

In two weeks I will be leaving for Virginia Beach and my third World Service Conference. This year's conference theme is: Expanding our community of hope by embracing: Yesterday's foundations, Today's successes, Tomorrow's possibilities. My three minute talk and Area Highlights have been written, submitted and rehearsed at NERD. The paper work has been flowing over e-communities and the responses have been sent in. The suitcase is out and will soon be packed.

Over the course of the last several months we have completed the work on the Thought Force: How to include dual members in service work while maintaining our policy. After fine tuning our work via computer and conference call we will be making a presentation at Conference on this Thought Force which will include a power point presentation. As these are short term assignments I have elected to be on another Thought Force for the remainder of my time as delegate; so on Monday at Conference I will meet with a new group that will focus on Members involved in service work that are unable to effectively fulfill the responsibility of the position. We have already begun our work by sending our responses to the five KMBD questions to the committee chairperson.

Each year we are given opportunity to select two workshops to participate in that will help us do a better job. This year's selection is centered on communication. I will participate in the one focused on Understanding different learning styles and the second on presentation and reporting skills.

Chosen agenda items are the pieces that come from the Areas thru the delegates. The topics are grouped with similar topics and returned to the delegates for selection. Topics that are being covered in thought or task forces are dropped. After the selection process, the top two topics are then assigned for development by one or more delegates for presentation. This year's top two topics were; the use of technology to enhance communication both public outreach and within the fellowship and second, given our current member survey of who our typical member is; what can we do to reach out to minorities?

There are a number of reports, etc. that we look at each year, raise questions on and approve. Included in these is the Annual Report from the Executive Director, the Auditor's Report on the financial health of AFG, Inc., the Budget. We will consider the resume for a number of Regional and at-Large Trustees and a member for the ECRPM; in addition we will receive the resumes for the members and chair of the Executive Committee, the officers of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the ECRPM for information purposes only. The fifteen year trial period for property ownership is concluding and we will be voting on this. We have received much information on this. In Fall of 2009, we did a presentation on this topic. Information on this can

also be viewed on the WSO member web site. I also have a copy of the motion which has been drafted by the Board of Trustees for our information which will be presented for our approval.

During Conference two open meetings are held: one by the Policy Committee and one by the Board of Trustees. The purpose of these meetings is an opportunity to see these two committees in action. The Board of Trustees meeting occurs at the very end of Conference and we can observe the Board taking the legal steps to approve the motions which the Conference members took during the course of the week which is traditional. The Open Policy meeting takes place during the course of the week and this year the topic for their discussion will relate to some of the information presented by the Thought Force on Dual Members. This Thought force had several items which they felt strongly about and which they felt needed to be looked at if this was going to be a successful report. I am not at this point going to talk about any of these details but following Conference I will be in a better position to explain them to you.

We will once again visit the World Service Office and this is always a special treat. I have just received information that copies of the new book "Many voices, One Journey" will be available for us to purchase. The first 10,000 copies of the book will have a commemorative book plate for our 60th Anniversary. Anniversary post cards will also be available. These will also be available for those attending the special anniversary event on Saturday. I will be stay in Virginia Beach for the Open house and the banquet to celebrate Al-Anon's 60th Anniversary. The banquet speakers will be Myrna H., a past WSO staff member and Dee M., a longtime member from Virginia. Myrna will share in regards to the history of Al-Anon and Dee will share her personal story of recovery. The book is divided into short segments that can be used at meetings and many segments are followed by questions for group discussion or personal reflection. It is \$16.00 with a soft cover. There will be a special ceremony at the WSO commemorating the paying off of the mortgage.

The Archives has suggested a plan so that groups in our area might know their anniversary. So for those of you who already know the date when the group you attend first meet; you're set. For those of you who don't know this information I've asked George our group records person to bring us what information he has. And for those of you who still don't know I have asked Kathi D. our web person to post the Archives Anniversary Project on our NYN web site. When we meet in May we will look to see how many know their group's anniversary date. Let's see if we can determine what group or groups are closets in age to the 60 years.

There will be a discussion or presentation about TEAM EVENTS. A number of these events have been held during the first year since the announcements of TEAM EVENTS. There are a number planned for this year. When I received information about this segment, I sent out an e-mail to officers and coordinators to see if anyone had any questions regarding TEAM EVENTS. I know the e-mail was received by some because two people respond within a couple of hours; but only one responded to my question. What I need to know at this point, do you want to know more? Do you want me to do a presentation?

In the Board of Trustees Strategic Plan, one of their objectives has been to come up with a definition of family recovery. They have conducted three surveys to date in an effort to develop this definition. They now believe they have a definition that may be acceptable to the fellowship. They now need your help in ranking this definition; you can help by going to the member site of the WSO web site and under survey you can do this. All DRs were sent an e-mail with this information to share with GRs. We have till April 30 to participate. Remember participation is the key to harmony. It will take you only a few minutes to do this.

Area positions receiving support from WSO: In October the policy committee approved serving of Area Web Coordinators because of the need for direct and quick communication. Other coordinators which have been receiving support from WSO including Alateen, AAPP and Group Records have recently had Discussion Boards open on e-communities whereby they can discuss topics with other coordinators from across the country. I mention this because I see increased support for coordinators in doing their jobs.

How many people have received their copy of the April Forum? Did you notice any change? The tagline for the Forum has been changed to “Sharing Recovery, Unity, and Service”. The reason for the change was to more accurately reflect the purpose of the magazine which is to encourage more use of the magazine at meetings and to better reflect its purpose. The hope is that it will encourage more members to integrate the Forum into group activities and use it as a tool to strengthen shared recovery. An explanation of how the change came about is also included in this issue of the Forum as well as some history regarding the tagline.

I want to close with reading a statement taken from the February, Chairperson, Board of Trustees letter. Following each quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees, Delegates receive a letter from the Chairperson summarizing the meeting and asking us to address a specific question as a follow up. You also have access to these letters as they are posted on the member's site at WSO. For me this is a good illustration of how I need to approach the information that I am receiving so that I can allow all sides to be heard and then to allow my Higher Power to lead me in the direction I need to go with the information.

Who knows what the month of April is? National Alcohol Awareness Month

Any questions, thoughts or concerns?