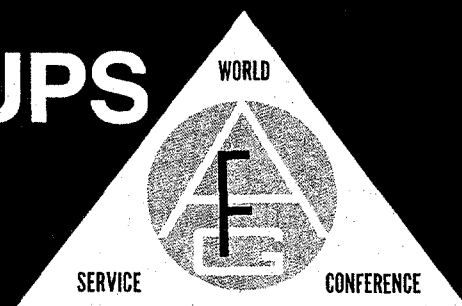


# SUMMARY

## AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

### WORLD SERVICE

### CONFERENCE



WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK,

APRIL 19-24, 1982

#### OUR CONFERENCE THEME:

##### Principles—Our Path to Unity:

"When I first came to Al-Anon, neither principles nor unity had any meaning for me. All I was concerned with was sobriety, unity within my own home, and my own little world. In Al-Anon, my life began to have some meaning. Al-Anon service was like a magnet and I became aware of unity within myself, my own group, other groups and all levels of service, and I grew to learn the core of my own and Al-Anon's stability depended upon adherence to the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts.

The survival of Al-Anon is essential. Throughout the Concepts, there are words such as participation, responsibility, cooperation, trust, vision and security. Every group member is trusted to protect and preserve the character of our fellowship. The Conference, the voice of Al-Anon through our network of communication, unites all Al-Anon, worldwide. Studying and applying the principles found in the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts, leads us on our path to unity.



*Ruth F.—Conference Chairman*

##### The Opening Dinner:

The dinner speaker, Linda Mc F., told the story of her personal miracle in Al-Anon with a great deal of humor and insight. Looking back on her childhood, when she wrote and performed plays, she realized she had carried that talent forward and created scripts to cope with the problems of living in an alcoholic marriage.

Her qualities of people pleasing and fear of abandonment, her desire to achieve excellence and even sanctity, plus her flare for the dramatic, led her to change her life into a fantasy a little at a time, despite the demands of her role of being a good wife and the mother of seven children.

She finally heard that her husband had the disease of alcoholism and that there was a family program for this disease.

She hesitated to embrace the program, and jumped from the First Step to the Twelfth. She memorized the literature and quoted it, without absorbing its message. Through the pain of several separations she finally realized she had to do something for herself. It wasn't until she came to work at the WSO, however, that her own personal miracle happened. Her first assignment as Staff Writer was "Blueprint for Progress." In the process of preparing this definitive Fourth Step inventory, she started writing questions for others to answer and ended up answering them herself. Through taking the Fourth and Fifth Steps the pain was lifted and she "became willing to allow my Higher Power to take over my life. I realized my children and my husband would also be taken care of by the same Higher Power and I wouldn't have to worry about them anymore.

"I still would have had a miracle even if my husband and I hadn't chosen to come back together again. After working our own programs to make ourselves well, we had something to offer one another. That we are married today is a beautiful bonus."

The heartening message the dinner speaker left with all was: "I know something about this program. It works!"



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## OPENING SESSION:

The first business of the Conference began with the reading of the Twelve Traditions, following roll call. Hank G., Chairman of the Board of Trustees read these confirmations of group experience. At other sessions, the readings were done by Bernie E., CA (S); Marion O., Manitoba; Margaret G., PA; Jean H., TX (W); Darlene S., MN (S); Valda R., FL; Gert W., KS; Monique V., Quebec (W); Bette S., Ontario (S); Robert V., RI.

Hank's welcome shared his feeling that the Conference offered an opportunity to take a look "where we have been and where we are going." He pointed to the Traditions which provided the Conference with a bountiful source from which our principles could be drawn.

## Admissions—Valerie M., co

In order to start the proceedings, the first order of business was a report which established who attended the conference in addition to Delegates, WSO Volunteers and Staff. Recommendations: To seat with voice and no vote—Alberte C., Secretary/Treasurer of the PFA; Teresa M., WSO Supervisor of Spanish Services; Richard Keilly, WSO Controller; Cyril C., Representative from the U.K. and Eire; To seat with voice and vote the newly elected Delegate from MN (N), Esther K. (See Motions).

## Voting:

Having decided questions of seating, the Conference moved on to review how it would reach its majority recommendations. In order for this large body to address each issue, fairly, there would be a procedure for voting which was presented by Myrna H., General Secretary at the World Service Office (WSO).

Myrna referred to the method of presenting recommendations in the form of motions for a full Conference vote. A full explanation always appears in the Conference Brochure, a collection of instructions and back-up material made available to Conference members each year to assist them in making decisions.

All Motions are presented and acknowledged at the Board of Trustees' Annual Meeting following the close of the Conference.

(Generally, there would be a welcome at this point by our Co-founder, Lois W., but she was unable to attend all sessions and saluted Conference members later in the week.)

*"Today we lay the groundwork for a successful tomorrow."*

## Committee Appointments

Having explained, *how*, Myrna let Helen G., Conference Secretary, tell *who* would be making decisions in the conference standing committees. She explained that the appointment was for a three year term and several factors are considered: preference, maintenance of regional balance, and the date a request is received from the Delegate.

## STANDING COMMITTEES:

	Panel 21 1981-1983		Panel 22 1982-1984	
ADMISSIONS	Loubelle McQ. Bruce K. Betty Von H.	AR NV SASK	Pat B. Robert V. Jean H.	KY RI TX(W)
AGENDA	Marian E. Loretta S.	IL(S) NB	Gert W. Margaret G.	KS PA
ALATEEN	Erna W. Wauneta Jerrie K.	ME SD UT	Judy S. Angela W. Monique V.	DE MD & DC Que. (W)
COOPERATING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)	Majorie O. Pauline C. Joan McG.	LA NM NY(S)	Valda R. Dennis K. Bette S.	FL OH ONT(S)
HANDBOOK	Don S. Bea A.	IA MO	Bernie E. Darlene S. William S.	CA(S) MN(S) NY(N)
INSTITUTIONS	Joan D. Carol LeB. Shirley N.	CT NH WY	John B. Marion O. Shirley W.	IL(N) MAN MI
LITERATURE	Kathy S. Connie D. Aida K.	ID ONT(N) PR	Jean McL. Anne L.	CA(N) TN
PUBLIC INFORMATION	Peggy B. Winnie B.	NFLD/LAB SC	Serafina S. Jean Z. Suzie S.	HI IN TX(E)

The incoming Panel 22 members had already met with WSO staff and volunteers attending their first Conference. The General Secretary had explained her role at the office and introduced the new Deputy General Secretary, Sandra F. She then called on Helen G., Conference Secretary, and the Staff Secretaries for Alateen, Carole K.; Institutions, Ann S.; Cooperating With the Professional Community (CPC), Pat H.; Literature, Linda Mc F.; *FORUM* Editor, Hildegard M.V.; Archivist Margaret O'B.; International Coordination, Mary Ann K.; and Public Information (P.I.), Susan H.



All Panel 20 Delegates were asked to share their thoughts on:

Service,

Joy or Job?

You will find answers to this question between quote brackets throughout the Summary.



## SHARING SESSION

### "Principles- Our Path to Unity"

Moderator, Ruth F., Conference Chairman

Ruth shared her personal experience in developing a sense of Al-Anon principles. By applying the 12 Steps she had discovered she was hiding from everyone, including herself.

Then, the 12 Traditions began to play a role in her life and through using their principles, she learned to love and trust. Others shared their experiences:

- "We have such a beautiful fellowship which has done so much. It began with a shoe being thrown. Perhaps when we are putting our shoes on in the morning, we can realize we don't have to throw them at anyone."
- "I lost my sense of principles through Alcoholism. Al-Anon puts us back in focus. Working on principles with the group helps, and service keeps unity going."
- "I try to allow the continued understanding of those in the Area to help . . . I got off the pedestal and admitted my mistakes."
- "The path we travel in Al-Anon is a meandering one . . . not a super highway. The going is slow and permits us time to reflect, to enjoy the beauty as we go along."
- "I have the principle of love. I am no longer like a porcupine with my bristles out."
- "I used to identify with negatives. Now positives work in my personal life and my principles are unchanging and always available when sought. While we are of different backgrounds, a program based on principles unifies us all."
- "We had district workshops on unity. This is basic for survival, as are the manuals."
- "Unity is the start of group conscience which goes on to Districts and Assemblies."
- "Humility helps us get over disunity."
- "Good comes out of resolution."
- "I've tried to develop a sense of humor and learned about anger. I know we can disagree without being disagreeable."
- "Unity does not mean unison. We can express different opinions. In using the Traditions and Concepts, we may have different approaches. Love keeps us working together to develop substantial unanimity."
- "The AA International Convention brought many groups together. Groups often gain inspiration from Delegates when they see cooperation in depth."
- "We can take an inventory to see if we are getting in the way, personally, or respecting the rights of the minority, hearing with an open mind."
- "We need the absence of fear in expressing personal views, an end to people pleasing, and the courage of our convictions to seek unity."
- "We can identify while we take it easy, keep it simple, and ask for God's help."
- "Principles are disciplines and while they may hurt from time to time, they do help. They give us courage for a happy way of living together as a fellowship."



## WHERE TO FIND IT:

In between each Session, Ruth F., Conference Chairman spoke lovingly of the tasks set before the Conference (you will find her quotes throughout this summary). The agenda would include service sharing, personal participation, WSO reports, and the results of committee action throughout the year. The workshop would address the Conference Theme and offer a look at Al-Anon "Unity—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

To carry through the concept of unity and to present the substance of the annual reports as well as a full report on Conference activities and decisions, we have gathered each service activity into its own section. You will find, along with program sharing the Annual WSO report, followed by a summary of the service Conference session, the feed-back from the floor, committee report-backs and pertinent questions which had been placed in the Ask-It-Basket:

# Administration THE WORLD SERVICE OFFICE (WSO)

## THE GEN'L SECT'Y:

Before calling for questions on individual service reports, Myrna introduced the new Deputy Secretary, Sandra F. In addition to assisting Myrna, Sandra will continue as Editor of *INSIDE AL-ANON* and the Coordinator of Spanish and French Services. She will also oversee Guidelines, forms, and formletters and have oversight for the production of the various office newsletters and audiovisual material.

Myrna's presentation of reports had been preceded by her letter:

Dear Conference Members,

In the year 1980, the groundwork was laid for the development of plans to keep up with the ever-expanding needs of the World Service Office. As reflected in the following annual reports, 1981 was a year of implementation.

With the guidance of Al-Anon's Board of Trustees, we made refinements in our administrative structure to assure strength and continuity at the WSO, to provide adequate service for our membership and to increase our effort in reaching the millions of suffering families of alcoholics yet to find Al-Anon.

In the process, we discovered Al-Anon had survived its identity crisis. Dilution and professional encroachment had threatened our core. But, as members continued to assume leadership at all levels of service and accepted, within themselves, that Al-Anon is a primary resource for families of alcoholics, "who and what we are" became more evident to others. We knew Al-Anon and Alateen had reached a higher level of recognition; we were no longer overshadowed.

Under the direction of the Board of Trustees Chairman, a Long-Range Planning Committee had been established to explore Al-Anon's needs in an ever-changing society. In so doing, we voiced what we had intrinsically known; the World Service Office is a reflective, not a directive entity. Direction for giving service must always come from our membership. To assure this, the WSO will continue to feel the "pulse" of the groups. The Regional Service Seminars are proving to be a strong avenue of communication and we feel confident that these Seminars will become a permanent, viable way of speaking directly to each other.

As we improved communication within our fellowship, new and more effective ways of reaching outside had surfaced. Our new CPC division, Co-operating With the Professional Community, had taken root, freeing Public Information and Institutions to expand their services in other directions.

Toward the close of 1981, the Board of Trustees, in its effort to strengthen administrative operations and expand communication methods through audio visuals, filled the vacant Deputy General Secretary's position.

As anticipated, Al-Anon is progressing in all areas of service. In the coming year, we can look forward to new literature, additional TV Spots, a slide film on structure, a series of audio material, better communication with the professional community, a General Services Meeting with overseas General Service Structures, and other new and exciting projects.

Yours in fellowship,  
Myrna S. H.  
General Secretary

# WSO ANNUAL REPORT:

## Myrna H.

At the year's end, a full report of all World Service Office activities is prepared for consideration by members of the World Service Conference, who represent the Al-Anon fellowship. These reports are summarized after the Conference and are available to all registered English-speaking groups worldwide.

The Board of Trustees are the members of the corporation responsible for: carrying out the mandates of the World Service Conference and business policies of the WSO; estimating revenue; administration of service to the membership; the publication and distribution of Conference-Approved Literature; approving the quarterly and annual work progress reports submitted by the General Secretary and each WSO committee. These reports are also made available to the Executive Committee, which is empowered to act on behalf of the Board in the intervals between Board meetings. The Executive Committee meets monthly to make business and administrative decisions.

## PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION:

**General Secretary**—The General Secretary, Executive Director of the World Service Office, is responsible to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees for implementing administrative policies, the management and operation of the WSO and supervision of all staff members. She is Secretary of the Board and a Trustee as well as an ex-officio member of all committees at the WSO.

**Administrative Staff**—On a trial basis, the CPC Department was created to *Cooperate* and communicate with the *Professional Community*. This was implemented with Margaret S. handling the CPC assignment while Susan H. continued to work with the general public and the media in Public Information. Margaret S. resigned for other pursuits and a recruitment letter was sent to all the groups in the New York Metropolitan area, Northern New Jersey, Southern Connecticut and to Delegates in the U.S. and Canada. A decision was made to hire Patricia H., an Al-Anon member of over four years with a background in psychology and experience in group leadership and working with professionals.

The position of Deputy General Secretary was reactivated and Sandra F. who was International Secretary was named to this position. Sandra continued to edit *INSIDE AL-ANON*; while the vacant position of International Secretary was filled by Mary Ann K. formerly Editorial Assistant to The *FORUM* Editor.

Staff meetings were held weekly all year long to discuss problem letters, coordinate services, mailings and to review our entire operation. In addition to regular committee assignments, general correspondence was re-apportioned as follows: U.S. (Northeast), Pat H.; U.S. (Southeast), Helen G.; U.S. (Northeast), Ann S.; U.S. (Southwest), Margaret O'B.; Canada, Susan H.

**Support Staff**—(Reported in conjunction with Joan Hochbaum, Office Supervisor)

With growth and expansion, many changes took place. A number of employees left the WSO to pursue other interests; one employee retired. On October 26, Marian H., our long-time dedicated Accounting Supervisor, passed away after a lengthy illness. Many promotions occurred from within and a number of new employees joined the staff.

A Secretarial Team was created providing maximum utilization of new word processing equipment, to be installed by the first of 1982. The secretary to the General Secretary, along with her present responsibilities, supervises the Secretarial Team and monitors the workflow.

When necessary, temporary help had been engaged to fill vacancies. A full-time maintenance worker was hired to replace part-time help.

## STAFF CONCERNS: (Reported in conjunction with Joan Hochbaum)

Evaluations of all staff members were conducted by the appropriate supervisor or Unit Head, with evaluations of the Administrative Staff conducted by the General Secretary.

**Computerization**—After working with several outside data services, a study is to be conducted in 1982 to determine the feasibility of having computers operating in-house. Additionally, at the close of 1981, we purchased two word processors that will become operational at the beginning of 1982.

## SEMINARS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

**Hiring Procedures**—The General Secretary, her secretary, the Office Supervisor and the Controller attended several seminars to further familiarize themselves with Hiring Procedures, Basic Supervision and Word Processing.

A telephone seminar was held by the Office Supervisor with the support staff.

Two staff members attended and completed a course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

## OFFICE PROCEDURES: (Reported in conjunction with Joan H. Office Supervisor)

**Additional Space**—The basement storage space acquired during 1980 provided us with more usable space in the Shipping Department to handle the increased volume of material.

**Copying Equipment**—It was necessary to obtain a new heavy-duty copy machine which produces a better quality copy.

**Filing Equipment**—Open shelf files, which require less aisle space than the conventional four-draw files and allows quicker access of file folders, have been purchased.

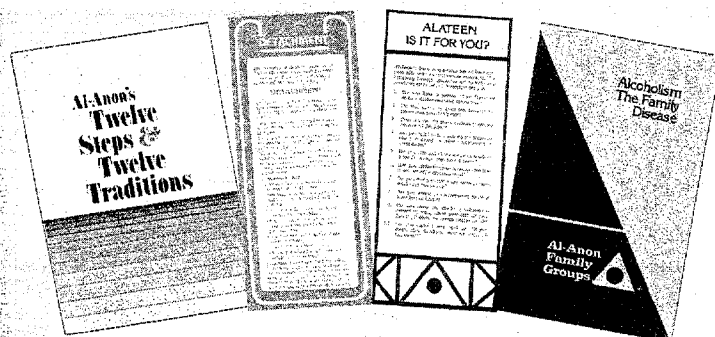
## PUBLICATIONS:

During the first part of 1981, the long-awaited hardcover book *AL-ANON'S TWELVE STEPS & TWELVE TRADITIONS* was published; 98,946 copies had been sold for the year.

**Pamphlets**—The new "Detachment Statement" was printed and had been added to our price list. It sold 506,200 copies. *Alateen, Is It For You*, which is also new sold 337,400. The new version of *Alcoholism, The Family Disease* for the visually handicapped sold 650 copies.

## Printout Update:

Computer printouts of Area Groups will be distributed to all Delegates. In Areas where there are two, duplicate printouts will be provided. A complete record will take place annually and abbreviated updates will be supplied monthly. The updates will show changes in group records, deletion of groups, groups with suspended mail, as well as the addition of new groups. Groups will be assigned a new permanent I.D. number for record keeping and accounting. The new computer company will also run labels for mailing the printouts. Delegate assistance in locating updated mailing information is appreciated.



## GROUP RECORDS AND DIRECTORIES: (Reported in conjunction with Joan Hochbaum, Office Supervisor; Sally D., Group Records Supervisor)

	Al-Anon	Alateen	Lone Members	GSOs, Information Services, etc.	Institutions Groups
Total Registrations Worldwide 12/31/81	16,199	2,419	165	199	424
United States	10,358	1,628	52	109	354
Canada	1,678	291	23	16	28
International (outside the U.S. & Canada)	4,163	500	90	74	42
Group Count 12/31/80	14,736	2,301	168	182	397



## GROUP SERVICES:

**World Directory**—The three sections of the World Directory for U.S. and Canada were distributed to all Conference members at the 1981 WSO and mailed to all registered groups in May.

General Service Offices and Information Services in the United States, Canada and overseas received a complete set.

The International Directory, outside U.S. and Canada, was distributed to our English-speaking groups and to all GSOs in November.

Mailings	Total
Subscriptions—The <i>FORUM</i>	
Group-Wide Mailings	511,758
INSIDE AL-ANON	86,633
Tri-annual Appeal letter	42,775
1981 Conference Summary	14,270
Revisions of the World Service Handbook	12,832
Questionnaires for the 1982 World Directory	14,200
Back issues of The <i>FORUM</i>	15,853
Limited Mailings	Annual Total
ALATEEN TALK	36,859
AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS	15,045
LONERS' LETTER BOX	16,507
DENTRO DE AL-ANON	12,859
AREA HIGHLIGHTS	5,104
AL-ANON SPEAKS OUT	6,000
The annual seasonal mailing to all professionals	6,000
Advance notices, AL-ANON's TWELVE STEPS & TWELVE TRADITIONS	177
Lone Member Directory Letter to groups in US and Canada	60
Personnel mailings announcing open positions at the WSO	6,975
Complimentary copies of AL-ANON's TWELVE STEPS & TWELVE TRADITIONS	88
Contribution acknowledgements	2,354
World Directory—1981	
U.S. East	5,252
U.S. West	5,865
Canada	1,913
International	2,900
Regional Service Seminar (Northwest)	3,001
Spanish Mailing (20 Questions, P.I. & Institutions Guidelines)	2,159

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

**Legal Counsel**—An attorney was engaged to renew our existing trademarks registered in the U.S. that were about to expire; to register trademarks in Canada and in other countries where literature is printed; to determine copyright requirements for placing reprinted Conference-Approved Literature on tape; to extend permission overseas to reprint excerpts from literature and The *FORUM*; and to investigate having our material copyrighted in Canada and other countries.

Additional counsel was sought about material produced by an outside agency which appeared to speak for the Al-Anon fellowship.

An attorney was engaged to develop a summary plan description for employees, as required by ERISA, which should be available for distribution during 1982.

**Auditing**—Staff members of Owen J. Flanagan Company, our auditing firm, have conducted semi-annual audits. Upon conclusion of each audit, Mr. Flanagan met with the General Secretary and Controller to discuss our present and future financial situation. He also kept in close contact with our Treasurer, Henrietta S.

## INFORMATION SERVICES:

The responsibility of communicating with Al-Anon Information Services was handed over to Margaret O'B., Archivist, during the latter part of the year. She handled registrations, responded to correspondence, read each Information Service newsletter and passed along pertinent information when applicable to other services, assisted in revising the new registration form and initiated a mailing of revised guidelines to all existing Information Services in the U.S. and Canada.

Outstanding among the correspondence from Information Services this year was the question of whether the WSO could establish a policy regarding employee practices at a local Information Service.

## GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Each staff Secretary handled a variety of letters on the usual type questions on such subjects as: the use of AA literature at meetings, families of drug abusers attending Al-Anon as a therapy program, "double winners" at meetings, etc. The more unusual type of questions covered: providing encourage-

ment and guidance to a group when the treasurer used group funds for personal purposes; the impracticalities of a group showing a film on abused women prior to three consecutive Al-Anon meetings; assurances that the WSO was not about to lose its non-profit status; whether a Literature Supply Center could become a private enterprise; how to discourage the use of professional terminologies at Al-Anon meetings; a complaint about the Sixth Tradition being violated by the World Service Conference as references to AA in our literature are being deleted and that Al-Anon is withdrawing all attempts at cooperation with AA; whether a group was required to give a part of its literature to AA when it vacated its meeting space; listing a person's affiliation with Al-Anon in an obituary notice; whether a member can refer to Jesus Christ as his/her Higher Power; why the new TWELVE and TWELVE book was being sold for \$1 at a Washington D.C. bookstore; an offer from a noted clergyman offering his help in the creation of a new Al-Anon pamphlet which would encourage AA members to attend Al-Anon meetings to fully understand the nature of the illness as it affects the family; and a request for research sources on Al-Anon and any journal material or other critical viewpoints available. An interesting highlight this year was the attendance by the Delegate from Maryland/D.C. to the Alcoholism Stamp Ceremony in Washington, D.C., standing in for the General Secretary who had been invited but was unable to attend.

## VISITORS:

Members from Arizona, Australia, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, London, Maryland, Mexico, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Canada, England, Germany, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Ireland, Mexico, St. Thomas, and the West Indies toured the office during the year of 1981.

## VOLUNTEERS:

Approximately 1,520 in-office volunteer hours were given to General Administration at the WSO in 1981. Of that time, approximately 1,090 hours were devoted to Administration and 430 hours to Support Service.

## INVITATIONS TO STAFF AND TRUSTEES Reported by Inez Gonzales

The following is a summary of participation by Staff Secretaries and various members of the Board of Trustees in Conferences and Conventions.

**The First Quarter**—Carole K., Alateen Secretary, participated in the 19th Annual Southeast Texas AA Conference as well as in the 7th Convention of North Carolina Al-Anon Family Groups. Linda McF., Literature Secretary participated in the 7th Annual AA Institutions Conference in Ontario, Canada and in the 6th South Carolina Al-Anon Convention. Stephanie O'K., participated in the 2nd Annual Texas State Al-Anon Conference.

**The Second Quarter**—Linda McF., attended the Iron Range Get-To-Gether AA Convention which had both Al-Anon and Alateen participation. Margaret O'B., Archivist, participated in the 8th Annual New York Area North Spring Conference in Utica New York. Susan H., P.I. Secretary, participated in the Chicago North Assembly whose main focus was Public Information. Carole K., participated in the Midlake Alateen Convention held in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Barbara, Assistant to the Alateen Staff Secretary, participated in the Mid-Atlantic Alateen Conference held in Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. She spoke briefly on what the WSO is and how it serves the fellowship. Sandra F., International Secretary, participated in the Third Annual Spiritual Weekend for Al-Anons held in Blackstone, Virginia. Ruth H., Regional Trustee, Canada (West) participated in the Canadian Counselling Convention by presenting a paper. Carole K., participated in the Sumatanga Al-Anon Roundup held in Alabama and also attended the Northern Mid-Atlantic Alateen Conference held in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, with her Assistant, Barbara.

**The Third Quarter**—Carole K., participated in the Third Georgia Al-Anon/Alateen Convention held in Norman Park, Georgia. She also participated in the Sixth West Virginia Al-Anon Convention held in Jackson's Mill, Weston, West Virginia. Linda McF., participated in the AA Manitoba Convention.

**The Fourth Quarter**—Hank G., Chairman of the Board, participated in the Indiana State Convention in the early part of February, 1981. He also participated in the meeting of the Ohio Roundup held at Atwood Lake Lodge, Delroy, Ohio which was the ninth in a series devoted 100% to Al-Anon. Carole K., participated in the Al-Anon/Alateen Illinois State Convention. Ann S., Institutions Secretary, participated in the Indiana Falls Assembly speaking on her responsibilities at the WSO (institutions, loners and her general assignments) while touching on other general office operations. Linda McF., participated in the Oklahoma Al-Anon Convention and Audrey S., Regional Trustee for the U.S. (NorthWest), participated in the Wisconsin Al-Anon/Alateen Fall Assembly.

## SPECIALIZED SERVICES REPORT:

Sandra F., Deputy General Secretary

**Services for the Handicapped** — Before the large type pamphlet, Alcoholism the Family Disease appeared, the Literature Secretary and the former Administrative Aide had investigated proper type faces and sizes that are generally used by the visually impaired. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind had contacted the WSO and offered to make a braille version of our hardcover book, *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC*. Additionally, the Library of Congress was contacted and asked to send an updated list of Al-Anon material that had been produced on cassette tapes.

**Audio Visuals** — The first audio project undertaken was the production of literature on cassettes. The Literature Committee made suggestions for material of varying lengths. Raphael, our Spanish consultant, who worked on the Beginners' Cassettes in Spanish has been asked to research production of Alcoholism, the Family Disease. This was suggested by the Literature Committee since it is the one piece available in large type for the visually-handicapped.

A presentation was made to and approved by the Executive Committee for conceptual approval of a historical cassette package consisting of interviews with Lois W., co-founder; Henrietta S., first General Secretary; and Margaret D., first *FORUM* Editor. Margaret O'Boyle would act as liaison on this project and has already compiled existing tapes in Archives, which were forwarded to an audio-visual producer.

**Guidelines** — The production of guidelines, formerly handled by Literature Services, is now being handled by the Deputy General Secretary's Assistant. Printers had been contacted to obtain a guideline masthead and they will now be typeset and run in-house.

**Other Material** — Specialized items continue to fill a need for the fellowship. Four hundred forty two (442) Beginners Tapes sets; one hundred thirty nine (139) Radio Spots and forty (40) TV Spots were sold this year.

## INSIDE AL-ANON — (Reported by Sandra F.)

Alan S., chaired the ad hoc committee which met five times. Bo H., joined the regular members, Walter S., Marge S., Mark S., and the Editor. A request was sent to the Chairman of the Board suggesting the ad hoc committee become a permanent Editorial Advisory Committee.

Several improvements in format and features were developed including "Send us Your Comments" and increased use of graphics. The committee's thrust is to enhance *INSIDE AL-ANON*'s use as a vehicle to report the pulse of the groups. Its success in doing so is reflected in the ever-growing amount of correspondence, references in other Areas and worldwide publications, and in-depth replies to questions, such as the naming of groups, greeting newcomers, dual membership and the use of the Lord's Prayer. The increased use of this newsletter is also evidenced by the number of requests for free offerings. There were over 70 requests for information for GRs, almost 100 for the Cooperation Statement between Al-Anon and AA and approximately 25 for the P.I. newspaper article as well as daily requests for Guidelines and other items mentioned in the publications. A Statement of Purpose, developed by the committee, was approved by the Board and first appeared in the May-June issue. Subsequently abridged, it appears in each issue. At the 1981 WSC, the Chairman of the Board announced plans to have an expanded issue of *INSIDE AL-ANON* to provide an early report of the Conference. To do this a change in dating sequence was approved by the Board and will occur in 1982, featuring the Conference report in a June-July issue. Other plans for 1982 include a change in focus of the Personnel Story to feature stories of members active at the World Service level, (World Service Delegates and members from other countries who serve at a national level, in addition to the U.S./Canada Trustees and other World Service volunteers). Although unsolicited, at the year's end, there were 731 copies on subscription and 200 copies of the Spanish version, *DENTRO DE AL-ANON*.

## INSIDE AL-ANON update

Alan S.

Several successful surveys of the readership reflect how the newsletter is filling the needs of the fellowship. Returns are as high as 60 to 70%. The newsletter has broadened the sharing of mutual concerns and the Editorial Advisory Committee observed a change in scheduling for a May-June issue which will capture highlights of the Conference. ▲



## Jean G., Vermont

Jean described her getting into service: "You can do it—no I can't—yes you can—so I did." She had survived her own doubts at the group level and in spite of pounding headaches and a sick stomach, she was the Group Representative when the WSO inquired about forming a Vermont Assembly.

The first annual Vermont Al-Anon Picnic was an Assembly in disguise. Committee heads and coordinators were named and Vermont began to gather the Equalized Expense amount to send a Delegate to the World Service Conference.

Truthfully, service had been quite a job, but Jean had received "a bundle of love and support" and while that was a joy, she was more than sad to be moving to another state. She thanked all Vermont Al-Anon, knowing she would be forever grateful to be their first Delegate. She thanked them because she knew that the Assembly had been accomplished "working side by side, learning and making mistakes together."



## SPANISH SERVICES REPORT:

Sandra F.

**Change in Structure**—With the appointment of the Deputy General Secretary, Spanish Services now falls under the category of General Administration rather than International Coordination.

**Improvement in Spanish Literature**—Working with the Spanish consultant, Raphael Marcos, resulted in an improvement in content of all Spanish translations. Due to the efforts of Literature Services, all new material produced now matches the style and quality of the English originals.

**Pricing of Spanish Literature**—The International Coordination Committee proposed equalizing the prices of Spanish literature in the U.S. and other countries. The price of books were increased. The Committee will reconsider the pricing of pamphlets after the effects of combined printing of Spanish and English material is evaluated.

**AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION**—The first edition of the expanded printed version, to appear in January, 1982, will include more of The *FORUM* translations. The title of the periodical is to be maintained, with a sub-head called, "Selecciones del *FORUM*." A two color newsletter was used consisting predominately of, The *FORUM* translations with a portion allotted for other items of Spanish member's interest. This newsletter will consist of four pages in printing, replacing the former two-page mimeographed *AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION*. It will be mailed with *DENTRO DE AL-ANON* bi-monthly, thereby saving postage costs. An office committee was set up to review contents. Each issue will consist of translations from the prior two months of The *FORUM*.

The International Coordination Committee also discussed the feasibility of having the entire Spanish *FORUM* printed by another GSO, as suggested at the 1981 World Service Conference. After discussion, the Committee agreed not to pursue this further at present, but to evaluate the effects of the expansion of *AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION*. Also the cost, distribution and review problems which prevented the WSO from tackling the project, would hold true for GSOs.



## New Translations—(Reported by Teresa M., Spanish Services Supervisor)

- Alateen, Is It For You?
- Detachment Statement
- Guidelines for Members Interested in Speaking
- Letters for professionals interested in the Al-Anon program
- Al-Anon Speaks Out
- Suggested Beginner's Meeting Format
- Twenty Questions Plus Five
- Cooperation Statement Between Al-Anon and AA
- Suggested Programs for Al-Anon Meetings
- Understanding Ourselves and Alcoholism

## Major Revisions

- ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON
- LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC
- Are you Concerned About Someone Else's Drinking?
- Twelve Concepts of Service
- Policy Digest
- Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work
- So You Love an Alcoholic
- Some Answers in Al-Anon

## Other Revisions

- Facts About Alateen
- Al-Anon Just For Today
- Al-Anon Family Treatment Tool
- Alateen Just for Today
- Freedom from Despair
- Twenty Questions
- Information for the Newcomer
- Twelve Steps and Traditions
- Youth and the Alcoholic Parent
- Purpose and Suggestions
- Public Information Guidelines
- Institutions Guidelines
- What's Drunk, Mama?

## Mailings to all Spanish-speaking groups

- The January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December, *DENTRO DE AL-ANON* and *AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION*
- An announcement and order blank for the three new PI posters, *ALATEEN-HOPE FOR CHILDREN OR ALCOHOLICS*, *So You Love an Alcoholic?*, *Serenity Prayer Card*, *Al-Anon Is It For You?*, *Alateen, Is It For You?*, *Detachment Statement* and *Lois' Story*
- *AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS* and a questionnaire for Institutions groups
- The revised price list
- Guidelines for Members Interested in Speaking
- *AL-ANON SPEAKS OUT*
- Twenty Questions plus Five
- Public Information and Institutions Guidelines
- Announcements of the Beginner's Meeting Cassettes
- The March and July Appeal letter to groups in the U.S. and Canada
- The November Appeal letter with excerpts from the Seventh Tradition leaflet
- The World Service Handbook

## Mailings to Spanish-Speaking Professionals

- Public Information letter and price lists
- A catalog of literature and Al-Anon, Is It For You?
- *AL-ANON SPEAKS OUT*
- Facts About Alateen
- Al-Anon Family Treatment Tool
- Al-Anon, Is It For You?
- Alateen, Is It For You?

