

Delegate's Report to the AWSC; Elaine R., Panel #49, 3-20-10

This year's conference theme is; "Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope" the conference will be held at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront April 11 – 15. I will be heading to Virginia Beach on Saturday April 10 and returning April 16. I have been busy receiving information regarding materials to be covered at conference and doing the necessary work to be ready to attend. I am looking forward to the conference and am feeling a little more comfortable about attending. Last weekend I attend my second NERD meeting, along with Anne, Connie, and Bob. This meeting which is intended to help our newest delegates, the panel #50 delegates, is a warm-up to conference.

As many of you have heard in recent weeks, Anne Farrell, our panel #40 delegate and our nominee to be considered for the Regional Trustee position in the northeast, was selected by the Board of Trustees at their January meeting to serve in this position pending traditional approval at the WSC and the legal approval at the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, April 16. With this approval Anne will soon begin her three year term and I look forward to working with her. Congratulations Anne!

All delegates are given an opportunity to serve on a Thought Force or a Task Force. Last year I was on the thought force to look at ways to Strengthen AISs. Prior to the beginning of last years conference this committee meet to look at our charge and to begin to brainstorm the topic. Using the KBDM methods we began to formulate our ideas. Following conference, we continued our work using the computer and having periodic conference calls. Our report has taken shape and with some final tweaking we will make our presentation at WSC. It will be interesting to see how this evolves.

This year I have been assigned to the thought force on How to include dual members in service work while maintaining our policies. This committee is being chaired by one of the panel #48 delegates and our mode of operation will follow a similar plan as we used for the AIS thought force.

Each year conference participants are offered a choice of workshops to attend. I will be attending two: Embrace the Group Conscience and Diversity-Understanding Ourselves and Others.

Each year delegates are given an opportunity to discuss new ideas, concepts, and issues that affect Al-Anon groups and members worldwide. At the fall assembly in September I ask for ideas. Members of the Pubic Outreach Action Committee gave me a topic to develop and I was able to do this. Following submission of the delegates' ideas, the proposed ideas are reviewed and like ideas are combined into a single suggestion. This collection of ideas is then returned to the delegates for their selection of the two they would most like to have a presentation and discussion of. This year the two Chosen Agenda Items will be: (1) How can members of the WSC develop an effective strategy that would bring AFG into the communities and culture of specific minorities in the US

and Canada? (2) What do we do when members holding service positions are unable to effectively do the tasks of the position, and these deficits are negatively impacting the Area and potentially AI-Anon as a whole? I have asked you to come today prepared to give me your thoughts and ideas on these two topics. If time allows we might have you share here today. You can also call, e-mail or snail mail your thoughts to me in the next week or two. We will have more discussion at the Spring assembly.

At this point I am skipping Area Highlights and will leave that for the end of my report.

We will be spending time discussing a variety of topics, some of which we will also be voting on. Property Ownership which we discussed at our fall assembly in which Bob C. gave the timeline of discussion leading up to the vote to purchase property and build in Virginia Beach. Marion W. shared her experience of being at the WSC when that vote was taken and I shared on the triennial ECRPM reports. Every three years the Executive Committee for Real Property Management reports to the WSC based on the following three questions: Has ownership of property been financially feasible? Are we complying with the spirit and letter of the resolution? & Has there been any negative impact on the fellowship as a whole? We have been in a fifteen year trial period which will be ending in 2011 and a decision will need to be made. Questions we raise: End the trial and keep the building, End the trial and sell the building; or extend the trial for another period of years. Additional information on this subject can be viewed on the WSO website. A side note: the building is now paid for as of early this year.

Next, the process for the selection of Regional Trustees has been in a three year trial period and it will be time to look at this process and determine if the new process has improved the selection of regional trustees. There will be continued discussion on the procedure for managing excess bequest funds. Finally, I have received copies of the annual report, the Strategic Plan Update, the Auditor's Report and the Budget and have been reviewing each of these documents and formulating any questions I have to submit for answers.

I have received information as it relates to Finances, Alateen, and Membership & Group Meetings/Conventions and PSA with regards to policy changes to our Service Manual. At this point I will not go into any detail other than to say clarification is being sought.

I will have an opportunity to attend open meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Policy Committee and the Executive Committee. We will also visit the WSO offices and pending seating approval at the conference hear Dr Frances L. Brisbane, Director of the Center for Culturally Competent Education and Training at Stony Brook University, New York. She is also an AA Trustee.

Each year vacancies occur on the various boards and committees at WSO either from the normal rotation of members or from people simply leaving. Members interested in any of these positions need to complete a resume for the particular committee or board

that they are interested in being considered for. I have the necessary forms and would be happy to make them available to you. Trustee-at-Large, the Executive Committee for Real Property Management, and Committees with at-large members: Alateen, Forum Advisory, International Coordination, Literature, Outreach to Professionals and Public Outreach. If you would like to know the requirements of any of these positions; be in touch with me.

I will be given one minute to share highlights of NYN in the session for delegates just prior to the beginning of the conference. I will be sharing about our efforts to improve the functioning of our Action Committees and the use of our website to bring about this improvement.

I want to briefly touch on a few things which you may hear repeated by some of our coordinators this may help you remember them. The first pertains to the Hallmark movie which is upcoming, "When Love is Not Enough, the Lois Wilson Story" I hope groups and districts are thinking of ways in which they can use this movie to reach out to new members.

Two pieces which each of you should have received in the last week or so from WSO - Area Highlights and the new tent card about Alateen meetings. I would hope that all Al-Anon groups would begin displaying the tent card at their meetings and encouraging members to take their children to Alateen. The Area Highlights has a lead article giving the history of this year's conference theme. Note also the various articles on a variety of topics; this is a good source for inspiration and ideas that can be used by officers and coordinators can be used in action committees or at district. These sharing's are often taken from area newsletters; a good reason why we need to share what we are doing as officers and coordinators in our area.

An opportunity for Public Outreach across the entire NYN area in cooperation with New York South. The Commissioner of the office of alcohol and substance abuse for the state of New York is making available an opportunity to distribute our Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism outreach magazine to the approximately 10,000 personnel under her direction. NYS is committed to this project; we can join them if we want. A separate e-mail will be sent to all officers, coordinators and DRs outlining the project. We need everyone to consider the project and come prepared to discuss and make a decision at the Spring Assembly, May 21-23 in Owego, N.Y.

Any Questions or concerns?