

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

Forty-Eighth World Service Conference

April 13-17, 2008

Stamford Marriott Hotel

Stamford, Connecticut



AL-ANON
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE

AL-ANON
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE
1600



14/04/2008



Lois & Bill
Southern California Ranch - 1943

25/04/2007

**The Theme of the
Conference this
year was -**

**“Build Bridges-
Energize Our
Spiritual Quest”**

“Building these bridges and energizing our spiritual quest is the connection of the WSC to the Areas, the Districts, and the Groups” according to Zelda Richwine, former Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

**WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE (WSC)-
DEFINED**

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

ANNUAL MEETING

CONFERENCE PREPARATION

The Famous Manila Envelopes

File Exchange

Conference Communications Kit

Organize conference information

Contact and Prepare for Sponsee

NERD Conference

Northeast Regional Delegates Conference NERD

held this year in Mansfield, Massachusetts

We welcomed all the new (NERD) Delegates

**Received them with tips regarding what to expect at
the conference**

Answered any questions they had

Pre-Conference Activities

Meeting my Sponsee

Assist in assembling Sponsee's notebook together

Answer any questions she may have

Helped to prepare her for the new delegates orientation

Presented my Sponsee with her WSC pin at the opening dinner that evening

Took part in Area Highlight Session (delegates only active participants with vote and voice)

CONFERENCE OPENING

Full Conference Orientation

Conference Goals



**The spiritual
tone of the
WSC will
prevail by the
demonstration
of mutual
respect and
acceptable
conduct by its members.**

Mutual Respect and Acceptable Conduct

**Agree to disagree but people
are always respectful of one
another**

**Vary opinions and still
love each other**

**All equals and all leaders-
Mutual Respect**

Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate Conference decisions.

