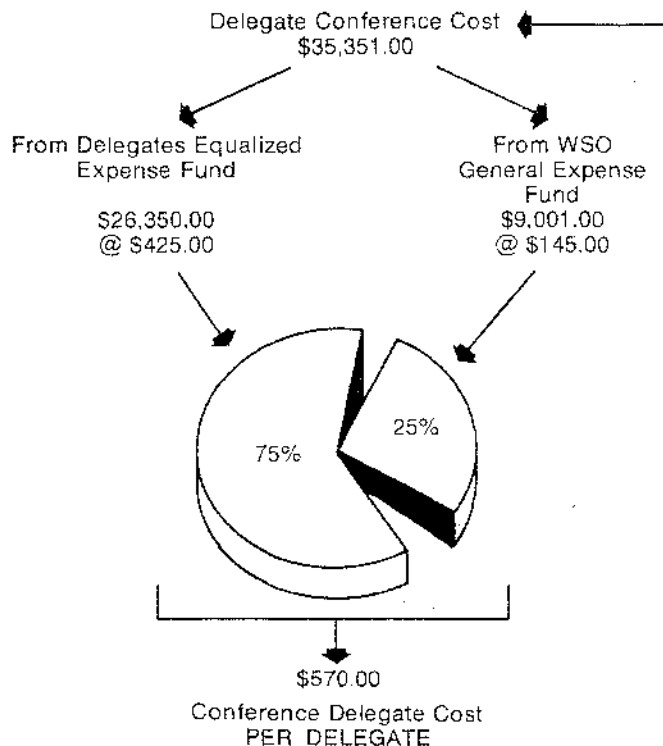
HOW THE MONEY IS USED



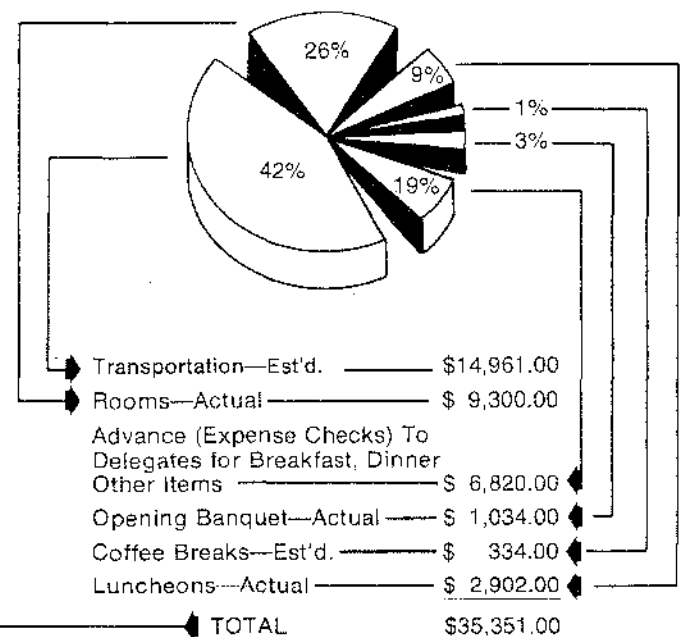
Note: This total does not include the cost of the trip to "Stepping Stones" which occurs every other year. The cost for 1977 was \$806.00 or \$13.00 per Delegate.

1978 CONFERENCE-DELEGATE COST

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



HOW THE MONEY IS USED



contributions level that promises future growth in support of the World Service arm of the fellowship. Contributions represent a greater sense of commitment and participation in the fellowship than do publication sales. So it is of great concern that only 60% of the groups in the U.S. and Canada have responded to the tri-annual appeals in the past five years and at an average of \$11 per appeal from each contributing group. Again, we wish to thank all the Delegates for their efforts to impress the groups in the Areas with the importance of contributing to the WSO, but must rely on their continued cooperation to improve the percentage of contributing groups with the hope of an increase in the amount that each one gives.

Other income showed an overall decrease of \$5,900 in 1977, but that was primarily due to the deferral of *FORUM* subscription income explained above, partially offset by an increase in interest income of \$25,800. We anticipate a \$16,000 decrease in interest earned in 1978, because we have had to realize \$300,000 of investments to cover our relocation costs.

The increase of \$99,400 in regular operating expenses, or 10%, compares with an increase of \$164,600, or 20%, in the prior year. Salaries, being the largest component of operating expenses, were higher by \$27,700, or 5%. That relatively moderate increase resulted from normal salary increments to existing staff and the addition of three new employees, the costs of which were partially offset by the retirement of two senior employees in the prior year. The cost of employee benefits was higher by \$8,500 due primarily to increased rates and the costs of Social Security coverage, and unemployment and disability benefits. An improved group life insurance program was instituted in 1977 which cost an additional \$1,900, but that increase was almost offset by a reduction in the cost of the new pension plan subscribed to in mid-1976.

Shipping costs were lower by \$3,500 in 1977 despite an increase in the overall volume of literature distributed. That reduction was accomplished by a closer control of packaging material costs.

The cost of maintaining the French literature service in Montreal declined by \$16,000 in 1977 and reflected continuing progress toward their objective of achieving a self-supporting status.

The basic expenses of operating the WSO, including rent, supplies, services, etc., increased \$53,800, or 31% in 1977. The principal items of increase were: \$15,000 in occupancy costs due primarily to higher tax and operating expense escalation charges; \$17,700 in postage costs, reflecting greater volume and compliance with postal regulations; and \$14,200 in office services and expenses due to increased maintenance costs and the computerization of group records. In addition, late in 1977 the landlord of 115 East 23rd St. submitted bills for \$8,952 for operating expense escalation for the years 1972 through 1976 which, although provided for in the lease, had not previously been billed. Equipment purchases decreased by \$6,000 from the prior year.

The \$28,900 increase in the remaining expenses was primarily due to higher printing costs of \$11,000, of which \$8,500 was for the *Forum*, and \$14,300 of increased meeting costs, almost all of which was for the 1977 World Service Conference.

Relative to the steadily-rising Conference costs are two pie charts which illustrate where the money came from and how it was used for the 1977 and 1978 Conference Delegate Costs. The Trustees gave thoughtful consideration to this issue at the October Board meeting and decided that the Equalized expenses would remain at \$425 for the 1978 WSC, and that the amount of the Equalized Expenses for the 1979 WSC would be based on a formula of 80% of the projected costs, and thereafter as calculated.

Only \$11,557 relocation expenses were incurred in 1977, representing preliminary design and planning work actually performed before the year's end in connection with our move. It is estimated that the additional reconstruction, moving and equipment costs will total \$260,000 in 1978 related to the occupancy of our new premises. This will be a nonrecurring expense. However, it is realized that the WSO will be faced with a very substantial increase in operating expenses, because of the enlarged premises. Some of the added space was needed to accommodate additional staff and to provide for a more efficient operation. There is now adequate room for the many volunteers who give so generously of their time in assisting the staff in

special projects and regular committee work. We are deeply grateful for their continued interest, which substantially lessens our operating costs.

In respect to the Reserve Fund, the Board of Trustees, concerned about the falling value of the dollar in the past year, decided in January 1978 that the goal of a fixed dollar amount of \$500,000, which had been established as the ceiling for the Fund in July 1976, be re-defined. The objective for the Fund is now to be an amount equal to 75% of the previous year's operating expenses. The Budget Committee was charged by the Board to work with the Controller to monitor operating expenses and projected operating expenses in order to develop an appropriate amount to be transferred to the Reserve Fund in the future.

Budget 1978

Eamon Timoney, Controller

	Budget 1978	Actual 1977
Publications: Sales		
Living With	61,800	55,921
Al-Anon Faces	47,000	42,591
Dilemma	54,000	48,586
One Day at a Time	418,800	378,346
AFPE	26,000	25,903
Alateen—Hope for Children	37,700	33,052
Other Literature	600,000	575,867
<i>Income from Publications</i>	1,245,300	1,160,266
Cost of literature distributed		
Living With	14,300	12,316
Al-Anon Faces	10,700	9,218
Dilemma	12,300	10,242
ODAT	117,000	106,489
AFPE	5,500	5,341
Alateen—Hope for Children	10,800	8,144
Other Literature	207,600	194,885
<i>Cost of Publications</i>	378,200	346,635
Gross Profit from Literature Sales	867,100	813,631
Films, Radio & TV Spots	8,000	4,392
<i>FORUM—Earned Subscriptions</i>	90,000	29,477
Interest earned	41,000	57,689
Contributions	270,000	243,722
Total Income	1,276,100	1,148,911
Less: Expenses (Schedule 2)	1,585,500	1,114,785
(Deficit 1978) Surplus 1977	(309,400)	34,126

General Fund Expenses: Budget 1978

	Budget 1978	Actual 1977
Operating Expenses		
Salaries	635,300	577,071
Employee Benefits	90,000	74,096
Total Labor Costs:	725,300	651,167
Building Occupancy	120,000	73,635
Packing & Shipping	72,000	67,848
Postage	60,000	61,291
Telephone	19,000	13,649
Stationary & Office Supplies	40,000	37,341
Computer, xerox & insurances, mailings	40,000	25,341
Repairs & maintenance	6,000	5,396
Travel & Meetings	15,000	14,156
Professional Fees	11,000	12,599

Printing: <i>FORUM</i>	47,000	31,742
<i>ALATEEN TALK</i>	4,200	4,061
Directories	10,000	13,944
Conference Summary	5,500	5,383
Other	5,000	4,895
Exhibitions—P.I.	12,000	10,407
Direct Conference Costs	27,000	24,422
French Literature Service	22,000	16,547
TV and Radio Spots	33,000	814
Miscellaneous	12,000	10,657
W.S.O Film + Beginners Tapes	14,500	
Total Operating Costs:	1,300,500	1,085,395
<i>Non-Operating Expenses</i>		
Relocation: Office construction & moving	265,000	11,668
Furniture & equipment	20,000	8,880
Rent Prior years escalation		8,952
Total Non-Operating Costs	285,000	29,390
Total Expenses (Schedule 1)	1,585,500	1,114,785

AA International Convention—1980

Myrna H., Secretary Al-Anon/Alateen Activities

In personally presenting her report, Myrna said, "Two years seems like a long time, but it really isn't when one is planning a Convention that may attract approximately 25 to 30,000 participants. The next exciting Convention is to take place in New Orleans over the July 4th weekend in 1980. As most of you know, Al-Anon plays a major role in AA's International. Approximately one third of the people going to this event will be Al-Anon and Alateen members.

