

## **Delegate's Report to the AWSC August 18, 2012**

Anne F.'s resume for the Northeast Regional Trustee has been submitted to the WSO and we have received confirmation of its receipt. Anne will be working on the next part of this process with her respond to an additional question which is sent to all candidates for the position.

In September members of the RCT (Regional Committee on Trustees) will receive copies of resumes for all candidates for the position. Members of the RCT are the Delegates from Areas within the Region and 3 Delegates from outside the Region; these 3 were chosen by lot at the 2012 WSC in April. Each member of the RCT will review and score the resumes and by the end of September will submit their scoring to the Chairperson of the RCT. The Chairperson will tally all sheets and submit the combined scores to the Executive Director before the deadline for the October Board meeting.

In October the Nominating committee with input from the RCT will select two candidates from the Region. These names will be forwarded to the chair of the RCT. The chair will send these names to the Delegate members of the RCT. Members of the RCT may file an objection by December 15.

In January the Board of Trustees will consider the needs of the Board, along with any objections from the RCT, and will select one of the two candidates as the Regional Trustee. The name of the selected nominee will be presented at the World Service Conference for traditional approval. They will then be elected at the Annual Board meeting following the Conference.

The 2012 Conference Summary "Our Spiritual Journey – we get as we give" is now available. I have copies for Officers, Coordinators and DRs. The summary is on the member's website and can be downloaded. You can order a copy online from the WSO There is a \$5 change for shipping and handling. You'll find a lot more information on the 2012 World Service conference than I was able to put in my Delegate's Report this past May.

The 2013 International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia is fast approaching. The Convention will be held 7/5/13-7/7/13. Registration will begin this September. You will be able to register online; there will also be paper registration forms mailed to groups. Once you have registered you will be able to book housing. If registered before 12/31/12 the fee is \$115, before 5/31/13 \$140 and as of 6/1/13 the fee is \$165. There will be a "Day of Connecting" on Thursday, 7/4/13, this is a separate event. Just a reminder you will need a current passport to travel to Canada. If you drive you can use a passport card. You should be able to find information at [www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org](http://www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org). I hope to see some of my NYN friends in Vancouver next July.

While we're talking about the 2013 International I thought I would give you an update on the progress of our newest piece of CAL. The final draft of the "Legacies Workbook" (working title) has been approved by the Literature Committee. It has been sent for policy review. The workbook is on schedule to be completed and in print in English, French and Spanish at the 2013 International Convention. As a member of the Literature Committee this year I am very excited about this workbook. As my Home Group is a Legacy Study group I am doubly excited about this workbook.

I thought that with this report I would talk a little about the "Thought Forces" presentations that took place during this year's WSC. In my Delegate's Report at the Spring Assembly I just touched on them briefly. Just a reminder that a "Thought Force" is a Thinking Group that comes up with ideas and recommendations, a "Task Force" is then an Action Group that works on implementation.

There were 3 "Thought Forces" that presented at the 2012 World Service Conference; 1. How to utilize the Service Manual, 2. How changes to the environment outside of Al-Anon may affect our meetings and fellowship as a whole and 3. Members involved in Service Work who are unable to effectively fulfill their responsibilities.

The presentation on "How to utilize the Service Manual" noted that while each registered group in the US and Canada receives a current copy of the Service Manual many of the manuals find themselves hidden in a box or closet, the result is that these manuals are not used. The Service Manual is not a rule book but rather reflects the past 60 years of group experience and a compilation of Conference decisions. Using the Service Manual helps for meaningful discussion in groups which lead to an informed group conscience. Use of the Service Manual promotes unity among members.

The "Thought Force" came to the conclusion that as members of the world Service Conference we are cheerleaders for the Service Manual. The "Thought Force" came up with 5 strategies to take back to our Areas and to create more excitement around using the Service Manual

1. Strategy One:

- Create a workshop that would use the Service Manual as a tool to gain information regarding subjects that are in question such as anonymity, election procedures, composition of the Conference, the purpose of the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter, or Concept 9.
- Contrive an activity like a scavenger hunt that uses the Service Manual to find the answers to some frequently asked questions.
- Invent a game that entails using the service Manual following a format such as "Trivial Pursuit" or "Jeopardy"

2. Strategy Two:
  - Develop a skit that would show how to utilize the Service Manual in the form of a mock Al-Anon business meeting or discussion between Al-Anon members. We could create fun characters and use real Area challenges offering where in the Service Manual the information may be found to answer a question or help solve a problem.
3. Strategy Three:
  - Create a letter or document that includes “talking points”, reminding members of the benefits and importance of using the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual
4. Strategy Four:
  - Develop a leaflet, brochure, bookmark, or table card for distribution to groups in our Areas.
5. Strategy Five:
  - Demonstrate the ease of using the online Service Manual
  - Pull questions out of a basket and have the online Service Manual project on a screen to find the answer
  - Incorporate the demonstration into the Strategy Two skit
  - Show how key words can be searched
  - Suggest that the entire Service Manual can be down loaded to an e-reader
  - Point out that the thumbnails on the side make for quick reference.