**Mailings to Delegates**—Pamphlets of new Spanish translations and revisions along with a covering letter.

Scripts for the six Beginner's Meetings were completely revised and cassettes produced.

## Review of Portuguese Literature

Eleven pieces of Portuguese Literature were reviewed by Spanish Services for production in Brazil.

## QUESTIONS:


### Why have some items on the Spanish literature list been unavailable?

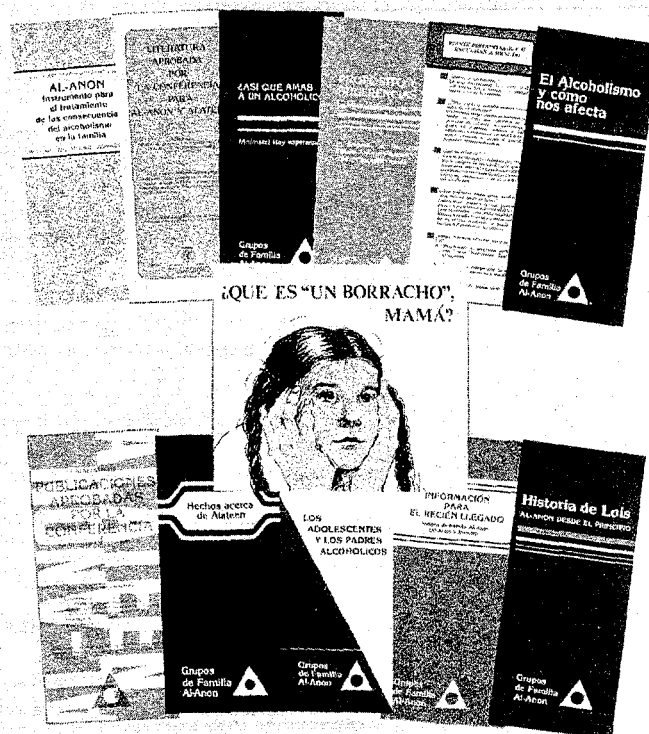
This is happening less and less as we produce our own material rather than ordering from other countries.

### Can the English and Spanish translation of *AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS* be sent to Area Newsletters?

It is not economically feasible to translate each issue of this newsletter. If the Area has large Spanish-speaking populations, perhaps a member in the Area could translate appropriate material from the English version.

### Does CAL mean that Spanish translation is also copyrighted?

We do not copyright the translation itself. The copyright symbol on Spanish translations refers to the original work in English. 



## “Dorothy R., Montana

The majority of Dorothy's service experiences brought her joyful times. One of her greatest joys was her trip to New Orleans where she met people from all over the world. Another was her flight to Canada for the first Regional Service Seminar where she was overwhelmed by the hospitality of the Canadians. She could hardly believe her good fortune when she was asked to be a speaker at the Round-Up in Alberta, Canada.

Dorothy's second trip to New York as Delegate was almost as much fun, only this time she felt like an "old pro." Joy turned into a painful job when she was asked to give her report at the Spring Round-Up and they didn't have a room for her—then only a few people were interested. She became angry and lashed out and had a crisis in her personal life which almost made her "throw in the towel."

The sun did shine again for Dorothy. Now, as she finishes up this third year, she remembers the painful times as experiences she needed for growth to be the person she is today and the joyful times as memories of years that were complete—a peak of service work. Today she knows that being a Delegate was not a job but a privilege.

## Spanish Services Session

Teresa M., Supervisor

The WSO serves all Spanish language groups throughout the world, handles Spanish publications; translation; publishing and distribution of Conference-Approved Al-Anon/Alateen Literature; two bimonthly Newsletters to the Spanish groups, AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION and DENTRO DE AL-ANON; the annual bulletin Al-Anon In Institutions and other communications. In addition, Teresa and members of her department answer requests for information and send literature for new groups.

At the present time 2280 Al-Anon groups and 300 Alateen groups are registered in 20 Spanish speaking countries, including 114 Al-Anon groups in the United States, 36 Al-Anon and 4 Alateen groups in Puerto Rico.

There are eight General Service Offices established in Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Spain. There are 19 Information Service Offices in these countries, 15 lone members and 21 Institutions groups. For a total of 2580 Spanish speaking groups.

Literature orders have increased considerably with Information Service Offices in the United States asking for more Spanish literature for work in Areas with a Spanish-speaking population. This year the prices of all Al-Anon and Alateen literature printed in Spanish by the World Service Office are the same as the English versions and are listed on a new Bilingual Order Form using the same code as the English to identify each piece. Translation revisions have been made in ONE DAY AT A TIME and LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC. 18 different pamphlets have been revised and updated, and 11 have been translated for the first time. Acknowledging a growing interest and need for Portuguese literature, Teresa reviewed 11 pamphlets and ONE DAY AT A TIME book in that language.

Spanish Services have three full-time employees and a Spanish reviewer who works on a consulting basis. In response to the enthusiasm with which the new and revised literature was received, and in order to give further service to meet the needs of Spanish speaking members, a new project was planned last year in response to the 1980 Conference Delegates' request: The new addition of AL-ANON/ALATEEN EN ACCION has a subhead called "Selections from The FORUM." This newsletter replaces the former mimeographed sheets and is an expanded version in two colors. Letters to the WSO have shared gratitude and joy in receiving these new versions. Teresa concluded, "These sincere words from the Spanish-speaking members of our worldwide fellowship are the best rewards for our efforts."



## FRENCH SERVICES REPORT

Sandra F.

Hank, Myrna, Henrietta, Richard and Sandy met with Alberte and Cay during the WSC to sign the annual contract with Publications Francais, located in Montreal. A discussion arose about procedures to follow in utilizing the new process suggested by Linda of having combined French and English printings from the WSO. Linda, working with Myrna and Sandy will implement such projects. It was also agreed that PFA would upgrade their office and equipment. They are to purchase or lease an addressograph machine and try to obtain more space in their present location instead of moving as originally anticipated. Hank and Myrna visited PFA in July and discussed improving employee benefits. A pension plan is under consideration. They are also to submit a budget for renovating their present premises. Projects such as producing the beginner's tapes, the revision of LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC and bringing The FORUM up-to-date were also reviewed. PFA continues to submit quarterly reports for the work they do in addition to WSO's report on liaison with PFA and their annual report to the Conference.

## P.F.A. Session

### Les Publications Francaises P.F.A., Inc.

Cay C.; Alberte C.

This year, as in the past, Les Publications francaises P.F.A., Inc. has made every effort to provide services to all French-language groups throughout the world. The three trustees for P.F.A. are three Al-Anon members: Cay C., Simone M. and Alberte C. In spite of the ever increasing work load, the personnel still consists of 3 full-time employees, one translator who works 4 days a week and one occasional employee to help with typing.

At this time the number of French groups is as follows:

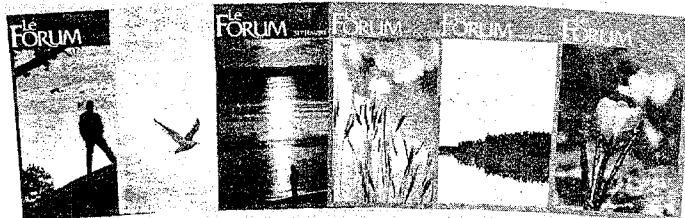
<b>AL-ANON:</b>	
Quebec	: 410 groups
Ontario	: 29 groups
New-Brunswick	: 18 groups
Alberta	: 1 group
U.S.A.	: 7 groups
	<hr/> 465 groups

Outside the U.S. and Canada 153 registered groups spread throughout France, Switzerland and Belgium.

<b>ALATEEN:</b>	
Quebec	: 77
Ontario	: 3
<b>Total number of groups:</b>	<b>698</b>

There are also 15 lone members registered in Canada and overseas.

Literature sales passed the \$100,000 mark. New publications produced in 1981 were: the Al-Anon and Alateen posters and miniposters (M-22, M-23, M-24); Al-Anon, Is It For You? (S-17); Alateen, Is It For You? (S-20); Detachment (S-19); Serenity Prayer Card (M-26); 25 Questions for Public Information and Institutions Services; The Seventh Tradition (S-21); Responsibility Statement for an Alateen Sponsor (A-4); Suggestions for New Alateen Groups (PG-14); Cooperation Between Al-Anon and AA — Questions and Answers (G-3); Guidelines For Presenting Al-Anon to Industry (PI-48); The Influence of Al-Anon on Children of Alcoholics (PI-29); TV Spots; AL-ANON SPEAKS OUT; Materials for the Al-Anon Regional Service Seminars. Extensive revisions were made in the following: What Do You Do . . . ? (P-19); Al-Anon, You and the Alcoholic (P-2); Al-Anon Fact File (P-36); Are You Concerned About Someone's Drinking? (M-1); Al-Anon, Family Treatment Tool in Alcoholism (P-37); Information for the Newcomer (S-4); Facts About Alateen (P-41); Guidelines for Al-Anon/Alateen Public Information Service (G-10); World Service Handbook (P-27); The Public Information Kit (K-3); This Is Al-Anon (P-32).



The FORUM is still our major problem. In spite of a year's work we were able to publish only 12 issues so we still have a 3 year backlog. However we do have the translations of these 36 issues, 12 of which have been reviewed, corrected and are ready for the printer. The artwork and illustrations for these issues are at the printer's ready to be used. The drawback is that each issue's printing costs a minimum of \$2,045 plus additional fees for the French adaptation of certain illustrations, all of which adds up to a considerable monthly expense. Membership response to the new format is very encouraging, subscriptions have increased by an average of 80 per month. Possibly a substantial increase in the number of subscriptions could be realized by making The FORUM better known through Area Newsletters and INSIDE AL-ANON.

Last December we received a French literature order in the amount of \$2,265, from the Department of National Defense of Canada. We do not know where this department got our address as it does not appear on our publications; we can only thank the persons or Committee responsible for doing a tremendous P.I. job which permitted Al-Anon to carry the message in an area previously untouched in Canada.

Cay ended her report with a happy announcement that the Board of Trustees had made it possible for the PFA to move to larger quarters in Montreal.



**Lorill W., Alberta**

Laurel's journey began when she first became willing, then let go and accepted the fact that she had been made Delegate. A claustrophobic, she didn't know how she could survive in New York City without using an elevator. In order to do her job as a Delegate she had to count on a deepening faith which was growing through simple happenings.

In the past years she had come to know herself better and has finally been able to get rid of guilt. Her self-esteem and self-confidence are improving. One of the most memorable highlights of her term of service was chairing the first meeting of the Regional Service Seminar in Banff, Alberta.

Painful times come when full of love and enthusiasm, service work is met with indifference. To Laurel, the biggest lessons learned were to let go, keep things simple, and never, ever doubt in her Higher Power.



**Valerie M., Colorado**

Valerie "would have scrubbed floors" if necessary, as she felt being asked to serve made her a part of something. This feeling that she gained as a leader never left her "hanging" but the fellowship offered her guidelines through group manuals and gave her the necessary love and support. From this "comfort zone—not an avenue for a cause—" she felt the necessary attachment to do the job.

Through service, Valerie was able to "stand up" with her opinions, she learned to be lovable—to give and receive love.

For Valerie it was a joy to be able to say what she felt, to make a statement and allow others to reach their own conclusions. She was able always to gain an inner strength as a Delegate, a strength that was special and loving.

## QUESTIONS:

**Does a local group have a right to know the annual salaries of Executive Secretary, General Secretary, etc.?**

In keeping with our Concepts, all WSO salaries are in line with the salaries of comparative positions in today's business world. All individual salaries are confidentially maintained.

**Does WSO acknowledge immediately the registration of a new group?**

Yes, there was a backlog of registrations before we went to a new computer firm.

**When WSO responds to correspondence to anyone in an Area, it would be helpful for that Area's Delegate to be sent copies of WSO's replies. This would keep a Delegate informed and keep from getting many surprises and "WSO says."**

This is a violation of the writer's confidentiality. The Delegate is informed by means of a copy of the WSO's reply to the writer which includes a summarization of the issue.

**Would it be possible for the Delegates to receive notice of new groups other than the printout?**

As reported by the General Secretary at the Conference, the new computer will now send Delegates a listing of all "changes" monthly and a list of all groups annually. The new system will be implemented during the summer of 1982.

**How can the Area coordinate or reinforce needs of the Area when requests coming into WS Headquarters are not frequently referred back to the Area? Such as CPC/Institutions, Group dissatisfactions, Area.**

The WSO does handle all requests for information directly. Copies are sent to the Area Coordinators for follow-up. (See question #3 for handling of letters re: groups dissatisfactions.)

**Are the majority of our WSO employees still active Al-Anon members?**

All administrative Staff members currently attend meetings. Although many other employees are members, it is not a requirement of their job.

**We would like to see guidelines for Al-Anon cooperation in outside AA Conferences. (Young People's AA Round-up etc.)**

Guidelines for this have been in existence for years. They are called "Al-Anon/Alateen Guidelines for Participating in an AA Area Convention." (G-7)

**How is mail sorted at WSO? How do you address mail you want to go to a specific person?**

All mail is opened and sorted by clerical personnel. Routine business mail is distributed to the appropriate department (Group Records, Accounting, etc.). Correspondence concerning the services (P.I., Institutions, CPC, Alateen, etc.) is placed in the department's folder. Before distribution, it is reviewed by the General Secretary and/or the Deputy General Secretary.

**What is your experience when trying to have workshops, etc. on the Traditions or Concepts of Service? There seems to be an attitude of not wanting to discuss or encourage discussion of these subjects at workshops or conferences. We have even found that in order to get people to come at all you almost have to disguise the subject.**

If the subjects are presented in an interesting way, they usually are well attended. Not everyone will be interested, but they should be available to those who might benefit through discussion.

**Once again, we ask — why can't our District Representatives receive INSIDE AL-ANON?**

We do not maintain a mailing list of DRs. *INSIDE AL-ANON* is available upon subscription.

**Concerning the Delegate's computerized group listing, would it be possible for WSO to provide the Delegate with a list of only groups within his Area? In states of two Areas this is not being done now, making the listing almost useless.**

The type of computer service we now have makes it impossible to divide a state or province.



## ANNUAL REPORT:

**Ginny R., Chairman**  
**Carole K., Staff Secretary**

**COMMITTEE:** New members: Sally C., an Alateen member, Maureen C., a former Alateen member and present Sponsor, and Bridie P., an Alateen Sponsor. The Committee will miss Pat O'C., who has left to serve in the Navy.

**ACTIVITIES:** During the 1981 World Service Conference, the Committee had decided not to develop new projects but to complete the ones pending:

**The Alateen Kit**—While the Alateen Committee researched material to be included in this kit, another review was being made of all service kits to determine if one overall kit was feasible. Therefore, this particular project has been tabled.

**Sponsors' Pamphlet**—Alateen Sponsor to Sponsor was sent several times to the Literature and Alateen Committees for review. All suggestions were compiled and reviewed by the In-town Alateen Committee and the pamphlet will be printed early in 1982. Since the new pamphlet answers many questions asked by Sponsors and gives guidance to Al-Anon members working with Alateen, preparation for specific guidelines for Alateen participation at Al-Anon and AA functions may not be necessary. If the need is evident after the pamphlet is distributed, it will be considered again.

**Liaison Activities**—The Alateen Chairman and Staff Secretary met with other Committees (P.I., CPC, Institutions) and recognized a need for Alateen representation at these Committee meetings on a regular basis, appropriate changes to include Alateen were developed for Institutions "Meetings on Wheels." Ideas were discussed for a project to be developed in conjunction with the P.I. Committee, "Alateen, a Secret that Shouldn't be Kept," and "Service—Alateen Sponsorship—A Missing Link." At this time there was insufficient material to offer the P.I. Committee.

## LITERATURE:

**It's A Teenaged Affair**—an up-date was added to the back page.

**ALATEEN, HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS**—All suggested changes will be reviewed by the Alateen Committee and submitted to the Literature Committee.

**ONE DAY AT A TIME**—Service priorities brought the Alateen ONE DAY AT A TIME book to a stand still. A free-lance writer/editor is being considered.

**ALATEEN TALK**—a new format provides for added columns: "News and Views from Alateen Coordinators," "WSO Shares" and "Convention Report-Back" as well as, "Personal Sharings," "Groups in Action," "Convention Calendar" and "Sponsors' Corner." The October issue was sent to all Alateen and Al-Anon groups with a questionnaire. The response was excellent and comments about the new format were positive. Featured articles this year were on the World Service Conference (WSC) encouraging Alateens to become involved in service; a report-back from the Alateen In-town participation at the 1981 WSC and an article asking whether Alateen members wished the cover of the Alateen book to be changed. It is hoped that the new look will inspire worldwide interest. Translating the newsletter into Spanish and whether or not subscriptions would be possible, will be reported to the 1982 WSC.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION:

**Media**—"Seventeen" magazine printed a small article titled, "Bottled Up Problems," in their February issue. They also offered the pamphlet "Youth and the Alcoholic Parent," directing teenagers to write to the WSO. The response from the article was good.

**"Good Housekeeping"**—sent a manuscript on teenage alcoholism, asking for input and changes. The Alateen Staff Secretary recommended the phrasing, "There are teenagers who are being affected by someone else's drinking that can receive help in Alateen. For further information on Alateen, write to the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.," address included.

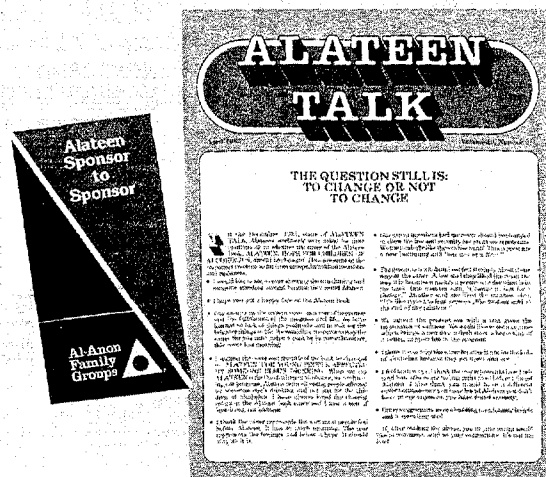
Help was extended to free lance writings developing an audio visual, educational, film strip for use throughout the school system, at the high school level, explaining the Alateen fellowship, and a book dealing with various problems facing children. The WSO also provided material and gave a writer's name and phone number to the Area Alateen Coordinator of New York (South) for follow-up on a request to interview Alateen members.

**Professional Inquiries**—Many professionals interested in knowing more about the Alateen program have requested information on how to start an Alateen group in their facility. With the cooperation of the CPC Staff Secretary, informative letters are being developed and we are improving procedures to better inform the professional community.

**School Inquiries**—Requests came for the pamphlet, "Youth and the Alcoholic Parent" and the comic book, "If Your Parents Drink Too Much." Responses were sent with appropriate literature.

**Alateen Meetings in Schools**—Because there was no feedback from Sponsors, developing specific guidelines has been delayed.

**ALATEEN COORDINATORS' NEWSLETTER:** An informal sharing between the Alateen Staff at the WSO and the Area Alateen Coordinators was mailed to Coordinators and Delegates in August and December. Both expressed concerns and questions from members on subjects which the Alateen Staff had no experience to frame a reply. The Coordinators' were encouraged to find out how their Areas handle these situations. Half of the letter also consisted of Alateen Coordinators' sharings in serving Alateen.



**ALATEEN CONVENTIONS:** The Staff and Chairman covered seven out of twelve conferences listed in *ALATEEN TALK* between June and November. Since Conference/Conventions are becoming stronger and more popular within the Alateen fellowship, it's important for the WSO to be represented as is each Area through the Area Delegate or his/her Alternate.

Those covered were: Midlake Alateen Convention; MAAC (Mid-Atlantic Alateen Conference); NO MAAC (Northern Mid-Atlantic Alateen Conference); NEAC (New England Alateen Conference); NYNAC (New York North Alateen Conference); ESAC (Eastern Seaboard Alateen Conference) and METRO (New York/New Jersey Alateen Conference).

**OFFICE PROCEDURES:** Form letters for Institutions Groups registrations, overseas group registrations and the Preteen statement, which includes the Membership Statement and concerns such as "teaching" members of younger groups were revised.

The Alateen folder sent to all newly registered Alateen groups and the proposed groups packets were evaluated to assure that the Alateen groups were receiving all appropriate information.



## ALATEEN SESSION:

Ginny R., Chairman; Carole K., Secretary

"Although the Alateen Committee went through growing pains this year, a great deal was accomplished," Ginny began. "We are starting to achieve continuity within our Committee as well as with other Committees . . . it became clear to us that Guidelines for Al-Anon Family Groups should be revised to include both Al-Anon and Alateen. Having one set of Guidelines for our membership encourages oneness."

Ginny went on to say that past efforts to show that Alateen is part of Al-Anon were being accepted at Alateen conventions that mostly concentrated on AA. Then, too, separate Al-Anon and Alateen conventions are beginning to be open to both Alateen and Al-Anon members and both are able to share now at combined meetings in spite of age differences. Many Assemblies and Districts are holding workshops which include and feature Alateen. Most Al-Anon conventions have at least one Alateen speaker on their program and Alateen is starting to accept that they are young Al-Anon members.

Ginny's excitement was shared by Maureen C., who spoke of her transition between and Alateen and Al-Anon. Maureen asked the question, "What happens when you reach 20 and most of the people in the meeting are two, four, or sometimes even six years younger than you?" She answered by saying it becomes hard to relate and instead of getting help, she found herself frustrated. That was when she knew it was time to move on to Al-Anon. There she found the only difference between Al-Anon and Alateen is age, the fellowship is the same.

Eileen D. shared her feeling that using the program helped her become less nervous and to gain faith in a Higher Power. She told how she uses Alateen in everything she does each day.

Sally C.'s story focused on the family illness and recovery in the program. Through Alateen she sees how her life became manageable again.

Bridie P. told an Alateen sponsor story, a story of frustration. When Al-Anon and Alateen members in her Area gave a P.I. presentation at a large high school, the school offered to start a group, but were informed they would need an Al-Anon member to serve as sponsor. While contact was made with several Al-Anon groups in the Area, no one was available and it seemed that some had bad experiences with Alateen and were afraid of trying again. Others were busy and some were not geared toward serving teenagers. Six months had passed since the original contact and no group of Alateen had been started.

Pat C., another Alateen sponsor, had an equally distressing story to share. An AA member had written that he had been sober for many years and had served as assistant to an Al-Anon sponsor before he moved to another state. In his new home town, no Alateen meetings were available for his children. Because of his former experience with Alateen and his knowledge that Al-Anon must sponsor Alateen, he went to a local Al-Anon group and asked if someone would be interested in helping the teenagers. There answer was, "Well, maybe, later on." He said that he had waited three months, then six months, and their answer was, "No." He knew that Alateen had to be started by an Al-Anon member but he couldn't seem to find the right person to help.

Before asking the Conference members to share their views, Ginny concluded that Alateen is still concerned with sponsorship. Though we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go to achieve our goal of servicing Alateen. The Alateen Staff members write to local Al-Anon groups asking for their help and direction with inquiries. A note is also sent to the Alateen Coordinator and/or Delegate, notifying him/her of the situation, asking to please follow-up on the request."

### Sharing:

- Not all members are ready to sponsor; Alateens can be asked to join an Al-Anon group.
- If a Sponsor changes programs and moves to AA, he can still serve as an Alateen Sponsor by virtue of his Al-Anon membership, keeping the focus on Al-Anon and continuing to go to his meetings.
- Hold workshops with Alateen attendance.
- Hold a combined meeting of Al-Anon and Alateen—joint meetings help allay fears.
- Do not treat transition members as *children*, rather as equals in the same program.
- Perhaps a film would help motivate Sponsorship.
- In Canada there is an Alateen Coordinator with English and French liaison members; 3 Sponsors serve together for 2 months on and for 4 months off.
- The new pamphlet "Alateen Sponsor to Sponsor" will help.
- Motivate Alateens to get into Service where they can show their knowledge at Assemblies.
- Speak of Al-Anon and Alateen as one in Area Newsletters.
- Sponsors can share the meetings for six weeks the way groups share the newcomers meeting.

- Where Alateens may not trust adults. It is better to have a permanent Sponsor.
- Hold a beginners rap session then go on to a regular meeting.
- Legal responsibilities in transportation are the same as having another person's child in the car. As state's laws are different, one Area hired an attorney, who emphasized that Alateen does not give children advice and he drew up permission slips to meet state laws for overnights which set a legal age limit for participants.
- We can expose ourselves to the need. The ability to respond is all we have to have.



**Fran B., Mississippi**

Fran came to Al-Anon "shakey inside—emotionally and spiritually a wreck." Secretly she called herself "the tower of strength," as she managed all the affairs of the family, helped at the office, made decisions for the children, and kept up a wonderful front. But in Al-Anon she learned she was doing all the wrong things.

When Fran came to her first World Service Conference she'd been in the program 10 years and held several offices and thought she had it all together. But she said, "I had a lot to learn." Through Conference's she had learned how to deal with the enthusiasm she built up by remembering to put group conscience into action. She found strength by remembering the words unity, harmony, humility and the others that all produce balance.

Of all the experiences which had helped her grow, Fran was most grateful for the realization that the good of Al-Anon is in the minds and hearts of so many dedicated people.



## ALATEEN REPORT-BACK:

Angela W., MD. & DC.

**ALATEEN — HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS** — The general consensus was to leave the cover as is.

**Guidelines for Alateen Meetings in School** — Guidelines come from shared experiences of members. Since this sharing is incomplete, no guidelines will be produced at this time.

**Guidelines for Alateen Participation at Al-Anon and AA Functions, and the new pamphlet, Alateen Sponsor to Sponsor**, will give all needed guidance.

**Alateen Conventions** — Dates of these can be shared with the WSO Alateen Staff.

**Alateen Participation in Area Service** — Delegates can work closer with the Alateen Coordinator forming a small Committee of Alateen members.

**Proposed Literature** — In response to a suggestion for Alateen Literature on Detachment and Denial, the Committee noted that Alateen Literature is written by Alateen members and currently, there has been no sharing from Alateens on these subjects.

**If Your Parents Drink Too Much** — The material in this pamphlet does not cover the complete Alateen message. The Committee recommended a replacement.

A proposal was made to consider recommending the production of cassette tapes for Alateen members. The Alateen Committee asked the Conference to approve the idea in recognition of the appeal of tapes to young people and their possible use as a tool to familiarize teenagers with the program in the schools. The proposed tapes would not be used in place of meetings but to help members, professionals and possibly Sponsors to hear what Alateen is.

The Discussion noted that "Kids are our tomorrow," and that there are dedicated people who are working with Alateen who would like to have tapes as aids. They know what Alateens need and the tapes would not be abused. Others offered their opinions that the need had been established and we should consider the project in the light of that need. The time frame for production approval by the Board of Trustees could be set in light of current financial needs. The Conference voted to approve investigations in the production of Conference-Approved tapes for Alateen. (See Motions)

Outgoing committee members: Richard B., AL; Phyllis B., ATL.PROV; Dot G., NC.

## QUESTIONS:

**Can an Alateen group hold an Al-Anon open meeting followed by an adult social and exclude Alateens?**

For Al-Anon or Alateen to hold a social function after an open meeting which excludes one or the other could put our membership in an awkward position of asking someone to leave. It seems wiser to hold such events at a time other than a meeting night.

**Can Al-Anon members attend Alateen meeting without asking permission? If they got permission to come, would it be only for that once or could they come anytime?**

Since Alateen members have been affected by adults and many times this includes both parents, these meetings are most times, closed. However, if an Al-Anon member needed to attend Alateen meetings in order to aide his recovery, we feel the Alateens would certainly understand and welcome him. If the Al-Anon member is not attending for personal recovery or interest in possibly sponsoring Alateen, then we ask why they would want to attend Alateen meetings. Al-Anon is a part of the Alateen member's future program and their acceptance at the Al-Anon meeting can be helpful to them.

**Could ALATEEN TALK be sent to all registered Al-Anon groups?**

We offer subscriptions now to Al-Anon groups and individual Al-Anon and Alateen members.

**Can Alateen Sponsors receive ALATEEN TALK?**

Each Alateen group receives ALATEEN TALK. If the Sponsors wish a copy, they may subscribe to it.

**We have a problem with the Alateen sponsor. After Alateen shared at our Al-Anon meeting, the Sponsor told of how many of her group (and named them) entered AA. She spoke of her professional training of how she used Al-Anon as part of interning for a new job. She disclosed each Alateeners problem to us at the table. As a GR do I have the responsibility or is it up to our DR to handle this.**

Any Al-Anon member can speak up when there is a break of anonymity or misuse of professionalism in evidence at meetings. This can be stopped at the outset before too much information is divulged.

**What opinion or decision does Alateen have in getting an Alateen Sponsor?**

An opinion is of great value; however, Sponsors are hard to find. They should give the new Sponsor time to adjust.

**Alateen made the statement at a District meeting, she felt the Alateens were not accepted by Al-Anon. What can we do to build the gap between Al-Anon and Alateen?**


A group inventory at the District level would be helpful, encouraging Alateen members to share how they wish to bridge the gap.

**What can be done about Alateen speakers at Conferences that give Alateen talks and then expound on their AA story and hardly mention Alateen?**

Experience shows it is best to find speakers through Alateen Sponsors. The speakers should be informed beforehand that an Alateen talk is expected.

**What can be done when Al-Anon groups refuse to allow Alateens to attend the AFG meeting when no Alateen is available?**

It's a sad situation; however, each group is autonomous. Possibly they don't realize that excluding any qualified individual, regardless of age, is a break of Tradition Three.

**My children complain that the Sponsor in their Alateen group talks too much, and dominates the group, so they are refusing to go. Any suggestions on how to handle this?** 

Encourage a group inventory and be honest with the Sponsor as quite often adults in their desire to help, are unaware that they are talking too much.

## ANNUAL REPORT:

**Ted K., Chairman**  
**Margaret O'B., Archivist**

**COMMITTEE:** The Committee met in January and March under the former Chairman, Lorain B. Our new Chairman was appointed at the close of the 1981 WSC. Thank you letters were sent to Lorain B., Penny B. and Mary S. Ted and Margaret met in August and decided not to schedule regular meetings presently but to maintain contact with our honorary members, Lois W., Anne B. and Margaret D., and agreed to ask Mary to continue as a consultant member of the Archives Committee to utilize her knowledge when needed. Mary graciously accepted.

**1981 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE:** Lorain and Margaret presented a short history of Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service. At the open discussion period, several Delegates shared their experiences in setting up their Archives locally.

**NOTEWORTHY ACCESSIONS:** Registration book of first Regional Service Seminar, Banff, Alberta, Canada; an original letter dated March 9, 1958 from Lois W. to Anne B.; cassette, "Down Memory Lane with Al-Anon;" recollections of past Delegates from British Columbia, Canada; a 1950's photograph of Lois and Sue L., first Conference Chairman, early Clearinghouse volunteers and other unidentified members at a picnic at Stepping Stones; a May 1955 announcement of a fourth anniversary of the Jackson Heights, New York, Family Group; copies of three letters sent by Harriet L., translator PFA, dated June 1951-May 1952, from Ruth G., who published a FORUM in California, to an English-speaking Al-Anon members (now deceased) who attempted to start an English-speaking group in Quebec; Portrait of Lois W., painted by Larry M. in 1952 for the oldest AA Clubhouse on West 24th St., New York City; copy of first newsletter from the General Service office, Netherlands; Serenity Prayer in Flemish and Japanese; photos and slides from Eric, Delegate from Germany to the first General Service Meeting taken at the meeting on July 7, 1980 in New Orleans, Louisiana; cassette of early Al-Anon recollections of Tillie T., longtime member from West Virginia; files and tapes from former Alateen Secretary, Timmy W.; original scripts, master tapes and slides of "Christy visits WSO"; old newspaper clippings from Public Information Service; five framed montages of photographs from past World Service Conferences, 1976-1980; a written account of their personal Al-Anon experiences from two long-time members from Grain Valley, Missouri and Melbourne, Florida; a hand-crocheted doily of the word, "Al-Anon," gift of Breidge O'D., Al-Anon member from Londonderry, Northern Ireland. (mounting and framing were donated by longtime Al-Anon member and retired WSO receptionist and her husband, Bill); a beautiful multi-colored circular hand-hooked rug, crafted by the natives of Venezuela, donated by the Al-Anon groups in that country; a book, "Australian National Parks," presented by a member in New South Wales, Australia; a replica of a wooden sculpture depicting crests of Canadian provinces, donated by WSO's former Controller.