"To bring you up to date thus far, . . . a WSO Committee has been formed and we will begin meeting soon after this Conference. The General Secretary will be our Chairman. The others, who will join us are Margaret O'D., who serves as Assistant Convention Secretary, Sandy F., who will be a great help in the planning of meetings for our overseas members and the Alateen Secretary, who will offer input for all phases of Alateen activities. Eileen McS. will also be on hand to record minutes and help coordinate the many, many details. From time-to-time, other Staff Secretaries will be asked to join our meetings, particularly when the Convention draws close and we are planning our sessions, large meetings and the Conference Reunion.

About six weeks ago, Eleanor, Margaret and I met with several key members of the AA General Service Staff to discuss our financial arrangements. Although nothing is conclusive at this point, we feel we are moving in the right direction. I will offer this however: It is extremely important that members be aware that when they register for the Convention, they should indicate that they are a member of Al-Anon or Alateen. The way things seem right now, this information will help AA determine how much of the registration money belongs to Al-Anon. There will be more on this later.

"Another task ahead is finding good speakers. We have prepared a questionnaire that can be distributed in your Areas. We offer you a small supply now, and will happily provide larger quantities whenever you need them.

"Margaret and I are planning a trip to Louisiana this coming June. Fortunately, we will be able to tie it in with the State Al-Anon Convention. We plan to tour the Convention site and talk with the prospective members of the Host Committee. Today, I would like to show you a preview of what you will find at the International. But, before we start, I have one important announcement to make. A Host Committee Chairman has been named. Those who know her will surely agree that we've made

an outstanding choice: She is Dot S., our past Delegate from Louisiana."

Myrna then showed a series of slides of the Rivergate Convention Center where the day-time Al-Anon meeting will be held, and the various hotels which will be used by registrants. The final shot showed a Mississippi River boat, just waiting at the dock for intrepid adventurers.

She concluded saying "This Convention is going to be the best ever. We want you all to be a part of it. Talk about it, then talk about it some more. 1980, here we come!"

When all the World Service Office Reports were accepted, the Conference moved to one of the workshops which have proved to be an outstanding way for Al-Anon members to understand the thinking of many people. This year's Conference workshops were extraordinary examples of service sharing. The first concerned a

GROUP REPRESENTATIVE WORKSHOP

Gwenn L., Manitoba led the initial portion. The WSO had prepared a composite of the many thoughts expressed by Delegates on the duties and responsibilities of A Group Representative. Gwenn had taken all these thoughts to several groups in her Area. As a result, members became more aware of the important part played by GRs in the continued functioning of our worldwide fellowship. They noted that service members who make an attempt to learn, rather than depending on guesswork, reap the greatest benefits in carrying out responsibilities. Understanding how our structure is maintained gives everyone an opportunity to take an active part in Al-Anon/Alateen growth.

Sharing her experience, Gwenn outlined the qualifications and duties of the Group Representative and his/her Alternate. She felt the criteria for choosing a GR could be narrowed down to a strong interest in Al-Anon/Alateen as a whole, a willingness to share with the group before and after meetings, and previous experience as an officer in the group. Gwenn affirmed the GR's need to study The World Service Handbook, Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at work, Concepts of Service, the Digest of Policies, and the Traditions. In addition, she said "A GR who is highly interested will not only serve the group but will go to other groups in the District, setting an example for members to take interest in Public Information, Institutions, Alateen and Information Services or committee work. As an individual, A GR gains confidence and learns the value of putting principles before personalities."

"Opportunities abound in our fellowship," Gwenn continued. "Encouraging rather than discouraging, is the key to cooperation between the group and the GR." A group that is supportive of its GR furnishes needed expenses so the GR can attend distant District or Area meetings, gives time and attention for sharing during the meeting, provides willing volunteers when asked, and lets the GR know that his/her work is appreciated.

Report-back—Marlene D., Hawaii

In general, it was felt that any outline of qualifications and duties be a progressive one so a GR might learn in stages, and its title should show it was a suggestion rather than a restrictive demand.

Some thoughts on the GR's responsibilities and cooperation from the group:

- The chairman should introduce the GR to the group.
- The GR might lead the business portion of meetings.
- More emphasis could be placed on the GR's importance.
- Interested members could join the GR at District Meetings.
- GR reports to the groups could be simple and educational.
- GR reports could be staggered, shortening the length of time needed at each meeting.

- The GR's approach might be more positive, not an apology for taking group time.
- GRs might lead group inventory meetings.
- GRs might lead a meeting based on *The FORUM* or raffle subscriptions to gain reader interest.
- GRs can suggest that members write their stories to *THE FORUM*.
- GRs might put the appeal letter into her own words with enthusiasm for worldwide Twelfth-Step work.
- He/she might help to acquaint the new GR with her duties and responsibilities.
- GRs can be used as a contact for an exchange speaker from another group.
- Alateen has GRs too.
- Groups need to remember that once elected, the GR will need loving support. This might even mean suggesting that the job requires good attendance at meetings and might mean a willingness to resign, if the work is straining, allowing another to replace her.

New Staff

Overseas Coordinator-Sandra F.

The WSO has established a new Staff position to further cooperation with those in service in other countries; Sandy F. was chosen as the new Overseas Coordinator. Formerly the Assistant to the P.I. Secretary, Sandy noted that living with alcoholism had once reduced her vision to the narrowest part of an hour glass; it was the fellowship which enabled her to widen the scope of her thinking and eventually took her into a worldwide position.

With her typical enthusiasm and humor, she quipped, "I often think, what am I going to do for an encore? The other day, I had a fantasy that I was part of the first Al-Anon meeting on the moon."

Her assignment includes acting as a link between the WSO and the national service offices (called General Service Offices, overseas). This includes providing needed help for translations of our material into languages other than English. She asked that bilingual members be encouraged to contact the WSO if they are willing to help in the necessary review of proposed translations.

Her second assignment will also require cooperative effort. Sandy will be the Editor of a new publication to be sent to all groups, starting January, 1979, in place of a free copy of *The FORUM*. This publication will be specifically designed to meet the needs of the groups.

Thursday Morning, April 20

PANEL ON UNDERSTANDING

Many of our fellow Al-Anon members have a different role than the usual spouse of an alcoholic. While they are asked to "identify and not compare" at meetings, their special circumstances still reflect how they have been affected by someone else's alcoholism. Because they can add to our understanding, these three speakers were asked to share how they were able to use the Twelve Steps and the Al-Anon program toward their recovery.

Marge G., KY, spoke of her experience as a widow:

Tragedy haunted Marge's first marriage. She lost her first husband to an incurable disease and was unable to comfort her son who suffered from grief and despair. Then she lost her son and her heartbreak was compounded.

When she met and married her second husband, he was already an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous. He did, however, drink "on occasion," and Marge found that attending AA meetings with him for two years was not enough to help her cope with her problems. She joined Al-Anon.

"When I went to my meetings, I found my home, I found

what I was looking for in my life!" she declared. "I was finally able to accept those things which I could not change. I had always poked these things way down deep before, holding on to them and when things didn't go my way, I *re-leaSHed* them. In Al-Anon I found such a beautiful way of life; I learned to release with love."

Death claimed her husband, but when she was widowed, she was still made to feel an integral part of her group. "They didn't ask what my situation was in life," she said, "they simply helped me to live."

Anne S., MI, married a sober alcoholic who was "haunted by his past."

When Anne fell in love with a sober alcoholic, her friends said it "wouldn't last." Peter had been a member of AA for ten years, he was much older than she, and he had spent the greater part of his young life in prison.

"I struggled to leave my prejudices behind because I was infected by his joy of life," she revealed.

Much of Anne's service work demanded "shirt-tailing it with AA to get into institutions to do Al-Anon work" where she made it her job "to carry a smile."

When members ask her why she is still an Al-Anon member after 22 years, she answers, "I need love, I need to be involved, I need a challenge, and I'm crazy in love with the program. It is expanding my life . . . and I am truly blessed."

Willie H., Ontario (S) talked as a member separated from an alcoholic:

Willie found preparing for this panel opened up wounds she thought had healed over. "These feelings flooded in more intensely than ever before, worse than when I lived them over the past years. I felt totally alone, stripped of any positive feelings, and very much afraid. My God was knocking on the door of my heart, I let Him in."

"As the oldest of seven children growing up in an alcoholic home . . . I learned very early never to express an opinion . . . I went from the 'frying pan into the fire' when I married an outgoing, fun-loving person who . . . became a problem drinker . . . Six children and 12 years later, I decided to remove seven people from that environment. An alcoholic father and a neurotic mother do not make fit parents to raise children."

Willie's husband joined AA and for the next ten years she enjoyed a more serene life attending AA meetings and working her Al-Anon program, socializing with members of both fellowships. The next seven years were difficult as her husband grew distant and there were a series of separations and reconciliations. Finally, she knew her marriage was over.

It was the friends she had made in Al-Anon who supported her struggles to use the First Step, to change and grow. When she felt the pressure of being without a partner, her group wouldn't let her stay on the sidelines. She remained active on the service level and was able to watch her children become persons in their own right.