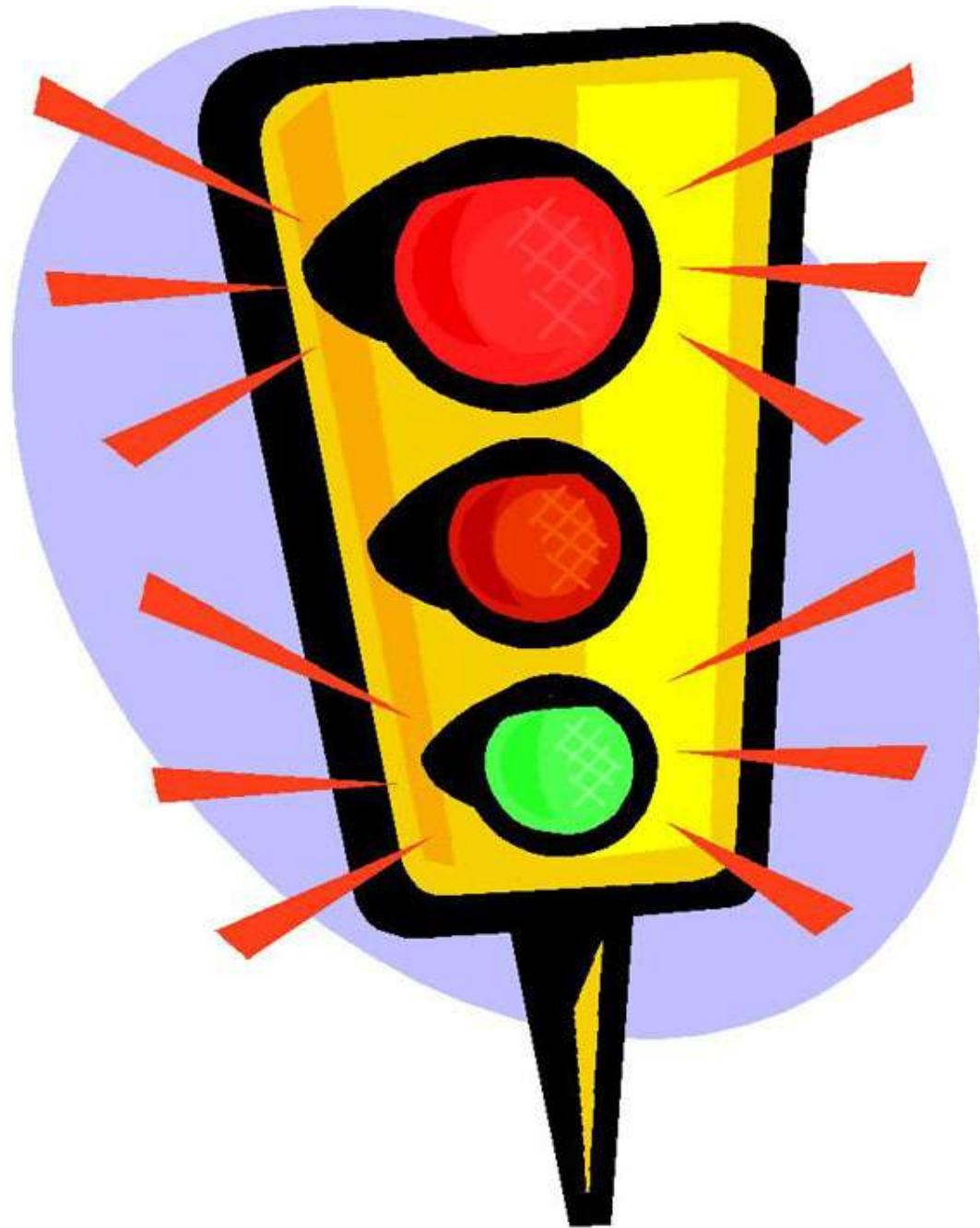


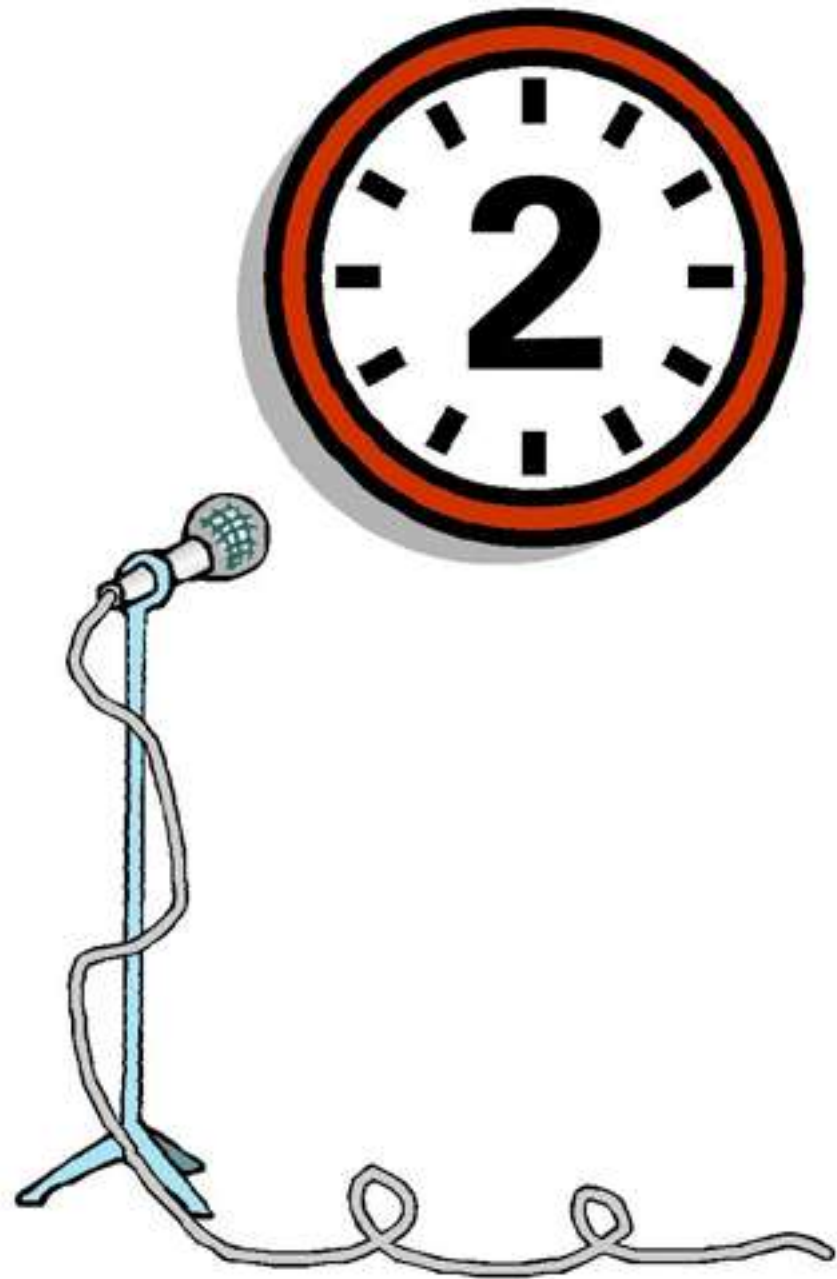