AL-ANON'S YESTERDAYS

Archives



## REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH:

**Areas** — requesting guidance and historical information for their own Archives: Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota (N), Tennessee, Virginia, Texas (W), and Wyoming; Alberta and Manitoba, Canada; Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; United Kingdom and Eire

**Group Histories** — were sent to: Troy, New York; Portage, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky

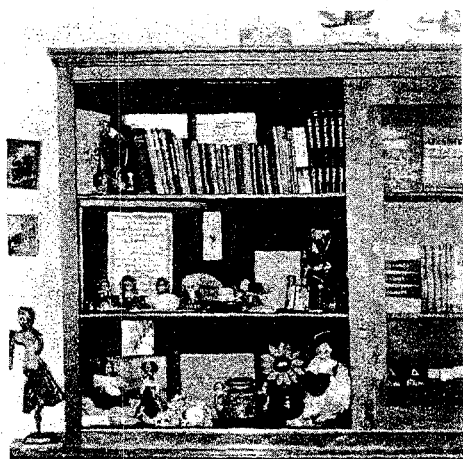
Besides filling in-house requests for historical information, individual information was provided for the first World Directory; the 'Al-Anon' emblem; the earliest correspondence between Belfast, Northern Ireland and the Clearinghouse; Regional Trustee Plan; history of the Serenity Prayer and Conference-Approved Literature; how Al-Anon got its name and transcript of a talk from 35th AA International Convention, Miami Beach, Florida 1970.

## Ruth C., Georgia

When Ruth's name was called at the 1980 WSC she was so overcome with excitement and joy she could hardly speak. She had come to serve as Delegate through the Steps and Traditions and receiving the willingness to stand from her Higher Power. Her attitude was one of gratitude.

Her initial excitement at coming to meet all the people at the World Service Office was troubled by a heavy heart; her youngest son was ill. At her first Conference she was grateful to find someone to share her son's experiences with. Someone who knew how much she cared.

Ruth's joy in her personal recovery has been heightened by her experiences at all the Conferences where she's gained a deeper sense of tolerance of others and a growth through principles above personalities. With this knowledge she had been able to survive her personal experiences through acceptance and understanding and the knowledge that it was necessary for her to learn to love the unlovable.



## PROCEDURES:

The usual day-to-day office procedures and responsibilities were conducted by the Archivist. Early this year photos of staff members were taken to update visual growth of WSO. 1977 overseas files were appraised and selective retention made.

A highlight of the year was when both Lois W. and Margaret D. were both able to attend the annual volunteers Christmas party on December 15.

Visits with Nell Wing, AA's Archivist, were very productive. Nell continues to be helpful and supportive.

## ARCHIVES SESSION:

### Stephanie O'K., Interim Chairman

For Stephanie, Archives had more than one meaning: memories, pictures, first Newsletters, Conventions, etc. "... are only a very small part of the story. Archives can be a valuable learning tool and contribute greatly to our unity. If we preserve correspondence and minutes as well as other data, organize it in such a way that it is easily accessible and retrievable, we have a viable record of strength, mistakes, problems and growth. Though none of it is written in stone, our history can come alive for now and the future."

"Archives fits perfectly into the theme of the Conference," she said, "because the knowledge of our past provides us with a guideline for today and a safeguard for tomorrow. History isn't stagnant ... We can benefit from it and contribute to it."

When researching our principles on unity, Margaret discovered a letter dated May, 1951, which was sent out by Lois and Anne from the Clearing House, asking the 87 Family Groups if they would like to adopt the AA family name. "This, in a sense was our first survey."

A second letter in March of 1952 reported that by a very large majority, the "Al-Anon Family Groups" was favored as a permanent name. Other letters requested regular financial support, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming response to the appeal for contributions and informed the groups of the purchase of a new typewriter. There were directions for handling national publicity and a review of the 12 Traditions, all through the mail which was used as a formula for unity until our World Service Conference began in 1961.

Margaret led us through the founding in 1957 of Alateen, adoption of the 12 Steps from AA with the agreement to change only one word.

"We've come a long way," Margaret continued. "Beginning this year, with this Conference, we will have reel to reel tapes and cassettes which will be stored at the WSO and an outside storage center. A future project will be to have all past Conference tapes transferred to cassettes and stored in the same way."

Margaret concluded by bringing the Conference attention to a 60-minute cassette tape of Lois W. and Anne B. (co-founders of Al-Anon), on one side, and Henrietta (first General Secretary), and Margaret D. (the first FORUM Editor) on the other. It was hoped that this historical tape would not only record the voices of early volunteers but provide a living sense of continuity for today's members and give hope to the newcomer. The tape will be sold within the fellowship at a price of \$6.00 each. (see motion)

Conference members were urged to give input from their Areas for guidelines for those who are interested in developing an Archives locally. Among the suggestions were: Catalog a box full of old material; Begin with a diary; Select an archivist who can personally ask for material at meetings; Use Area World Service Committee Minutes, financial records, personal sharing on tapes by those who can remember the early days, and early copies of books and pamphlets; Have an Archivist on the Area World Service Committee who has a budget; Delegates can share their experiences; Make a small display that travels to meetings to encourage contributions to archives; Have an Anniversary meeting and invite long-timers to share their experiences; Make a general request for contributions from members' collections at home; Work back from the present records; and Ask for input from among the oldest registered groups.

## Doris G., Virginia

"Service work has taken me as a dog takes a bone and gnawed at me, chewing me out of shape, turning me this way and that to get at me better," Doris began. As a dog savoured that bone, Doris was enhanced by her service.

Although scared, eager, apprehensive and enthusiastic, Doris' first World Service Conference was a joy; while there were conflicts and compromises, there was fellowship. Her second year wasn't as comfortable. She had a bad attitude and "fought, scratched and felt hurt." But she was able to grow and knew that somehow the God of her understanding meant her to stand up in front of people even with "chattering teeth and knocking knees."

Doris had lost her husband before the second Conference and it was difficult for her to "bare her soul" but she recognized the relief she had with sharing and she offered her feeling that things do get better if we "keep coming back."

## ANNUAL REPORT:

Ruth F. Chairman; Stephanie O'K. Assistant  
Helen G. Staff Secretary

**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE:** The choice of the World Service Conference theme, "Principles—Our Path To Unity," stems from the many suggestions and the mutual decision of the Conference Committee.

Concept XII reminds us, "The Conference above all should feel bound by the Al-Anon Traditions. Indeed the Conference is named 'the guardian of the Traditions.' The Traditions which express the principles and attitudes of prudence, set the pattern of unity and of function which our World Service Conference is expected to exemplify."

**CONFERENCE PREPARATION:** The Committee met regularly. Its activities were directed toward reviewing the past Conference and planning for the one to come. The restructured format of the 1981 WSC, developed by the Committee under the dedicated leadership of Jean A., Panel 7 WSD (Ontario), former Regional Trustee (Canada) and Conference Chairman from 1977-1981, provided more time on the agenda for participation and discussion by Conference members. The 1982 agenda was again arranged to allow ample opportunity for all participants to voice suggestions and concerns.

From January through early April, preparations for the 1981 Conference were finalized, including arrangements with The Biltmore Hotel, site of the WSC. The Board of Trustees, Executive Committee members and Staff attended the Pre-Conference Briefing where the 1981 WSC agenda was reviewed.

## CONFERENCE MEETINGS:

In June, the Committee members warmly welcomed Ruth F., Panel 12 Delegate from Ontario (N) and Regional Trustee, Canada (E), the 1982 Chairman. Committee meetings were held on a quarterly basis. For a one-year trial period, an Interim Committee was formed to meet monthly and discuss the small details of the WSC, to report and make recommendations to the full Conference Committee which still handles major decisions. Plans were made for the 22nd WSC, scheduled for the week of April 19-24; the theme, "Principles—Our Path To Unity" was chosen.

**CONFERENCE SUMMARY:** A comprehensive report on the 1981 WSC was sent to all registered groups in early September. 2,000 complimentary copies were mailed to Delegates for distribution in their Assembly Areas, and each Delegate received a personal copy. Trustees, Past Trustees, Executive Committee, Past Delegates, Publications francaises (P.F.A., Inc.), and the Overseas Representatives were also sent complimentary copies. The continuation of distributing full Conference Summaries to registered groups is being analyzed.

**RELOCATION OF THE 1982 WSC:** The WSO was faced with an emergency situation, necessitating a search for a new Conference site. Many hotels/convention centers, both in and out of New York City, were investigated. After careful consideration, Stouffer's Inn was selected to be the site of the 1982 Conference.

**MAILINGS TO CONFERENCE MEMBERS:** During the first quarter, material pertinent to the 1981 WSC was mailed to all Conference members. Subsequent mailings included material for the 1982 WSC.

**AREA HIGHLIGHTS:** Articles periodically submitted by all Service Staff Secretaries were edited for publication. Articles included those describing literature distribution centers, pleas to Spanish and English-speaking groups to help shape guidelines for local Archives. Over 1,000 copies are mailed each quarter along with inserts.

**ELECTION ASSEMBLIES:** Areas elected new Panel 22 World Service Delegates. Each was sent a letter of welcome, a 1981 Conference Summary, an Area World Service Committee form and a questionnaire requesting background information. Outgoing Panel 19 Delegates were sent a letter of recognition for their dedicated service and were informed they will remain on the mailing list to receive the annual Conference Summary and *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* after completion of their term. Suggestions for election Assemblies which had worked successfully in other Areas were included.

**BUDGET:** The proposed tentative budget for the 1982 WSC was prepared for submission to the Board of Trustees.

**EQUALIZED EXPENSE FUND:** Conference members were informed of the increase from \$430 to \$475 in the Delegates' Equalized Expense contribution from each Area for a Delegate to attend the 1982 WSC. The Equalized Expense contribution for the 1983 WSC has been stabilized at \$475.

**CONFERENCE TAPING:** Arrangements have been made to record the WSC.

**STANDING COMMITTEE GUIDELINES:** Updated guidelines were mailed to incoming Delegates along with the announcement of the Standing Committee appointments.

**OFFICE PROCEDURES:** Correspondence requesting guidance and information relative to structure and the Conference was answered. Records were updated; forms were reviewed and revised when necessary. Area Newsletters, as well as Assembly and AWSC meeting minutes, received at the WSO were read. Pertinent information was passed along to the appropriate Staff Secretary and/or shared at Staff meetings. Group contribution slips and Area Delegates' Assistance Sheets were mailed periodically to each Delegate. Delegates also received copies of correspondence which required attention and/or direction.



## SUB-COMMITTEES

### Admissions:

Stephanie O'K. is the WSO liaison member to the Admissions Committee. A suggestion was received to alter the wording of a 1980 Conference decision. The requirements for a "state or province" to petition for division would change to "Area." This topic will be placed on the agenda of the Admissions Committee for consideration. Minnesota will be sending an additional WSD to the 1982 WSC, Minnesota (N) and Minnesota (S). Sixty-five Delegates and one Representative, U.K. & Eire, will attend.

### Report-Back

Secretary, Bruce K., NE

The committee was asked to alter current admissions' policy which allows a state or province to divide *only once* into two Areas, each with a Conference Delegate. The request to allow Areas to divide to send additional Delegates, was denied.

The committee suggested that heavily populated Areas can handle group growth by strengthening their Area World Service Committees and Districts. 1983 Chairman: Bruce K., Secretary: Pat B., KY.

Outgoing Delegates: Jean G., VT; Grace O'N., WI; Valerie M., CO.

## Agenda:

Hildegard M.V., is the liaison member to the Agenda Committee. Copies of the Conference Committee Minutes and Quarterly Reports continue to be mailed to all Conference members.

## Report-Back

**Marian E., IL(S); Dorothy R., MT, Chairman;**

The Committee thanked the Conference for accepting last years suggestions to: Produce a WSO skit during the WSC agenda; to send the '81 pin guard to Panel 21 Delegates to be added to their souvenir pins; to send Conference Committee Minutes to all Conference members; to send Conference Committee Quarterly Reports to all Conference members.

## Recommendations for 1983

- By-laws to be included in the mailing of Annual Reports.
- Mail Annual Reports earlier.
- Provide Delegates with a brief summation of the Conference happenings as soon as possible at the close of the Conference to aide them in their reports. (The abbreviated report in *INSIDE AL-ANON* is not what the Agenda Committee had in mind.)
- Conference members should return suggestion sheet and theme ideas as soon as possible.
- Loretta S., NB, was elected to be the 1983 Agenda Committee Chairman. Outgoing member: Dot R., MT.

Outgoing Delegates: Doris W., BC & Yukon; Ethel McG., MA; Dorothy R., MT.

## “ Margaret A., New Jersey

The beauty of service for Margaret was an honor and a highlight in her program with its constant gift of recovery. Through action in serving, Margaret had gained maturity, because in service there was always "the built in awareness" of her personal growth.

Balance in Margaret's life meant she could serve her program and as Delegate, she found it necessary to be constantly aware of her own ego. It was necessary, therefore, for her to constantly check her motives and often that meant sitting back and letting things happen. Or sometimes being the "lone voice to change a direction."

Through the avenues of love, trust, unity, rotation, motive, principles above personalities, group conscience, tolerance, letting go, humility and the Higher Power, service points us towards personal recovery.

## Handbook:

**Irma C., RT, U.S. (SW), Chairman**

All recommendations, received at the WSO, were reviewed by the In-Town Committee for presentation to the 1982 WSC Standing Committee.

A suggested format for District meetings based on the Minnesota Area's experiences was submitted for possible inclusion in the WS Handbook. As it was too lengthy for the Handbook, the material will be edited, reproduced and its availability will be announced in *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* and other publications.

## Report-Back

**Irma C., Trustee, Chairman**

Changes in the Handbook were reported to Conference members and approved. (See motions). Outgoing Delegates: Ruth C., GA; Jan M., OR; Margaret A., NJ.

## HOSPITALITY:

Local volunteer members served in the Hospitality Room during Conference week. Along with a memento, letters were sent expressing our thanks for their willingness to serve. Lois B., who joined the Staff of the Conference Services in July, will handle hospitality considerations for the 1982 WSC.

# AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER

**Hank G., Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

Hank presented two proposals which would require amendments to the Conference Charter as printed in *The World Service Handbook*.

**1. The Conference Summary** — The Board of Trustees had considered expanding the Conference issue of *INSIDE AL-ANON* so that this issue could be mailed group wide in place of the Conference Summary. The Board felt the Summary expense was unwarranted, that WSO should only produce enough copies for Conference members, District Representatives and GSO's but not mail them group-wide. Those groups wishing a copy of the Summary could request one through the mail.

The proposal required a greater understanding of the definitions in the Charter or a Charter revision. Hank asked Conference members for their view on the meaning of the words "full report." (See Conference Charter, 11f.) "At the close of each year's session, the Conference will send a full report of its proceeding to all Conference members, District Representatives and Al-Anon groups throughout the world."

Shared views:

The Conference Summary is read by groups; some Delegates had expected an abbreviated Summary to help them with reports; the proposed issue of *INSIDE AL-ANON* was appreciated as attractive and helpful; "A full report" meant that groups would receive the Conference Summary; both the Conference Summary and the *INSIDE AL-ANON* issues would be helpful; new groups and those who were not aware of the Summary's contents wouldn't know whether or not to order one; how could a sufficient number be produced to meet an unknown demand?; the Summary could be more readable if green ink were not used.

As a result of the discussions it was decided to continue sending the Conference Summary to all Conference members, District Representatives and Al-Anon groups throughout the world. The 16 page mini-summary issue of *INSIDE AL-ANON* would also be sent this year.

**2. Relocation of the World Service Conference** — The unexpected closing in 1981 of the Biltmore Hotel had led the Conference Committee to seek alternate accommodations for 1982. The emergency necessitated seeking an available site outside New York City. After considerable investigation, the Stouffers Inn, in White Plains, N.Y. had been selected.

At this Conference, a motion was made to change the charter to remove the word "City." (See motions.) Discussion centered on: the extra-special calm and sharing afforded by the country surroundings; the peaceful serenity; other members' preference for New York City; the time necessary to travel and the mixed emotions about changing the charter.

The Conference voted to alter the charter and allow the Conference Committee the flexibility to seek a site outside New York City if necessary. The Committee would continue to make decisions which took into account cost and the appropriate needs of such a large meeting. ▲

## “ Phylis B., Atlantic Provinces

What a joy it was for me when I accepted the Twelve Steps of recovery and through the last step realized service work is also part of my growth," said Phylis who began her term as Delegate with mixed feelings. They settled down when she received an open letter reminded her of the privilege of being a Delegate and that she would need a close contact with her Higher Power.

Her first Conference theme was "Group Conscience In Action," and through it she learned the importance of placing principles above personalities and the need to use all the service manuals to encourage opinions from others in this program of equals.

"Building with Concepts" was an "eye-opener," teaching her to allow members to grow at their own pace and how love, tolerance, flexibility and vision were needed. Through the Concepts she was reminded to use loving kindness and practice principles in all her affairs.

Today she believes that God puts people in certain places for certain things and that through understanding and sharing, the use of the 12 Steps, the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts, she will grow in her awareness of the principles of the program.



## ANNUAL REPORT:

Frank R., Chairman  
Susan H., Acting Staff Secretary  
Patricia H., Staff Secretary

**COMMITTEE:** A spin off of P.I., this Committee, came into existence by the action of the Board of Trustees. It is operating on a one year trial basis and has as its main objectives: making Al-Anon and its services known to as many professionals as possible in the U.S., Canada and the rest of the world; stimulating Al-Anon people at the local level to make Al-Anon known to professionals in their localities; and informing the fellowship of the functions of CPC.

Margaret S., the first CPC Secretary, resigned in July 1981. Susan H., the Public Information Secretary, assumed the position until Pat H. joined the Staff. Frank R. was appointed Chairman following the 1981 WSC.

**Meetings**—regular meetings were held throughout the year. In-town committee members include: Mary C., Connie Mac., Marilyn L., Robert T., and Gladys K., who resigned prior to the December meeting. Ruth H., Chairman of the Canadian Sub-Committee is also a regular member, who attends meetings on a quarterly basis. Liaison members from the Alateen, Public Information and Institutions Committees are also regular attendees.

**Minutes**—Minutes of meetings are sent to In-town members, Delegate members, and the Chairmen and Secretaries of the above mentioned committees. The CPC Chairman and Secretary also receive copies of Alateen, Public Information and Institutions Committee meetings.

**Guidelines**—The Guidelines for the Standing Committee members were revised and distributed.

### LITERATURE:

**AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM**—Reprint permission was received from several sources to reprint their work as well as some new work for the new version of the hardcover book, AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM. This material was given to the Literature Committee.

**Al-Anon Speaks Out**—The 1981-82 edition of the annual newsletter, particularly geared to aid members in answering questions from professionals, was produced in April 1981. It was reorded in Spanish and English during the third quarter of 1981.

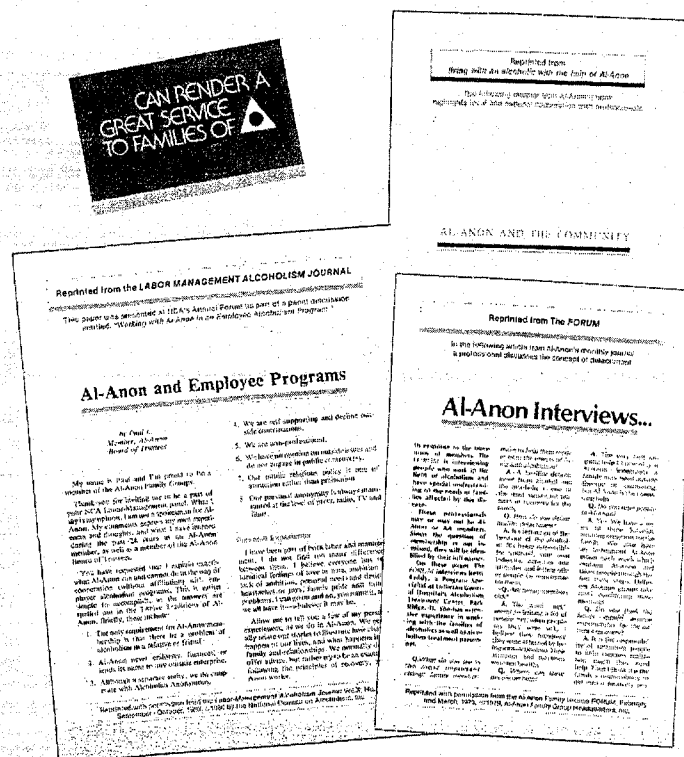
**Labor Management Packet**—After receiving permission for NCA, past Trustee, Paul L.'s talk at the 1980 NCA Forum, edited and published in the NCA Journal, was produced and incorporated in the Al-Anon Labor/Management Packet replacing the Don Sandin article.

**Detachment Statement**—This statement has been reproduced on a sheet similar to "Al-Anon, Is It For You?"

### COOPERATION WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

**Seasonal Mailing**—The seasonal mailing to over 6,000 professionals on our mailing list was sent in December. The mailing cards were categorized and color coded in time for this mailing. Work was started on compiling a list for an unsolicited mailing to professionals to take place in the first quarter of 1982.

**NIAAA**—Since the resignation of Gladys K., former Committee member and liaison to NIAAA, the CPC Secretary has been appointed the Al-Anon liaison to NIAAA.



**White House Conference On Families**—Committee member, Mary C., acted as Al-Anon liaison to the White House Conference on Families.

**NCA Forum**—The former CPC Secretary conducted an Al-Anon Workshop called, Detachment, at this annual meeting.

**ALMACA**—The CPC Staff Secretary attended the ALMACA convention in November 1981 and found it beneficial in determining professional thinking in the field of Employee Assistance Programs. This was done in keeping with the decision to have the CPC Secretary personally attend a selected number of conferences where we exhibit annually. She will attend sessions and develop a working relationship with organization personnel.

### EXHIBITS:

A new exhibit booth was ordered this year and on display at the World Service Conference. Al-Anon participated in nineteen national exhibits in 1981 with total members serving as a representative.

**National Association of Private Psychiatric Hospitals**—Boca Raton, Florida, Megs T.

**American Association of School Administrators**—Atlanta, Georgia, Elsie B. Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development—St. Louis, Missouri, Lorraine L.

**Council on Social Work Education**—Louisville, Kentucky, Pat B.

**National Council On Alcoholism**—New Orleans, Louisiana, Judy DeS.

**American Personnel & Guidance Association**—St. Louis, Missouri, Loretta R.

**National Council of Community Mental Health Centers**—Dallas, Texas, Ann B.

**American Occupational Medical Association**—Atlanta, Georgia, Carol H., our representative at this meeting held at the Atlanta Hilton from April 28-30, reported very good response.

**U.S. Public Health Service Professional Association**—Boston, Massachusetts, Ann M.

**Canadian Guidance & Counseling Association**—Calgary, Alberta, Joanne C. North Conway Institute—Byfield, Massachusetts, Marilyn M. was our representative at this meeting held at Adelynrood from June 16-19. Her report was very favorable.

**National Education Association**—Minneapolis, Minnesota, Maxine R.

**American Federation of Teachers**—Denver, Colorado, Valerie M.

**American Bar Association**—New Orleans, Louisiana, Margorie O.

**National Association of Alcoholism Counsellors**—Lexington, Kentucky, Margaret B.

**American Correctional Association**—Miami Beach, Florida, Elsie I.

**Northeast Conference On Addictions**—Boston, Massachusetts, Ann McC.

**ALMACA**—San Diego, California, Pat R. The CPC Secretary also attended this meeting, found it favorable; except for booth location.

**National Association of Social Workers**—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rosanne E.



## (CPC) Session:

The Chairman, Frank R., outlined the Committee's objectives: It was hoped that the Al-Anon program could be made known to every professional throughout the world using people, literature, audiovisuals and every resource of the World Service Office to reach all the national organizations of professionals. Pat noted that this year alone, Al-Anon exhibited at over 20 national, professional conferences and conventions and at the National Council on Alcoholism, Pat had presented a paper on the value of Al-Anon as a resource in Employee Assistance programs.

During the year over 10,000 professionals had been contacted through mailings and an unsolicited mailing had been sent to those on the Fortune 500 list. In addition to coordinating its services with the Institutions and Public Information Committees, the Committee had been exploring pamphlets for the clergy, lawyers and doctors encouraging international exhibits, and expected to continue participating in national exhibits with Al-Anon participation. The Committee relies on the fellowship at the Area and District level to invite professionals to open meetings so they might gain greater understanding of the Al-Anon program, what it is and what it is not. It was hoped that experience in CPC work would be shared with the World Service Office so that guidelines might be developed. The general sharing from the Conference included these thoughts:

- Guidelines could and would help.
- A packet which would go along with those who are speaking might be developed for exhibits.
- A pamphlet could be developed for nurses.
- The NCA Labor Management Journal which carried Pat's paper could be made into a reprint and added to the Al-Anon Labor Management Packet.
- Sponsor your doctor — bring a doctor to an open Al-Anon meeting.
- Perhaps one kit could carry all the CPC, Institutions and P.I. material.
- Write to the WSO about your successes and difficulties; ask questions.
- Hold a luncheon for professionals. Have Al-Anon/Alateen speakers.
- Go personally to speak to clergy members and invite them to a one-hour program with questions and answers.
- Reach the active professionals who are "on the line."
- Easy does it. Al-Anon members do the service "work" and their needs have to be addressed along with professionals'.

## CPC Update:

The Board of Trustees recommended no changes in the Concepts, re: the formalization of the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee status. The CPC Committee will remain as a temporary Committee for one more year.

## CPC REPORT-BACK

The Committee also supported the production of a film directed toward professionals. (See Institution Report back for film aims) The CPC Committee recommended film production and offered a motion.

### Pros

- Perhaps a movie could be made for the fellowship which could also be used by professionals; We mustn't hide ourselves — the film could be postponed until we have sufficient funds, but it should be made;

### Cons

- We need to encourage the fellowship and its growth before we have new members coming with no place to go.
- Keeping abreast of current methods is important but we mustn't lose the personal touch nor forget to send a member.
- Concern was expressed that the specifics of the proposal, did not allow the committee any flexibility. Perhaps audio-visual material could be given the go ahead in a general way without trying to touch so many bases.

The motion was passed and the committee will consider film content and production possibilities.

Pamphlet for Counselors — Two Al-Anon members who are professional counselors have the assignment for initial development. Input from Al-Anon members who are also counselors is welcomed. The pamphlet would be geared to all types of counselors.

CPC Guidelines — The urgency of these Guidelines was expressed along with the need for further input and suggestions from the fellowship. Specifically, Guidelines for Working in Small Communities that specify methods for filling Areas where there is an overlap in P.I. and Institutions and which clearly define the CPC role.

Labor Management Pack — Two CPC Committee members are developing a new Labor Management piece to accommodate a recommendation to make the pack more attractive. Ideas for production were discussed.

Unsolicited Mailing — Members of the Fortune 500 List had received a mailing they had not requested. This was a departure from previous practice. The WSO had always waited for the professional to contact us before sending out public information. Committee members were assured that the WSO was letting the professional know Al-Anon can be used as a resource and in no way was engaging in a "hard sell" approach. Mention was made of concern for WSO initiated projects which local Areas were not prepared to follow. Another requested an updated local Information Services list.

## QUESTIONS:

**Is there significance in the fact that a vote on the motion in regard to a film for professionals was not a two-thirds vote?**

A majority vote is all that is required.

**Is it possible to have the hardcover books put on the book list supplied to the Department of Education. Teachers could then order our books along with other books they require.**

Good idea! We will pass on your suggestion to the CPC Committee.

**What do you do when a member "talks" a most inspiring "Al-Anon Spoken Here" during a meeting, but after the meeting, tries to give all the newcomers a list of names where they can get help—professionals in the field of alcoholism, counselors, doctors and treatment centers? (We read the Traditions at each meeting).**

Perhaps someone at the group may speak to this member and suggest this information not be discussed after the meeting. On a one-to-one basis, members can share this information outside of the perimeters of the meeting room.

**How can we (individual or group) help families of drug addicts?**

By Tradition, as a group we cannot do so. Individuals can refer families to other resources for help. If they are mistakenly referred to our groups, we can explain our Traditions, treating them with kindness and courtesy, as they often share our pain, if not our experience.

## Grace O'N., Wisconsin

Grace became Delegate when her name was drawn out of the hat. She had known it wasn't a glory job but her love and devotion to the unity of the state was uppermost in her desire to serve. The first message she carried to those groups was "You and I are the voice of Al-Anon through me to the World Service Conference," and her goal was to involve as many people as possible to assure members that the World Service Committee didn't run everything.

In her second year as Delegate, Grace faced a personal and service tragedy; the Assembly Chairman was found dead. "It wasn't just the end of a chapter, it was the end of a life dedicated to the health of the fellowship of Al-Anon. This was where service became a job." When the Alternate Delegate volunteered to accept the position, their prayers were answered.

Grace's personal life and the program of Al-Anon have taught her never to put "a question mark where God has put a period or an exclamation mark." Grace knows today the purpose of Al-Anon is to give aid and understanding to its members—local problems can be resolved at the local level and service can be a joy when we see just one individual recover.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

**Henrietta S., Treasurer**

Another year of continuing inflation, during which new services to the fellowship were instituted and others were expanded, ended the World Service Office in sound financial condition. Despite the unstable economy, the Al-Anon operation resulted in a substantial excess of income.

### INCOME & EXPENSES:

Among the statements prepared by Owen J. Flanagan, our Certified Public Accountant, *income and expenses* for the year ended December 31, 1981, are compared with those of the prior year in Exhibit A. Total income for 1981 increased \$521,600 or 25%, which was more than sufficient to cover higher operating expenses of \$343,800 or 19.5%. That additional income, coupled with the fact that there was no convention deficit in 1981, resulted in an increase of \$230,400 in the excess of income over the previous year.

Sales and costs of books and other literature are compared for the two years on Schedule 1. Total sales in 1981 increased \$563,300, or 22%, due principally to the publication of "Al-Anon's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," the sales of which totaled \$383,500. Sales of ODAT were higher by \$61,000 or 9% and all other titles showed similar increases, except "Lois Remembers," which declined by \$15,300. Sales of leaflets and pamphlets increased 9% over 1980; the corresponding increase of 1980 sales over 1979 was exceptionally high at 23% because of the publication of several new pamphlets late in 1979.

Contributions increased by \$32,900, or 9%, compared with percentage increases of 8.4% and 11.5% respectively, in the two preceding years. Although this included some very generous contributions from Area events and surpluses in Area treasuries, group contributions fell below the inflation rate of 10.4% and slightly below the 9.2% increase in the number of groups. The average contribution per contributing group has increased in the 10-year period 1971-81 from \$31.18 to \$41.31. But inflation adjusted figure has actually decreased in buying power to \$18.38.

60.9% of the U.S. groups contributed in 1981 compared with 63% in 1980 and 64.7% of the Canadian groups as opposed to 74% the prior year. The diminishing percentages of voluntary support of WSO functions and increasing dependency on the publishing operation may eventually affect our status as a not for profit corporation. The Budget Committee would appreciate suggestions from any Conference member on how direct support of our growing services can be stimulated from the non-contributing groups and increased from those which do respond regularly to the three annual contribution appeals.

*FORUM* subscription income which represents the portion earned through fulfillment, increased \$38,700, or 24%, over the prior year. New and renewal subscriptions received during the year, the cash for which is set aside in a deferred account until the subscriptions are fulfilled, increased by approximately 12%.

Interest income increased \$64,200, or 56%, reflecting additional funds invested and higher yields.

The increase of \$343,800 in regular operating expenses, or 19.5%, compares with an increase of \$303,600, or 20.7%, in the prior year. Salaries, being the largest component of operating expense, were higher by \$81,900, or 9.7%. As the WSO has been in sound financial condition and able to afford it, salaries have been scaled upward bringing us to a competitive level. This should reduce staff turnover and enable us to retain competent employees. At December 31, 1981 there were 62 staff positions at the office, two more than the end of 1980. Employee benefit costs increased a total of \$17,100, reflecting higher payroll taxes and higher rates for medical insurance.

Packing and shipping costs increased \$47,000, or 42%. The greater volume of shipments was a significant reason for those higher costs, but the principal factor was that mail and delivery prices continue to rise at a rate higher than that of general inflation. In an organization such as Al-Anon, which is so dependent on wide distribution of printed matter, this can have a very strong and adverse effect on our expense structure in the future.

The cost of maintaining the French literature service increased \$14,000 during 1981. The other basic expenses of operating the office, rent, postage, supplies, telephone, services, etc., increased \$111,200, or 29%. Of that increase, occupancy costs accounted for \$35,700 due to additional basement storage space rented near the end of 1980, as well as electricity and escalation increases on the regular office space; postage expense was higher by \$36,700, or 40%. Finally, an additional \$38,800 reflects higher costs of stationery, supplies and other office services, due to increased activity in the WSO and inflationary price increases.

Of the \$72,600 increase in all other expenses, \$11,600 was attributable to a new Canadian Public Information Committee which was started in 1981 and \$6,100 represented the cost of one additional Regional Service Seminar held in 1981. The remainder of the increases were attributable to \$31,000 of higher printing costs, of which \$13,900 was for *THE FORUM* and its increased circulation, and travel and meeting expenses which increased \$27,900, reflecting higher air fares and hotel rates, as well as more meetings.

### THE RESERVE FUND:

In April 1970 the Board of Trustees established a Reserve Fund in an initial amount of \$80,000, the purpose of which was to set aside sufficient funds to ensure the continuation of the organization's essential services in the event of a severe recession. The objective for the fund was an amount equal to one year's operating expense.

In the intervening years the Board authorized a number of transfers of varying amounts from the General Fund to the Reserve Fund, the most recent of these being a transfer of \$200,000 in October 1981. This brought the principal balance at December 31, 1981 to \$1,050,000. At the 1981 level of operating expenses, which totaled \$2,170,000, less than half the objective has been reached.