The presentation of the “Thought Force on How Changes to the Environment Outside Al-Anon May Affect Our Meetings and the Fellowship as a Whole” noted that trying to predict coming changes is bound to have omissions, overestimates and also underestimates. They did provide a list of some possible changes Al-Anon could face in coming years. These include but are not limited to:

- Technology-Communication: Change-New communication may change how potential members are introduced to Al-Anon.
- Technology- Al-Anon member contact: Change-Primary contact between Al-Anon members may no longer be face-to-face.
- Family structure and life styles-Less time: Change-People, particularly parents, may have less time. They may be working more. Going back to school, taking care of family obligations, etc.
- Family structure and life styles- Non-traditional families: Change-Types and occurrences of non-traditional families may increase.
- Culture/Diversity/Economics-Demographics: Change-Current demographic changes may continue with increased numbers of cultures, not just ethnic/linguistic, but generational, sexual, religious/antireligious, etc.

- Culture/Diversity/Economics-Faster pace: Change-Trend toward faster pace; Demand for quick fix.
- Culture/Diversity/Economics-Perceived “Christian atmosphere”: Change-More members and potential members (increasing populations of non-Christian religions; those who have very negative experiences with Christianity; atheists, and agnostics) may be upset by the perceived “Christian atmosphere” of Al-Anon. Meeting in Christian churches, use of the Lord’s Prayer, vestiges of church services such as ritual readings, passing the basket, etc., could influence that perception.
- Alcoholism and other addictions/illnesses-Multiple addiction: Change-Foe many Al-Anon members, and for the majority of newcomers, the alcoholic in their lives has multiple addictions. Often they consider the other addiction (usually drugs) to be the more acute problem.
- Alcoholism and other addictions/illnesses-Referrals: Change-Counselors and well-meaning Al-Anon members are recommending Al-Anon to troubled people even when there is no apparent alcoholism present.

The Thought Force presented some strategies to address the above changes to the environment outside of Al-Anon that may affect our meetings and the fellowship as a whole.

1. Strategy One; Develop scripts, skits, workshops, etc. to encourage discussions at all service levels about the difference between principles and procedures in Al-Anon,
2. Strategy Two: Encourage members to become more comfortable with technology by encouraging Group Representatives to use technical resources at the group level.
3. Strategy Three: At Area Assemblies and Al-Anon Information Service meetings give presentations on how to use the Al-Anon Web site and local Web sites in order to encourage members to use these Web sites.
4. Strategy Four: The local Al-Anon Information Service Office or district could sponsor a Beginner’s Meeting in a non-church environment.
5. Strategy Five: Develop a list of ways members can provide service to their groups without undertaking a long-term/ongoing commitment; for example, Group Representative for a year, Group Treasurer for six months.

For each of these strategies the Thought Force provided both pros and cons (they can be found in the Conference Summary).

The third Thought Force of the Conference dealt with “Members Involved in Service Work Who Are Unable to Effectively Fulfill the Responsibility of the Position” They were to identify issues which may result in members not being able to fulfill the responsibilities of a position and develop strategies to assist the Area in dealing with problems in a positive way.

Our primary purpose is the help families and friends of alcoholics. This can be a challenge when links of service are weak or even non-existent. Effectively addressing issues

while at the same time making sure we are practicing the principles of our program can be challenging. The Thought force stated two fundamentals in this process, they were Education and Communication. Both are needed for success.

Members of the thought Force were able to identify and number issues that result in members not being able to effectively fulfill a position. There are listed on page 65 of the Conference Summary.

The Thought Force developed a number of strategies, both short and long term to address these issues in a positive and productive way.

#### 1) Short-term Strategies

- Have a Policy Committee or Area Officers (at a minimum the Area Delegate and chair) develop an emergency process that would:
  - ❖ Incorporate open communication between members involved;
  - ❖ Designate oversight and short-term mentoring;
  - ❖ Specify goals to be reached within a specific time frame;
  - ❖ Be impartial and fair;
  - ❖ Make use of resources available, e.g. the results of the “Active Listening Workshop” conducted at the 2010 WSC

#### 2) Long-term Strategies:

- Provide job descriptions that are thorough and updated by every panel well in advance of elections. Consider posting them on a secure page of the Area Web site.
- Request that candidates for Area offices submit resumes outlining their qualification for the position they wish to stand for.
- Develop written strategies that address procedures for non-performance, using the descriptive text in the Concepts of Service found in the Service Manual. Specifically Concepts 3, 5, 9, 10 and 11.
- Conduct an orientation for new trusted servants. It may include: Discussion of guidelines for performance evaluation; or written consequences for not meeting their commitments.
- Hold a service position fair or roving workshop on “What is my job, and how do I do it?” before elections are held. One possible resource could be the “Responsibility” PowerPoint from the 2009 World Service Conference.
- Encourage service sponsorship.
- Consider all possible avenues to engage past Trustees and Delegates
- Include an Interview with Area Officers as part of the process of approving Area Coordinators as a means of giving more insight into a candidate’s ability to fulfill his/her responsibilities.
- Take an Area Inventory by the mid-term of every panel.

Each Thought Force worked on an issue that touched numerous Areas throughout the fellowship. After each presentation Conference members were able to share thoughts, ask questions and share their own experiences.

There is a lot more on each “Thought Force” in the Conference Summary. I would like to suggest that NYN could take up any of the ideas presented in these presentations and form our own Thought Force or Task Force as needed.

Much of what I have covered today is in the Conference Summary. In much more depth than I covered it. I encourage you all to read the Summary, either online or your own copy. If there are any questions I will try to answer them.

Thank you for your attention today.

Gratefully,

Ruth S.

Panel 52, NYN Delegate