Suffering from a deep depression, she called a psychologist for the professional help she needed in understanding herself, and today, she could tell her story with "calmness and a nice warm feeling that I could share the good and the bad."

Willie's closing summed up the feelings of all the panel members:

"I ask all earnestly to welcome us into the meetings; by loving us you help us make the necessary adjustments to a different way of life. Anyone who feels he/she is or has been deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker, is eligible for membership in Al-Anon. 'Do not walk in front of me, I may not follow; do not walk behind me, I may not lead; please walk beside me and be my friend.'"

Out-going Delegates' thoughts on the Theme

For Irma, world service is a "framework of representation of Al-Anon and Alateen members who work together to keep Al-Anon—Al-Anon, for all of us." She found the way to do just

that by discovering that it takes "cooperation through understanding of our Steps and Traditions to keep—but also give away, Al-Anon." She thought this very special spirit, could be found everywhere. Irma found it in California when she was part of a group which had to complete its World Service meeting in a parking lot.

To encourage newcomers and oldcomers to participate in Conferences and Workshops from the group to Assembly levels, Northern California calms its growing pains with a "tranquilizer called the Al-Anon/Alateen program of recovery and unity and service. It does wonders when taken with large quantities of love and gratitude." Irma C., CA

* * *

In graphically illustrating the miracles of Al-Anon, Simone placed a high-heeled shoe on the podium, alluding to Lois' story of the beginning of her spiritual search for serenity.

"I was a door mat, a thing that doesn't think, one with feet walking on it . . . before the miracle which made me search for myself," she declared. She was helped in this search by her grandchild who announced "My legs are hurting because I am growing, but I'm so proud because I am getting tall."

In Al-Anon, Simone found those who had suffered just as much in their own way as she and life was easier for her now because, "We meet, we love, we communicate and every day is a beautiful one. Al-Anon gave me the strength of *accepting* and it was at this Conference that I learned for the first time what that meant . . . Without acceptance, I would never in my life have met you." Simone M., Quebec (W)

* * *

As the alternate Delegate, Lavinia read a message from the Delegate, Beverly S., who personally had benefitted from a referral to Al-Anon by a professional. She was fortunate that through this cooperation, her confusion was gradually changed to understanding and she is mindful of this when she speaks with a newcomer today.

Lavinia's own story reflected still another kind of understanding. She stated, "I was one of the individuals who turned people off by talking about the Bible. I came to Al-Anon to save everyone but they saved me instead. God showed me I was making people run from Him instead of coming to Him, that I was to win people to me first, then they could see God in me. Before Al-Anon, I could only show the good side of me, a 'goody-two-shoes'. I learned here that I could be loved and wanted, even with my faults."

She observed, "I have learned more during this (Conference) week than the rest of my six years in Al-Anon." Lavinia B., RI

* * *

When Jim arrived at an Al-Anon meeting in 1970, he knew he was a sick family member. He felt his improvement came from reviewing the Steps, honestly, especially the first three. Before accepting the program he had "frugally tried drinking (his) wife's supply."

When I finally accepted Step Three, my recovery started," said Jim (also lovingly known as "Shack"), and "I found sanity in my personal and service life."

As the first Delegate from the Delaware Area, Jim had no precedents to guide him and only a small number of willing volunteers who served in many capacities. Yet, he said in closing, "I just hate leaving, but I want to wish the best of luck to the new Delegates and to the WSO Staff." James Shackelford, DE

* * *

Beginning to understand the effects of the disease of alcoholism on her family life, Betty started her healing process by using the tools of the program. "But," she said, "it was to

require another ingredient before these tools would be effective: cooperation. I would need to cooperate with members in sharing and *doing*." She illustrated her belief that it would be just as foolish to always cooperate without understanding as it would be to understand and not cooperate.

Betty cited the Conference as an example of being able to grasp different points of view and work with others toward a common goal: Understanding our differences helps in supporting the decision of the majority.

She said that "cooperation means doing with a smile what you have to do anyway," and she used this philosophy in preparing her farewell remarks:

"I have been able to truly grasp the whole of Al-Anon and Alateen, I have been able to expand and stretch my mind to such an extent that I will never be the same again. It has filled my heart to overflowing with love, understanding, compassion and endearment to the extent that it will never be shriveled up, empty and hurting again." Betty B., KS

* * *

The knowledge that cooperation had been part of her everyday service life for 15 years led Mary to use program tools to develop her understanding. Keeping an open mind meant "willingness to learn new ideas and change my thoughts and actions to work with others" she reported. Mary's use of the slogans and the Serenity Prayer, reading the literature and taking the Twelve Steps were means of solving personal problems. In solving group problems, the Traditions became a valued aid and when she tackled an Area office, she relied heavily on the Handbook and the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies.

"Being Delegate has increased my knowledge ten-fold because I have had to study all literature more diligently, especially the Concepts," She continued, "Attending the World Service Conference . . . has . . . stretched my mind and it will never go back." Mary H., TX (W)

* * *

Bitter, belligerent and atheistic when he first came to Al-Anon, Bob continued to go to meetings because the members were happier than he was. His first reward was his belief in a Higher Power. He was then able to re-evaluate his position regarding the human race and after four years, he found himself able to chair a session on "God as I understand Him" at his Area Convention.

"Eventually, I became a Delegate and arrived in NYC with a chip on my shoulder and belligerence in my heart," he continued. "In other words, for me—normal." "I arrived with knowledge but little understanding and no desire to cooperate. Today, I leave with a little more knowledge, a great deal more understanding and a sincere desire to cooperate."

In reviewing his service life while writing to his Delegate sponsor and a past Delegate, Bob acknowledged that they had tried to pass on understanding but he hadn't been ready for it then. Today, however, he could say, "How much I love them all—and how much I like them all. Little by little, one day at a time, people like you are leading me, kicking and screaming, back into the human race. For that I can thank you by passing it on." Bob D., PA

* * *

It was lack of understanding that propelled Ada out of her first Al-Anon meeting and kept her from returning for seven long years. Fearful of being hurt, she had built a high wall around herself. She said, "In time, your love, hope and wisdom guided me to slowly understand the illness of alcoholism." She then found it easier to cooperate with her group and get over the reservations she had about the program. In recognizing the value of listening to what she had to learn, relying on her

Higher Power to take care of her husband, Ada found she could let the Steps work for her.

She found cooperation equally valuable on a service level. "United, we will survive; divided, we could lose all we have gained." She continued, "With all of us doing our jobs, working together with love. . . we will gain the serenity, peace of mind and spirit this beautiful program can give. Until we meet again," she concluded, "may God hold you in the hollow of His hand." Ada R., IN

* * *

... "Collective actions for mutual benefit," was Edith's use of the definition of cooperation. Having discovered the need to start an Al-Anon group, it wasn't long before she found that she needed this program of recovery for herself and that she was there to share experience, strength and hope. She served as her group's Secretary, GR and DR and had some "misgivings" about being a Delegate, but she found her attendance at a Southeastern Delegate's Get-To-Gether gave her an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the World Service Conference and what was expected of a Delegate.

Edith thanked her husband for his cooperation and his companionship in her travels. She said, "Too, I shall always be grateful that Al-Anon Twelfth-Step work was here when I needed it and with the World Service Office and the World Service Conference as our guardian, with the cooperation and understanding of all Al-Anons, it will always be here for those who need it." Edith S., TN

* * *

As Allie Mae learned that only *she* could do something constructive about her life, she began to learn about the disease of alcoholism and that her knowledge brought about some understanding and awareness. Having learned to apply the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in her life, she came to believe that a Higher Power would take care of her "on a daily basis as long as He is sought." Through service she increased her knowledge of herself and her understanding of the total program of Al-Anon. As her circle of service widened, she said "I am able to realize that each member is no less, nor more important than any other, whether she is the newcomer, GR, DR, Delegate or a member of the World Service Office staff. Understanding between them is vital if Al-Anon is to continue to function, grow and remain unified."

She concluded "Cooperation to me, means we are all working together toward a common purpose of preserving the fellowship in unity. It is essential. I feel where we have understanding, cooperation is inevitable." Allie Mae R., TX (E)

* * *

"I either join an organization and go full speed ahead, or I don't join at all," began Dorothy who had left her decision to be a Delegate up to her High Power. Three years later, she understood *letting go* can also be applied in a situation which lacks cooperative effort.

As a new Delegate, Dorothy was anxious to put an end to all the suggestions she received on "how-to" and "how-not-to." Instead she "really put Al-Anon to work and came to realize that some people had good reasons for feeling as they did." Understanding that this really meant placing principles above personalities, she was able to gain the cooperation she needed.

Dorothy ended by saying, "My years as Delegate have been the most frustrating and rewarding; the saddest and happiest; the dumbest and most knowledgeable; and above all, the most beautiful time in my life . . . and I could not live long enough to give back . . . what I have gained." Dorothy B., MN

* * *

A morning's meditation helped Maxine recall the role which

understanding had played in her cooperative efforts at home, at school, in business, marriage, and in Al-Anon. In every case, it was her knowledge of the whole picture which had helped her to work together with others in order to satisfy her own needs.

In mentioning the prerequisites for gaining understanding she said, "Understanding denotes a two-way street: I must do my best to understand as well as be understood, and that demands communication. I must learn to listen . . . and hear the wants and needs of others . . . Tradition One comes alive . . . It rules out bias, bigotry, self-righteousness, and forces us to put principles before personalities."

In understanding her role and the general purpose of the Conference, Maxine was able to be part of the decisions made which "keep Al-Anon alive and well for future generations."

Maxine B., NY (N)

* * *

The product of a parochial school education, Roslyn felt she was "on good terms with the saints—"every time I got myself into a hole, God sent someone to get me out. All of my angels were silver-haired old ladies."