Investments of both the General Fund and the Reserve Fund are carried at cost, which on those with short-term maturities was essentially equal to market value; however, two long-term bonds held in the Reserve Fund with a carrying value (cost) of \$302,100 at December 31, 1981 had a market value approximately \$115,200 lower. No provision has been made in the accounts for that unrealized loss which results from current market conditions, but it is noted on the Balance Sheet. The investments of the Reserve Fund are held for long-term objectives and generally comprise U.S. Government agency securities.

### FINANCIAL CONDITION:

The net increase in the accumulated fund balances of the Great Fund—\$238,843 (\$438,843 income, less \$200,000 transfer to Reserve Fund)—was distributed in the balance sheet as follows:

Increases (Decreases) in:	Cash and investments	\$199,380
	Receivables	18,514
	Inventories	124,808
	Prepaid expenses	(4,721)
	Liabilities	(99,138)
		<hr/>
		238,843

▲

*"Break down the walls of prejudice, fear, limitations, meet failure without being defeated . . ."*

# BUDGET:

## Richard Keilly, Controller

In his budget presentation, Richard cited the need for an increase in the price of three books. LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC, ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON and, ALATEEN — HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS will have a price adjustment of 25 more cents as of July 1st 1982. In addition, a price adjustment will be necessary in January of 1983 on pamphlets and leaflets. Costs of The FORUM necessitated an increase of \$1.00 in subscription rates.

### Sharing:


- We are not essentially a publishing house. We depend first on contributions and then on publishing for our income.
- One Area places jars in meeting rooms for WSO contributions on a regular basis.
- Why not raise the tri-annual appeals to \$3.00 per member?

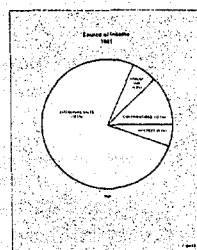
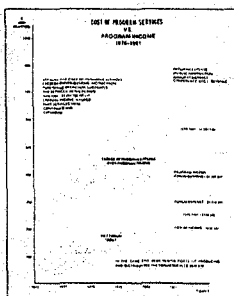
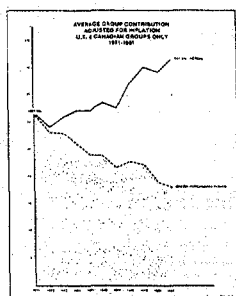
- Canadian groups are suffering from the rate of exchange.
- Perhaps members could be more aware of other methods of contributions: bequests, memorials, birthday contributions.
- The tri-annual appeals should not contain a specific dollar amount which might restrict giving.
- Perhaps group secretaries could take a minute to explain the 7th Tradition and other services when reading the appeal letter.
- It is true, there are no dues or fees, but we do have responsibilities.
- Sometimes Information Services get more support from groups than World Services.
- Bring the need for contributions to the WSO to Regionals.

In response to a budget showing a deficit, Conference members suggested: reducing costs, get-

ting the word out to the Areas that contributions need to be encouraged; consolidating mailings and holding the line on spending. While there was distress shown at raising the cost of the Alateen book, members were assured that the price adjustment of only 25c would contribute to reducing the deficit. In response to a query, Richard assured the Conference that Literature Distribution Centers, in spite of the generous discounts offered them, do help us financially by reducing shipping costs. It was hoped that Delegates would carry the message of the WSO's need in this financially troubled time.

## Finance Update:

In order to aide those who wish to contribute to Al-Anon through bequests in will, forms will be made available at the WSO. 



1982 Budget

	1981 Actual	Schedule 2 1982 Budget
<b>Operating Expense</b>		
Salaries (incl. temp. help)	\$ 924,516	\$1,070,000
Employee benefits	150,462	192,000
<b>Total Labor Cost</b>	<b>1,074,978</b>	<b>1,262,000</b>
Building occupancy	177,784	200,000
Packing and Shipping	159,421	170,000
Postage	129,208	162,000
Telephone	33,908	37,000
Stationery & Office Supplies	77,809	85,000
Office Services and Expenses	54,685	52,000
Repairs and maintenance	15,335	16,000
Travel and meetings	56,511	73,000
Professional fees	15,563	17,500
Printing: FORUM	92,102	119,000
Directories	18,019	21,200
Conference Summary	11,802	14,000
Inside Al-Anon	17,344	24,000
Other	10,159	14,000
Public Information Exhibits	19,828	28,000
Direct Conference Cost	58,788	75,800
French Literature Service	43,040	50,000
P.I. Survey	—	20,000
Structure Film	—	18,000
Canadian Public Information	11,600	22,000
TV Spots	—	50,000
Regional Service Seminars	12,880	15,000
Miscellaneous	17,724	21,000
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>2,108,488</b>	<b>2,566,500</b>
<b>Non-Operating Expense</b>		
General Service Meeting	—	52,000
Furniture & equipment	61,409	114,000
<b>Total Non-operating Expense</b>	<b>61,409</b>	<b>166,000</b>
<b>Total Expense (Schedule 1)</b>	<b>\$2,169,897</b>	<b>\$2,732,500</b>

1982 Budget

	1981 Actual	Schedule 1 1982 Budget
<b>Literature Sales</b>		
Living with an Alcoholic	\$ 87,338	\$ 95,700
Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism	59,651	65,400
Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage	72,173	76,700
One Day At A Time	709,592	809,200
Favorite Forum Editorials	31,002	33,000
Alateen—Hope for the Children	57,507	65,100
Lois Remembers	24,757	20,000
12 Steps & 12 Traditions	383,456	120,000
Other Literature	1,122,231	1,230,000
<b>Income from Publications</b>	<b>2,547,707</b>	<b>2,515,100</b>
<b>Cost of Literature Distributed</b>		
Living with an Alcoholic	19,244	21,900
Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism	16,620	18,000
Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage	17,845	10,400
One Day At A Time	227,974	264,000
Favorite Forum Editorials	7,801	8,700
Alateen—Hope for the Children	19,445	21,800
Lois Remembers	18,944	5,200
12 Steps & 12 Traditions	82,588	26,600
Other Literature	316,269	361,800
<b>Cost of Literature</b>	<b>726,730</b>	<b>747,400</b>
<b>Gross Profit from Literature</b>	<b>1,820,977</b>	<b>1,767,700</b>
Films, Radio & TV Spots	4,577	5,000
FORUM Subscriptions & back issues	200,575	228,000
Interest earned	179,621	156,000
Contributions	402,990	435,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,608,740</b>	<b>2,591,700</b>
<b>Less Expense (Schedule 2)</b>	<b>2,169,897</b>	<b>2,732,500</b>
<b>Excess of Income (Expense)</b>	<b>\$ 438,843</b>	<b>\$ (140,800)</b>

March, 1982



## ANNUAL REPORT

Hildegard Van D., Editor

The *FORUM* continues to be an ever-growing meeting on paper. It serves the fellowship by enlarging the walls of every individual's own meeting room: "I feel The *FORUM* brings me closer to Al-Anon as a World Fellowship," writes Sandy W. of Joliet, Illinois. It offers an expanded group conscience: "We have a meeting on every *FORUM* and get a lot of fresh ideas from it," says Mildred W. of Klamath Falls, Oregon. It provides comfort and help to members as Alice R. of Lancer, Saskatchewan, Canada, explains: "Through The *FORUM*, many families and friends can share the problems of alcohol abuse and all the heartache and worry. It is very hard to find peace of mind and The *FORUM* does help."

**COMMITTEE:** Bo H., Fran H., Rita McC., and Frank R., met regularly to review all copy to be published. With great regret, the Committee accepted Alice B.'s resignation. To keep broadening contact with members, one guest Committee member each month is invited to sit in with the Committee.

**EDITORIAL:** In direct response to the needs of members, as expressed in their letters to The *FORUM*, major problems and emerging themes were discussed on its pages: alcoholic children (in nearly every issue this year), marrying an alcoholic in AA (January and July), protecting anonymity (August). The problems of living with active drinking and sobriety were shared in July and November. "Tough Love Society" (in April), a form of group inventory, asked if Al-Anon had lost the element of caring and the overwhelming response (printed in October) restated basic Al-Anon. In response to the request of the WSC, a feature on prejudice ran in April. The international outreach of the fellowship was emphasized in May and October. The structure of Al-Anon was often discussed, particularly the rewards of service in Alateen (January), policy decisions (March) and the message of hope (December). Each month on the WSO page, there were reports from various areas of service.

There was enthusiastic response to this year's editorials on the Concepts. A follow-up will be published in "Concept Corner" on the WSO page next year.

Published Alateen contributors numbered 21; July and December had two-page Alateen spreads. The "Topics for an Alateen Meeting" introduced this year are proving to be useful and popular.

**REPRINTS:** Three new reprints were developed this year: "Adolescent Alcoholic," "The Steps," "Al-Anon in Institutions." The latter was developed for the Regional Service Seminar at Banff. The first *FORUM* reprint, on Detachment, has been redesigned, printed professionally and is included with the P.I. Labor-Management Kit and used as a P.I. tool at professional conventions.

**CIRCULATION AND PROMOTION:** In the office reorganization of last fall, subscription fulfillment became a separate responsibility under general administration, but communication on circulation and promotion is continuing with the editorial staff and Committee.

A six-for-the-price-of-five subscription offer was sent with a complimentary copy of the May, 1981, anniversary issue to all registered Al-Anon and Alateen groups in May. This resulted in 8,000 new subscribers.

The special annual gift offer of 13 issues for the price of 12 was included in the November and December issues. It resulted in 1200 new gift subscriptions.

A special group-wide mailing was sent to all English-speaking groups in December. It included a letter to the G.R. and a brief questionnaire, a back issue of The *FORUM*, four Reprints, a piece on "How to Set Up a *FORUM* Display" and The *FORUM* poster showing its continuity from 1947 to the present. This poster was made available in response to the request of the 1981 WSC.

**STATISTICS:** A total of 44,752 subscribers at year's end — a 23% increase over last year


A 24% increase in income generated by The *FORUM*

462 copies of The *FORUM* sent to member contributors

513,383 copies of The *FORUM* mailed in 1981 — 75,000 more than in 1980.

The *FORUM* Committee hopes to keep enlarging this "meeting" and make it ever more responsive to the needs of the fellowship. It is remarkable how the quantity and quality of material being submitted for publication is improving — ever more sharing!

### FORUM Update

The *FORUM* subscription rate will be adjusted. Announcements will be made later on in the year. 



## THE FORUM SESSION:

Al-Anon's magazine, *The FORUM*, the spiritual voice of the fellowship, is served by career journalists. Its Editor and Committee members: Bo H., Fran H., Rita McC., Bob T., have all had experience in magazine editing and/or promotion and the Committee saves one chair for a rotating member who helps in reviewing manuscripts monthly.

Hildegard reported a heart-warming response to the questionnaire sent in the December group-wide mailing of *The FORUM*. Almost all groups who responded had a *FORUM* subscription for members to borrow and kept the magazine in the *FORUM* binder with the group's literature. Overwhelmingly those responding said, "Everything is helpful, just keep it coming." Most helpful, readers said, was the sharing in personal stories, editorials and letters which provide fundamental, basic healing based on Al-Anon principles.

The *FORUM* is a meeting on paper for individuals, a voice, a meeting always available on any topic. The *FORUM* also helps groups—the sharing goes two ways. The group is enlarged through stories which bring new members into the meeting. Group problems are shared, expanding the group conscience and the meetings are enriched by other voices. More than half of those responding said they used *The FORUM* for meeting ideas.

The Conference theme of unity is constantly emphasized in *The FORUM*. Members share the same needs, strengths and recovery whether their relationship to the alcoholic is as wife or husband, as child or parent; whether they are living with an active drinking situation or sobriety, with an alcoholic partner or alone.

Committee member Bo stressed that *The FORUM* is one voice—a spiritual voice. Bo noted that he had long enjoyed his job as "watchdog" making sure material in *The FORUM* was spiritual not religious. "There is comfort in Al-Anon," he said, "and *The FORUM* bears witness to the effects of the program on troubled people. Love," he continued, "is expressed in the receiving or in the giving of such help and this is the spiritual nature expressed in Al-Anon's magazine."

Further reporting on the results of the questionnaire brought out the fact that what members would like *The FORUM* to include is MORE — more pages, more on working the Steps, more on Traditions and their purpose and what happens when they're broken, more on policy and group problems, how they are solved and how individuals felt afterwards, more on service, fellowship history, Alateen and the transition into Al-Anon.


Rita offered ideas that the Committee had been considering, many of which had been reinforced by questionnaire responses: reviews of Conference-Approved Literature and a cross-reference to it in the magazine; interviews with professionals; more meeting ideas and how to use *The FORUM* as a springboard for sharing.

Rita noted that the Committee could use more contributions from the membership — reflections and art work, specifically black and white photographs and also drawings or cartoons, or even ideas for them.

In response to the question, "What are you doing to make *The FORUM* better known?" groups had shared that they used it for meeting programs, displayed it at meetings, awarded it as a raffle prize, made gifts of *The FORUM* to newcomers and sponsored members. They also used it as a Public Information tool, leaving it in doctor's waiting rooms, donating it to libraries and hospital book wagons, working with the Literature Coordinators to include it with literature displays.

Hildegard concluded: "Taking our direction from the worldwide service needs and service work and from the letters of members and the guidance of the Conference, *The FORUM* Committee hopes to continue *The FORUM* as the voice, one voice, the spiritual voice of Al-Anon — a service to help the members understand the principles and find the path to unity."

### Sharing:

- Editorials and pictures make subtle points.
- The *FORUM* pulls us together as a worldwide family.
- Monthly, we take a name out of the hat and give that member a free subscription to *The FORUM*.
- We find it a meeting by mail.
- The *FORUM* is my silent sponsor.
- Once a month we have a meeting using *FORUM* ideas.
- We give *FORUM*'s as an Al-Anon birthday gift.
- Our alternate Delegate is a *FORUM* coordinator. 

## QUESTIONS

### Do the excerpts from *The FORUM* have approval?

Because of the limitation of time in putting out the magazine, the contents of *The FORUM* do not go the route of CAL. The *FORUM* Committee does not have Delegate members. However, everything that is printed is reviewed and approved by a Committee of volunteer members and by members of the WSO Staff to ensure fidelity to the Al-Anon principles and program. In addition, much of the experience shared in CAL is based on *FORUM* material. The concept of *The FORUM* is Conference-Approved and all articles and reprints of *FORUM* material can be used as program aids.


### How are *FORUM* reprints chosen?

They are chosen in response to members' requests.

### Do the reprints from *The FORUM* have proper approval before offering?

The concept of *The FORUM* is Conference-Approved. Because of the limitation of time, the contents do not go the route of CAL. However, everything printed is approved by a committee of volunteers and staff members.

**Al-Anon/Alateen Unity:** Our fellowship is being divided by its own periodicals — *INSIDE AL-ANON*, *ALATEEN TALK*, *The FORUM*, etc. Why can't *The FORUM* become the one fellowship periodical that includes all our fellowship information for use by all? This would bring Al-Anon groups and Alateen groups within one periodical. Also it would save printing costs and simplify subscription record keeping.

The focus in each of these publications is quite different. Experience has prompted development of separate publications. If we were to combine all the material again, the periodical would be too large and the contents too diverse for general readership. *The FORUM* is strictly on a subscription basis. 



Mary Fran, W., Arizona

Mary Fran, early in her Al-Anon experience, was introduced to world service and found herself walking into a local manufacturing company in answer to an inquiry about the program. Driving home from there she reflected about the work she had done and began to feel better. In helping carry the message, she had helped herself.

Later, in response to a request to talk about Alateen to a children's summer class, she witnessed the agony and desperation of every one of us in a child's eyes. Once again, she was helped by understanding that the more deeply we are touched by others, the deeper becomes our own understanding of the spiritual values and benefits of serving. While she entered "every phase of Al-Anon service with reluctance and inner resistance," she did comply and in every instance was totally amazed when the benefits to her own recovery were so self-evident.

Mary Fran's joy has increased knowing that it's "what we learn after we already know everything, that really counts."

Della D., Washington

Before coming to Al-Anon, Della felt there was something missing in her life. That emptiness had completely possessed her. "Is that all there is?" was her question. The emptiness led her to Al-Anon and she might have asked the same question again if her new friends there and the God of her understanding had not led and encouraged her into service. (Today she calls it encouragement but then they told her she had to serve.)

Service had been "a privilege, a challenge, a commitment so often a risk and very often, very time consuming—but always a joy," she continued. The bonuses had outweighed the risks and the challenges she had to face as she was given a whole new life and new world of freedom through Al-Anon.

She would have loved to have reached all the goals she'd set for her Area but she was excited and satisfied about the growth in unity, a growth made possible because "together we cared and that caring was mixed with ... love."



## ANNUAL REPORT:

Virginia M., Chairman  
Ann S., Secretary

Virginia M., was appointed Chairman, replacing Edwina F. who gave years of dedication, enthusiasm and encouragement to all involved in this area of service, both as Chairman of the WSO Committee and Institutions Coordinator in her Area. Virginia had also served as Institutions Coordinator and Delegate for North Carolina, bringing her knowledge and experience to the Committee.

### COMMITTEE:

Ellen W., from Connecticut, resigned because of heavy commitments, and Harold L., from New York, joined the Committee.

### MEETINGS:

For better understanding of other Committee projects, the Institutions, P.I., CPC and Alateen committees have agreed to send a liaison to each other's in-town meetings. Future direction and projects planned for Institutions Service will be a major consideration during 1982. Committee members were asked to review the Institutions Kit for revisions and asked to submit articles to be used in *The FORUM*, *INSIDE AL-ANON* and *AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS*.

### AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS:

Three issues were published. The April issue (in English and Spanish), was sent groupwide with a questionnaire. Results of the questionnaire reflected a need for members to be better informed of Institutions Service. Approximately 2,100 questionnaires were tallied (over 10% response). Both regular groups and individuals requested they be added to the mailing list for future issues. The Spanish population asked to continue receiving the newsletter and more direction on forming Institutions Committees. The following are noteworthy responses: over 1,400 saw *AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS* for the first time and agreed that the newsletter helped them to gain information, to develop enthusiasm for institutions service, and to make a decision to become involved. Over 1,300 shared the issue with their group and many showed it to their District, encouraged members to form an Institutions Committee, or used it at an Institutions Workshop. More than 1,200 found it helpful to receive *AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS* every time it is published. Over 1,000 would like to receive the newsletter regularly for their personal interest.

Some responses included thoughts that the newsletter: could help more people to be informed about institutions meetings and use the Guidelines for them; provides enthusiasm; could get more members involved who do not know where to go; or were not very sure of themselves when it comes to institutions; could be published in French; could be helpful at regular meetings to motivate new members into service.

Results of the survey will appear in the March/April 1982 issues.

### INSTITUTIONS COORDINATORS:

New Coordinators were sent a letter of welcome and encouragement along with an Institutions Kit. They were also invited to submit articles for the newsletter. When professionals ask to have a group meet at their facility, a reply is sent and information is forwarded to the Coordinator. Where there is no Coordinator, a letter is sent to the Delegate.

### CONFERENCE:

The 1981 Institutions session was in the form of a town hall type meeting which stimulated from the floor.

### INSTITUTIONS KIT:

The Kit now includes: Information for the Newcomer, the reprint, *Al-Anon and the Community* (a chapter from *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC*), and *Al-Anon, Is It for You?* Since all pieces are available in Spanish, we were able to update the Spanish Kit as well.

### SPEAKING ASSIGNMENT:

On January 13, at the invitation of the N.Y. Alcoholism Committee of the National Associations of Social Workers (NASW), Ann spoke on the history of Al-Anon Institutions meetings, what they are like and how they differ from regular group meetings. She also discussed how to bring information to and start groups in various agencies and institutions.

## OFFICE PROCEDURES:

**Regional Service Seminar**—Ann attended the seminars in Atlanta, Georgia and Rapid City, South Dakota. The main issues discussed were those dealing with families of drug abusers coming to Al-Anon Institutions meetings and encroachment by professionals.

**Correspondence and Phone Calls**—Correspondence and phone calls from professionals and members were routinely answered. Some outstanding matters responded to this year were: groups starting at shelters for battered families; why funds for literature should not be accepted from the facility where groups meet; who reimburses members for travel when doing Institutions work; why institutions groups that do not pass the basket receive the appeal letter; Al-Anon members in prison; Al-Anon members in mental hospitals; Al-Anon members who are also professionals; how members can encourage professionals to refer potential newcomers to a group meeting at a facility; permission to reprint articles from *AL-ANON IN INSTITUTIONS*.

**NEW GROUPS:** New groups started in Arizona, California (N) & (S), Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Isle, Ontario, Canada and Argentina.

Alateen Groups—Florida, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Missouri.

## REPORT-BACK

The Institutions and the CPC Committees met jointly and discussed the possibility of developing a film directed toward professionals and the fellowship.

**Film Aims:** Familiarization for those who have no previous contact with Al-Anon; use by the fellowship in Public Information, Cooperating with the Professional Community and Institutions projects; development of interest in Service. Its primary purpose will be to educate the staff of hospitals, institutions and those in industry as the film will not be focused on structure or service but would carry the message of what Al-Anon is, and what it is not. It was suggested that the different types of Al-Anon groups held in institutions (regular, institutions, or limited access meetings) could be included. A recommendation was made to the Conference (See Motions).

The Institutions Committee met alone to consider other issues. Among them—the value of the "profile survey" and what it might reveal to the Institutions Committee. Chairman, Virginia M., discussed the feasibility of a combined Institutions, Alateen, CPC and P.I. Kit. The Committee agreed this would avoid duplication and repetition particularly as there is now an apparent need for a CPC Kit. The Committee recommended pursuing a project of one Kit for all.

**Guidelines for Service Work in Prisons**—Obstacles continue and progress is slow but members can help by sharing their experiences.

**Professional jargon and terminology problems**—Conference members were urged to share in writing their successful experiences in dealing with those who insist on using professional terms at Al-Anon meetings. Outgoing Delegates: Norma M., OK; Doris G., VA; Della D., WA.

## INSTITUTIONS SESSION:

Institutions Services at the WSO often receive inquiries which are similar in nature. Many members write to ask for an explanation of the differences in types of meetings, and they want to know how to inform professionals about the benefits derived when there is an Institutions meeting at their facility. Another often-asked question concerns the proper method of starting a group which can avoid professional encroachment and dilution of the Al-Anon program. The WSO Staff Secretary, Ann S., offered the Institutions Committee's solution: They would present a series of vignettes and the Conference members could help answer the inquiries through their input.

The Chairman, Virginia M., began defining differences in Groups:

**Institutions Groups**—hold Al-Anon or Alateen meetings using a simple format which explains the program to prospective members; Membership is transient.

**Regular Groups which happen to meet in an Institution**—hold meetings where members concentrate on their continued recovery through Steps, slogans, etc.

**Limited Access Groups**—hold meetings on military bases, in institutions and on business premises and are closed to the outside community.

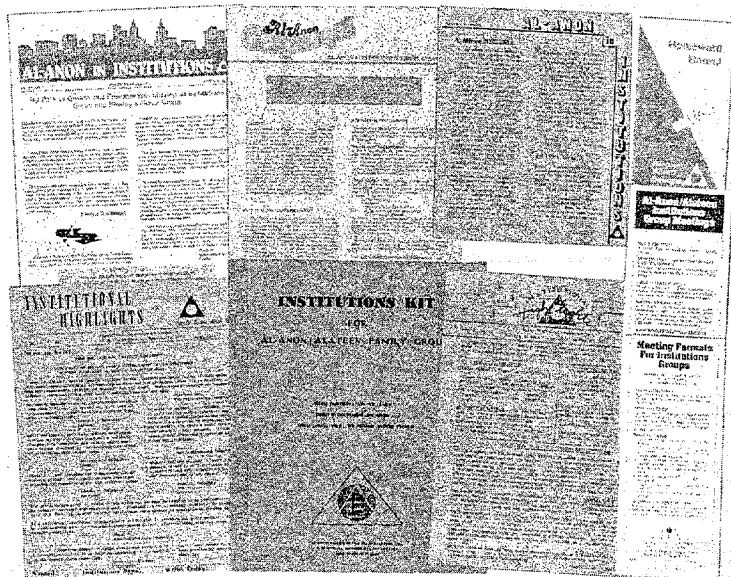
As the narrator in the presentation, Virginia first introduced a "professional" and a "prospective member" whose dialogue pointed to the need for Al-Anon contacts. The "audience" supplied recommendations for lists of names, a telephone number which could be supplied to prospective members, and/or a list of meetings for referral. When a professional is not familiar with Al-Anon, local groups, Institutions Coordinators, CPC and P.I. Coordinators have a golden opportunity to provide information.

The dialogue between the "administrator of a prison" and an "Al-Anon member," who refused to be the Al-Anon contact, drew out the possibility of having another member's name to give; no one member refuses for the entire fellowship. Local groups can be alerted to the need; Area and District Institutions Committees can help; a "Meeting on Wheels" can be scheduled; and the leaflet, "You Can Render . . ." could also provide assistance.

Participants in the next vignette offered a conversation between "old-timers," when in fact, Institutions Groups are for newcomers. The conversation would have taken place at a regular Al-Anon Group which just happened to meet in an institution. The Conference members' solutions included encouraging members to start an additional Institutions meeting, and creating an available library of CAL.

The last "little play" was a conversation showing an Institutions Group meeting at a rehabilitation center. Shared solutions included seeing to it that the Chairman of these meetings was an Al-Anon member, that the Directory was used by members only, and that anonymity was not violated.

Among the conclusions offered were: "Because we seek to increase instances where we have fine cooperation with professionals, we can see to it that prospective members are directed to Al-Anon meetings while we stand by our Traditions with a smile on our face." "In order to be successful in Institutions work, we do not have to detach from our knowledge of Al-Anon."



## Doris V.W., Br. Col.—Yukon

Doris came to Al-Anon looking calm and serene. She'd been hiding her feelings for so long that she felt nothing, but she had a perpetual smile on her face so no one would know she was hurting.

For months she sat at meetings and didn't say anything because she thought if she told what was happening in her home they would think AA didn't work. Her subsequent separation and divorce were traumatic because her husband had made all the decisions for many years.

A Delegate, active in Public Information, took Doris where ever she went to speak and helped her feel comfortable with her growing duties. But Doris worried about becoming a Delegate. Service had none-the-less been a rewarding experience, one which showed in her attitude and personality.

Today, she and her ex-husband are good friends and she has released with love, letting him do the things he needs to do, freeing herself to get on with the things she needs and wants to do in her own life.

## Richard B., Alabama

Third year Delegates each gave a farewell talk sharing their feelings for Service. The first of these was Richard B. of Alabama.

"I love you," Richard began. "Did anyone tell you today that they loved you?" In the beginning of his Al-Anon life, Richard wasn't able to say, "I love you," to anyone. He had built a wall of indifference around him. He didn't love or hate; he barely existed. His first assembly was two hours long and there were only eight people attending.

Today, when he goes to much larger meetings he thinks back and he can see that service has grown in spite of him. For Richard, service is a blessing. He knows today that people need love the most when they deserve it the least and it's the hardest to give.

## Ethel Mc G., Maine

Ethel said that if she was to capsule her years in service from the time she became Group Representative, District Representative and finally Area Delegate, the one thread that bound all these roles of service together would have been "spiritual growth." Under that umbrella, she had found tolerance and acceptance of others as they are, not as she would have them. Her views stem from her belief that we are all God's children and if he can accept people, who was she to do otherwise. For Ethel, Al-Anon service was God's work and whatever she needed to perform, her service became an act of love to a higher power.

For the most part her experiences in service were a joyous journey, although there were times when she doubted this. Having placed her will and her life into God's loving care, she found the spark and desire to serve rekindled. Nowhere else could she have found the love and friendship she found within the walls of Al-Anon where she found strength and recovery.





## 1985 International Convention

### Committee Report:

**Myrna H. Chairman**  
**Carole K. Coordinator**  
**Mary Ann K. Secretary**

Hank G., Richard Keilly, Controller, and Myrna H., met with staff of AA General Services to discuss having a cooperative, but independent International Convention in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in July of 1985. The discussion centered around housing, registration and meeting facilities. To gain more information Myrna and Carole flew to Montreal at the end of September and met with the Sales Manager of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, a possible hotel site for Al-Anon. While there, they also met with a representative of the Convention Bureau and with the manager of La Place Bonaventure, to gain rates for additional meeting space. Since holding a simultaneous meeting appeared feasible, further discussions ensued.

At our invitation, a representative of the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Montreal, visited the WSO. They were later joined by Bob Pearson, Dennis Manders and Sarah P. of AA General Services. During the discussions we learned that holding two such Conventions simultaneously would present some problems in housing and staffing needs. It was generally agreed, however, that this could be worked out.


**Housing**—It was tentatively agreed that Al-Anon would utilize three hotels, of varying price ranges. If additional housing is required, the overflow would be placed in other hotels set aside by AA.

**Registration**—It was stressed during the meeting that Al-Anon wants its own registration form as this will help establish that Al-Anon is holding a separate convention.

### Convention Session:

Myrna led the discussion asking the Conference to form a group conscience on whether or not Al-Anon should hold its own Convention at the same time in the same city as AA. She pointed to the Annual Reports and the investigation of Montreal as the 1985 Convention site.

Matters to be considered: The establishment of an Al-Anon identity; an Al-Anon registration form and fee; funds being handled by the World Service Office; making hotel arrangements and signing independent contracts and other negotiations. She assured the Conference that these could be managed with relative ease, that it was in the programming of Al-Anon and Alateen events that we had problems. In past Conventions Al-Anon did not schedule evening meetings but attended AA's big meeting. In Montreal, these will be held at the Olympic Stadium. The opinion of the World Service Office was that Al-Anon did not play an important role during these night-time meetings and it was possible that the same thing might occur in 1985. The alternative would be to have evening Al-Anon meetings and spiritual meetings on Sunday morning. Myrna asked if separate meetings would divide families and whether or not Al-Anon would receive the support of the membership. A discussion touched several points. Among them: It would not be financially feasible considering our size and the economy to hold our first Al-Anon International Convention in a city other than the one being used by AA at the same time; Concern was expressed at the cost of putting on such a Convention; Few would probably travel to an International Convention separate from AA's; (There is no ballpark estimate for cost yet, but the Board expects that we would plan to break even. The registration fee would be between \$30. and \$40. dollars.) Travel costs, etc., would be lower for the World Service Office; Costs would be kept at a minimum, we would not be producing or selling literature or a souvenir program; Al-Anon is coming of age, it's important that we keep the focus on ourselves; Many problems would be eliminated; Internationals are valuable as an abundance of information is gained; Input could be called for at Regional Service Seminars.

Confidence was expressed and Myrna concluded that some very good ideas were shared. She asked all to go back to the Area to find the consensus from the membership. The Committee will be sending a questionnaire for use in the Areas and the WSO feels that Delegate reports will aid us in making this Convention a happy one. 

## INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

**Cay C., Chairman**  
**Mary Ann K., Secretary**

**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE:** Cay C. was appointed Chairman and Mary Ann K. was appointed Staff Secretary. Other members of the Committee are: Sandra, Myrna, Margaret and Henrietta.

**INTERNATIONAL GENERAL SERVICES MEETING (TRIAL):** The selection of the hotel for the site of this historic four-day meeting from September 20-23, 1982 was made during the WSC. This allowed representatives from the United Kingdom and Eire & Flemish Belgium, along with our Trustees from Canada, to take part in the final decision. The theme will be "Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope Worldwide." Official invitations were sent to Italy, Norway and Japan which established GSOs since the original invitations were sent.

The twenty-one structures that will be represented are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium (Flemish), Belgium (French), Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, U.K. & Eire, United States and Canada. The Board approved having the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and one Trustee from Canada represent the U.S. and Canada at the GSM.

The GSM will open with a luncheon following a morning visit to the WSO. Lois has been asked to open the first session which will consist of presentations by Staff Secretaries explaining their areas of service, followed by a question-and-answer period. A visit to Stepping Stones is planned for Thursday, the close of the meeting. The flexible tentative agenda takes into account the needs and concerns of the Delegates.

Appropriate mailings were sent. 

### GSM Update

**Cay C., Chairman**

Cay spoke of her deep gratitude for MaryAnn's enthusiasm as staff secretary and announced that the 2nd International General Service Meeting would be held this year on September 20th to the 23rd—in order to share our experience, strength and hope worldwide. The theme will be "Principles, Our Path To Unity." 19 countries on 5 continents will work out their difficulties in establishing service structures.

"Our primary purpose motivates the World Service Office to support these meetings. Every effort is made to establish communication through the printed word but the one-to-one sharing is needed and no matter what these representatives have to discuss together, they will share with one another." Cay said that the message "doesn't carry itself, unity doesn't just happen, we have to make every effort for today and generations to come."

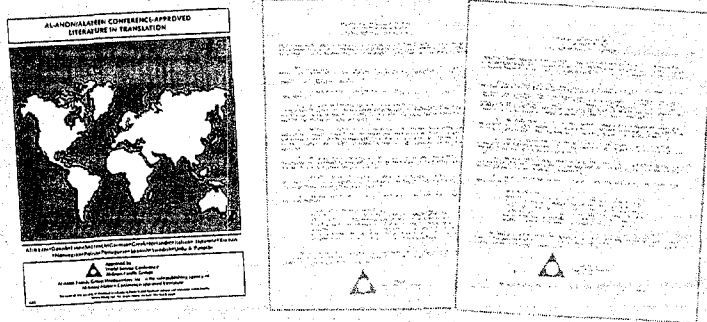
**TRANSLATIONS ORDER FORM:** An insert sheet is available with new additions to the translations order form. This revised form, which lists printed Italian literature for the first time, includes five new pamphlets from the GSO in Italy in addition to the three existing mimeographed translations. Norwegian and Portuguese translations were added.