Having spent a beautiful life free of decision making, Roslyn was not prepared for the disease of alcoholism and gratefully *obeyed* all suggestions she received at her first Al-Anon meetings.

Witty and vivacious, she noted the comparisons between her early teachers and those who were her leaders in service life. Even as she was tenderly addressed by the Conference Chairman (a silver-haired lady), she couldn't help but remember what she had been told most of her life, "Sit down in the front row and you'll learn all you need to know." Roslyn C., OH

* * *

"In my Area . . . setting out to help the groups in Hawaii understand so much of the ground that Al-Anon covers . . . was a monumental task," said Marlene. "You see, in Hawaii, so many of the members don't realize that Al-Anon reaches even beyond their immediate group—much less the entire island." As Hawaii's first Delegate, Marlene had to overcome many obstacles, not the least of which was the Pacific Ocean.

Marlene felt that "we have the responsibility to share what understanding we have, especially where service work is involved. It is in this way that we will almost inevitably get the follow-through of cooperation as a result."

She asked, "How can we expect our groups to cooperate with one another, if they don't understand the purpose for it. It has to start somewhere"—Her answer "'Let it begin with me.'"

Marlene D., HI

Thursday Morning, April 20

began with the roll call followed by a personal presentation of the WSO

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Mary said, "This year our report starts out with congratulations to Delegates, and through them, to our groups. There has been great evidence of growing self-reliance of groups in solving more of the problems that occur from time-to-time as our membership grows. We believe this proves the value of our Committee's compilation of the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies which you have had for a few years now.

"Policy Committee meetings this year have centered around three broad topics: Anonymity, films and matters that rightfully had to be referred to the Conference Committee. Each of these topics has generated lively and serious discussions. We formed an ad hoc committee to deal with the many thoughts on anonymity that we sent to the WSO. Since we live today in a

time of the proliferation of film, the matter of films continues to have to be met in our Al-Anon fellowship. The WSO is asked so often for guidance on the use of films that we turn to the Conference for guidance and are scheduling a portion of our Policy Session at the 1978 WSC to a discussion of the uses of films to sum up views which have come in on the questionnaire you received.

"Definite actions during the year for which we shall ask you to vote, follow:

Policy Committee Meeting

Motions

9/20/77 To grant permission for reprint of the World Service Charts which appear in the World Service Handbook to any Al-Anon committee so desiring to do so.

6/21/77 *Recommendations to the 1978 WSC*

The Policy Committee Recommends to the WSC that the question of films, including maintenance of a list, offering of technical assistance and review of films that are made about Al-Anon by outside agencies be addressed by the 1978 Conference."

Films

Margaret O'D., P.I. Staff Secretary, began this discussion by presenting background material which noted her predicament when asked to recommend suitable films for showing at Al-Anon Round-Ups and Conventions, etc. Recognizing the fact that many films were being shown, which were not always representative of the Al-Anon focus on family recovery, Margaret brought the problem to the Policy Committee. There, it was decided that the larger issue of films would be brought to the full Conference. Research would be done on present use of films through a questionnaire, and two films made with Al-Anon's technical assistance, would be shown to Conference members.

After both films had been shown, Bo H., Chairman of the Literature Committee and member of the Policy Committee, presented his view. He wondered whether or not the Conference ought to offer guidance to those who were showing films so that the Al-Anon program wouldn't be confused by the introduction of films which concentrated on the alcoholic, focused on other professional recovery methods and/or advocated the merging of Al-Anon and AA into one giant "family" program. "But," he added, "was a film list the way to help members choose?"

Henrietta S., as a Policy Committeeman, covered the results of the questionnaire which had been returned by 51 Areas. In answer to the queries, "Should we make and keep a list of reviewed films?" "Should we list the Al-Anon name in the credits where we have given technical assistance?" There were many positive and negative responses. Those who advocated a list, wanted some guides available to avoid choosing "bad" films and some felt films would be an aid to those who could not read. Others cited their views that compiling such a list would be breaking the Traditions, specifically affiliation and/or endorsement of outside enterprises.

After a considerable number of viewpoints were expressed by the Conference members, motions were made (see p. 36) and a vote evidenced the group conscience. The WSO, will not maintain a list of reviewed films for Al-Anon use, nor will the Al-Anon name be listed in the film credits as having given technical assistance to the producers.

AREA TREASURER WORKSHOP

—Isabel F. (MD), Judene G. (CO)

"Blind trust is no way to operate in regard to Area or group funds," said Judene G. (CO), in relating an experience in her Assembly Area concerning an Area Treasurer. She urged hav-

ing two signatures on each check as a remedy against the loss of funds.

Working from the Handbook, Judene went on to explain how the Alternate Delegate prepares the proposed budget to be submitted to the Assembly, taking the past year's expenses and projecting an estimated increase of 10% in growth and expenses.

Additional expenses, which have been approved by the Assembly, but exceed budgeted amounts, are reported quarterly in the Area Newsletter along with group contributions.

The Treasurer reports, quarterly, in the Newsletter and makes copies of her report, bank balances, savings records, etc., available at Assemblies; she also completes an Annual Treasurer's report which is the basis for the next year's budget.

Area Treasury funds are kept separate from Convention Committee funds, resolving past problems with excess funds and their appropriate disbursement.

Isabel F. (MD), emphasized the need for caution in electing a member for this particular position. Too often, members are coaxed by such words as "Oh, you can do it; there's nothing to it." All Areas need a willing, competent and skilled person, capable of keeping clear and concise records. Treasurers need the confidence of the Area and Isabel recommended an Assembly vote for both an Area Secretary and Treasurer.

Break-up Report-back

While covering the Treasurer's responsibilities and the formation of a budget, participants at the break-up meetings shared:

- Non-functioning Treasurers might be asked to resign by World Service Committee members. If he/she refuses, the issue could be brought to the Assembly.
- The Treasurer could consult with the World Service Committee several times a year.
- Four signatures could be registered with the bank; two signatures should be on each check.
- Records should be kept current, available to all, on a permanent basis.
- Reports should be frequent, at every Assembly, and permanent.
- Burglary insurance protects Treasurer carrying money.
- Some Treasurer's additional duties included sending out requests for Area contributions, reporting all the Delegate's expenses, reporting in the Newsletter, one was also the Newsletter Editor.
- Treasurer collects funds for Delegate's equalized expenses and Assembly costs, (in many Areas this included Delegates phone, mail, traveling expenses).
- Most Areas approve expenditures at the Assembly, some have a Steering committee to discuss expenses and present them for approval.
- Some Areas holding conventions have a separate accounting in Area for funds.
- Others have a Committee with its own Treasurer and account.
- Workshop or convention accounts, once established, can be transferred to new people.
- Excess funds go to further Twelfth-step work in the Area, PI and Institutions projects, and to the WSO.
- One Area holds its convention in conjunction with AA's. Receipts are divided from Registration of Al-Anon members—1/3 to AA for expenses, 1/3 to WSO, 1/3 retained by Area.
- Where a District acts as the host committee, excess funds are usually turned back to the Area for distribution.
- In Areas where there is no Budget Committee, budgets are proposed by the World Service Committee and approved by the Assembly.
- The Equalized Expense Fund, gathered to send a Delegate to the WSC was Assembly's first obligation.

- Other expenses include, Assembly and WS Committee meeting rooms, printing and mailing of minutes, meeting notices, Newsletter expenses, travel for the Area Committee members, Delegates expenses and extra funds for Delegates going to the WSC.
- The majority of Areas meet their budget through group contributions; some have fund raising events, reserve funds, registrations at Assembly meetings, literature sales.
- There was much discussion of paying Delegates and Past Delegates expenses to Assemblies and Regional meetings and a suggestion that this be covered in the Handbook.

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Sandy F., Coordinator

In the late afternoon, Sandy F., had the pleasure of introducing our visitors from abroad. Because her office was home base for Brian before the Conference, Sandy presented him as her "office roommate."

Brian M., U.K. and Eire

"Hello everyone, my name is Brian. My home town is Belfast, Northern Ireland and I have been associated with Al-Anon for almost ten years.

"Since the time I realized Al-Anon was for me, I have served the fellowship as a Group Representative, Group Secretary, District Representative, District Secretary, Area Board member and now I stand here very humble, but none the less proud to be the Representative for U.K. and Eire.

"I remember travelling to London to attend my first Al-Anon Conference as a District Representative way back in 1973. The Conference was of a one day duration, held in very confined conditions at St. Giles Centre. During our lunch break, all the Conference members went outside to stretch their limbs and amongst them was our own dear Lois. Here was a golden opportunity for me to take a photograph of Lois and the group. Having taken the photo, I then asked Lois if she would kindly allow me to photograph her on her own. I well remember her reply, even though she may have forgotten it by now, I quote her words, 'Say, are you one of those Press guys?' Needless to say, she graciously posed for me and I was rewarded with a beautiful colour photograph of her which pleased our Board so much, they asked permission from Lois to have it reproduced for circulation back home.

"I also bring greetings from Jan, my predecessor, the U.K. and Eire General Service Board in London, all our District Representatives and the other Al-Anon members in our Area.

General Service Office London

"At the GSO London, we now employ one full time staff member and four part-time staff members, all Al-Anon. This means that GSO can be run on a basis of efficiency which was not possible when we relied only on volunteer help. With the help of our volunteers, the increased work, caused by the growth of Al-Anon in our Area, was dealt with expedition and enthusiasm.

"In the Group Records, Literature Stock Control, Literature Despatch, Accounts, Bookkeeping, News & Views Accounts, News & Views Despatch, and Literature Fields, we now have individual staff, both paid and volunteers, with overall responsibility.

"We have a Cassette Sales Service which is run by an Al-Anon member from her home, orders are received at GSO and sent to her and her husband (AA), without whose help this service could not have been set up. Over the past year, 105 cassettes have been sold and since its inception in April 1976, almost 600 have been sold.