A request from the International Coordination Committee to revise the system of pricing literature to reflect an equal parity of pricing with service offices overseas had been approved. This eliminated our underselling the GSOs.

**TRIP TO LONDON AND NORWAY:** The Executive Committee approved sending WSO representation to the first U.K. & Eire Al-Anon Convention. A meeting was arranged, too, with members in Norway, after leaving England, since there had been much difficulty in establishing a structure and coordinating the translations of literature. Henrietta and Sandy attended the event and visited Norway to support this developing service structure.

**TRIP TO COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA:** Teresa M., our Spanish Services Supervisor, was invited but was unable to attend the First National and International Congress in Colombia. Jahel, Secretary of the GSO, wrote inviting the International Secretary. Since this was an important event in Colombia's service development and many other matters could be discussed with the newly-formed GSO, the Executive Committee agreed to send Dora Torres, Teresa's Assistant, as a translator. Taking advantage of a triangle flight plan, Dora and Sandy were able to visit Venezuela.

**REPRINT PERMISSION FORMS:** The forms for both reprinting and translating literature were updated by our copyright attorney.



**LANGUAGE SERVICES:** Hanna J., a member in British Columbia, is translating our Al-Anon literature into Polish on a volunteer basis. Hanna also placed an ad in the Polish language newspaper resulting in many inquiries. Two additional members have responded to the request in *The FORUM* for Polish translators. A member from Canada, Father Roman, volunteered to do Ukrainian and Russian translations. A member from New York has responded to the article in *INSIDE AL-ANON* asking for Hebrew translators and is now reviewing Hebrew pieces.

**NEW TRANSLATIONS:** Nestor P., a member in New York, sent a translation of, *So You Love An Alcoholic*, in Greek. Margaret O'B., our Archivist, discovered a translation in the Cree Indian language.

**KOREAN LITERATURE:** The Army ordered 1,000 copies of the mimeographed version of, *A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic*. More requests have come in for Korean literature than any other mimeographed piece available.

**WORLD CONFERENCE ON ALCOHOLISM:** Judy B., Delegate from the U.K. & Eire to the 1980 GSM, who acted as WSO's representative at this international meeting, reported in depth on the speakers, as well as, giving her own impressions. "The whole Conference seemed to be AA oriented. In theory, this appeared to be a splendid opportunity to show concern of Al-Anon for the families of alcoholics throughout the world. In fact, since it was composed mostly of professionals, working in the field, who were also members of AA and their spouses belonged to Al-Anon, it was preaching to the converted." Judy spent time speaking to various participants of the Conference. "There is no doubt that there is an increasing awareness of the family involvement in the disease, but very little understanding of the importance of involving the family before the alcoholic is undergoing some form of treatment." Arrangements were made for a literature display table. Literature was sent in English, French, German, and Spanish. Judy is also having a mailing list compiled of professionals in other countries in addition to the WSO mailing list.

Regular mailings of new and revised material were sent to the GSOs.

**LONG-RANGE PLANS:** Two possible plans for the future were the development of an International Newsletter and regional world meetings.

## Int'l Coordination Session:

One of the very first letters that crossed MaryAnn's desk when she began her new job in International was from someone in a leper colony in the Philippines. Reading on she realized that the writer was not asking about Al-Anon, non-the-less, the letter continued to haunt her. She thought about people with leprosy and how one of the symptoms of that disease was lack of pain. She also thought about members all over the world who write to the World Service Office; behind each letter is a person who felt the pain of someone else's drinking, that pain was the same in every language.

While initial pain brings us to the program, we stay to realize that Al-Anon offers more than relief. "If we stay long enough," MaryAnn continued, "we realize we are united in principle to people in over 72 countries."

"This isn't so surprising when we look back at our beginning," MaryAnn continued. "When Al-Anon came into being it was an international fellowship. Of the initial letters responded to by Lois, four came from Canada, one from South Africa, so even in our infancy, our fellowship knew no borderlines."

Today, Al-Anon literature plays an important part in the International picture of the fellowship. Twenty two countries are reprinting CAL. We have a wealth of Spanish material and this year Spain began reprinting for the first time as did Norway. "Our fellowship will not just reproduce itself like a plant that blooms each year. It takes service minded members who believe in themselves and their dream of carrying the message to others." MaryAnn spoke of Cecilia, the new General Secretary from Japan and Sandy and Henrietta's visit to Norway when she told how each country's structure grows in a different way. She described Al-Anon's Internationality by telling the story of a professor who's daughter was given a task of putting together a map puzzle. She came back in a few minutes with the completed puzzle. The task was easy for the child because the back of the map was a picture of a man and when she put the man together the world had come together.

While politics is not what Al-Anon is all about, it is an inspiration to hear from countries in difficult political situations who have continued their Al-Anon growth.

In speaking with some international members who pay very high prices for literature, MaryAnn said that the WSO Translation Order Form is being revised and from now on the WSO will charge the same price for literature in translation that it sells for in the country so that we won't be competing with or underselling those in our fellowship.

One of the long-range goals for the International Committee is to see that translations of material are made in every language. Each piece starts with a translator and two reviewers. Recently a Chinese-American member has been coming to translate CAL in Chinese. MaryAnn noted the need for bilingual members to read translations, checking them for accuracy and making sure they keep the spirit of the program. Forms were available for Conference members to use when asking members to be part of this service. WSO needs all languages but the urgent need now is for Chinese, Russian, and Czechoslovakian.

## AL-ANON INTERNATIONALLY

**Africa**—An inquiry on starting a group in Kenya was directed to the GSO in South Africa and a contact was given to one group in Kenya.

**Argentina**—Nilda, Secretary of the GSO, wrote that Argentina will be represented at the next GSM so that all GSOs can "unify its structure and approve communion with the WSO." She asked if we can translate correspondence into Spanish. Myrna responded and pointed out that we will continue to translate correspondence with the exception of those pertaining to the GSM. Since George F., the 1980 Delegate, could not attend, Alice C., a member of the Board, was elected Delegate to the GSM at their last meeting. She asked that simultaneous translation be considered. We informed her the Committee decided to abide by the GSM's decision to have only members knowledgeable in English attend and reiterated the reasons, as stated in the report of the trial GSM.

The Literature Coordinator, Irma, questioned whether we send each group the World Service Handbook. It is our hope that each service structure will use the WSO handbook as a guide and adapt one to fit the individual needs of the country.

**Australia**—At their Annual Conference, Kevin, Financial Advisor and Beryl, General Secretary, were elected Delegates to the GSM. Kevin developed a "Rolling Five-Year Financial Plan" for Australia and the Delegates suggested



it be sent to the WSO. Their national newsletter was retitled, "Austra-Link" and has a new colored graphic cover. The Conference also requested the WSO consider producing Alateen Beginner's Meeting Tapes. A National Alateen Committee as well as a National Institutions Committee was formed. When Beryl visited the WSO in August, the structure of their Board and suggestions for filling positions when a member resigns were discussed. Due to mailing restrictions they weren't able to distribute WSO material with their national newsletter. Reprint permission was given for: Al-Anon, Is It For You? and Alateen, Is It For You?

**Austria**—Ingborg Z., Inter-Chairman, informed us that a Central Contract Office for the whole of Austria was formed in Vienna. She said, "We have regular meetings with the existing groups in Vienna and letter-contact with the other groups in Austria." There are now eleven groups in Austria; only six were registered last year.

**Belgium**—The French-speaking Board of Belgium sent us a copy of the report of their March Conference indicating that French-speaking Belgium will, once again, be represented at the GSM. Josie, Delegate to the last meeting, was re-elected. Monique, Secretary of the General Service Office, will be the other representative.

**Belgium (Flemish)**—Karel M., Secretary of the GSO, attended the 1981 WSC as representative. Lilliane P. accompanied him on this trip and attended the International Coordination Session of the Conference. Following the Conference, Lilliane and Karel met with members of the International Coordination Committee to review plans for restructuring their Board and for the development of a National Conference in Belgium. Lilliane and Karel also had many individual meetings with Sandy and other members of the WSO. After their return, we subsequently learned that two non-profit organizations had formed. Members of the International Coordination Committee met to discuss the situation and both Lilliane and Karel were called. In a letter to each, we explained that only one structure would be recognized. A plea for unity was sent, along with the report of the International Coordination Committee's decision that reprint permission will be withheld until the Flemish-speaking groups make a clear decision, as which organization will represent them.

Earlier in the year, reprint permission was given for: ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS; Digest of Al-Anon & Alateen Policies; Facts About Alateen; How Can I Help My Children? What's Next? Asks the Husband of an Alcoholic; Three Views of Al-Anon; Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions of Alateen; Blueprint for Progress.

**Bolivia**—A member of an Al-Anon group in Ontario moved to Santa Cruz. There are two Al-Anon groups in that country, and she requested information in Spanish to carry the Al-Anon message.

**Brazil**—Vera, International Secretary of the GSO, asked for immediate approval to reprint, Youth & the Alcoholic Parent, and A Guide for Alateen Sponsors, as the GSO expects to present them along with the DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE, and the four service manuals at the Third National Al-Anon/Alateen Convention to be held in Sao Paulo on April 16th through the 19th. Since the GSO formed in 1979, they have translated and published one book and 14 pamphlets (including other booklets and service material). During the first quarter alone, 153 new groups registered; the total groups in Brazil now number 424.

Haidee, Regional Delegate, informed us of an Al-Anon Information Service established in Brasilia and sent a copy of their first bi-monthly bulletin which is styled after *DENTRO DE AL-ANON*. To answer his request, we sent Guidelines for Area Newsletters and suggested he contact the GSO. Vera, our correspondent, asked why the questionnaire in the DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE, was removed since they found it helpful. We explained that our Literature Committee felt it might be guilt-provoking and detrimental to wives, in particular.

Vera called and informed us she will attend the 1982 GSM as Delegate, along with Alda, who attended in 1980. She was concerned with her knowledge of English but felt reassured after our phone conversation.

The other GSM Delegate, Alda, expects to spend three months in New York, prior to the meeting. Arrangements are being made for her to attend several In-town Committees, plus scheduled days with different staff members.

Reprint permission was given for: Living With Sobriety; Just For Today; Sponsorship; What It's All About; Facts About Alateen; Are You Concerned About Someone's Drinking?; Alateen Do's & Don'ts; Al-Anon & Alateen Groups At Work; Why CAL?; Information for the Newcomer; Al-Anon Is For Men; Al-Anon, Is It For You?; Alcoholism: A Merry Go Round Named Denial; Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?; Alateen, Is It For You?

**Colombia**—Jahel, Secretary of the GSO, sent us a copy of their new bulletin called RENACIMIENTO (Rebirth). Sandy and Dora, Assistant to the Spanish Services Supervisor, who translated for Sandy, attended the First National & International Congress of Al-Anon/Alateen, held in the Planetarium in Bogota on August 7-9. Prior to this event, they both appeared on two national radio

broadcasts. At the Congress itself, they spoke about the history of Al-Anon in the United States and shared personally on two other occasions. The meeting was open to the public. They expected 300 guests but approximately 600 attended. A meeting on service was also held at the GSO after the Congress. Several matters concerning literature distribution and finances pertaining to the disbanded GSO in Bucaramanga were aired and seemingly resolved. Attempts were made to find an English-speaking member to attend the GSO. Following this event, Sandy and Dora, who stayed at Jahel's house, had several opportunities to discuss literature distribution and structure. Jahel pointed out the difficulties in ordering literature from the WSO due to mail and currency restrictions, as well as long delays in receiving shipments.

**Costa Rica**—Mary, Secretary of the GSO, informed us that the 13th Al-Anon Convention held in Costa Rica contained a parade of nations, many newcomers, production workshops, and a small meeting about general services. Although we weren't able to send someone from the WSO, as they requested, Myrna sent a congratulatory telegram on behalf of the WSO. Mary also pointed out that their meeting on general services was so helpful that they are considering incorporation and asked for guidelines. With five possible candidates for the Second International GSM (Trial), Mary, the first paid General Secretary of the GSO, promised to inform us as soon as the final decision is made. Costa Rica continues to honor the agreement that El Salvador will be the literature distribution center for Central America and directs inquiries to El Salvador.

**Denmark**—Due to rotation, a new voluntary secretary is in charge of Al-Anon in Copenhagen. Reprint permission forms were sent for: To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic.

**El Salvador**—We informed Angela de L., Secretary of the GSO, that based on our discussions when she visited the office last year, the International Coordination Committee revised the pricing of Spanish literature. She wrote, "In spite of the political situation in our country, our groups have grown about 30%. We owe thanks to the cooperation of the TV and radio stations that carry our spots at least six times a day." She also reported that the "Internal Department approved our bylaws, so we now have legal status." Angela will be the Delegate to the International GSM. Reprint permission forms were given for: Homeward Bound; Al-Anon Fact File; Al-Anon's Just For Today; Alateen's Just For Today; Three Views of Al-Anon; Are You Concerned About Someone's Drinking?

**Finland**—Mariatta informed us that Finland's Delegate to the GSM will be Marja, who spoke at the 1980 International during the "Around the World Meeting." Reprint permission was given for: So You Love An Alcoholic; Facts About Alateen; Beginner's Meeting Tapes.

**France**—As the GSO develops, they continue to write for guidance. Simone, the Secretary, informed us they are in the process of scaling down the World Service Handbook for their use.

**Germany**—Erich, Delegate to the Trial GSM, who was to attend the World Service Conference, was unable to because of a severe heart attack. Gisela is the new secretary at the GSO. Erich informed us that the GS Board unanimously voted to send two Delegates to the next GSM. The GSO is in the process of developing a newsletter inspired by *INSIDE AL-ANON* to be sent to all German-speaking groups. Gudrun returned the questionnaire for planning the General Services meeting and is now English correspondent. She said, "I am very proud and happy our committee asked me to continue the good connection between Headquarters, and our GSO which Erich helped to build up." She also sent the annual contribution of \$2.00 for each of the 580 groups in Germany. Gudrun, the international correspondent, has been elected to attend the Second International GSM. Reprint permission was given for: Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions for Alateen; DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE; Adult Children of Alcoholics; Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups; Al-Anon, Family Treatment Tool.

**Ghana**—A request for literature came from a member in Kumasi, Ghana. We have no groups or members as such there, but since the main language is English, we hope this inquiry will be instrumental in starting a group.

**Gibraltar**—Cynthia, originally a loner who helped form the first group, visited the WSO. She also attended the Al-Anon Convention in U.K. & Eire, where she met Henrietta and Sandy and further discussed ways to help Al-Anon grow in her country. She obtained Spanish literature since the country is bilingual and she is also eagerly waiting to receive the Beginner's Meeting cassettes in Spanish. She said the English version was helpful in illustrating how to run a meeting to members who never belonged to a group.

She informed us that the first Alateen group began with one 12 and one 13-year old, along with a young member from the Al-Anon group, and herself. She says, "I sit in the corner ready to help things along, only when asked and they do ask."

**Greece**—Evie S., a native Greek, who was living in the U.S. and returned to live with her family in Greece, visited the WSO. As a member of the first Greek-speaking group in Athens, she said the group began through contact



with members on the military base. The group has been functioning over a year, but hesitated to register with the WSO because of their uncertainty of success. She also informed us that through the Al-Anon group, the first AA Greek-speaking group began. One of the members of the Al-Anon group belongs to both programs and is working with Evie to carry the message of Al-Anon to Greece since, she says, "there is no national awareness of alcoholism by the government." She, along with other members, are working on translations. She said that the ones the WSO sent to the Air Force base, which were forwarded to Greek-speaking members, were invaluable. We supplied her with material to consider for translation and a set of Beginner's Meeting cassettes. We also asked her to contact Nestor P., who has reviewed Greek translations for the WSO, and is currently translating the ODAT. They will work together since members of the Parthenon group are also working on a translation.

**Guatemala**—Victor, and other AA members from Guatemala City, visited the WSO, and informed us that his wife, Elvive had been secretary of the GSO in Guatemala, which is no longer functioning. She is in the process of starting a new office. We sent information and guidelines and, subsequently, inquired about the status of Al-Anon in Guatemala. A new GSO Office has been set up and Elvive is looking for help and guidance. While visiting the WSO, her husband ordered literature which was sent.

**Iceland**—Vilborg and Audis, two Al-Anon members, visited the WSO and discussed establishing a central service office. Both are members of the Service Committee that meets once a month in Reykjavik to translate literature and provide other services for the groups. There are now twenty groups in Iceland; the 1980 Directory only lists twelve. We suggested a General Service Committee be formed to unify services throughout Iceland. Material was supplied. Vilborg questioned if we would print Icelandic literature here. We explained our policies, showed her several mimeographed translations and proposed this as an interim measure. Reprint permission forms were sent for: *How Can I Help My Children?* A social service agency, SAA, in Reykjavik, asked for permission to publish, *What's "Drunk," Mama?* into Icelandic for distribution to schools for children from the ages of 6–12. We informed them that our policy is to extend reprint permission only to our own membership and that this book is intended as a shared-reading experience. We then suggested they contact the service committee in Iceland.

**India**—Steps are needed to facilitate literature distribution. Several members throughout India have been expressing problems in obtaining Al-Anon CAL. The WSO continues to send complimentary material. In 1978, we had extended reprint permission to a member in Bombay, and we still have no record of material being reprinted. Kshama, from Bombay, also informed us that for the first time, Al-Anon had a separate workshop at the Second National AA Convention in India. She further wrote that the first Alateen group in India formed and is drawing 17 to 20 members. An Al-Anon member in Mangalore informed us of a new group and that meetings are being held in the native dialect, Konkani. She asked about translating literature into that language. We sent information so that proper copyright identification is included and also asked that she send us copies of the translations upon completion. Vidyut K., a member from Bombay, expressed interest in translating literature into the local dialect; information for doing so was sent. Ammande, a member from the AA Intergroup in Bombay, visited the WSO and asked for information to help Al-Anon members in Bombay form an Intergroup office. Permission to copy excerpts from literature for a workshop came to the WSO, along with several individual requests for literature.

**Israel**—Yemina K., a member from Jerusalem, who visited the WSO last year, sent Hebrew translations excerpted from several pamphlets. She also sent a listing of groups.

**Italy**—Leonella C., of Centro Nazionale, sent us a copy of the papers of incorporation for the new WSO. She said they are hoping to attend the GSM in 1982. The first supply of printed pamphlets came from the WSO; *So You Love An Alcoholic*; *To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic*; and *Freedom From Despair*. This material was available in mimeograph, produced at the WSO. These were discarded and replaced by the printed versions. Leonella, Secretary of the GSO in Rome, informed us of an extensive review of Italian literature at the GSO and that a committee has formed consisting of Al-Anon and non-Al-Anon members, with professional writing and translating skills. All the translations sent thus far have been confirmed for their accuracy and excellency of style. As a result, it will no longer be necessary to extensively review Italian translations. Gina in Milan is working on a translation of the ODAT in conjunction with the members of the GSO in Rome. Patrizia, a member of the translation committee, visited and expressed concerns to the WSO. When she received the pamphlet on the Seventh Tradition, they were disturbed about their inability to contribute. We reassured her that we were attuned to the needs of the newly-developed office. We also discussed the relationship of the Al-Anon and AA GSO housed in the same location.

The first Al-Anon book, reprinted in Italy, *THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE*, has reached many members; 60% of the stock ordered for the first printing has been sold. Leonella, our contact at the newly-formed GSO, plans to adapt our *Service Manual* for the Italian structure. Reprint permission was sent for: *To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic*; *Freedom From Despair*; *So You Love An Alcoholic*; *A Guide For the Family of the Alcoholic*; *Lois' Story*; *THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE*; *Understanding Ourselves and Alcoholism*; *Just For Today*.

**Japan**—Cecilia, our contact at Al-Anon Japan Central Services (AJCS), informed us that Al-Anon moved out of the AA Central Office. She sent a copy of a P.I. poster developed by the Central Services Committee. We suggested that a General Service Committee be formed since the AJCS serviced groups throughout Japan, rather than just Tokyo. Our first supply of Japanese literature received from the GSO includes: *This is Al-Anon*; *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; *So You Love An Alcoholic*; and, *Alcoholism, A Merry Go Round Named Denial*. They are attractively produced in vivid colors and will be used to fill many back orders we are holding for Japanese literature. Cecilia apologized for the high cost of the literature which she explained is due to the limited quantities they are printing and inflation in Japan. We informed her that the translation order form is changing to coincide with prices charged in other countries. Cecilia wrote, "It's almost eight months since we started our office and there has been much development and expansion. New groups which had good communication with AJGSO are growing incredibly. Every one of these groups is enjoying the new vivid life. Alateen is also expanding. It started with a boy and girl, a year and a half ago, and now we have thirteen regular members." A four-day visit in October by Cecilia, now General Secretary to Japan's GSO, gave the WSO staff a sense of the worldwide reach of the fellowship. Her meetings with members of the International Coordination Committee gave her direction in setting up a Service Committee. Since her return, we have received official word that a service committee has been formed. A Japanese newsletter plus plans to educate the public about Al-Anon are underway. Reprint permission was given for: *Freedom From Despair*; *This is Al-Anon*; *The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*; *Homeward Bound*; *What Do You Do About The Alcoholic's Drinking?*; *To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic*; *Three Views of Al-Anon*; *How Can I Help My Children?*; *Understanding Ourselves and Alcoholism*.

**Mexico**—Gloria, Secretary of the GSO, questioned if it was acceptable for the GSO to finance her and Salvador's attendance to the 13th Al-Anon Convention being held in Costa Rica. We informed her of the change in administrative policies when invited to attend National functions, pointing out that the WSO subsidized representation for Henrietta and Sandy to attend the first Al-Anon Convention in the U.K. & Eire, and to visit Norway. This decision, we pointed out, was based on favorably assessing the value of face-to-face sharing experienced during the 1980 International Trial GSM and Regional Service Seminar. We suggested this idea be discussed with the Board in Mexico. Subsequently, we were informed that the Board voted to send Gloria and Salvador. Official notice that Mexico will send a representative to the International GSM (Trial) was received. Reprint permission was given for: *THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE*; *Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups*; *Al-Anon & Alateen Groups at Work*; *Double Winners*; *ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS*.

**The Netherlands**—Linkan O. and Anneke K., Delegates to the Trial GSM, attended the U.K. & Eire Convention. While there, they met with Henrietta and Sandy and sent back to the WSO, a copy of the first issue of their national newsletter, *STAPSGEWIJS* (Step by Step) for Archives. Anneke, English correspondent, informed us that there are now 50 groups in The Netherlands.

#### **Netherland Antilles**

A member from the Santa Cruz group requested permission to translate portions of *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC* into the Papimento language. We requested more information, both about the language and their distribution plans.

**New Zealand**—Pat, Secretary of the GSO, wrote that the GSO would like to assume many of the responsibilities of groups handled by the WSO. They will now register groups directly and inform us of all changes. We will also send them the Appeal letters, as well as *INSIDE AL-ANON* in bulk, for redistribution to the groups. As similarly arranged with the GSOs in the U.K. & Eire and Australia, we will send the groups welcoming letters and tell them to register directly with the GSO. We sent fifty registration packets and explained that the other GSOs supply the registration material and we supply the service manuals. We also sent registration packets for Alateen and Institutions groups. They requested permission to reprint all the literature in New Zealand. We informed them that we do not supply blanket reprint permission; they are to request reprint permission for each pamphlet individually. Subsequently, Pat, informed us that it is less costly to purchase directly from the WSO. They will reconsider reprinting at their November Conference. Additional requests for *ALATEEN TALK* and *INSIDE AL-ANON* reflect the growth of the groups and interest in service in New Zealand. Thelma W., Delegate in 1980 to the Inter-

national GSM, was again elected to represent New Zealand's structure. She is working on a Summary of their August Conference. Joining her will be Pat, Secretary to the GSO. Reprint permission was given for: Information for the Newcomer.

**Norway**—General Services were established for Norway when twenty-three members from nine of the fourteen existing groups met, for the first time in Farsund, with members of the General Services Committee, along with Henrietta and Sandy, who attended this event. Previously, several groups were working independently providing services. Three separate groups had either completed or participated in the translation of ONE DAY AT A TIME. In preparation for this meeting, Ase, Secretary of the Committee, working with a team of members, published six pamphlets which were available in mimeography. In addition, copies of the other literature, previously printed, (A Guide For the Family, Just For Today leaflet) were available, as well as copies of Alcoholism, A Merry Go Round Named Denial, in Danish, printed by Gerda R. in Denmark. A meeting was subsequently held with Henrietta and Sandy and the other members of the committee to discuss the formation of General Services and suggestions for facilitating the printing of the ODAT. The first Alateen group in Oslo was formed. The World Service Office Board of Trustees approved the concept of making financial assistance available to qualifying national services for the printing of books. The Norwegian GSO will be the first national service receiving this assistance for its use in publishing the ODAT in Norwegian. "Trinn for Trinn" (Step by Step), Norway's first newsletter, was sent out to all the groups ahead of their scheduled deadline. In it an order form was printed for members to order copies of the ODAT in advance. Reprint permission was given for: ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON; To the Mother and Father of an Alcoholic; My Wife Drinks Too Much; Understanding Ourselves and Alcoholism; Al-Anon Is For Men; Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions; Al-Anon, You and the Alcoholic.

**Oman**—Two individual inquiries for literature arrived the same week. Since there are no Al-Anon groups in this small and rural country, we wrote to each member, asking them if they would be open to being contacted by the other.

**Peru**—Angelica deG., who visited the WSO, will distribute information from the WSO to the local groups. While here, we gave her a supply of complimentary material for the twelve groups, which was sent to her last year but was lost in the mail. She later sent us a copy of *MANSAJE DE AL-ANON*, the first bulletin from Peru. She also informed us that a committee had been established to organize an Information Service.

**South Africa**—Lynn H., who along with Beryl B. has been Delegate to the Trial GSM wrote, "the Trustees suggested that we send two Delegates to the GSM and the Conference agreed." She also informed us of Beryl B.'s death. A letter was sent to Beryl's family and to the GSO on behalf of the WSO. Reprint permission forms were sent for, Understanding Ourselves and Alcoholism, into Afrikaans. They asked if they had to use the format of the English original, which was too costly to print. We replied that, although we try to encourage uniformity, we are more concerned with content. The efforts of the P.I. Committee in South Africa were reflected in a newspaper article and local adaptation of our P.I. poster, sent on by Reina, Secretary of the GSO. The growth of the service structure is seen in the move of the GSO to new quarters, completely separate from the Information Service.

**Spain**—Ana Maria, Delegate to the Trial GSM, informed us that Spain hopes to participate again in 1982. She also informed us that she has been traveling throughout Spain to establish contacts with the groups and the GSO. Ana Maria sent a plan and structure chart, based on the World Service Office Handbook, to be submitted to members of their Conference. We questioned the use of the term "intergroup" rather than District, as suggested by the Handbook and recommended they be encouraged to have a GR. There are now 70 Al-Anon/Alateen groups and 3 lone members. There were 44 groups last year. They also sent a copy of the GSO Spain's financial statement for 1980 which was sent to all the groups. Ana Maria questioned the possibility of having one English and one Spanish-speaking Delegate attend in 1982. We pointed out the decision of the 1980 GSM on the subject and that since rotation of Delegates is being considered, the Spanish-speaking Delegate would not be able to rotate into the position at subsequent meetings. A major step in the growth of Al-Anon in Spain is seen in their first request for reprint permission. Forms were sent for A Guide for the Family of an Alcoholic, and Freedom From Despair.

**Switzerland**—Lois, accompanied by Nell Wing, attended AA's 25th Anniversary Convention in Geneva. Prior to her going, Jean B. wrote asking for an advance copy of her talk and permission to use the description of the *INSIDE AL-ANON* article (March/April 1981) for a "welcome" in English to be published in the souvenir issue of their monthly newsletter, M + F. We also supplied Jean B., our correspondent, with a copy of the Serenity Prayer in Italian, which they wanted for this event since members attending speak German, French and Italian. She informed us that Switzerland will be represented at the GSM and that Ursula, Secretary of the office, will be accompanying her.

**U.K. & Eire**—Henrietta and Sandy attended the first Al-Anon Convention for the U.K. & Eire held in Loughborough University in Leicestershire in March. The closing event consisted of a miniature "Around the World Meeting" where members from twelve countries were represented. Henrietta represented the U.S. & Canada. Henrietta and Sandy also visited the GSO and met June, the new Secretary, the three other part-time workers and other GSO volunteers discussed the proposed revision of the U.K. & Eire Handbook. Although, WSO Representatives are listed in their structure, they questioned sending a Representative yearly, now that there is a GSM. Cliff G., Representative to the Conference, visited the WSO and used the Conference theme, Building With Concepts, for an article a month in *NEWS & VIEWS*. The U.K. & Eire Literature Committee reviewed the "Detachment" statement as they do all literature before reprinting. They stated the element of "detaching with love" was not indicated in this statement and felt this one aspect of detachment was the one professionals had the greatest difficulty with. They offered suggestions and asked WSO Literature Committee to, once again, review this leaflet. Daphne G., who coordinated Al-Anon's First National Conventions, asked for suggested guidelines for paying volunteers, at the next Convention. The closest parallel we could relate was the WSO's participation in AA's International Convention. We sent the copy of the Annual Appeal letter for overseas groups. The Committee revised the Guide for General Service Structure based on suggestions sent by Judy B., Delegate to the GSM. Among the many suggestions they offered concerning terminology, a paragraph was included on the advisability of establishing a reserve fund. Cliff G. writes, "Our newest center in Belfast Northern Ireland reports steady progress. This center is open six days a week and publishes a monthly newsletter." The Belfast Information Service asked about its history and the official date it joined the Al-Anon Family Groups worldwide. Our Archivist, Margaret O'B., provided the information, plus some interesting correspondence for an article in their newsletter. Bonnie C., former WSO Trustee and Alateen Chairman, working in P.I. at the GSO in London, visited the WSO for two afternoons, with news about the service work in the U.K. & Eire. Accompanied by her husband George, also in Al-Anon, Bonnie brought with her a generous contribution from members which seemed to be a direct response to the "Appeal" article written by Cliff G., WSCR, in *NEWS & VIEWS*. They also brought along their version of, What's "Drunk," Mama?, Cyril, WSCR for 1982, has been working on designs for their P.I. posters as well as an illustrated version of the Traditions, which has the potential of being produced as Conference-Approved Literature (CAL). Reprint permission was given for: What's "Drunk," Mama? Excerpts from the following books: *THE DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE*; *LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC*; *AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM*; *AL-ANON'S FAVORITE FORUM EDITORIALS*. ▲

## “ Dot G., North Carolina

Service was both a joy and a job to Dot. She recalled that most of what she'd done in service she was told to do; she was told to go to Al-Anon. There she found a new group which operated strictly by the Service manuals.

Later in her service life, she became Area Treasurer and took great pleasure in the fact that members sent personal notes along with their group's contributions to Area service, however, she had promised her husband that she wouldn't leave her name in as Delegate. During the Assembly lunch break she changed her mind, asking herself "how can I refuse to let the people here decide?" She took two members home with her to break the news that she had been chosen. Her husband's initial reaction made her write a letter of resignation but later he said he had "talked it over with God" and he gave her his full support.

Today, the joys have surpassed the jobs for Dot and she plans to live the remainder of her life in Al-Anon, because, doing what she likes is freedom, and liking what she does is her happiness. ▲

”

## U.K. and EIRE:

Cyril C.

"During last Autumn I paid a visit to St. Mary's Church in Rotherhithe, London. It is an interesting, old, riverside church and it was from here on the River Thames that in 1620 the Mayflower set sail, with its small band of Pilgrim Fathers to Plymouth, England and then across the Atlantic to what was to become the United States of America. Christopher Jones, master and part owner of the Mayflower was buried in this churchyard in 1622.

"In the following centuries the persecuted Independent Church suffered many vicissitudes which are recorded in a small booklet that I bought in St. Mary's. It was in this booklet I read that with the help of a number of American churches, including those with which it was historically linked, a new church was built in Great Dover Street, London. It was opened by the American Ambassador, Mr. Winthrop Aldrich in 1956. It is a 'fairly small, simple building on a modern housing estate,' it was only as I looked at the illustration that I realised I was looking at the building that now houses the Al-Anon U.K. and Eire General Service Office!

"So, having taken you back through three and a half centuries and some 3,000 miles we can consider what has been happening in Al-Anon in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire since your last World Service Conference. I am pleased to be able to report that it has been another year of continued progress and growth. In these times of economic difficulties growth itself can present problems and I will return to this subject later.

"We have three Information Centers situated in Glasgow, Scotland; Belfast, Northern Ireland and Dublin, Eire. These are serviced by G.S.O. London and they all report good progress with more Groups and increased Public Information activity, during my recent period as Chairman of the Public Information Committee one of my greatest satisfactions was the growth of helpful sharing between the different countries involved. The Information Centers represent a vital source of help and comfort for those in need.

"Our 12th Al-Anon (U.K. and Eire) Service Conference was held last September in the University of Nottingham. This city is roughly in the center of our Service Structure and the Conference theme was 'Service — Gratitude made Visible.' The Conference was voted an outstanding success and reflected considerable credit on the Conference Committee.