"There are now 406 Al-Anon groups and 44 Alateen groups in the Area. This is an increase of 30 and 11, respectively, over 1977 figures. The Al-Anon groups are made up as follows: England, 185; Wales, 10; Scotland, 91; Northern Ireland, 30;

Eire, 90. In addition, we have 12 registered Loners.

"During the past year, we have had many visitors at GSO London from South Africa, Australia, Trinidad, Canada, U.S.A. and Europe. In addition, many people visiting London contacted us by telephone. Two very honoured guests, who visited us, were Reverend Joseph Kellermann, and his wife Gwen. They spoke to a gathering of Al-Anon members who came to a buffet lunch as part of our Silver Jubilee celebrations.

"A great deal of Public Information at the national level has been undertaken. We were invited for talks at our Government Department of Health and Social Services, as a result, Al-Anon is to undertake a fairly extensive project with Area Health authorities. Similar contacts have been made in Eire where Al-Anon is recognized as a valuable resource.

"Cyril, our Public Information Committee Chairman, has produced our very first edition on Public Information, the sheet is called SPOTLIGHT.

"Al-Anon was invited to do a TV Programme in the Heart To Heart series, and one of our members agreed to be interviewed. She was suitably disguised, with a dark wig, change of make-up and a pseudonym. The programme lasted half-an-hour and was very well presented. As a result, we received many inquiries by telephone and letter. One envelope came addressed to *Al-Alone*, perhaps, the writer felt all alone, but hopefully not for long, once she had contacted us.

"As a result of Jan doing a little research while in New York, last year, she unearthed the fact that Al-Anon in the U.K. and Eire would be 25 years old in 1977. We were delighted with this information when Jan reported at the Board meeting in London. It was a great surprise when I learned that the first person to register with New York from the area, actually came from my home town.

"Our Silver Jubilee was suitably marked at the Selsey Convention in England and also at our Mini-Convention in Ballymena, Northern Ireland. A brief history of our development over the past 25 years appeared in our magazine *News & Views*.

"Under the committee responsible for *News & Views*, which currently is a three-man team, circulation of our magazine holds a steady 2,100 copies per month. It has a new cover and the Serenity Prayer is in Gothic type on the back of the magazine.

Literature

"Efforts are currently being made to have a suitable translation of our Al-Anon literature into Punjabi for use by Asian immigrants.

Scotland

"An information Office opened in Glasgow on December 5, 1977 under the auspices of the Scottish Districts.

Wales

"Our new District, formed in the past year in South Wales, was formerly part of District II. But difficulties in transport and communications between District Committees and groups made the division desirable.

Northern Ireland

"Al-Anon continues to prosper despite the adverse conditions in this District. It says much for Al-Anon which brings together people of all persuasions.

"The Mini-Convention held in Ballymena, County Antrim, was a big success, the format being the same as in former years, namely; closed Al-Anon mornings and afternoons with an open Al-Anon meeting at which we had AA, Alateen and Al-Anon speakers to close the Mini.

"We also make available a room for AA to hold their meetings. Alateen in the District is not too strong but we do make proviso for them at the Minis, if required.

"A radio interview was given by our District Representative accompanied by one of our Group Secretaries, this was followed up by the DR giving a TV interview in her own home which resulted in her having to answer over 30 phone calls in the next two days.

Eire

"The 1st Eire Weekend Workshop was held last October in Ravenswell Convent, Bray, County Wicklow. It was organised along Conference lines with topics on Personal Stories, Public Information, Alateen, DRs Report of the U.K. & Eire Conference, Ask-it-Basket and concluded with an excellent meeting on the 5th Step.

Several Alateens plus two Al-Anon members formed a committee to hold a public meeting in Dublin on 26th February this year. Personal letters were sent to clergy, teachers, headmasters and headmistresses of schools, social workers and voluntary bodies. Whilst the attendance was not as expected, those who did attend were very impressed.

"Al-Anon also participated in the AA Convention held at Dun Laoghaire in February this year and were responsible for holding their own meetings.

"The comparatively new Alcoholic Counselling Service opened in Stanhope Street, Dublin is staffed by a psychiatrist plus two counsellors who have been trained in the U.S.A., in addition, one of our local Al-Anon members who has been trained as a therapist works there on a voluntary basis. One problem which caused concern was that the spouses were not recovering as quickly as the alcoholics. They were stymied, but the answer came in an unexpected way via GSO London who had sent out to one of the volunteers, a pamphlet called "The Role of Al-Anon Groups in the Treatment Programme of VA Alcoholism Unit". I have been asked to convey thanks to the writers of this pamphlet. Incidentally, one District Court in Dublin has a very understanding Judge, when it comes to wife-beating, his verdict is generally three months at Stanhope Alcoholic Centre for yourself and wife, or, six months in prison.

"The Dublin Information Centre has now completed its 3rd year in operation. It is proving a great success and it is financially supported by all Districts in Eire. There are five groups in the Centre; Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 11:00 AM; Tuesdays and Fridays as lunchtime groups at 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Wednesdays are for Committee Meetings with future plans to include Thursdays for Discussion Meetings and an extension of office hours for information. Starting in 1978, we began taking the District Meetings to the groups, going to each group in turn on their meeting night. A business meeting is held for one hour and then the regular closed meeting follows.

"The growth of Al-Anon in Eire appears to be very steady, credit must be given to Dorothy H., the 1st WSC Representative for U.K. & Eire who, in 1969 visited Eire to try to unite the groups through Districts. In January 1970, District 14 was formed and now there are five Districts, an Al-Anon Information Centre and an Alcoholic Counselling Service.

Institutions Work

"There are now 46 groups which meet in hospital premises, of these, 10 could be called Institutions Groups. The reasons given for failure of these groups to function, vary from:

Lack of volunteers,

Lack of help from hospital staff,

Apathy on the part of Al-Anon members.

Prison groups operate periodically in *only five Districts*.

There is a need to coordinate Alateen and Institutions group work, we have no Area Committee, as yet, for either.

U.K. & Eire Conference

"The theme of the 8th Al-Anon U.K. & Eire Conference, held in Nottingham from 16th to 18th September 1977, was "Sharing Our Experience, Strength and Hope." In attendance were 18 District Representatives, 3 Conference Committee Members and 8 General Service Board Members.

The Conference theme was immediately applied at the beginning when Jan B., the Board Chairman, Joyce D., Treasurer, and Jean G., Secretary all told their personal stories. This session was greatly appreciated by all present.

"As is usual, the Conference reviewed the previous World Service Conference Policy decisions. These were passed with

the exception of those relating to Alateen sponsorship and dual membership of AA and Al-Anon.

"The idea of a dual member being the sponsor (as opposed to a co-sponsor) was something we felt we needed to think about before applying it in our Area.

Two ideas put forward as recommendations by the Chairman of the Board were:

1. That we try to have a green light session in a shortened version.

2. That, with Standing Committees, we hope to adapt this system into our Conference by getting District Representatives to serve as out-of-town members on: Area Conferences, Literature, Editorial and P.I. Committees, etc.

Incidentally, it is at this Conference that the World Service Conference Representative is elected."

Argentina

Alberto S. spent his pre-Conference work days with Sandy and Teresa M., the Spanish translator. Teresa and her husband were Alberto's hosts. He began his report, "Dear Friends in Al-Anon:

"I'm Alberto from Argentina. I think, it would be hard to speak even in my own language because every time I speak among Al-Anons, I still become very emotional. So I'll try to speak in this language we use in all groups around the world, our Al-Anon language, which helps us to understand ourselves and others, to help ourselves and others.

"At first, I have to give you many greetings from all Al-Anon and Alateen members of Argentina, from the people working in our General Service Office, from our Buenos Aires Intergroup, the four Zones around Buenos Aires, as well as from the other 180 groups, which are today working in our country. But one of the most important greetings is from a newcomer-wife I met in my last meeting in my home town. She said: "Alberto, this is the first time I'm in Al-Anon. I don't even know what Al-Anon means. I don't know why you must go to New York. But if you find there people as I found here tonight, people who can understand and help me, please, give them my greetings and my thanks."

"And so, I remember the day I found Al-Anon. I remember Alberto as a man without hope, walking in a large and dark tunnel. The things in my home, my wife still drinking, were not worse or better than in other homes with an alcoholic. I was a destroyed man and the only thing I wanted in those days was to be free. Free from all this fighting in my home, free from all those problems which had been used by alcoholic and used by myself. So I decided to go away from my family. I understand that the price for my freedom was very high: to lose my family, to lose my wife and my two daughters, who I loved so much. But I did not find any other solution.

"So one evening I went to see a lawyer to ask him how to arrange the divorce. On the way, I remembered a piece of paper with the address of an AA group, which somebody put in my pocket some weeks before. I tried to explain my problem to a woman who greeted me and she tried to explain to me what Al-Anon means.

"I do not remember much what was spoken that evening. But I started to comprehend that I was no longer alone; that I found people I have never seen before. But they understood me and they could help me, they could cooperate to solve my problem. I am not ashamed to say that I was crying when I drove home in my car after the meeting. But those were tears of hope and rejoicing, because I began to see a light on the end of this dark tunnel. Today I am sure it was my God who showed me the way I had to go: the way to Al-Anon, not to the lawyer. I saved my family, the most important thing in my life!

"Through our twelve steps and our slogans, I started to understand myself. But only after understanding myself, could I understand others. Only after helping myself would I be able to help others.

"In the first months of my Al-Anon life, I listened and I learned. I even tried to give suggestions. But I was still missing something; I did not know what it was. So I asked the group. Somebody suggested: "You should share our program with others; you should serve Al-Anon. If not, our program can't help you." How can I help? How can I cooperate in Al-Anon? "There are so many things to do, Try to do something for Al-Anon."

I tried! I'm very happy to help found two groups, to be one of the ones who made possible what is now our General Service Office of Argentina. I also served Al-Anon as a group delegate, as chairman of Buenos Aires Intergroup, as an officer and later on as the Secretary in our GSO's Committee. Also, I cooperated to form the District Committee of Northern Buenos Aires Zone.

"Now, Here I am. As the Representative of AL-ANON in Argentina. I'm very happy to be with all of you, happy to do another service for Al-Anon. But I also know my responsibility. My mission in this Conference is to observe, to listen and to learn. To take the experiences you have accumulated through the years and bring them back to Argentina, where they are needed very much. I ask for your cooperation in these affairs. Like I could not solve my problems by myself or one group cannot live alone, the groups of any country can not live alone either. Only the understanding and cooperation among all groups around the world, makes Al-Anon strong and gives us the power to help those who are still suffering.

"Now I like to tell you something about Al-Anon in Argentina:

In 1966—The first group is started and called AMISTAD (Friendship) and it is considered for many years the Central Group. A member of this group gets in touch with Al-Anon World Service Office.

In 1969—There are now 9 groups and the first Intergroup is formed. A volunteer secretary starts answering the many letters that arrive from the interior of the country.

By 1970—Groups now number 20. A meeting of Group Representatives is held from which the first General Committee is formed.

In 1971—Groups commence giving monthly contributions toward the general expenses of our GSO. The WSO accepts our GSO with 25 groups. Ten of them make their first contribution to WSO. Permission is asked and granted to reprint a number of pieces of literature in Spanish.

An Initiative Committee is formed, composed of Al-Anons of long standing, with the purpose of exchanging ideas taking from them the best points, so Al-Anon in Argentina would measure up to the best of standards, as well as to offer subjects to be discussed at Intergroup meetings.

By 1972—Legal Status. It is decided that every effort should be made to acquire this, and thus be recognized as a non-profit Association. Permission is requested to WSO to reprint LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, with the help of AL-ANON.

8th of July, we move into our City Office, where we stay open two days a week. There are 30 groups now.

In 1973—The Intergroup forms a separate Committee and handles all group problems within the City and Greater Buenos Aires. The GSO takes care of all work connected with groups in the interior of the country. Now 37 groups.

We obtain Legal Status, and from now on function as an association with legal rights. A T.V. program gives very positive results, in one day we had over 20 consultants at our office.

By 1974—For the first time our GSO can contribute to the WSO.

In 1975—There are more than 100 groups—7 Alateen groups and more sprouting up every week.

By 1976—Buenos Aires Intergroup (generally more than 50 Representatives) decides to form 4 District Committees to attend to local affairs with very good results.

In 1977—AA of Argentina invites us to participate in their 25th Anniversary Convention. We have a big success! A summary of our participation is given to WSO.

1978 —Al-Anon in Argentina begins to prepare for its own first Convention to be held in September in the City of Buenos Aires. We would be very happy to welcome a representative of the WSO.

WSO invites us to send a representative to their World Service Conference. All groups start to work to make this dream possible. How? This is a story too long to tell now. The important thing is that: "We made it possible." *This is Al-Anon in Argentina today.*

"We know that we are still working at the base of this building we have to build for the future. All this could not be done without the understanding and cooperation of the World Service Office, which at all times helped us in Argentina and Al-Anon in the other countries. We are so much grateful to our dear LOIS and those other Al-Anon long-timers for giving us such a wonderful gift: our Al-Anon Program. We also give thanks to our HIGHER POWER for all the changes He made in our lives, and asked Him to grant us serenity, courage and wisdom to go ahead in our work, which is cooperation-through-understanding those who come to Al-Anon asking for help. These are the most important persons in Al-Anon. We never should forget it!

"Alberto likes to say to all of you, that he is feeling so good here. Just as good as in Argentina, as good as in his home group, as good as in his own family. You are also my family. I love you so much. I thank you all."

Friday Morning, April 21

WSO film—Conference Reporter, Margaret O'D.

The 1977 WSC approved production of a film to illustrate the World Service Office, showing the wide scope of activities and services handled by the many volunteers, employees and Staff members working there. Encouraged by the reception of a similar project from the AA General Service Office, Margaret, Myrna and the producers from a professional film company developed a unique idea for a script. The 1978 Conference members enthusiastically received the picture and tape recording for a filmstrip which will still require final editing.

SHARING AREA HIGHLIGHTS MEETING

Held primarily for Delegates, this meeting generally deals with items which do not require full Conference attention or resolution. Irene K. (IL.N.), chaired the discussions of general topics which were not part of the Conference agenda and with Joan S. (FL) as her alternate chairperson presented this

Meeting Report

Irene noted that Delegates are "misunderstood as often as they are understood," but with enthusiasm, each could carry the message in his own way. Recognizing that this could take time and effort, she said, "In Al-Anon, we plant the seeds."

Delegates discussed ways to help groups which ignored the Traditions and the program: Some groups were using psychological techniques such as a "hot seat" with one member being confronted by others; professional counselors are taking over groups because they "feel they can get people better, faster;" groups were closing their membership to other Al-Anon members because of sex or race. Suggestions included: make yourself aware of the problems; have open communication with

the group; have a workshop in the District and/or Area on group conscience; suggest a group inventory.

The next exchange centered on ways to improve communication between Al-Anon and Alateen members. Suggestions for encouraging positive attitudes included making a concentrated effort to draw Alateen GRs into Assembly panels, offices, and general meetings.

Overcoming great distances in an Area, communicating with remote Districts and groups, were also talked over.

The final consideration was Area central offices, Willie H., Ont. (S), outlined their use as a literature depot and newsletter distribution center. There are six other Areas with central offices, some staffed by paid workers, others by volunteers.

Judene G. (GO), was elected chairman for the next year's meeting and Ena S. (Alberta), was chosen as co-Chairman.

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 a 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, the Board directed its Committee to prepare a proposal for expanding the number of Regions to six. Regional lines were redrawn to include a similar amount of groups in each Region. These lines did not follow AA 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.

In 1977, the Expanded plan was approved as experimental for three years.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NOMINATION

In mid 1977, the Delegates and Chairman of the Northwest and the Southwest Regions Assembly Areas were asked to submit candidates for nomination as Regional Trustees. Resumes were received and copied by the WSO for mailing to those who would be voting at the Conference; in each election, the Region's Area Delegates, six Trustees and six additional Delegates from outside the Region. Those candidates selected by ballot were: Audrey S. (IA) from the Northwest and Lorain B. (KS), from the Southwest.

In 1979, the Canadian Western and Eastern Regions will select a nominee and in 1980, the Northeast and Southeast Regions will complete the expansion.

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

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, 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: Carter C., for a first three year term; Barker (BO) H., for a first three year term; Mary S., for her second three year term. Nominations for officers included Stephanie O'K. as Chairman of the Board, Ruth H. as Vice-Chairman; Henrietta S., as Treasurer. The name of the Regional Trustees as proposed earlier were Audrey S., U.S. Northwest Region, Lorain B., U.S. Southwest. All were accepted by unanimous vote.

Penny also announced the appointment of the Executive Committee members.

ASK-IT-BASKET

Q. How do you deal with a group that does not work with the Traditions?

A. *There are no musts in Al-Anon. The Traditions are a pattern for "obedience to the unenforceable." Observance of the Traditions is a group's best guarantee of survival and growth. Traditions hold us together and it would be well to follow them.*

Q. Why is it that when an alcoholic joins or finds AA, he becomes an instant "hero" and why, when the spouse joins Al-Anon she is a villain?

A. *To whom is she a villain? In Al-Anon, we can get along without anyone's approval. Of course, it is a cause for joyous approval when an alcoholic joins AA and the same should be true of the spouse who joins Al-Anon. She's certainly not a villain.*

Q. May the Area Newsletter publish personal stories of members? Newsletters are not to be used for airing personal grievances, but lately, the editor has received personal stories, and asked that I have this clarified.

A. *They may be used if the Newsletter Editor wishes to, but a Newsletter is designed to inform the members of news about the fellowship. Personal stories will be welcomed by The FORUM.*

Q. What is, or has been, the position of the immediate past Delegate?

A. *The Delegate who has completed a term of service has much valuable experience and it is hoped that the past Delegate will continue to serve at some level. It is a pity to waste the experience.*

Q. In "Just For Today" it says when I am feeling hurt I will not show it. Isn't this anti-Al-Anon? We need to show hurt feelings sometimes and not keep these feelings within.

A. *The idea that "we need to show hurt feelings" does not help us. We need not take offense, and it is possible to reason away such hurts.*

Q. When will we get our TWELVE & TWELVE book?

A. *As soon as I can make it. (Alice)*

Q. One of our Districts asked whether the inspirational messages in ODAT are considered Conference-Approved, since they appear in a CALiterature book?

A. *Everything used in ODAT is Conference-Approved. This approval, nor the permission to use certain quotations, does not extend to the books quoted from.*

Q. How can we be responsible for Alateen, when they tell us at Assemblies they are incorporated and, so are not accountable in any way to the Area Assembly?