"Public Information has continued apace, the Media — Television, Radio, Newspapers and Magazines — have all been successfully used throughout our Service Structure territory. Far more inquiries are being received for us to provide speakers to give talks to professionals, medical and nursing students and to take part in seminars, health exhibitions, etc. Our P.I. staff and Committee members have arranged and taken part in visits to the Department of Health and Social Security in connection with a number of projects including a proposed film, TV Public Service Announcements, and telephone directory entries. Also, they are in contact with the Home Office regarding co-operation with the Prison Service. Al-Anon's are no longer strangers in the 'corridors of power'!

"The G.S.O. reports increased activity throughout the year, many more telephone calls and letters received have been recorded and dealt with by our keen staff and enthusiastic volunteers. These increases are for both inquiries and standard business matters.

"Alateen has also had a progressively busy year, taking a major role at our Convention, leading to more involvement and the organisation of regular workshops.

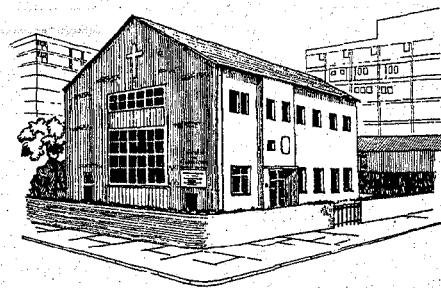
"The Literature Committee has also been busy and is just completing an updated version of our U.K. & Eire Service Handbook, and our new Editorial Committee is settling in to the production of *News and Views*.

"At our last Conference it was unanimously approved that this year we will send two Delegates to the International General Services Meeting (Trial). It was felt that it would be most helpful to have two Delegates so that they could exchange their views.

"So our report to you is one of continued growth and our latest figures are Al-Anon Groups: 591, Alateen Groups: 84, representing an overall 12 months increase of more than 12%.

"The problem that I mentioned earlier is that in these times of economic difficulty, it is not unknown for organisations to run up against cash flow problems. Al-Anon has met this problem and we are now engaged in finding solutions. My own feeling is that the solution can be brought nearer by an improvement in communication. Only two months ago our Treasurer made an appeal, now being repeated in our magazine *News and Views* under the heading 'Growth Outstrips Contributions.' This immediately produced an all-time record of monthly donations. Now that our Groups have been made aware of the problem, I know that our G.S.O. may be confident of their necessary support.

"To conclude on a positive note, last week-end saw our second Al-Anon Convention for U.K. and Eire. I look forward, on my return, to hear that yet another success has been chalked up."



## Mary Jane J., North Dakota

Mary Jane began with a poem called "I want to be a friend like you." She knew she could be a friend today, because Al-Anon had taught her to like herself enough to share her program, and sharing was service.

Her service as a Delegate was a job that had brought her the joy of attending three Conferences, where she learned that group conscience "is derived from everyone's feelings and opinions and that in order to maintain a healthy group conscience, we must listen with the ear of our heart as well as our brain." Because she believed that balance began with service she was happy to bring back what she had learned to her Area Assembly.

Mary Jane will not be inactive; North Dakota won't let her be. She will continue to be an example, to do her part to remember her heritage. She will serve as state Chairman and on the World Service Committee where she hopes she will never lose her love for Al-Anon.

## Alice O'M., West Virginia

While service meant action requiring exertion on Alice's part, the end results were incredibly satisfying and filled with joy, a joy which created an energy that she had been able to use in service.

Introduced to service early in her Al-Anon life, Alice tagged along with her husband to an Al-Anon Assembly held at the same time and place as AA's and went home filled with interest and enthusiasm. God turned her flaws into assets when she became willing to listen and use service as a tool to aide her emotional and spiritual growth. She learned that "halos and egos aren't compatible with true service."

With the excitement as Area Chairman over, she decided she needed a rest and in the spirit of rotation, did not consider the job of Delegate until three years had passed, then she and the Area had a "joint growth experience. There have been a few growing pains—no real traumas—but bandaides of love and God's healing power have put us on the road to recovery. We are putting our fragmented pieces together and becoming whole."





## ANNUAL REPORT:

Rita McC., Chairman  
Linda McF., Literature Secretary

### COMMITTEE:

The new Chairman, Rita, thanked Bo for his outstanding contributions to Conference-Approved Literature (CAL). A proposed new member from Long Island, William M., has attended three consecutive meetings.

**REVISIONS:** Regular updating, color, typeface, typographical revisions continued.

**New Designs**—P-36 Al-Anon Fact File; P-41 Facts About Alateen; P-4 Alcoholism, The Family Disease—now also available in a large print for the visually impaired; B-5, LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC—the Spanish edition; P-37 Al-Anon Family Treatment Tool in Alcoholism, English and Spanish editions; M-1 formerly titled "Are you Living With (or near) a Severe Drinking Problem?" has a new title and a new face—"Are you Concerned About Someone's Drinking?" and is in shades of blue with an exaggerated question mark as its focus. The design and title were also changed for the Spanish and French versions; P-13 Purpose and Suggestions, English and Spanish versions; P-2 Al-Anon, You and the Alcoholic and its Spanish edition has selected questions and answers; Literature Display Poster reshot to show new designs; S-19 Detachment handout has a title design improvement; S-9 the Table Anonymity Card; Several Public Information pieces were taken off their coated stocks; however, in a subsequent decision transmitted from the Public Information Committee, we were asked to continue the coated stock for these pieces as it was felt it looked better. Those local Information Services which found a rubber stamp ineffective on coated stock were asked to consider an alternative, perhaps, using a label which could be stamped.

**New Editions**—B-1 AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM—8th printing; B-3 ALATEEN—HOPE FOR CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS—6th printing (Spanish was prepared and printed by the WSO); B-4 DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE—7th printing—(Spanish was prepared and printed by the WSO); B-5 LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC—10th printing (Spanish—was prepared and printed by WSO); B-6 ONE DAY AT A TIME IN AL-ANON—15th printing; B-8 AL-ANON'S TWELVE STEPS & TWELVE TRADITIONS—2nd printing.

### NEW MATERIAL:

**B-8 AL-ANON'S TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS**—edited, produced, announced and delivered in February 1981. Bookplates produced.

**M-26 Serenity Prayer Card**—reproduced for U.K. & Eire and also in French and Spanish.

**S-20 Alateen, Is It For You?**—written by the Alateen Committee; designed, typeset, printed, announced for delivery in April 1981, with Spanish and French versions.

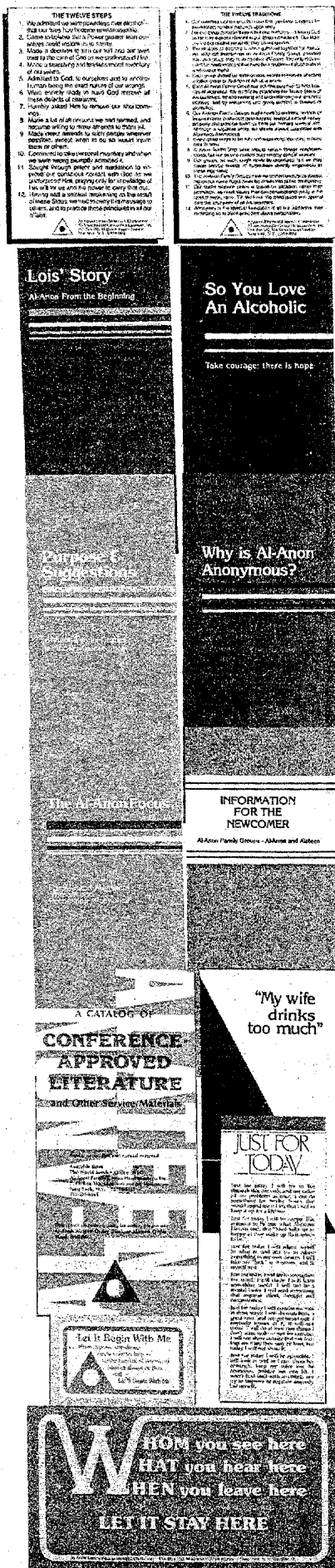
**S-21 A Seventh Tradition pamphlet** (red and gray)—produced and distributed with the Appeal letter as a guide for groups' service contributions. A second version in green and gray was produced and distributed after the Conference voted to make several changes.

**Reprints**—P-39, the collection of material called "Al-Anon, a Resource for Labor-Management." A reprint design was established and the style was used with The FORUM reprint on Detachment as well as the Paul L. article from a professional journal, and the chapter "Al-Anon and The Community" from B-2 LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

**Proposed Material**—Work continues on Alateen's ONE DAY AT A TIME; discussions were held with the Alateen Secretary, her assistant and the Alateen Chairman, Ginny R. Various considerations of the processes to be followed to produce this book were offered. The General Secretary and the Alateen Secretary suggested (subject to Board approval) engaging a freelance writer with an Alateen background to help compile and edit the work already submitted. The material will follow the standard route through the Literature Committee for approval. An Alateen pamphlet by-and-for sponsors is near completion.

### MEETINGS:

The In-town Literature Committee met nine times last year. The committee agreed to continue its review of existing literature focusing its attention on: P-31 Sponsorship, What It's All About; P-33 Why Is Al-Anon Anonymous?; P-12 My Wife Drinks Too Much; P-14 So You Love An Alcoholic; P-19 What Can You Do About the Alcoholic's Drinking; P-7 Guide for the Family and P-3 Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial. During the year and at the full Standing Committee meeting at the Conference in April 1981, the Committee agreed to recommend the production of cloth banners carrying the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions; to turn down a special welcome for adult children of alcoholics; to make changes in the Double Winners pamphlet by amending its



title; to ask the Policy Committee to amend the "Suggested Welcome" in such a way as to keep the focus on the Al-Anon program while still showing our appreciation to AA; to print an Al-Anon book or booklet, Information for the Newcomer, to provide a space for telephone contact; and to outline and begin a pamphlet titled "Al-Anon Spoken Here," which would explain the focus of the Al-Anon program. The Committee also agreed to continue making our literature consistent. Toward that end, the anonymity paragraph from the "Suggested Welcome" would be added to the version carried in LIVING WITH AN ALCOHOLIC.

**LITERATURE COORDINATORS:** Standard procedures were followed. Coordinators were sent K-8, a complimentary package of up-dated literature for their Area literature displays.

## OFFICE PROCEDURES:

**Copyright**—Operation Alateen and a Guide for Sponsors of Alateen Groups.

**Copyright Release**—Requests for permission to reprint brief excerpts were received from: the Editor of the Pilot Review in McGregor, MN.; an NCA newsletter in San Francisco; an Al-Anon newsletter in Maplewood, MO; the author of a resource book for women of Contra-Costa County, GA; the Department of Community Services and Corrections Program, New York, NY; the Assistant Director for the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Texas State Library; the Literature Coordinator in South Queensland, Australia; the Editor of a church newsletter in Wading River, NY; a reporter for the Daily Advance in Lynchburg, VA; a counsellor at the Problem Drinking Center, White Sulfur Springs, MT; and the delegate to the Australian Conference from Queensland, Australia.

**Correspondence**—All inquiries were answered and suggestions forwarded to the Committee. Follow-up letters were written to those who inquired or had ideas for consideration.

**Production**—(Prepared in conjunction with Eileen Malone, Production Assistant)—In addition to standard procedures, time was expended in producing the new TWELVE & TWELVE book and consulting with Spanish Services to establish a cost effective method of printing Spanish material. Toward that end, three books were produced in Spanish, 14 pamphlets and leaflets, several guidelines, a montage poster, two handouts, the Spanish version of the Serenity Prayer Card, and a Spanish order blank were completed through Literature Services. This piggy backing and/or printing of Spanish material concurrent with English versions, saved considerable sums of money as the unit cost dropped for large-quantity orders in both languages. A French version of ONE DAY AT A TIME used the same paper and cover cloth orders. Efforts continued in cooperation with our other services requesting assistance in design and printing. There were several design innovations prepared and presented in-house by Eileen Malone. These new designs provided maximum appeal and offset rising production costs. Orders were increased in quantity taking advantage of reduced set-up charges, lessening unit costs through purchasing paper for pamphlets and placing printing orders with a firm which stored our stocks free of charge and warehoused our pamphlets. Savings were realized in an amount exceeding \$10,000. This method also provided the opportunity to "gang-up" several leaflets which are currently being printed at other firms.

## ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS:

**World Service Conference Summary**—The Annual Reports and Conference events were edited, written and/or summarized, type chosen and illustrations prepared for the 48-page booklet.

**Literature Distribution Centers**—Experimental guidelines were prepared from questionnaires completed by Area Delegates and/or Literature Coordinators. Inquiries were answered concerning operations and advance notices were sent to keep distribution center personnel up-to-date with current Literature Committee plans and WSO discounts. ▲

# LITERATURE SESSION

"How does Conference-Approved Literature come into being?" asked Chairman Rita McC. "Well," she answered, "CAL begins with an idea which makes its way to the In-Town meeting of the Literature Committee. There, every suggestion for revisions or new material is reviewed and considered, and if the idea meets the criteria, we send it along to the Delegate members of the Committee."

Rita went on to answer other questions by explaining that the Delegates were sent ideas and suggestions which met an established need for Al-Anon or Alateen groups. Ideas which were not Traditional were weeded out if they endorsed, supported, or opposed some other program, author or publisher. The Delegates, in turn, shared their views in writing at subsequent In-Town meetings.

When all the members of the Literature Committee met together at the Conference, a group conscience was formed by applying the same standards expressed in the Concepts of Service: CAL material would have to provide a clear and comprehensive view; not attempt to be controversial; meet changing needs; and provide a written history of Al-Anon growth, unity and service.

Rita emphasized her understanding that the largest group conscience in a series of decisions about CAL was exercised by the World Service Conference when it reviewed the Committee's suggestions. Only until after many views were shared, would the Conference decide which suggestion to recommend for production; then, a written expression of Al-Anon principles was on its way.

The procedure had been followed to produce several pieces in 1982: Seventeen Spanish language pieces; a large print version of "Alcoholism, The Family Disease"; the beginning of a new pamphlet by members who see the value of keeping our focus on the Al-Anon program—"Al-Anon Spoken Here"; and the production of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions on large, cloth banners for groups to display at meetings.

As Chairman, Rita pledged that the Committee would continue to: review existing material; new ideas and past ideas; and it would be open to the feelings of Conference members and encourage their participation. Rita concluded that her belief that CAL belonged to the entire fellowship, and that it was the fellowship.

## Shared Ideas:

- Somehow we have to get across the ideas that all types of members are included in the literature. For example, "Living With Sobriety" is useful for all members. New literature should deal with varied backgrounds rather than identify special groups with special circumstances.
- Revise the Sponsorship pamphlet.
- Help members balance the use of ODAT at meetings with other literature and still leave time for personal sharing.
- Develop an easy to read pamphlet on the Concepts using the excerpts from The FORUM.
- Continue the use of color.
- Concentrate on how we use the literature we have rather than producing new titles.
- Perhaps an overall index might be helpful.
- Could Al-Anon's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions be printed as small as ODAT?
- There still appear to be some inconsistencies in the printing of our Traditions and Steps. (Current printings have been revised.)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics need more material addressed to them.
- *Clearing up some misconceptions:* The changes in the Suggested Welcome reduce the focus on AA but not our appreciation of or cooperation; A price adjustment on literature and books is expected in the near future; We will continue to use codes on the literature which facilitate handling. ▲

*"Accept life as a precious gift from God and strive to make the most of it."*

## LITERATURE REPORT-BACK

lary Fran W., AZ

### OLD BUSINESS

- Cassette Tapes: 1st produced—Readings from "Alcoholism, The Family Disease."
- Banner Cloths: Available to Committee members, to be followed by general membership.
- "Double Winners:" Change of Title—"The Al-Anon Focus—For Al-Anon Members Who Are Also Recovering Alcoholics."
- "Al-Anon Spoken Here:" Working manuscript distributed for review.
- Change in the Welcome: 3 changes appear in the Policy Committee minutes lessening the emphasis on AA.
- Consideration of an index: Cyril C. presented his illustrations for review.
- Illustrated Traditions:

### MATERIAL FOR REVIEW

Alateen ODAT—15 pages; Manuscript—Al-Anon Spoken Here; Illustrated Traditions; Simplified Version of the Concepts.

### NEW BUSINESS

Suggestions:

**New Pamphlet, "Why Will I Always Need Al-Anon?"**—referred to *FORUM* Committee.

**Detachment**—not passed at this time.

**Personal Relationships**—a recommendation will be made that the Conference approve the Literature Committee's recommendation that it gather, edit and produce material which would share Al-Anon and Alateen members' experiences in using the program where serious problems have developed in personal relationships, i.e., sex, violence and abuse. It was felt that there is a growing need for a world-wide sharing on these topics.

**A Book on the Spiritual Experiences of Al-Anon/Alateen Members**—a recommendation will be made that the Conference approve the Literature Committee's recommendation to produce a book of Al-Anon and Alateen member's shared experiences leading to their understanding of the spiritual nature of the Al-Anon program.

It was felt that this covers an area that has not been touched. A broad sharing could be gathered.

Outgoing Delegates: Lorill W., Alta; Mary Fran W., AZ; Fran B., MS.

## QUESTIONS:

One of my Area's members states she has received a letter (after inquiring of WSO) that meetings could see the Big Book and still be called an Al-Anon (closed) meeting. Can this be correct? This is an Al-Anon Big Book Study Group. I'm under the impression that the Big Book is not CAL. Is this also incorrect?

It is true that the AA Big Book is not Al-Anon CAL, and therefore, not suggested for use at Al-Anon/Alateen meetings. See the 1981 WSC Summary.

**How do you chair a meeting on sex? What can be discussed? Are there any guidelines?**

Blueprint for Progress, Living With Sobriety, articles in The *FORUM* and the *DILEMMA OF THE ALCOHOLIC MARRIAGE* can help set the tone for such a meeting. There are no specific guidelines.

**Can non-Conference Approved Literature be used at a meeting? Or allowed in the group?**

We don't use the term "non-Conference-Approved Literature." CAL is suggested for use at meetings.

**Are there guidelines for holding meetings for shut-ins?**

No. Guidelines are shared experiences of members. So far, no one has come forth with this type of sharing.

**How about a FAVORITE FORUM's type book for Alateen with stories and letters from The *FORUM* and *ALATEEN TALK*?**

Sounds like a good idea. This will be brought to the Alateen Committee for consideration.

**Is it in Al-Anon literature or policy that states we have no right to call another person an alcoholic? Alcoholism is a disease. If a family member had diabetes, we would tell others. The question: Is this just someone's opinion, or is there some basis in the literature or policy for this statement?**

We have no policy statement regarding labeling an alcoholic. All our literature supports the idea that it isn't necessary for us to label others in order to know that drinking bothers us, and we belong in Al-Anon.

**Would it be possible to add another slogan? Fake it till you make it. This has helped so many.**

The WSO doesn't choose slogans. Slogans evolve through popular usage.

**As a Literature Depot, we are having an increasing number of problems when we receive a literature order with a memo enclosed stating that we have a credit or a balance due without explanation. Could we have an itemized billing when there is a discrepancy?**

Good suggestion. We will include a copy of adjusted orders.

**Would the WSO consider giving Literature Distribution Centers a 20 percent discount no matter how much they order?**

No, it is not economically feasible.

**"Al-Anon Spoken Here" sounds ambiguous. It would only confuse already confused newcomers. If necessary, why not clearly state "Only Al-Anon philosophy and program is presented here for discussion."**

The title is meant to draw interest. The contents will explain that the philosophy and program is to be addressed at meetings.

**What percentage of literature sales shown on graph is to groups and what percentage to outside Al-Anon?**

We do not keep a record of this information.

**Would it be possible to take out references such as "should" or "should not" from our literature? This is a mandate rather than suggested guidelines!**

Wherever possible in all revisions, we have tried consistently to eliminate language which reflects commands.

**Can we have a piece of literature for people who are no longer living with an alcoholic, e.g. widows, divorcees, or parents whose children are alcoholic and no longer live at home. Also people who may be having problems in their marriages as a result of having been raised in an alcoholic home, although the alcoholic parent may no longer be living.**

These subjects have been considered by the Literature Committee and much of our recent literature is addressed to people who are living on their own. (i.e. Living With Sobriety, Al-Anon Focuses on Alcoholism) More literature is under consideration for Adult Children of Alcoholics.


**Is it necessary to change the design and color of literature? Since large volume sales of literature seem to be threatening our non-profit status may not the redesign only call attention to a particular piece as new when maybe content is unchanged, resulting in duplicate sales, which further threaten the non-profit status?**

Our non-profit status is not threatened by the sale of literature. Revising, updating and improving the appearance of our literature encourages greater usage.

**Couldn't something be done about the over use of the ODAT Book at meetings? People are not sharing themselves, they are sharing pages in the ODAT.**

Articles are written in local newsletters urging our membership to remember that the ODAT was written as an aid to personal recovery and that overuse of CAL at meetings tends to blunt the effectiveness of personal sharing.

**Could a booklet be compiled of Ask-It-Basket questions and answers from past Conferences? So the same questions and answers do not come up at Conferences and Assemblies over and over again.**

Former Literature Committees have turned this down. It may be appropriate at a later date (i.e., the new pamphlet for Alateen Sponsors.) 



## ANNUAL REPORT:

Bo H., Chairman  
Ann A., Secretary

This has been an active year. Through articles in *THE FORUM*, *INSIDE AL-ANON* and *AREA HIGHLIGHTS* many members have registered with the WSO as loner sponsors.

## COMMITTEE

**In Town**—Three productive meetings were held this year. The Chairman is still studying the feasibility of adding past Delegates who are active in local Lone Member Service to the Committee. The Committee feels the additional members as well as having Delegates' input would be advantageous.

The Chairman plans to address the Conference about the development of guidelines for participation in this area of service. This resulted from a request by a loner sponsor after having received correspondence from an institutionalized loner who asked personal questions. The Committee believes the guidelines should encourage the use of the recovery aspect of the program and advises caution when blindly corresponding with the persons on the confidential mailing list. The Committee recognizes the need to inform professionals of various disciplines about the Lone Member Service and make them aware that Al-Anon offers a service to the homebound person and those without local meetings. Towards this end, the Committee will invite the CPC and P.I. Secretaries to meetings periodically for input on how to implement this idea.

## CONTENT, PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION:

Six issues of *LONERS' LETTER BOX* were sent this year. The July/August issue was sent group-wide. The purpose of this mailing was to inform members of the service WSO offers to lone members including those who are homebound due to illness or physical disabilities and also to explain sponsorship of lone members.

Some members misunderstood this mailing and forwarded letters to the WSO to be passed along to lone members whose articles appeared in the *LONERS' LETTER BOX*. We did this and wrote the Al-Anon correspondent to register with us as a loner sponsor so we could send them a complete confidential mailing list.

Letters continue to be received from Alateen group members interested in sharing through correspondence. They were sent letters explaining the Loner Service along with a copy of the *LONERS' LETTER BOX*.

The Alateen Loners' Service is moving slowly. One positive reason is that we have more groups to which we may direct inquiring individuals.

## OFFICE PROCEDURES:

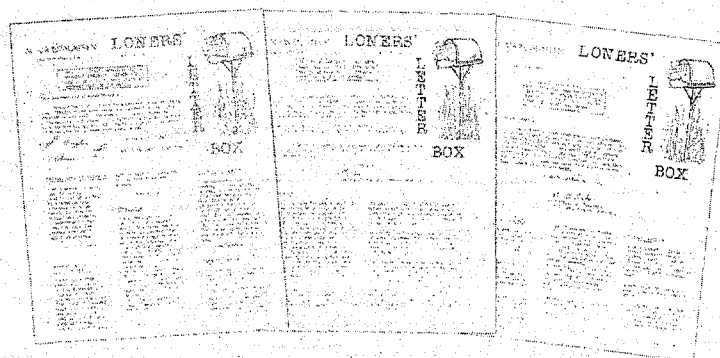
**Correspondence and Phone Calls**—After the death of Irene K., past Delegate and Editor of "World Hello,—Meeting by Mail," newsletter, we received a call from a member, Rosemarie, asking for the mailing list of participants. We referred her to the Illinois (S.) Delegate and she is now producing and editing the newsletter.

Letters are routinely answered when inquiries are received about the Lone Member Service, which includes lone members, loner sponsors and the homebound. Kathy B., from Encinitas, California, has been in contact with the WSO regarding the Fifth Annual Southern California Convention, held on April 10th, 1981 in Anaheim. The theme "Reaching Out," was used for a luncheon, with 900 members present, which concentrated on lone members and what the World Service Office offers them. Kathy first obtained permission from WSO to proceed with the idea and then sought permission from the loners to use their names in the project. One hundred and forty-nine letters were written and an open letter from Kathy appeared in two issues of *LONERS' LETTER BOX*. At the luncheon there was a map with silver pins designating letters sent, red pins for responses received and white pins for other language-speaking loners. Many who attended this luncheon have written to register as sponsors. Kathy expressed that reaching out to the many beautiful, often times, lonely members who are part of our fellowship all over the world, was a privilege to enjoy and a fantastic experience. ▲

## Lone Member Update

Bo H.

The WSO is serving 175 Loners. It is hoped that the new Public Information TV Spots may help us get in touch with those who have no meeting to go to. Lone Member Services will be explained at the General Service Meeting in the fall. ▲



**NORMA M., Oklahoma**

A job, for Norma, was easy to define. Hadn't Norma *worked* for 15 years in order to manage another person's life? Hadn't she kept a perfect home, a perfect husband with perfect children? "Now that's a job!" she sighed.

The miracle of Al-Anon taught Norma that she had one responsibility: to take care of herself. Discovering that life went on without her, lifted the burden and she was free to assume the job of changing herself. "Now that's a job!" she exclaimed.

It was in her job as Delegate, Norma found comfort and self-esteem. The more jobs she had the better she felt, as jobs in service showed her she still had attitude choices on a daily basis. Today, she has the joy of patience, serenity, compassion and understanding through service.



## ANNUAL REPORT:

Hank G., Chairman  
Myrna H., Secretary

The Committee which met six times during 1981 consists of Myrna H., Margaret O'B., Hildegard Van D., Richard Kelly, Jane O., of the Executive Committee and an In-town member, Robert A. Later on during the year, Sandra F. joined the Committee.

Discussions ensued regarding developing systems at the WSO to keep up with the growing number of groups as well as providing services and reaching out to potential members. As Hank suggested, "we need to start thinking in terms of long-range goals." Other WSO Committees were asked to place the topic of long-range planning on their agendas. Towards the year's end the Committee zeroed in on refining goals which includes reaching out to the millions of families still suffering and preventing the dilution of our program. Ways in which to include the Regional Trustees and Delegates in long-range planning were also explored.

### PLANNING SESSION:

Hank explained that a temporary Committee had been formed by the Board to focus its attention on long-range planning. Preliminary discussions had centered on the value of having a ten year plan. Among the reasons for forming such a Committee were: Planning helps to focus activities; better, concrete decisions can be made; choices are created; continuity, coordination, and sense of purpose; the stewardship is more responsible; contingencies and events can be anticipated; money raising can be organized; managers can be helped to say "no."

Concept 9 of Al-Anon's 12 Concepts of Service points to an understanding of vision as "the ability to make good estimates," noting that as individuals and as a fellowship we might suffer if we neglected the job of planning for tomorrow. Choosing between wistful fantasy and thoughtful plans had been a major function of members of the Board of Trustees. The Long-range Planning Committee would set goals and develop a strategy for achieving and then report to the Board and the Conference.

It was Hank's belief that the volunteer chairman of the Long-range Planning Committee should not be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Discussion included these questions:

Is there validity in planning for 10 years at a time? Would such a permanent Committee hamper flexibility? How can we plan for anticipations? Would the membership be excluded from the business of Al-Anon? Would such a committee require changing the Concepts? Would it help to study the affect on the Concepts carefully to see how such a committee would relate to others? Answers:

Long-range planning provides a pooling of ideas to give more service with less money and effort. The committee would not create problems—it would be trying to solve them. Planners would look to all avenues to protect flexibility. Planning doesn't happen in an ivory tower: A mortgage is a long-range plan. AA's survey showed a recent influx of members with multiple addictions. Their long-range plans would have to take these facts into account. Making the Long-range Planning Committee a Standing Committee of the Conference would require a Conference vote in 1983.



# Open Discussion . . . REACHING A CONSENSUS

## RED LIGHT SESSION:

Moderator: Stephanie O'K.

For several years, each conference began with a Green Light Session at which everyone was encouraged to recommend an agenda item which had not been submitted earlier or would not otherwise be covered. The symbolic "GreenLight" indicated that all topics were acceptable. Later the suggestions would be reviewed or Red Lighted and those having the greatest number in a show of hands were assigned a time slot for a full discussion.

This year, as well as last year, many of the items which might have been brought to the Green Light Session were discussed during open sessions planned for services; Alateen, Literature, etc. Some questions had been answered by Staff Secretaries, still others found their way into the Ask-it-Basket. Some were referred to Standing Committees for their attention during the year; others were assigned Conference time.

### The Impact of Outside Influences Integrating Specialized Groups

### Spiritual Weekends

(See Greenlight Session)

## GREENLIGHT SESSION:

### The Impact of Outside Influences—Jane O., Executive Committee

Conference members shared these ideas to focus on the Al-Anon Program at group meetings:

**Focus the meeting on the Al-Anon program**—This is done through: understanding that we can't be all things to all people; by announcing at the beginning of the meeting through a statement of purpose that this is where we get Al-Anon; by keeping it simple—and sticking to the principles as individuals; by keeping outside speakers, films, and material to a minimum at meetings as we can contact them at other times; by getting the message across that we cooperate with others in the field by scheduling open meetings; by understanding that some members need outside help and we needn't rail at them or make them think we are afraid of other opinions; by continuing to seek balance in our personal recovery, *neither endorsing nor opposing other causes*.

**Emphasize the Traditions**—Reading of the Traditions at meetings shares our primary purpose. Sharing the Traditions with professionals helps them to understand who we are. Professionals are not bound by the Traditions, Al-Anon members are, and we can explain the Traditions; we can stress who and what we are while maintaining our knowledge that enthusiasms for therapies come and go, but the Al-Anon Traditions remain constant.

**De-emphasize the use of Professional terms and methods**—Many professionals do not understand that Al-Anon refrains from pinning labels on others. While members do not use popular jargon to describe the program, they recognize that their membership in Al-Anon may be a form of intervention as once family members focus on their own recovery and change their attitudes, the alcoholic *situation* is changed. However, Al-Anon neither endorses nor opposes causes and Conference members shared their experience in working with professionals or business contacts who had created a crisis for the alcoholic. Others were able to use the tools of the program to resist being made to focus on the alcoholic's recovery at the expense of their own. Al-Anon members who are also professionals can be asked to leave their professionalism at work. There is a place for all views but Al-Anon views are expressed at Al-Anon meetings.

### Integrating Specialized Groups—Sandy F.; Loubelle Mc Q., AR; Bernie E., CA (S)

The focus of this discussion was on meeting the needs of specialized groups so that they might be integrated into Al-Anon as a whole. There seems to be a contradiction regarding the listing of groups which appear to have special interests. It was asked if it was possible to set a Policy or if it was up to each Area to decide, as some Intergroups were holding up the printing of their meeting lists while they were searching for a solution feeling that Al-Anon as a whole was being affected. Among the points covered were: The WSO will register any group provided that it has no other affiliation and calls itself an Al-Anon Family Group. Many specialized groups are started primarily for identification, later members chose to move on to other Al-Anon groups where they start to identify with feelings rather than a series of experiences. Specialized groups which remain open to all, are not threatening if we concentrate on what we can do to draw them into Al-Anon. It may help if these groups are listed on meeting lists, if we concentrate on doing positive things to welcome them to other meetings; CAL unites us.

### Spiritual Weekends—Doris G., VA; Monique V., Qué

The discussion centered on the definition of a Spiritual Weekend versus an Al-Anon retreat. The Policy Digest covers several questions regarding the registration of Weekends as Al-Anon Get-Togethers for spiritual purposes. Because the word retreat is troublesome for some as having religious connotations, there is no such thing as an Al-Anon retreat. Policies for holding Al-Anon Weekends or Conventions covers meetings where members use the Al-Anon name to gather at a spiritual program which is not allied with a particular church or clergy and does not hold religious services. Many members find these gatherings spiritually beneficial. It is possible to work with members who are planning meetings to aide their recovery. Concern was voiced for: the time such announcements take at a meeting; the fact that some members cannot afford to go; that some weekends are limited in number and the membership is restricted; the fact that some have religious services in spite of their announcements.



Jan M.,

"Believe me, if it were only a job, I surely wouldn't be up here talking to you!" Jan began. She had gone into service because she was told to. Like others she was new and "THEY" said she should be the Secretary of the group because her AA husband was in service. She was so grateful to AA for her husband's sobriety, she would have "washed socks." Later, her reasons for wanting to be in service changed. "THEY" were able to talk and share experiences and "THEY" said she could, too.

Soon, she became one of "THEM," those that were living the program and were involved. Jan's active Area still has all but two past Delegates serving in some capacity. They go to Assemblies with newcomers with that "sparkle in their eyes" and a willingness to share the joy of service.

While that job can sometimes be a thankless one, Jan felt that she had received more than she had given in her term as Delegate.