A. *It isn't easy! Each Al-Anon, and Alateen member, who accepts the program makes an implicit commitment of responsibility for the good of Al-Anon as a whole. Again, cooperation through understanding.*

Q. Has any group found a happy solution to the problem of smoking versus non-smoking at meetings?

A. *At present, there is no known solution that seems to satisfy everyone.*

Q. When a group orders a book, can a token portion of the price paid be listed as a contribution?

A. *No. This would be a distortion of the truth when reporting the number of contributing groups.*

Q. How do we distinguish between Institutions and P.I. responsibilities?

A. *The answer to the question seems to lie in efforts of cooperation between the respective Committees doing this work . . . "talk to each other, reason things out."*

Q. Is the term Central Service Office reserved for overseas usage?

A. *The term Central Office was used overseas, principally, to describe a service entity which covered an entire state or province. Until recently, there were none in the U.S. Canada had one such office in Manitoba. Now, with a trend toward state and province-wide offices, the term is used universally.*

Q. Is there any thought opposing a printer (who is in AA) doing work for Al-Anon?

A. *There is nothing wrong in using a printer who is an AA member, but some remuneration, even a small one, should be made.*

Q. When an Area invites a WSO staff member to participate at an Area function and the request is channeled through WSO, if the member is unable to attend, is the Area notified of this information before the WSO chooses a replacement? Should two or three names be submitted to WSO rather than one?

A. *Usually, we notify the Area that the person is unavailable and tell who might attend if this is acceptable. If someone else, not on the staff, is preferred, everyone understands. Two or three choices would help.*

Q. Can the Delegate contact the Chairman of an Al-Anon Convention or Conference to stress that the name, "Al-Anon" not be included on return addresses?

A. *Our Policy Digest covers this, as does the World Directory. Reminders are helpful because newcomers are always in need of such information.*

Q. Would it be possible to have a Literature Distribution Center somewhere in the western United States, preferably near the west coast?

A. *If a literature depot is desired, it should be formed by the members in an Area. The World Service Office would not spearhead it, but we would allow a bulk-rate discount on books, if sales are limited to CA literature only.*

Q. Is it a violation of Tradition to name an Al-Anon group with the name of the clinic where it meets?

A. *It's a good thought. Perhaps it can be covered in our GUIDELINES.*

Q. What determines which tapes can be used at Al-Anon meetings and which cannot? How can it be handled at a meeting? (If the tapes are from WSO?)

A. *So far, we do not have tapes issued from the WSO. If a tape is proposed for a meeting, it is up to the group conscience to decide if they are played. Perhaps, a committee could be appointed to listen in advance and review them for suitability at a meeting.*

Q. Not all District Representatives are on mailing lists, as they are not all GRs. Can they be included?

A. *The WSO cannot maintain a DR's mailing list. Material is sent to the Delegate for sharing information.*

Q. Regional AA Conferences are becoming more active. Where Al-Anon participation is part of these Conferences, those near (yet not a part of the region) are invited to attend. Does the Conference approve of this? Should the Area pay the Delegate's expenses?

A. *These decisions are within the Area's autonomy. You can however, share ideas concerning them in AREA HIGHLIGHTS.*

Q. Would it be sound practice to have our Area Newsletter reviewed before publication? How do other Areas handle this?

A. *This, too, is within the Area's autonomy. Perhaps, other Areas would share their experience in AREA HIGHLIGHTS. The World Service Office, of course, does not edit Area Newsletters.*

Q. Is it possible for the World Service Office to pay for literature for Institutions and Public Information work, due to total lack of Area funds? Our Area is financially in the "red" and I've heard years back that WSO supported India in this way?

A. *Each Area is self-supporting. India was provided with literature because they could not get currency out of their country.*

What is Chalk Talk?

A. *"Chalk Talk" is a movie about alcoholism.*

Q. Is it all right to allow welcome wagon to put their stamp on our literature for distribution?

A. *We have no control over this. It brings the Al-Anon message to new families in the community.*

Q. What is Al-Anon's position concerning, "creating a crisis?"

A. *We do not create a crisis but we allow one to happen naturally. We learn not to undo the consequences of the alcoholic's behavior.*

Q. Are we presenting the right image of Al-Anon in our talks at open meetings of combined AA and Al-Anon? Would not our stories be more appropriate in our own closed meetings where it would serve to help the new member identify with us?

A. *Our stories are helpful and appropriate in both situations.*

Q. At a Public Information function, some wanted to make up scrolls of one of the prayers in ODAT to put at our guest's (outsiders) place. Others thought this would indicate we are a religious fellowship.

A. *We are a spiritually based fellowship; the decision, however, rests within the group conscience.*

Q. Our primary purpose is to grow "spiritually." Do you feel, as some do in our Area, that we continue to phase it out in our literature?

A. *Since Al-Anon is a spiritual program, it is reflected in our literature and there has been no conscious plan to phase it out.*

Q. What progress has been made on Lois' autobiography which was approved by a past Conference for its printing and distribution?

A. *The book has been written. We are working on illustrations, and we hope it will be in print some time this year.*

Q. More literature is being published at so great an expense, when existing literature is often quite adequate to cover the various problems and aspects of the program. "More is not necessarily better," and quality rather than quantity should be stressed. Due consideration should also be given to deleting specialized pamphlets. Our program can be applied worldwide.

A. We (Literature Committee) have been trying to follow this philosophy in an overall review of Al-Anon literature.

Q. How about literature for persons who marry sober alcoholics?

A. The Literature Committee will consider it.

Q. Why don't we have literature that applies to the young adults, 20 to 30, of alcoholic parents? They are too old for Alateen and find it difficult to identify with the "married" Al-Anons.

A. This was approved in 1973-74. A manuscript has been written by a young Al-Anon member and edited by the Alateen Staff Secretary and her Assistant. Before it can be sent to the Literature Committee, it will require rewriting.

Q. Can small Al-Anon pamphlets be made even a bit smaller to fit easily into a regular sized envelope for mailing?

A. We can look into it.

Q. In the revised, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM, could the new story be obtained as an insert for the old book?

A. We will bring this to the Literature Committee. This material is also being considered in part for the revisions in "To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic," because it deals with parents of a youthful alcoholic.

Q. Would it be feasible to produce literature directed at children in general (not necessarily from alcoholic homes) re: choice of "to drink" or "not to drink."

A. This is beyond our province, as Al-Anon is only capable of helping the families of alcoholics. The National Council on Alcoholism publishes this type of literature and it may be obtained by writing to them at 733 3rd Avenue, New York, N.Y. As of now, the only sure way to prevent alcoholism is to convince potential victims not to drink.

Q. Who should get the money contributed at an Institutions meeting? The Institution where the meeting is held, the District under which the Institutions Committee is functioning, or should it be shared? Or, the Institutions Committee itself?

A. If there is an Institutions Committee, they would be the first choice as they usually have difficulty obtaining funds. A portion could be used to purchase literature to fill a literature rack where the meeting is held. If there is no Committee, then the District could use the funds to further Institutions involvement within the District.

Q. Is it generally accepted that Alateen members can attend Al-Anon meetings?

A. Anyone who feels his or her life has been deeply affected by a relative or friend's drinking problem, qualifies for membership and can be admitted into Al-Anon and Alateen. Last year's Summary stated: "According to group autonomy, an Al-Anon group can refuse to admit an Alateen or prospective Alateen if there is an Alateen group in the vicinity." The Alateen Standing Committee feels this was in direct conflict with Tradition Three.

Q. Should an announcement about an AA and Al-Anon dance, for those fellowships only, be made at an Al-Anon meeting?

A. They should not be announced outside the fellowship.

Q. (1) Does Al-Anon need State Conferences? (2) Are we promoting, attracting or, competing with the AAs by hosting these Conferences? (3) When AA has its State Conference, would it not be better if Al-Anon had no special meeting at this time?

A. (1) The question of need, or desirability, can only be answered by the group conscience of each Area. (2) We are attracting members who feel they can benefit from exposure to

an environment, other than the group level. The only time we "compete" with AA is when we deliberately schedule conflicting dates with their major functions. (3) Al-Anon generally participates at AA's invitation. To decline the invitation may not be in the best interest of our Tradition of cooperation.

Q. Could we have suggestions pertaining to Al-Anon members holding "Big Book" meetings?

A. An Al-Anon group who bases its meetings solely on the AA Big Book and/or AA literature has no basis for calling itself an Al-Anon group, and should be so informed. We encourage members to become familiar with AA literature, but CA literature is still the proper material for use at an Al-Anon meeting.

Q. Are most groups finding it hard to interest members in sponsorship?

A. Some do, some don't. In general, sponsorship is not supported to the extent as seen in AA. After this question was posed at the Conference, a general show of hands responded that sponsorship was lax in two-thirds of the Areas.

Q. Is there any break in Tradition when a professional description is used on a flyer for an Al-Anon Anniversary, i.e., John Doe, Counselor at mental health . . . ?

A. If John Doe, Counselor, is a member of the program, his talk should be confined to his thoughts and experiences as a professional, otherwise, this is an anonymity break. If he is not a member, there is no problem.

Q. Explain the word, "floor shows" in our new Al-Anon/Alateen Guidelines for Area Conventions. Our Area P.I. plans on having a fashion show with entertainers from outside "to act" between dance sets on opening nights. Should the show be performed by members only?

A. "Floor Show" is used here in the conventional sense, meaning, entertainment for an audience. There seems to be no problem in employing outside entertainers. The same would apply to fashion shows, which seems a novel way to fill in gaps during the entertainment.

Q. Throughout the Traditions, we refer to "alcoholics" and "alcoholism". Many newcomers are scared off by the words. Can we change it, perhaps, problem-drinking, or problem-drinkers?

A. A rose by any other name is not going to make it any more beautiful. We are dealing with alcoholism and Step One would lose its value, if we hedged on the issue.

Q. Is there any possibility of a piece of literature being written for married AA couples who attend the same Al-Anon meeting?

A. There is always the possibility, but the extent of need must be determined. Whether or not, our recent pamphlet, "Double Winners" lends itself to both needs, is a matter of personal judgment.

Q. Why does WSO collect three times a year, instead of just once?

A. We believe it imprudent to put all our eggs in one basket. Additionally, we continue to hope the 40% who DO NOT contribute at all, may get the message!

Q. Has World Service Office ever considered moving to the central part of the U.S.? (Might be cheaper, more accessible, etc.)

A. Yes, it has been considered by WSO, and AA GSO who shared with us the results of a detailed and expensive professional analysis of costs and benefits. Both WSO and AA GSO, took the advice to stay put. It was not as cost effective as it appeared.

Q. Why can't we tape record Conference sessions for our own use?

A. *Taped discussions may be misinterpreted when heard by a person who was not present at the actual Conference. The Summary endeavors to reflect the spirit which prevailed at each annual session.*

Q. Meetings on the topic of sex are sometimes held. Should any member, Delegate, or group chairman lead these? Should a professional lead such a meeting? Who is qualified?

A. *Al-Anon's general approach has long been that this matter is best handled member-to-member, outside a regular meeting. DILEMMA OF AN ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE is a source of help. Professionals have no more place at a meeting on this subject than they do for other problems. Al-Anon is a resource to which professionals continue to send their troubled clients. Why do we then, continue to invite professionals to solve our problems?*

Q. Is it "attraction, rather than promotion" to man an information booth on Al-Anon at a public mall? A project entitled, "Alcoholism" sponsored by a specific agency has invited Al-Anon to be present. Some members in the District are concerned about breaking Traditions 3, 6 and 11. The same sort of booths have been presented before with great success and no apparent opposition. There is evidence of this causing disunity.

A. *Letting the community know Al-Anon exists through cooperation with professionals is not against any Traditions.*

Q. What services are available for the deaf? Have you any suggestions as to how we can conduct a meeting with visual aids to effectively carry the message?

A. *This is an important need and we hope to have aids in the near future.*

Q. Should our Area provide funds for our Delegate to attend Area, Regional, and International Conferences?

A. *This is an Area decision. Perhaps, other Areas will share their experience in AREA HIGHLIGHTS.*

Q. Who do we contact for permission to copy the film, "Francesca Baby" so that it can be shown on closed circuit TV in schools?

A. *The producer. See the April, 1978 issue of AREA HIGHLIGHTS or contact the P.I. Staff Secretary for details.*

Q. Why is "Just For Today" in the Pl Kit?

A. *Because it illustrates the Al-Anon philosophy so beautifully.*

Q. After personal contacts and a letter from our Area Delegate, we have been able to discontinue advertising in church bulletins and to groups, regarding "Al-Anon Retreats." But announcements are still being mailed to Al-Anon members as well as groups at their meeting places. It states a retreat is being held for "Al-Anon members only" or sometimes, "Al-Anon and AA." A few active Al-Anon members work with the personnel at a Drug Addiction & Alcohol Clinic who conduct the retreats. What can be done?

A. *In the Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies, (Page 17) it states, "There is no such thing as an "Al-Anon Retreat."*

If the World Directory is being used as a mailing list, they should be asked not to do so. (see page 37, III, b) Also, definitely not used if the personnel at the Clinic has access to it; the Delegates in the Area where these agencies are located, may provide, at their discretion, lists of referrals. (see page 38, d)

Q. Are retreats combined with Al-Anon, a violation of our policy of non-affiliation with a particular form of religion? Please cite source.

A. *Please refer to Policy Digest, page 17, IV, b, under the heading, "Retreats." You will see that "Retreats" are listed under the title, "Religion" in the Table of Contents.*

Q. When no alternate Delegate is available from current GRs or DRs, may we select an alternate Delegate from amongst outgoing Area Officers (excluding, perhaps, the past Delegates)? This would call for a change in Handbook procedures.

A. *You can, if you want to, adopt a procedure which differs from one in the Handbook.*

Q. Is it OK for a group to decide not to use the Lord's Prayer at the close of meetings and use the Serenity Prayer instead?

A. *Our literature offers no direction on use of the Lord's Prayer. It is only used traditionally in some meetings. Even when used it is usually said, "for everyone who cares to, join me..."*

Q. How should an Al-Anon member identify himself at open meetings?

A. *"I'm Jane B., Al-Anon member," or, "I'm Jane B., wife of an alcoholic." You may write to WSO and ask for "Guidelines for Members Interested in Speaking." You need not identify the alcoholic.*

Q. What is birthday fund?

A. *Please see Policy Digest, page 21, item 1 (c).*

Closing Session, Saturday, April 22

The final Conference session is always a Spiritual meeting. For many, it is most significant because it goes beyond the unity in action sought at the business sessions to focus on Al-Anon's unity of purpose.

Betty R. (CA.S), was the first to speak. Her "fascination" for her husband had led her to do everything she could to make him stop drinking and she ran "all over the country," to rescue him after his drinking bouts. As her husband's business partner, she continued to be as obsessed with his recovery as she had been with his safety, and insisted that he read AA's "Big Book." When Betty drove 60 miles to an Al-Anon meeting, her own recovery began. "I was more comfortable within," she said, and when she moved to Florida she started an Al-Anon meeting. It was her growing understanding of the program which sustained her when her husband left for a life without her. "I knew how to respond when the pieces fall and scatter in a thousand parts. I was even able to work, although I called an Al-Anon friend to get through the day." Betty's relationship with her children was bettered through her work with Alateen where she learned the effects alcoholism had had on their lives. Through the fellowship she became "one of God's children, His little miracle and I am beginning to be part of the world again."

Joan S. (FL), called herself a "late maturer." After an unsuccessful first marriage, she married a man whom she had dated only four times. Ignoring the signposts, (he arrived for a visit with one suitcase filled with 33 pairs of socks and a quart of vodka) she went on her honeymoon. Her married life "grew smaller and smaller, (I hunted and counted, and counted and hunted for bottles) and his whole life became my responsibility... the fears, the frustrations... the falling asleep at the window in our tiny apartment." And when, after a brief but desperate separation, her husband went to AA meetings, Joan went too. She prodded and poked him at appropriate times until she was TOLD to go to Al-Anon. Although, initially she didn't like it, there was something that drew her back, "the light in their eyes, the serenity." Active service helped when her husband had a slip, but a humble trip to a beginner's meeting helped even more when she faced her friends and began to let District meetings be a "shared" experience. Leading a spiritual conference encouraged Joan to use the tools Al-Anon had given her to get through her life. Her happy marriage and her young son are a share of her process of growth. She ended by telling Conference members, "The words have not been written to express my love for you!"

MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are **Motions and Recommendations** of the 1978 World Service Conference. In keeping with the Twelve Concepts of Service, some of these **MOTIONS** and the more general recommendations made at the Conference must still go to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for further considerations.

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the WSO 1977 Annual reports as presented. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that the General Secretary's Report be approved as presented. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that the 1978 Budget be accepted as presented. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Literature Committee's recommendation that an illustrated pamphlet be developed to include the Twelve Traditions and their application. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that the Policy Committee's recommendation that the question of films including maintenance of a list, offering of technical assistance and review of films that are made about Al-Anon by outside agencies be addressed by the Conference. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and *not carried* regarding the Public Information Committee's request to provide to Al-Anon members, when asked, a list of films that do not violate Al-Anon Traditions. *For the Record*, this request further had asked: Before any film be put on the list, it would be reviewed by a sub-committee of the Conference to be sure it reflected the Al-Anon focus of recovery and not conflict with Al-Anon philosophy. (in favor—11 opposed—60 abstentions—11) Motion *not carried*.

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Public Information Committee's request, as channeled through the Policy Committee, that Al-Anon not be listed in credits when they have provided technical assistance. (in favor—68 opposed—0 abstentions—9)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Annual Report of the Policy Committee. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that the Board of Trustees decision to implement a trial World Service Meeting at the 1980 International, held in New Orleans, be supported by this Conference. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Admissions Committee's recommendation that after an Area has petitioned for an additional Delegate, the current Delegate should be available to the Admissions Committee at the meeting when the petition is discussed. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Admissions Committee's recommendation to divide the Atlan-

tic Provinces, which now consists of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador. Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are to remain the Atlantic Provinces Area and Newfoundland and Labrador will comprise the second Area. (in favor—84 opposed—2 abstentions—11)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Handbook Committee's recommendation that the following changes in the Handbook be approved: Page 16—paragraph 2: "the cost of WSO members' attendance at the Conference" (after word "sessions"). Page 16—paragraph 3: "A substantial portion of" (preceding opening sentence). Page 23—paragraph 1: "A proportion of the expenses are paid by the WSO" (following "See P. 16").

A Motion was made, seconded and *not carried* regarding the Handbook Committee's recommendation to dissolve the Handbook Committee with the understanding that it will be re-established as the need presents itself. (in favor—12 opposed—60 abstentions—15) Motion *not carried*.

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation for the slate of Trustees as follows: *Board of Trustees*—Carter C. for 1st 3-year term; Barker H. for 1st 3-year term; Mary S. for 2nd 3-year term. *Regional Trustees* for a 3-year term—Audrey S., Iowa, Northwest Region; Lorain B., Kansas, U.S. Southwest. And for *Officers of the Board of Trustees* for a 1-year term—Stephanie O.K. as Chairman; Ruth H. as Vice Chairman; Henrietta S. as Treasurer. (unanimous)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that the Executive Committee's recommendation concerning listening tapes, based on the six beginners' meetings format, be approved for distribution as Conference-approved tapes. (in favor—82 opposed—0 abstentions—5)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Admissions Committee's recommendation that there be three sentences added to the description which currently appears on page G-2 of the Conference Brochure to read: "It may be necessary for certain non-voting members to attend the World Service Conference at the discretion of the WSO. Seating of these Conference members is subject to the approval of the Admissions Committee who will be furnished with names, job descriptions and rationale, subsequent to the January meeting of the board of Trustees. The recommendation of the Admissions Committee will be accomplished by mail as far in advance of the Conference as practical." (in favor—85 opposed—0 abstentions—2)

A Motion was made, seconded and carried that no change may be made to our book, **ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON** without majority approval of the full Conference in session. (in favor—81 opposed—1 abstentions—5)