*"Faith is a hard core of inner substance . . ."*



Andree A., Quebec (E)

From Andree's point of view it was unbelievable that she could assume the responsibilities of Delegate along with her full-time job, four children, an active AA husband, etc., but she did.

Her trips to New York, at the Conference, were a joy but her traveling experiences in her Area were definitely a job: She traveled five days for 1,500 miles and every night gave her report from the Conference. It was also a job to work at the Committee level, traveling 300 miles every month for a Saturday meeting, but she said "serving in Al-Anon always seems to be a big job at the beginning. That job turns into the need to give a little back of what we received."

Andree thanked God for knowing such a "perfect program" and giving her so much joy.





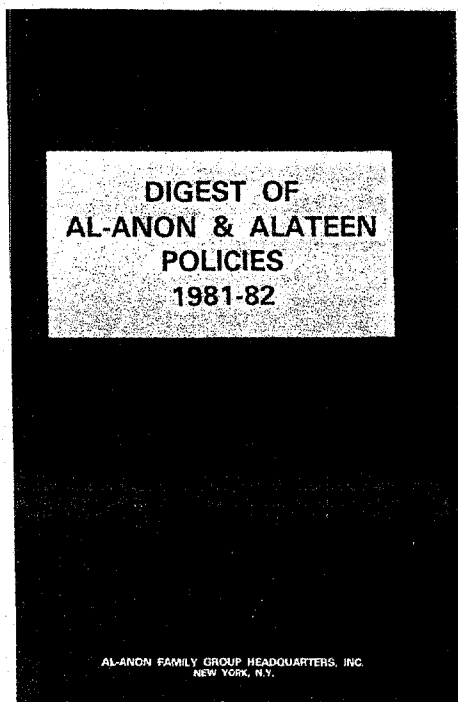
## POLICY REPORT:

**Norma McG., Chairman**  
**Lois W., Co-Chairman**  
**Sandra F., Secretary to the Committee**

In October 1967 the Board appointed Mary S. chairman of the Policy Committee when Lois, the first Chairman, resigned. Although Mary, due to illness, was unable to attend the entire 1981 Conference, she chaired the Policy Committee portion, completing all responsibilities in conjunction with her last year as Chairman. Her experience and knowledge in Policy Committee matters is still being utilized.

Norma McG., who began her office as Policy Committee Chairman following the 1981 WSC, tells us, "The Policy Committee has had another productive year. All correspondence received at the World Service Office, which related to various problems of individuals, groups, or Areas that cannot be routinely answered through use of the Digest, is directed to this Committee. At its quarterly meetings, the Committee studies each problem in light of the Traditions and Concepts. Group Conscience is then arrived at after careful consideration by all members.

The Board has approved and we present to you the following recommendations for inclusion and/or revision in the Policy Digest as well as a recommended revision in the Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome."



*"Love is content with the present. It hopes for the future, and doesn't brood over the past."*

## POLICIES:

Page 14, c, Havens for Families, number 3, the words *Regular* and *Alateen* were added to the beginning of the first sentence. The words, *of course*, were deleted from the second sentence in the same paragraph. There will be a number 4 added under *Havens for Families* as follows: *Al-Anon or Alateen Institutions groups may also be formed but they usually do not pay rent.*

On Page 28, under c, *Limited Access Groups* last sentence should read: Some Institutions groups fall into this category (e.g. those meeting in prisons, abused families' residences, schools and juvenile homes).

On Page 28, to follow after c and become d *Institutions Groups—Institutions groups meet at hospitals, penal institutions, correctional facilities, courts, mental health clinics, rehabilitation centers, juvenile homes or crisis centers. Membership is transient; there are no GRs. Experienced Al-Anon members share the responsibility for organizing and leading the meetings.*

Page 29, the top paragraph should read: permissible, however, for an appropriate agency to invite an existing Al-Anon or Alateen group to provide a brief on-site meeting to demonstrate how group meetings function, (e.g. *Meeting On Wheels*).

Page 28, to appear after Groups/Members and/Meetings/Conventions, under 1:

Groups c. *Choosing a Group's Name* should read: a name which includes the town, or section of the town, meeting day, or phrase from our program would be inviting to all. A group's name should not imply affiliation with any commercial venture, agency, religious group, rehabilitation facility, or other outside enterprise, or by the use of a name associated with its location, i.e.: The (blank) Church AFG; or the (blank) Hospital AFG.

To amend page 30 in the Policy Digest, III Meetings, a. Open/Closed, to read: Closed meetings are for Al-Anon members only, anyone whose personal life is or has been deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker. Open meetings may be attended by anyone interested in Al-Anon/Alateen.

The Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome, 5th paragraph, be amended to read as follows: The Al-Anon program is based on the Twelve Steps (*adopted from Alcoholics Anonymous*) which we try, little by little . . . The next paragraph is to be amended omitting *Like AA* and read as follows: "Al-Anon is an anonymous fellowship. Everything that is . . ."

MOTION was made, seconded and carried to amend page 22, IV Group Fund-Raising, item d, to read: Al-Anon WSO does not stock or offer program-related jewelry or trinkets for sale because that could divert it from its primary purpose and might endanger its tax-exempt status.

\*MOTION was made, seconded and carried to amend the policy on "What About 'Outside' Publications?", Page 35, VII, a, b, c, to read as follows:

a. *There are many outside publications on alcoholism, religion and philosophy which appeal to members as individuals. Brief excerpts from such material, may be part of their personal sharing at meetings. A member might feel a piece of AA literature, for example, could reinforce understanding of the Al-Anon principles. It is well to remember, however, that AA literature is written for and from the viewpoint of alcoholics. Reliance on opinions expressed in AA and other outside publications, can distort the Al-Anon approach, particularly for the newcomer.*

b. *Individuals may read whatever they find helpful but Al-Anon cannot assume the responsibility for evaluating or recommending reading matter other than CAL (see leaflet P-35, Why Conference-Approved Literature?).*

c. *Traditions are violated when a group, Information Service (Inter-group) or any service arm, publishes its own literature. (See the only exception, Public Relations, V, Public Information, item d, P.I. Literature.) It is also ignoring Traditions to promote the sale of outside Literature.) The World Directory may not be used as a mailing list for this purpose.*

The Ad Hoc Policy Committee met to reorganize the Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies. Its work is to be completed in time to offer the revised version to the Policy Committee in July, 1982 for approval by the 1983 WSC.

\*These policy statements were amended and then accepted by the conference during another session.

## OTHER POLICY CONCERNS:

After 12 years as Secretary of the Policy Committee, Myrna S. H., turned the title over to Sandra F. effective with her appointment as Deputy General Secretary in October. As announced to the 1981 WSC, the Policy Digest ad hoc Review Committee, originally chaired by Alan S. and subsequently chaired by Mary S., continued to meet during 1981. Topics were repositioned in order of priority rather than alphabetically. Plans are underway to bring an update to the 1982 Conference and the revised version to the 1983 WSC.

Upon recommendation of the Committee, all adult children of alcoholics groups were contacted to ascertain if they were affiliated with an organization called COA (Children of Alcoholics) which had formed and publishes their own literature. Most mail and phone contacts from these groups pointed out they are not affiliated and expressed a strong desire to remain listed as an Al-Anon group. Among the responses, a strong plea was made for the WSO to produce literature to fill their needs. At the year's end, three of the fourteen groups written to, failed to respond and will be dropped from our listing.

The Policy Committee was also called upon to provide mediation in a long-existing problem in California (N) which had reached the public level and therefore affected Al-Anon as a whole. A letter was sent to all groups within three Districts outlining Policy relative to the situation and asking that the problem be put to rest by establishing an avenue of exchange among the members concerned.

As decided by the Policy Committee, Hank, Myrna and Linda met with Will Maloney from Hazelden Foundation regarding items on their literature catalog and price list which imply affiliation or where Hazelden is trading on the Al-Anon name. Hazelden was pleased to work with us to correct inadvertent implications.

Consideration of many group problems and letters which did not necessarily result in a Policy change did provide the basis for articles in all WSO publications addressing the policy questions discussed.

**MOTION** was made, seconded and carried to amend page 42, b, Paid Ads, to read as follows: "... It would not constitute a break in our Traditions for an individual member to pay for such space with group approval. This can be considered a member's personal contribution."



## QUESTIONS:

**I'm not sure of the Conference year (1979, or 1980) that this policy was changed, stating that AA members cannot sponsor an Alateen group, they may assist. Why hasn't this statement been changed in the 1981-1982 Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies?**

The 1982-83 Digest reads, "An AA member may assist in sponsoring."

**What do you think of a member of Alcoholics Anonymous sponsoring an Al-Anon member?**

This is not Al-Anon Sponsorship. The primary purpose of both fellowships are different.

**Are we getting too far away from ultimate Authority (our Higher Power) when we allow others to try to detract from use of the Lord's Prayer in closing?**

The saying of the Lord's Prayer is up to the autonomy of each group. (See *INSIDE AL-ANON*, March/April/May 1982.)

**Under the circumstances can a group's registration be cancelled? What service level can accomplish this?**

At the WSO we have never cancelled a registration, but have written to groups asking them to either resign or abide by our Traditions. On the Area level, it has come to our attention that groups have not been listed in local directories when service committees had taken a group conscience vote to do so based on a discussion of the Tradition of Affiliation.

**May a group conscience vote, such as "smoking" or "non-smoking," take place without the GR or alternate present?**

This is up to the autonomy of the group.

**How often may a group conscience vote on the same issue? (A group in our District folded at least partially because there was disagreement on the issue of smoking. One week a group conscience would be taken and the group vote "No smoking." The next week, with a different population present at the meeting, another group conscience would be taken, and the group would vote "Smoking permitted." This decision rocked back and forth for some months, eventually destroying the group.)**

This is up to the autonomy of the group. Usually votes on matters such as this (just as the format of the meetings) are considered and changed at a business meeting held when new officers are elected.

**What can be done when AAs attend Al-Anon meetings and talk about their alcoholism rather than about how they have been affected by another person's drinking? How does your group handle this?**

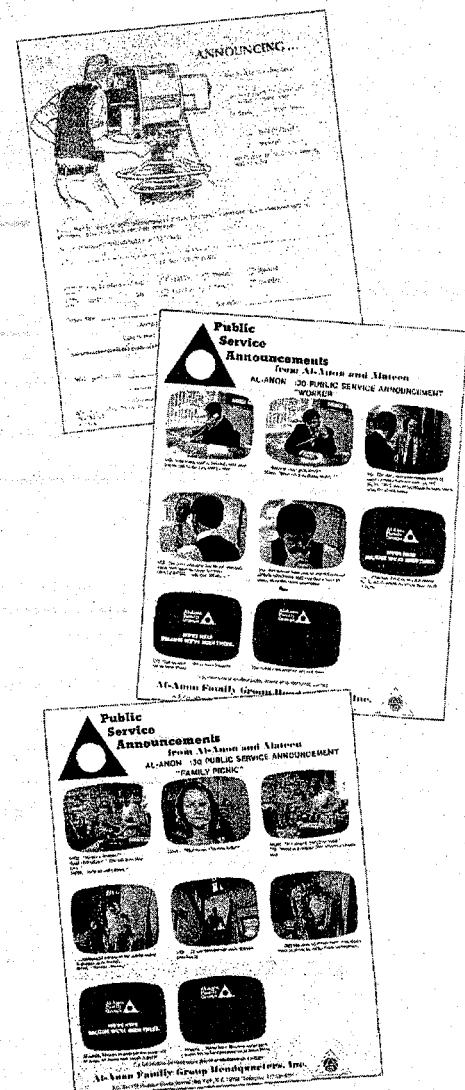
It should be firmly emphasized by the chairman that dual members should discuss alcoholism at AA meetings, but that Al-Anon is a place to discuss the proposed topic.

**If I own an answering service can I donate my services to Al-Anon for free or at a greatly reduced price?**

Ongoing professional services should be paid for by Al-Anon groups; however, a discount may be offered. This is in keeping with our Tradition of self-support.



## Public Information Material:



## ANNUAL REPORT:

**Alan S., Chairman**  
**Susan H., Secretary**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** The Committee met ten times during 1981. Regular members of the In-town Committee are: Penny B., Robert A., Joan M., and Walter W. Ruth H. was appointed Vice-Chairman of this Committee. To improve communication on related projects, liaison members from the Alateen, CPC and Institutions Committees have attended all In-town meetings of the Public Information (P.I.) Committee, and P.I. has been represented at their meetings. Minutes of all four Committees are exchanged.

**1981 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE:** The Public Information and newly formed CPC Committees made a joint presentation in the form of a Town Hall Meeting. The Chairman of the Board explained the division of services and time was given to answering questions from the floor. A Motion was carried to have the Public Information Committee develop a method of taking a survey to establish an Al-Anon/Alateen membership profile for the 1982 Conference; consideration as to the implementation of method and final use of information is subject to Conference approval. During the Public Information Committee meeting at the World Service Conference, it was decided that two new TV spots would be produced, aimed at: 1) parents of alcoholic teenagers and 2) adult men in need of Al-Anon depicted in an employee/employer situation. It was suggested that signing for the deaf or close-caption be included. Pricing of Public Information material was also discussed and the Committee was asked to investigate the possibility of offering a package at a lower rate or bulk price for materials. At the P.I., CPC Standing Committee, the full Committee voted against appointing a Special Advisory Committee to study the needs of special groups. Members will, however, be encouraged to submit suggestions for informing special groups about Al-Anon.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATORS:** New coordinators received a letter of welcome and encouragement along with the P.I. Kit and two back issues of *AREA HIGHLIGHTS*.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION INQUIRIES:** Total student and miscellaneous non-member inquiries handled by Public Information in 1981 totaled 3,564.

**CORRECTION LETTERS:** Seventeen correction letters were sent to publications which either misspelled Al-Anon/Alateen or in some way misrepresented our program.

**GENERAL OFFICE WORK:** Telephone and written inquiries were responded to on a regular basis. Inquiries from individuals, newspaper editors and students were routinely answered and follow-up information sent. All inquiries were recorded in a log book.

## SERVICE AIDS:

**Al-Anon Publications**—Regular articles were submitted to *AREA HIGHLIGHTS*, *The FORUM* and *INSIDE AL-ANON*.

**Audio-Visual Presentation on Service**—A letter, along with an outline of the project, was mailed to those who responded to a letter sent to New York, New Jersey and Connecticut groups asking for members experienced in the audio-visual field. A script writer and producer will be selected to write and produce a 15–20 minute sound-slide presentation to educate members about service structure and to attract members to service.

**Survey**—An investigation method in taking a survey to establish a profile of Al-Anon/Alateen membership has begun; the results will be brought to the 1982 World Service Conference.

**TV Spots**—After polling office Staff and P.I. Committee members, a producer has been selected for the two new 30-second TV spots. Production is planned for 1982.

**Video Tapes**—In answer to a request made by Al-Anon members in the U.K. & Erie, video tapes for the purpose of training and education within the fellowship, were approved by the Committee providing back-lighting was used to shield members' faces.

**News Release**—A news release with information about an ABC After School Special, containing a segment about Alateen, was sent to Delegates, P.I. Coordinators, Information Services and Newsletter Editors to alert them about potential increased request for service.

**Public Information Kit**—All new Public Information pieces were added to the P.I. Kit.

**Meeting On Wheels**—The Alateen, CPC, Institutions and P.I. Secretaries worked together on revising this piece for general use. It will be produced early in 1982.

## COOPERATION WITH PUBLICATION AND MEDIA:

**Audio-Visual Film**—A script was reviewed by the P.I. and Alateen Staff Secretaries for a free lance writer making audio-visual films for schools.

**Cosmopolitan Magazine**—The P.I. Secretary was interviewed about Al-Anon for an upcoming article in this magazine.

**Family Circle Magazine**—Over 1000, A Guide For The Family, were sent free to individuals responding to an editor's note on Al-Anon in this publication.

The P.I. Secretary was interviewed for an article aimed at parents of teenage alcoholics.

**Redbook Magazine**—The P.I. Secretary was interviewed for an article in this publication regarding families of alcoholics.

**Scriptographic Booklets**—We continue to give editorial comment and suggestions to the Channing L. Bete Company on booklets regarding alcoholism or related topics.

**Steck-Vaughn Publishing Company**—Permission was given to this company to reprint the Al-Anon/Alateen posters in a health text book series called, *Choosing Good Health*.

## COOPERATION WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

**ABC Seminar**—The P.I. Committee Chairman attended a seminar on the black community and submitted a written report. Literature for the seminar was supplied by the Northern New Jersey Information Service.

## CANADIAN PUBLIC INFORMATION:

**National Public Information Committee—Canada**—(Ruth H., Chairman, Ruth F., Vice-Chairman) The NPIC of Canada functions as a sub-committee of both the P.I. and CPC Committees. It met once during 1981 and the Chairmen of both Public Information and CPC Committees attended the meeting held in Winnipeg on September 18, 1981.

A Canadian Public Information Office was set up in Winnipeg in October 1981. This office is an information sharing and gathering office for affairs at the national level.

**Canadian Bulletin**—There were 6,250 copies of the Canadian Bulletin printed and distributed during 1981. Future issues of this newsletter will be titled, *AL-ANON SPEAKS OUT IN CANADA*.

## Interviews, Articles, Letters in Canadian Publications

UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER	October 1981
Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba	Winter 1981–82, Vol 2, No. 4
British Columbia Council for the Family	Summer 1981
COGNICA (Publication of Canadian Guidance & Counselling Association)	

This will require translation into French when completed.



## NATIONAL EXHIBITS:

*Display Packet*—A French Display Packet, similar in content to the English Display Packet, has been prepared by the CPC assistant. This has been included in complimentary material furnished to Canadian Exhibits. PFA will provide the French material to the Canadian office and bill the World Service Office.

*Canadian Guidance & Counselling Association*—Calgary in June. Paper presented.

*Canadian Congress on Crime Prevention*—Winnipeg, June. Paper presented.

*Input '81*—Ottawa in October. Paper presented.

*Gerontological Society of America*—Toronto, November. Paper presented.

## P.I. Update

### "A Survey of Groups—Developing an Al-Anon Profile"

Hank G., Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Alan S., Trustee Chairman of the P.I. Committee; Susan H., P.I. Staff Secretary.

The issue of developing and distributing a survey was first brought to the 1981 WSC. At that time it was tabled in order to develop a method of collecting the data and its use would be subject to Conference approval. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees presented the 1982 WSC with support for the proposals which were developed by the P.I. Services.

Susan and Alan referred to their studies on the method of developing topics for a profile of Al-Anon/Alateen members. They had sought input from the Board and Staff and had considered it valuable to use an outside consultant to assist in choosing appropriate language. The consultant in turn had recommended a 3% random sampling of U.S. and Canadian Al-Anon and Alateen groups. Susan and Alan covered the preparation of explanatory material to the Delegates; how the groups would be selected, the timing, etc.; the printing and distribution of final questionnaires from the World Service Office; the return of the completed forms and the use of the outside consultant to tabulate the responses and provide computerized and statistical analysis of the results. The proposed cost, including the internal printing, ranged from 11,000 to 14,000 dollars.

Sharing from the floor:

### Pros

AA surveys have had a favorable impact and a 90% return; there would be many benefits in cooperating with professionals; a survey's statistics could provide knowledge of needs and direction to Groups and Area Delegates; the "pulse" of the members could be felt; the statistics gathered could be a basis for long-range planning; Alateen groups would also be surveyed and needs anticipated.

### Cons

How important is it as a priority in a year with an anticipated deficit? Group officers and Assembly members already do "survey" their groups and make needs known to Delegates; Delegates do bring this knowledge to the Conference and want to be used more in this capacity; our priorities need to be directed to informing, educating and building groups rather than on the needs of the professionals.

As a result of the discussion, the P.I. Committee requested another committee present the entire subject again at the 1983 WSC for a decision.

## P.I. SESSION

Alan introduced Susan who spoke of the coordinated effort to produce two new, 30 second, T.V. spots on 2", high band, video tape. These spots, in color with sound, were shown to Conference Members in English, French and Spanish. Titled "The Family Picnic" and "Worker" they show how family members and co-workers may be adversely affected by a problem drinker. They can be purchased individually at \$30.00 each from the World Service Office. Members interested in Public Information Service can follow up the producer's mailing of introductory material to 850 television stations around the country, as both spots were designed for a tag on with a local number and contact.

The second presentation from this Committee was designed to interest and involve members in service. A series of 80 slides accompanied an audio cassette in a delightful and humorous approach called "Getting Involved: A Look At The Al-Anon Service Structure." It featured a cartoon character and

actors in a 12½ minute color presentation. Still to come, are a written piece to accompany the presentation, and the solution for technical problems in packaging.

## Canadian P.I. Update

Ruth H.

The National Public Information Committee in Canada was established to rectify inadequacies in Canadian Public Information and to reach National bodies in Canada through the publication of a Canadian bulletin. In the two years since the Committee was established, over 30,000 bulletins had been printed and more than 75 letters had been received at the Al-Anon post office box. Responses had come from Quebec in the French language and the Committee had been asked to put on a presentation in both French and English. Ruth explained that the Committee meets once a year with representatives from all the Canadian Areas. The next meeting will be held prior to the Regional Service Seminar in Ottawa, Canada's capitol city. Government and professional people have been invited to a free Public Information luncheon.

## P.I. REPORT-BACK

Winnie B., SC.

### OLD BUSINESS

*Alateen Pamphlet*—The Alateen Committee has accepted the responsibility of working on ways to encourage and welcome Alateens at Al-Anon meetings.

*Radio Spots*—Suggestions were made to create new spots, perhaps scripts could be created and translated into local dialects narrated by local people.

*Audio-visuals in Schools*—The Alateen Committee had suggested the development of audio-visual cassettes made by Alateens which could be brought to schools by Al-Anon members who were available during school hours to answer questions. The P.I. Committee felt this might possibly endanger individual anonymity and asked the Alateen Committee to reconsider.

### NEW BUSINESS:

*Service Aids*—All existing materials and programs for use at Area local levels will be re-examined. Emphasis will be placed on the following:

*Audio-Visual Materials*—1. For presentation at national events. 2. On Traditions to strengthen understanding within the fellowship. 3. To attract Alateen Sponsors, particularly males.

*Literature*—Stronger effort will be placed on using CAL with particular attention to getting more hardcover books into libraries.

*Posters*—New posters, perhaps depicting the whole family, will be designed to attract the general public.

*Long-range Planning*—Committee members were advised their input is expected in writing regarding the formulation of P.I. plans for the next few years as well as over a longer period. These outlines will be submitted to the Long-range Planning Committee.

Overall, P.I. efforts will be made to strengthen the fellowship through understanding the 12 Traditions and their use in our daily lives. P.I. will continue their joint venture with Alateen to help attract Sponsors, encourage groups to welcome Alateen and, they will re-examine materials for use in the Area and local levels.

Outgoing Delegates: Mary Jane J., ND; Andre A., QUE (E); Alice O'M., WV.

## QUESTIONS:

**Why was a member of Al-Anon appearing in one of the new "TV Spots"? Doesn't this violate our Traditions! "At the level of films..."**

The person referred to was not depicted as an Al-Anon member in the spot. Therefore, there could be no break of the Tradition of anonymity. This Tradition would only be broken if the individual was referred to, or states himself, that he is a member.

**In our Area the Public Information Committee is called upon to take part in many exhibits which encompass many other Areas. What about the idea of Areas' sharing the financial responsibility? We would like to have a professional-type exhibit such as is forwarded from WSO when we are called upon to participate. We find this cost to be prohibitive.**

Sounds like a good idea to discuss at your Area Assembly. If they choose to consider such a project, other Areas could be contacted.

## AREA HIGHLIGHTS:

### REPORT-BACK

Norma M., OK., Chairman  
Alice O'M, W.V., Secretary

#### Principles & Unity, Where Do They Start?

**Dot G., NC.,—Service at the group level—**good sponsorship was stressed as a key to getting new members interested and involved. Temporary sponsors can be appointed until they identify with someone they want as their sponsor. DRs can be an important link in helping the Delegates.

**Gert W., KS.,—Election of a GR and Stability—**GRs are the vital link in structure for the groups and should be chosen carefully, knowing they can become DRs and Delegates. Length of time in Al-Anon is not as important as where they are in their program and how willing they are to assume responsibility and participate.

**Mary Fran W., AZ.,—Where do old Delegates go?—**They are a vast resource in Al-Anon. It is a waste of their capabilities and experiences not to use opportunities to continue in service.

**What should the WSO do about registering Information Centers that are in close proximity?—**(The present Policy is to register only one per city to cover instances of overlapping.)—The consensus was that the Delegate should be notified, and working with mutual cooperation through recognized existing structure, the problem can be worked out.

**How long should a person be an active member of Al-Anon before being considered GR?—**Group conscience must decide, but awareness of duties and willingness are necessary.

**What do Area's do with inactive officers?—**Some have established policies stating that if meetings are not attended or duties not performed, officers must be replaced. The Handbook gives us guidance on this problem.

**Do GRs feel intimidated at Area Assemblies which let the old timers run the show?—**Most felt new GRs were generally confused and scared, but can be helped to become well informed by encouraging them to use the Handbook and manuals. Our love, patience and prayers will keep us all going.

Two red light questions were briefly discussed:

1. **Can Delegates filling another Delegate's term receive all material sent to a former Delegate?—**It would be impossible for the WSO to duplicate everything, but some things could be secured. Delegates stressed the importance of keeping Alternate Delegates informed by sharing material with them. Also, do not throw away material, but pass it on to the next Delegate for their use.
2. **What methods have been used to encourage more volunteers at Information Centers?**

Suggestions were: Strong Intergroup Representative; call-forward numbers; workshops to acquaint new workers with procedures, etc.; friendly personal invitations for help; using answering services to relay calls; to have stand-by volunteers; and paid workers could be aided by volunteers.

Don S., IA., was elected to serve as Chairman of the Area Highlights meeting at the 23rd World Service Conference; Loretta S. N.E., will be Secretary.



## AREA QUESTIONS

**What can you do when an oldtimer or a past Delegate takes over a meeting and doesn't abide by the "rules"?**

It's up to somebody at that meeting to speak up and let this member know that the behavior is unacceptable.

**What can the Area do if a coordinator does not function?**

On page 18 of the Handbook, it indicates that if a DR is not functioning a replacement may be requested by the Area WS Committee. This would hold true for Area Coordinators as well at the World Service Committee level.

**May we have an explanation as to why the WSO staff can justify staying in a suite at Stouffer's and eating in the hotel restaurant (expensive) when some of the Areas do not have much money. This is discouraging and could stop some Areas from contributing to the WSO.**

The suite at Stouffer's was complimentary based on the number of rooms booked. The Conference Secretary and Chairman, who occupied this suite, used the facilities for meetings held by other Conference members in discussing matters relative to the Conference. Each Conference member received the same per diem expense. Members who eat in expensive restaurants often use their own money.

**How can the problem of communicating between DR and GR be improved?**

Holding regularly-scheduled District Meetings, inviting the DR to attend group meetings, correspondence or phone contact—all help to keep the lines of communication open. The Area Newsletter is also a channel of information.

**In our Area, Al-Anons contribute to the AA Conference toward their hospitality room. AAs contribute to the Al-Anon Conference for our hospitality room. It has been brought up that this is violating the 6th & 7th Traditions. I would like a WSO opinion about this please!**

Where Al-Anon and AA participate in each other's Conference, it would not violate Traditions to contribute towards hospitality for the event.

**Under "Group Representative" in Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work, could a suggestion be added that the GR resign if he finds he can no longer attend the group from which elected or is unable to continue to attend District meetings?**

This service manual is intended to briefly touch on service structure. The full explanation of a GR's responsibilities and duties may be found in the World Service Handbook which the GR can be urged to study.

**Must the DR or Alternate DR be present for elections to take place in a new group, or may the chairman conduct an election for group officers?**

Each group is autonomous, therefore, it follows that each group elects its own officers. This is group "business" and not a District function.

**If the GR of a group resigns and there is no alternate, may the group conduct elections for a new GR without the presence of the DR or Alternate?**

SEE ABOVE

**In our state, many groups place a can on the table for individuals to contribute to the WSO Tri-Annual Appeal on a "part-time payment plan." This has just about tripled our donation but, from time to time I hear of GRs suggesting when there is a Group Anniversary or some other financial need, "Why can't we use the money in the WSO can?" This upsets me, but I have difficulty expressing my discomfort and, am I right in my objections?**

Perhaps this can be discussed at a District meeting.

**One can't remain anonymous in our Area telephone book because of the listing method. What can we do?**

We suggest this be discussed at the Area Assembly.

**If a regular Al-Anon member represents a District at the Area World Service level, can they vote? (This is providing no one else can attend.) (If they have not been elected?) They have the authorization of the District to vote for same.**

This comes under Area autonomy and needs to be decided at the Area level.

### Define "home group."

The term "home" group is that which is given to a group a member attends on a regular basis at which he votes, gives service and expresses his opinion on group policy and activities.

**If a group decides to divide into two groups still meeting at the same place and the same time, do they have one GR or two GR's?**

According to the World Service Handbook, every registered group should elect a Group Representative. In other words, two groups—two GRs.

**What can be done when some AI-Anons act independently of the Area or District? (A group of AI-Anons got together and planned a program for an AA H&I Conference and then went to the Assembly and asked for monies to finance their participation.)**

This needs to be resolved at the local level. Fund raising activities, however, could be conducted by the AI-Anon group(s) participating in the AA event.

**What is the difference between "meetings" and "groups?" (A group of AI-Anons started 6 meetings. Each has it's own name and meeting day, but they have 1 GR and 1 Intergroup Representative to represent all 6.)**

One group may hold several meetings a week; however, six meetings for one group makes it difficult for all officers to be present at each.

**Our Assembly had a very large percentage of new GRs in attendance this year. They still want to know why "double winners" cannot hold the office of Group Representative. They feel that it is discrimination. They say that if AI-Anons who belong to other anonymous programs can hold this office, why can't AAs who are also AI-Anons.**

This policy was voted at two Conferences. It was also discussed at subsequent Policy Committee meetings. There were many reasons for this discussion. One of them is that AA members would be determining AI-Anon policy and it could present a conflict of interest.

**Why can't we add District numbers to the contribution form? WSO simply separates these by Areas, then forwards them on to the Delegates. The job of separating them by groups is horrendous—making a space available for District numbers would be of great help to us.**

We are now in the process of implementing a group I.D. number because of computer programming. To ask for both might be counter-productive.

**How do you encourage groups in your Area to form Districts or Intergroups—so small groups are not isolated? Small groups need to realize they are a part of a world-wide fellowship.**

Announcements of Assembly meetings can be mailed to groups inviting them to attend and participate by sending an elected Group Representative. Members of the Area World Service Committee might visit the group and encourage them to become actively involved in the Area by offering guidance in the formation of a District. The Area Newsletter is also effective in sparking interest in District and Area participation.

**What can the DR do to help a group that has been controlled by a few oldtimers, that refuse to elect a GR, take part in the Assembly, or contribute financially to WSO or the Area?**

The only thing the DR can do is suggest that the group take an inventory and possibly speak to the members who are controlling the group. The DR can also inform the group on the advantages of being connected to the Service structure through their GR and continue to invite members of their group to District meetings.

**If no DR is available do you fill the Coordinator's job, etc., with GRs or members at large?**

An Area Coordinator can be any AI-Anon member who has the time and is willing to serve. Some Areas utilize the knowledge and experience of Past Delegates in this way.

**We have the situation of a group dying out, people failing to attend because of dominating personalities. "Old-time" members have tried positive things and finally gave up. How can we handle this tactfully before the group dies?**

One way to deal with this is to have a meeting take a group inventory. To suggest to the Chairman to have a meeting on the topic of "The Three Obstacles to Success in AI-Anon—Religion, Dominance and Gossip. The most helpful thing may be to have several knowledgeable members speak privately to the individual in a loving AI-Anon way.

## REGIONAL SERVICE SEMINAR (RSS)

### ANNUAL REPORT

Audrey S., Chairman  
Susan H., Coordinator

#### UNITED STATES (SOUTHEAST) REGIONAL SERVICE SEMINAR—ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

The second AI-Anon Regional Service Seminar (RSS) United States (S.E.) Region was held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel, the weekend of February 27. January and February were spent attending to the multitudinous details involved in coordinating the RSS.

**Mailings**—Letters were mailed to the 440 registrants who attended the Southeast RSS, giving details pertinent to attending the Seminar.

**Registration/Reservations**—Forms were received daily at the WSO, coded, recorded then forwarded to the appropriate recipients. Completed reservation forms were forwarded to the Atlanta Biltmore Hotel; registration forms were sent to the Host Committee to enable them to prepare registration kits and badges in advance. Requests for additional registration/reservation forms, in sets of two, ten, fifty and one hundred at a time were received from individuals, groups, Assemblies and Delegates. Registrants attended from places as far off as Oregon and British Columbia, Canada.

**Registration Kits**—Several cartons of material were sent to the Host Committee so that registration kits could be prepared.

**Displays**—Literature and *FORUM* displays were handled by a local volunteer. Seven hundred of the newly-published hardcover book, *AL-ANON'S TWELVE STEPS & TWELVE TRADITIONS*, were ordered by the Host Committee for sale at the RSS by local members.

**Agenda**—The agenda was finalized and because of a printing backlog at WSO, was sent to the Regional Trustee, (U.S. Southeast) to be printed in bulk form for distribution at the Seminar. Speakers, chairmen, moderators and recorders were selected for the sessions and the workshops. Letters were sent inviting them to participate, and follow-up thank you letters were sent to all who accepted the assignments.

**Evaluation Forms**—Evaluation and report-back forms were revised and distributed at the seminar. A total of 120 evaluation forms were received at the WSO.

**Taping**—The RSS was recorded by a professional taper hired by local volunteers.

**Hotel**—Travel and housing arrangements were made for WSO Staff and volunteers attending the Seminar by the Coordinator. The Atlanta Biltmore was very cooperative and the hotel was conducive to our needs.

**Host Committee**—Ruth F., the Host Committee Chairman, and her assistant handled all physical requirements of the Seminar as well as registrations.

#### UNITED STATES (NORTHWEST) REGIONAL SERVICE SEMINAR—RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA:

The third AI-Anon Regional Service Seminar (RSS) United States (N.W.) Region was held the weekend of September 4.

**Mailings**—The mailing schedule for the United States (N.W.) RSS was developed by the Committee and proceeded as planned. In December, a letter of announcements went to all Delegates of the Northwest Region. In May a letter containing registration/reservation forms and other pertinent information went to all AI-Anon/Alateen groups, Information Services, Loners and Delegates. In August, a letter with more specific information was sent to all registrants.

**Registration/Reservations**—Forms were received daily at the WSO, coded, recorded, then forwarded to the appropriate recipients. Complete reservation forms were forwarded to the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge; registration forms were sent to the Host Committee, to enable them to prepare registration kits and badges in advance. Requests for additional registration/reservation forms, as many as one hundred at a time, were received from individuals, groups, Assemblies and Delegates.

**Registration Kits**—Several cartons of material were sent to the Host Committee for inclusion in the kits.

**Displays**—Reprints of *FORUM* articles were sent to the Region for distribution at the Seminar.

**Agenda**—With input from the Region, Audrey S., developed an agenda which was printed at the WSO.





RSS continued

**Evaluation Forms**—Evaluation forms were printed at the WSO and forwarded to the Region for inclusion in the registration kits. Eighty-two evaluation forms were returned to the WSO to be reviewed by the Committee. A full report was compiled by the Coordinator.

**Taping**—The RSS was recorded by a professional taper. A nominal fee of \$25 (decided upon as a standard fee to be paid to tapers of RSSs) was paid.

**Hotel**—Travel and housing arrangements were made for WSO personnel by the Coordinator. Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge was very cooperative and we found the hotel to be adequate for our needs.

**Host Committee**—Renie Z., Host Committee Chairman, and Colleen C., the Assistant Chairman, handled all physical requirements for the Seminar. The cooperation and participation of Al-Anon members for both the U.S. (S.E.) and U.S. (N.W.), was inspiring and demonstrated enthusiastic interest in service work.

## CANADA (EAST) REGIONAL SERVICE SEMINAR— OTTAWA, CANADA

**Trip to Ottawa, Canada**—The Coordinator flew to Ottawa to meet with the Convention Manager, the Regional Trustee and the Host Committee at Carleton University in July. A contract was subsequently signed with Carleton University.

**Mailings**—The letter of announcement to the Delegates from Canada (East) was well as Canada (West) and the bordering states of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine was sent in November. A letter to all Al-Anon/Alateen groups, Information Services and Loders in the Canada (East) Region was developed by the Coordinator, and sent to PFA for translation into French.

**Registration/Reservation Forms**—New registration/reservation forms were designed by the Coordinator for this Seminar, and sent to PFA for translation. One side of the form will be in English, the other side in French.

**Hotel**—Since we will be working with a University instead of a hotel, it was deemed necessary by the Region to have a treasurer for this Seminar. Mary C., former Delegate from Ontario (S.), was appointed. All accommodation fees will be sent to her from the WSO. Rates for the weekend were established in a packaged price of \$68.30 for a single room; \$55.50 for a double room, per person, for Friday through Sunday, with meals. Individual meal tickets can be purchased by local members. ▲

## RSS SESSION:

When the idea of conducting local service meetings was first approved, planners called them "Regional Service Seminars" and considered sites, facilities and agendas. Audrey reported that this year's Seminar for the North-west Region of the United States was held in Rapid City, South Dakota, in September, and said that many hours of preparation have already gone into the Canada East Seminar to be held in Ottawa, Ontario, in June.

Audrey and Susan covered the challenges: Each Seminar would have its own flavor and no two would be alike; Sites were chosen from bids submitted by Areas within the Region; affordable prices were considered; location and accessibility were questioned and a strong service-oriented membership was chosen as a Host Committee.

Audrey listed the reasons for establishing Seminars: They extend, to every member who attends, the opportunity to share service concerns with the WSO and others; members meet people who have been acting as their "trusted servants" on a volunteer or Staff basis; Staff from the WSO try to best answer the needs of a specific Region; the need for rotation of personnel is recognized; workshops are provided as well as time for voicing concerns and asking questions. She also said the cost of each Seminar is borne by the WSO although additional hospitality was often provided by the Host Committee, and members pay for their own meals and lodging.

The original provision was for two Seminars a year for three years, but by next year's Conference a decision must be made as to their future. Conference members were asked to consider: if the Seminars should be dropped; if they should be continued another three years; and if the number should be increased, permitting the WSO to alternate between the eastern and western part of a Region.

In making their decision, Conference members were asked to keep in mind: An increase in number might mean hiring another Staff Secretary; other financial considerations; the value of the seminars, locally; how well they have filled the need; their reception in the Areas.

Input from the floor included: concern for costs; the immeasurable benefits, the increasing attendance; questions on the workability of meetings with a large attendance; personal recovery benefits; increases in service interest; the value of Seminar workshops and the greater sense of belonging to a world-wide fellowship.

## IN-TOWN TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Hank G.

In explaining the selection of Trustees, Hank referred the Conference to the Bylaws which were on record in New York State and approved by its Attorney General. While the Bylaws could be changed there was some difficulty and cost involved. His other reference was the Concepts of Service which point to the types of Trustees (Regional, Sustaining, Life-Time.)

In the discussion which followed, answers were given on the nominating process by Ruth H., Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Board of Trustees. She pointed to a widening search for nominees and noted that: Conference members could ask for a nominee to be rejected, but the nominee would serve until replaced at the following Conference election; a Conference member can put forward a candidate through the Board of Trustees' Nominating Committee and Ruth felt the Board could be trusted to pick good people to serve.

Hank noted that the Executive Committee Chairman was chosen by the Board of Trustees. The Chairman of the Board picks the Conference Chairman and the Standing Committee Chairman with Board approval. He had chosen Board members as Chairmen of Standing Committees to reduce the number of WSO Conference members and this type of working Committee helped keep the Trustees informed. The Standing Committee members remain substantially non-Trustee volunteers.

Nominees were: Jane O., for a first term; Rita Mc C., for a second term; Cay C., to fill Alice B.'s term; Sylvia R., to fill Ted K.'s term.

Retiring members of the Board were: George H., who ended his years as financial advisor and Ruth H., who had completed her term as Regional Trustee, Canada (W).

The Officers of the Board were: Hank G., President; Audrey S., Vice-President; Henrietta S., Treasurer; Myrna H., Secretary.

Norma Mc G. became Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Regional Trustee nominations were approved along with the Board and Executive Committee slate: George T., Bob D., Ramona C., Myrna H., Carole K., and Henrietta S.

Note: The Board broadened input on nominating by adding two Regional Trustees to the Committee. During the year, any Al-Anon member may propose a candidate for the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee by submitting a resume to the Nominating Committee. ▲

*"By the grace of God, we are what we are."*

## REGIONAL TRUSTEE PROCEDURE:

Helen G., Conference Staff Secretary

In June 1981, the Delegates and Chairman of the Canada (E) and Canada (W) Regions were asked to submit candidates for nomination as Regional Trustees. The Areas participating in the 1982 RT elections were also requested to nominate an Alternate Regional Trustee candidate. A copy of the Regional Trustee Plan, the suggested qualifications, the recommended procedure for selection, the Trustee Guidelines, resume forms and a cover letter were mailed to the Areas proposing candidates for election at the 1982 WSC.

1982 Regional Trustee Nominations: The closing date for submitting the Regional Trustee candidates' resumes was January 1, 1982. A registered letter was sent to those Areas which had not responded, requesting confirmation that they will not have a RT candidate.

The following Assembly Areas are those in the Canada (E) and Canada (W) Regions:

Canada (E)	RT	Alternate RT
Annual Report		
Atlantic Provinces	Jessica B.	Janet D.
NFLD & LAB	No available candidate	—
Ontario (North)	Ruth F.	—
Ontario (South)	Willie H.	—
Quebec (East)	No response	—
Quebec (West)	Supporting Ontario (N) Candidate	—
Canada (W)	RT	Alternate RT
Alberta	Catherine S.	Florence G.
B.C./Yukon	Joanne B.	Betty S.
Manitoba	No available candidate	—
Saskatchewan	No available candidate	—

Each voting Conference member is sent a complete set of the resumes. The voting members for Canada (E) Region are the six Area Delegates within the Region, two other Delegates and two Trustees (the Chairman of the Board and the other chosen by lot at the January Board meeting). The voting members of the Canada (W) Region are the four Area Delegates within the Region, two other Delegates and two Trustees (the Chairman of the Board and the other chosen by lot at the January Board meeting).

The names of the Assembly Areas outside the Regions, plus Alternates, were drawn at the 1981 WSC.

The Areas are as follows:

Voting for Canada (E)	Voting for Canada (W)
Connecticut	Massachusetts
New Jersey	Quebec (E)
North Carolina (1st Alt.)	South Carolina (1st Alt.)
Georgia (2nd Alt.)	Maine (2nd Alt.)

## REGIONAL TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS:

Audrey S., Regional Trustee, SW Region

Audrey provided an explanation of the procedure used to submit candidates nominations as Regional Trustees (RT).

In mid 1981, the Delegates and Area Chairman of the Canada West and Canada East Regions were asked to submit names of candidates. Resumes were received, and copies mailed by the WSO to those who would be voting at the Conference in this election; the Regions' Area Delegates, two Trustees, and four additional Delegates from outside the Regions. The candidates were selected by closed ballot: Canada East—Ruth F., Ontario North; Canada West—Joanne B., BC and Yukon.



### Trustee Update

The Saturday meetings of the Board of Trustees will shift next year's quarterly meeting to the Saturday before the Conference.



## QUESTIONS:

**Can there be a workshop at the Regional Service Seminar and specifically at the one in Ottawa, on motivating people into Service and getting a commitment to continue once they have served?**

The entire RSS is based on encouraging members to become and remain involved in Service.

**If Regional Trustees could not complete their term of office, who would fill that job since there isn't an alternate at this time? Would the position be left vacant? Would the Delegates in the Region or the Board of Trustees decide who, if anyone, would fill out the unexpired term?**

According to the Bylaws, "any vacancy in the office of Intown or Regional Trustee which occurs in any year between annual meetings of the World Service conference, may be filled for the period until the next annual meeting of the WSC by the Board of Trustees."

**Is it necessary to spend money to send person(s) to the Seminar location to stay several days to work out details? The Delegate and Area Officers could do this same job for no money spent. We've been planning and handling Conferences for many years with a great deal of success.**

The RSS is a *Regional* not *Area* event. The WSO works with the Regional Trustee who may not be in close proximity to the site of the Seminar. In the past, some hotels expressed a preference for working directly with the contract signer (WSO). Costs are always seriously considered. A two-day stay at the site has been the maximum time spent so far; rooms have been complimentary and often the trips are tied in with other trips to further reduce costs.



*"Prayer is a powerful way to promote the spirit of Love."*

## WORKSHOP:

### "Unity Then, Now and Tomorrow"

Helen G., Conference Secretary

One of the lighter moments of the Conference was a presentation of a WSO skit, "Gone With The Wine", which told the story of a southern family affected by alcoholism. Claret O'Hara, with her trusted servants, struggles to recover from her father's alcoholism. Pat H. was Claret to Alan S.'s Ruff Butler. Carole K. and Susan H. were Mammie and Prissy and Stephanie O'K. the faithful friend, Melancholy. Bo H. played the woeful, Ashen Wilkes. MaryAnn K. set the scene and Linda Mc F. narrated this tale of recovery and unity.

At the end of this humorous skit, Helen G., Conference Secretary, offered a more serious look at the Workshop theme. Quoting a panel 9 Delegate, Helen defined unity as "You and I tied together in brotherly love." These words, she said, were indelibly inscribed in her mind. She offered them to Conference members who broke up into workshops to discuss, explore and share what unity meant to each; how unity had shaped Al-Anon's early beginnings; how it was being tested and is still instrumental in our growth; and how unity could be strengthened at the group, Area and World Service levels.

## WORKSHOP REPORT-BACK

### Then

*Our early founders pursued unity through:* continuous correspondence; by emphasizing the 12 Steps and the 12 Traditions; by being self-supporting; and by establishing the World Service Conference.

### Now

We preserve principles in the face of change through continued knowledge and observance of the Traditions. Other means available are: communication and education of the fellowship through Regional Service Seminars; flexibility; helping Alateen bridge the age gap; preserving our anonymity and yet not being so anonymous we can't be found; and dedicated use of the Service manuals.

We are applying these principles now, even as Al-Anon is tested through the growing influence of outside agencies and splinter groups; we are unified when we: remember we are equals at meetings; do not lose group autonomy through justification; remember our common purpose; meet our responsibility to speak up so that Al-Anon doesn't become diluted; use CAL literature; remind professionals who are members in Al-Anon to wear Al-Anon "hats" at meetings; understand that treatment is discovery and Al-Anon is recovery; see that our egos do not get inflated and emphasizing the spiritual side of anonymity; consider a long-range plan to anticipate the growth in Al-Anon so that we don't get complacent.

### Tomorrow

Our unity in the future depends on honesty, hope, faith, courage, integrity, willingness, humility, brotherly love, self-discipline, perseverance, helping others rather than serving our own egos and serving a power greater than ourselves. Thus, living by these principles, unity is maintained and our fellowship is kept free from controversy.



*"If God is with us—who can be against us?"*

# COPING WITH LIFE'S CHANGES Sharing . . .

Another regular feature of the conference has been a panel of speakers. This year's sharing was by: Laurel W., ALB., Dorothy R., MT., and Teresa M., Spanish Services Supervisor—WSO were

### Lorill W.

hoped not to blow her own trumpet but to be able to face reality in true humility, see and accept herself as she was and go forward.

Laurel believed that mental and emotional growth follow the same pattern as physical development. Sometimes the progress is slow and other times not. Her own early years were safe and secure; she knew she was loved.

War brought changes to her life, a father away from home and life and death decisions during the Battle of Britain. But her teen years flew by and she finished school, worked and married a Canadian. While she believed she was mature, she knows now that if she didn't care for something then, she pretended it didn't exist. When she moved to Canada in 1946, she was apprehensive but viewed life through "proverbial rose-colored spectacles."

Then came 16 years of active alcoholism in the home. While some of these years were not all bad—"they were bright, blue and gold times, times of togetherness"—the hope grew dim and she lost her natural optimism, her sense of humor, and became cynical, distrustful, full of fear and vowed that she would never love again.

Her initial reaction when her husband found AA wasn't good. She was devastated and resentful but she did go to Al-Anon and stay. She knew that she and her husband were both emotionally crippled people trying to put their lives back together and at the same time be parents to five children.

Her Al-Anon growing pains began. She was asked to do things which would change her attitude, to release with love, to live one day at a time and she thought all these ideas "quite mad." Change was frightening, she did try to live just for one day only—and it worked. When she moved from her home group, all the things she'd taken for granted were put to the test and she discovered that it was so "so easy to pay only lip service to this program." She helped get a group started, became active in service work but knew she still wasn't able to be completely honest and continued to push things under the rug.

Another move tested her Al-Anon growth. Her husband's health had deteriorated and they lost her dream house. Her grief lasted almost a year before she could let go and begin to grow again.

Today's adjustments have included a great deal of acceptance and Laurel has been able to regain her faith in a God of her understanding. She's no longer fearful of the future—"Well, only for little segments of time." Today Laurel can accept herself, knowing that she makes mistakes because she's human, she's gained self-confidence and has taken a responsible job. She is able to love again, unconditionally, and with concentrated effort, stays out of other people's business. Using the spiritual gifts which the program freely offers, she knows the choice is hers whether to accept and use them. Her life is now a kaleidoscope and an adventure in self-knowledge.



### Dorothy R.

Dorothy R. thought, "all you did was grow up and that was all." She had gone through all the "normal changes" before her knight in shining armor had swept her off her feet.

She had no idea what an *alcoholic* was but really didn't think she "needed one" and while she had never seen her husband drink; she felt a great need for him. She accepted four step-children and managed to "bluff" her way through 13 years of married life.

After four years of going to open AA meetings, Dorothy "settled down to starting an Al-Anon group." She was elected the Delegate the same year her husband became the AA Delegate. That meant they would go to New York together, travel together and continue to share their program together. All summer, they were riding high on a pink cloud.

The start of her second year as Delegate brought changes that put her program to the test. She had pushed her own overeating illness into the background. The heavier she got, the less esteem she had, and by the middle of the last year she finally hit bottom. She could say nothing nice about anyone, even the members of her group. And along with this, she could not get anyone to listen to her Delegate report. She was so depressed that she considered resigning.

During the summer she met Laurel, who listened to her and helped her through this crisis. Next, she went to her group "and laid it all out on the table in front of them." A loving member asked when she'd taken a 4th-Step Inventory, and with honesty, Dorothy admitted that her Blueprint "was up on a shelf in the closet." She made a commitment and began a "slow process" of writing, reading, crying and praying.

After seven years of doing it her own way, she did what the members told her to do and called on a Higher Power which she chose to call God. She told Him she was tired of being the kind of person she was.

Following the 4th Step with the 5th Step brought relief and she found a Sponsor and a way to express her spirituality through formal religion.

Instead of "giving up," Dorothy "gave in" and understands today that with self-esteem and self-worth she can continue to get rid of old shortcomings and defects of character replacing them with love, kindness and understanding for others.

Physically, Dorothy has taken off 45 pounds and while she still has more to go she had no trouble moving around at the Conference. She knows she has more changes to make and a lot of growing to do but that the rest of the year will be one of the best ones she will ever live.

### Teresa M.

said, "It was the Al-Anon program which touched me so deeply that my once joyless heart can now laugh, my tiny heart has grown," as she shared her experiences which had affected her life. Her mother died of cancer, and her daughter, her only child, gave birth to a healthy baby boy two months later. She knew that God had taken her mother but sent his blessing in a new life full of future and hope.

As the oldest sister, she felt she was the "mother hen" and always tried to help her family no matter what the price. She had made every effort to bring her sister's family of 10 to the United States by paying their fares and supporting them as they started a new life. She had hoped they would live near her and felt frustrated and betrayed by their decision to move south because they could not bear the cold winters in New York. Through Al-Anon and her friends in the fellowship she was able to change her attitude and accept their wishes.

Perhaps the most serious change requiring Al-Anon growth occurred in Teresa's physical well being; she had to have a serious operation. Her doctor explained that the surgery would be risky, that she could suffer a loss of memory, a deformed face or that she could die. She went home from her doctor depressed, "impotent before my fate." But Al-Anon came to her rescue once again.

That night she meditated. With the wisdom that came from a Higher Power, she realized that she needed to keep faith and confidence and through this "encounter with my God," she had the courage to accept His will. While her operation was open brain surgery, she had the loving support of her family and Al-Anon friends and her determination to live a healthy life "in peace and love."

Almost healed from this serious illness she had another problem: her daughter and family would have to move away, and because of her operation she cannot yet fly and doesn't know if she will ever be able to. Thanks to her Al-Anon program she is able to handle this separation and she can "let go and let God".

"Today is a wonderful day. I'm alive, I'm healthy and very happy," Teresa said. She knows she's privileged to be a member of the Conference and of Al-Anon and have the opportunity to share her love, experiences and happiness. For Teresa, God's love and Al-Anon sustain, comfort, help to heal and renew her body, mind and spirit so that she can grow with life's changes.



*"Al-Anon's Tradition Two states that: 'For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.'"*

*"The World Service Conference makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of world Al-Anon and the guarantee that our world services shall continue to carry on under all conditions."*

*"The Conference protects Al-Anon against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. This makes it the principal guarantor of Al-Anon's harmony and survival."*

*World Service Handbook*

## SPIRITUAL SESSION:

The final session has always been a reinforcement of the spiritual nature of the program. This year's speakers were Fran B., MS; Mary Jane J., N.D.

### Fran B.

When thinking about being selected as one of the Conference Spiritual Speakers, Fran had gone through several emotions: shock, excitement, pride and then humility, responsibility and sheer terror. The terror eased and Fran spoke as a grateful member of her home group knowing they were busy offering a prayer for her.

"God knows my needs," would have been the title she chose for the pattern of her Al-Anon life as each time Fran had a need, "God saw the need and He would answer it in His own way and His own time."

Fran had done alot of praying, living with the dual problem of alcohol and pills. As a catholic, she thought she and God had "a pretty good relationship" but while she prayed and prayed the situation worsened. When she didn't get instant help, she decided that God was angry and punishing her for her lack of gratitude. (Her husband had stopped drinking on his own for three years.) She thought God was unhappy with her because He had tried to give her a sober husband and Fran said, "I thought I blew it when he started drinking again."

She came into Al-Anon a lonely, terrified person because she had totally lost communication with God. When she finally found the Serenity Prayer, she was able to begin talking to God again.

With this new communication came faith; there were feelings of relief—the release from responsibility for another's action, the knowledge that it wasn't necessary for her to be miserable. While these weren't exactly the things she'd asked for, these were things she needed. She believed that this period was a spiritual awakening.

Fran also believed that a spiritual experience "is a definite time and place when you know you have felt God's presence." She had had an experience like that and shared the sense of serenity that had come over her, a feeling of love, peace and warmth. She believed that experience helped her when she began to work the spiritual Steps of the program.

Today, the weight is gone, she knows life is beautiful and she is aware of the miracles she sees everyday. From "a sobbing hulk of humanity," she had come to the point where she had beautiful friends from all over the United States, Canada and Europe. When she gets resentments she remembers that she's like the little boy who fell out of bed one night. When his mother asked him what happened he told her, 'I just got to close to where I got in and I fell out.' So she's careful what she prays for and is secure in the belief that God knows her needs in all phases of her life.

### Mary Jane J.

When Mary Jane first came to Al-Anon she was waiting and waiting for a spiritual awakening. When she realized that her spiritual awakenings were, and would continue to be, the realization that her Higher Power would help her when she asked. Then, she was able to "Let go and let God."

Mary Jane had had a close relationship with God when she was a small child. As the only girl with three brothers she had prayed and prayed for a baby sister. When her Dad came home from the hospital he picked her up, threw her in the air and said "Janie, you've prayed too hard, you have two sisters!"

In college, she remembered talking to God often but when she went on into her marriage, she discovered there was a very serious problem of alcoholism. She thought God wasn't listening and her prayers turned to pleading, to begging. Then she lost all faith.

Coming into Al-Anon, Mary Jane didn't have a relationship with God. She knew she was powerless over the alcoholic, she did know something would have to restore her to sanity but she couldn't make a decision or turn her life over to a God she no longer understood. By working the Second Step everyday, she's now able to let go and this allows her to experience freedom. Letting go helped her through a pregnancy and her father's drinking. She is reminded daily of the presence of a Higher Power in her life. Her little Mary is now three, and her father has found sobriety.

Filled with gratitude for what Al-Anon continues to give her, Mary Jane acknowledged that her happiness depends on her ability to recognize the beauty and goodness that surrounds her and with her hand in God's, she will continue to serve and grow.



## MOTIONS:

to approve the Admissions Committee recommendation that the following participants be seated with voice and no vote: Alberte C., Secretary, Publications Francaises; Teresa M., Supervisor Spanish Services; Richard Keilly, Controller. (unanimous)

to approve the Archives Committee request to produce a historic 60-minute audio cassette for sale within the fellowship of four early members of Al-Anon Family Groups, for the purpose of: 1) recording the voices of our founders (Lois W. & Anne B.) and early volunteers (Margaret D., first FORUM Editor & Henrietta S., first General Secretary); 2) showing unity and service to today's members and 3) giving hope to the newcomer; and further approve the idea of future historic tapes as necessary for saleable items. (93 in favor, 1 abstention)

to approve the Annual Reports as submitted. (unanimous)

to approve that 1) Annual Reports be mailed to Delegates prior to the WSC with sufficient time for review; 2) that these copies be brought back to the Conference by the Delegates; 3) that extra copies be available for those who either did not receive them or who inadvertently left them at home; 4) these Annual Reports be omitted from the Brochure; and 5) this be done on a trial basis. (30 in favor, 60 opposed, 3 abstentions)

to approve the Financial Report as submitted. (unanimous)

to approve the 1982 Budget as submitted. (82 in favor, 5 opposed, 6 abstentions)

to approve the FORUM Committee report as submitted. (unanimous)

## POLICY AMENDMENTS

to approve that page 14 in the Policy Digest, c. Havens for Families, number 3, the word *Regular* and *Alateen* were added to the beginning of the first sentence. The words, *of course*, were deleted from the second sentence in the same paragraph. There will be a number 4 added under *Havens for Families* as follows: *Al-Anon or Alateen Institutions groups may also be formed but usually do not pay rent.*

and

On page 28, c. Limited Access Groups last sentence should read: *Some Institutions groups fall into this category (e.g. those meeting in prisons, abused families' residence, schools and juvenile homes).*

and

On page 28 to follow after c. and become d. *Institutions Groups. Institutions groups meet at hospitals, penal institutions, correctional facilities, courts, mental health clinics, rehabilitation centers, juvenile homes or crisis centers. Membership is transient; there are no GRs. Experienced Al-Anon members share the responsibility for organizing and leading the meetings.*

and

Page 29, the top paragraph should read: "permissible, however, for an appropriate agency to invite an existing Al-Anon or Alateen group to provide a brief on-site meeting to demonstrate how group meetings function, (e.g. *Meeting on Wheels*)."

to approve that page 30 in the Policy Digest, III Meetings, a. Open/Closed read: Closed meetings are for Al-Anon members only, anyone whose personal life is or has been deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker. Open meetings may be attended by anyone interested in *Al-Anon/Alateen*. (unanimous)

to approve that the Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome, 5th paragraph, read: "The Al-Anon program is based on the Twelve Steps (*adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous*) which we try, little by little. . ."

The next paragraph is to omit *Like AA* and read: "Al-Anon is an anonymous fellowship. Everything that is . . ." (92 in favor, 1 abstention)

to approve that page 42 in the Policy Digest, Paid Ads, read: It would not constitute a break in our Traditions for an individual member to pay for such space with *group approval*. This can be considered a member's personal contribution. (90 in favor, 3 opposed)

to approve that page 22 in the Policy Digest, IV Group Fund Raising, Item d, read: Al-Anon WSO does not stock or offer program-related jewelry or trinkets for sale because *that could divert it from its primary purpose* and might endanger its tax-exempt status. (92 in favor, 1 abstention)

to approve the Admissions Committee recommendation that the request to change the 1982 WSC decision which read: "that the number of groups required for a *state or province* to petition the Admissions Committee to divide and send an additional Delegate be increased from 200 to 400 groups" be changed to read: "That the number of groups required for an *Area* to petition the Admissions Committee to divide and send an additional Delegate be increased from 200 to 400 groups" be denied. (82 in favor, 7 opposed, 4 abstentions)

to approve that a copy of the By-Laws be included in the mailing of Annual Reports to all Delegates. (It is respectfully requested that these be mailed earlier than they were in 1982). (80 in favor, 1 opposed, 12 abstentions)

to approve the production of a film 1) directed to professionals for use in their professional capacity, 2) directed to the neophyte having no previous contact with Al-Anon in institutions or elsewhere, 3) to be used by the fellowship as a tool in P.I., CPC and Institutions. (63 in favor, 19 opposed, 11 abstentions)

to approve the Handbook Committee's recommendation that the amendments to the Handbook be accepted as submitted and as attached. (92 in favor, 1 abstention)

to approve that the Handbook amendments be prepared on an insert page and made available to the groups. (15 in favor, 65 opposed, 13 abstentions)

to approve that the Literature Committee's recommendation to produce a piece on Al-Anon and Alateen members' shared experiences leading to their understanding of the *spiritual nature* of the Al-Anon program. (87 in favor, 6 abstentions)

## HANDBOOK COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Page 24: I-Group Representative (GR)

Section A: The GR and World Service last sentence to read as follows: "The GR should be allowed regular time at group meetings to convey information concerning Al-Anon World Service affairs."

Page 25: I-Group Representative (GR)

Section C: The GR and the Area Assembly to read: "In addition to attending the Election Assembly, the GR is expected to attend all scheduled Assemblies and any Interim Assembly which the Chairman or Delegate consider necessary and report back to the group."

Section F: The GR as Pipeline

To read: "Communicating at District Meetings, the GR can bring his group's viewpoint on any situation or problem concerning Al-Anon to the attention to the DRs. In turn, he informs his group of the outcome of the meetings."

to approve the Literature Committee's recommendation that it gather, edit and produce material which would share Al-Anon and Alateen members' experiences in using the program where serious problems have developed in *personal relationships*, i.e. sex, violence, and abuse. (88 in favor, 5 abstentions)

to approve the Board of Trustees recommendation that The Conference Charter be amended to eliminate the word 'city' from article 9, line 1 of The Conference Charter, appearing in the World Service Handbook. (64 in favor, 13 opposed, 16 abstentions)



\*to approve the Board of Trustees recommendation that Al-Anon hold an International Convention in 1985, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on the same dates as the AA International Convention. (82 in favor, 2 opposed, 9 abstentions)

\*to approve that a full Conference Summary in *INSIDE AL-ANON* be sent to all English, French and Spanish groups as well as the full Conference Summary to English speaking groups only, on a one-year trial basis. (74 in favor, 10 opposed, 10 abstentions)

to approve adding a section to the Policy Digest on naming of groups to be Item I, c., on page 28 under Groups/Membership/Meetings and Conventions (existing items c. through f. to be relettered accordingly) and read:

#### **Choosing a Group's Name**

*A name which includes the town, or section of the town, meeting day, or phrase from our program would be inviting to all. A group's name should not imply affiliation with any commercial venture, agency, religious group, rehabilitation facility, or other outside enterprise, or by the use of a name associated with its location, i.e.: The (blank) Church AFG or the (blank) Hospital AFG. (91 in favor, 3 abstentions)*

to approve the policy in the Policy Digest on "What About 'Outside' Publications?" page 35, VII, a,b,c,d, be amended to read as follows:

a. *There are many outside publications on alcoholism, religion and philosophy which appeal to members as individuals. Brief excerpts from such material, may be part of their personal sharing at meetings. A member might feel a piece of AA literature, for example, could reinforce understanding of the Al-Anon principles. It is well to remember, however, that AA literature is written for and from the viewpoint of alcoholics. Reliance on opinions expressed in AA and other outside publications, can distort the Al-Anon approach, particularly for the newcomer.*

b. *Individuals may read whatever they find helpful but Al-Anon cannot assume the responsibility for evaluating or recommending reading matter other than CAL (see leaflet P-35, Why Conference-Approved Literature?).*

c. *Traditions are violated when a group, Information Service (Intergroup) or any service arm, publishes its own literature. (See the only exception, Public Relations, V, Public Information, item d, P.I. Literature.) It is also ignoring Traditions to promote the sale of outside literature. The World Directory may not be used as a mailing list for this purpose. (91 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions)*

to approve the Board of Trustees nomination of the following slate to serve as officers of the Board of Trustees, effective 4/25/82 through the Annual Meeting of 1983: Henry G., President of the Board; Audrey S., Vice President of the Board; Henrietta S., Treasurer; Myrna H., Secretary. (91 in favor, 3 abstentions)

to approve the Board of Trustees nomination of the following slate of incoming Board Members to serve a three-year term as a Trustee, effective 4/25/82: Rita McC. (to serve a 2nd three-year term); Cay C. (to serve a 2nd three-year term); Jane O. (to serve the first three-year term). (90 in favor, 4 abstentions)

to approve the nomination of Sylvia R. as a Trustee to complete the unexpired term of Ted K. to begin 4/25/82. (unanimous)

to approve the Board of Trustees nomination of Norma McG. to serve a one-year term as Chairman of the Executive Committee, effective 4/25/82 through the Annual Meeting of 1983. (93 in favor, 1 abstention)

to approve election of two Regional Trustees, Ruth F., Canada (E) and Joanne B., Canada (W) to serve a three-year term. (93 in favor, 1 abstention)

to approve recommendation that Henrietta S. be given Honorary Lifetime Membership as a Trustee in appreciation of her years of services. (rescinded)

to approve a recommendation to develop Alateen cassettes for the Al-Anon/Alateen membership and others interested in Alateen. (unanimous)

\*The above MOTIONS were amended by the Board as follows:

to approve the Board of Trustees recommendation that Al-Anon hold its first International Convention in 1985, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on the same dates as the AA International Convention. (82 in favor, 2 opposed, 9 abstentions)

to approve that the full Conference Summary be sent to English speaking groups only and an abridged Conference Summary in *INSIDE AL-ANON* be sent to all English, French and Spanish groups on a one-year trial basis. (74 in favor, 10 opposed, 10 abstentions)

All other MOTIONS were approved as submitted.

*"This week we have been walking together in love . . ."*