CONFERENCE RULES

AGENDA

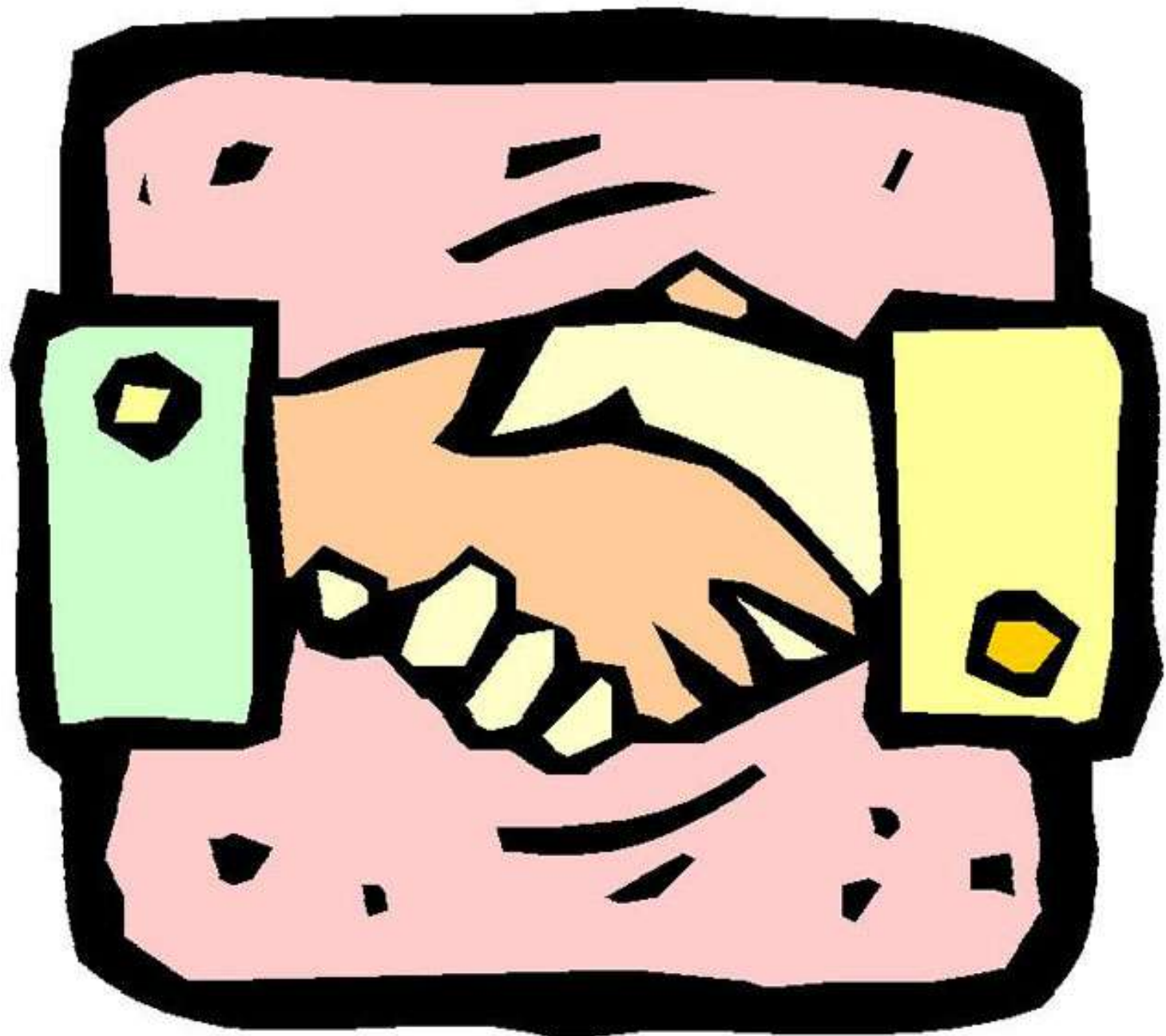


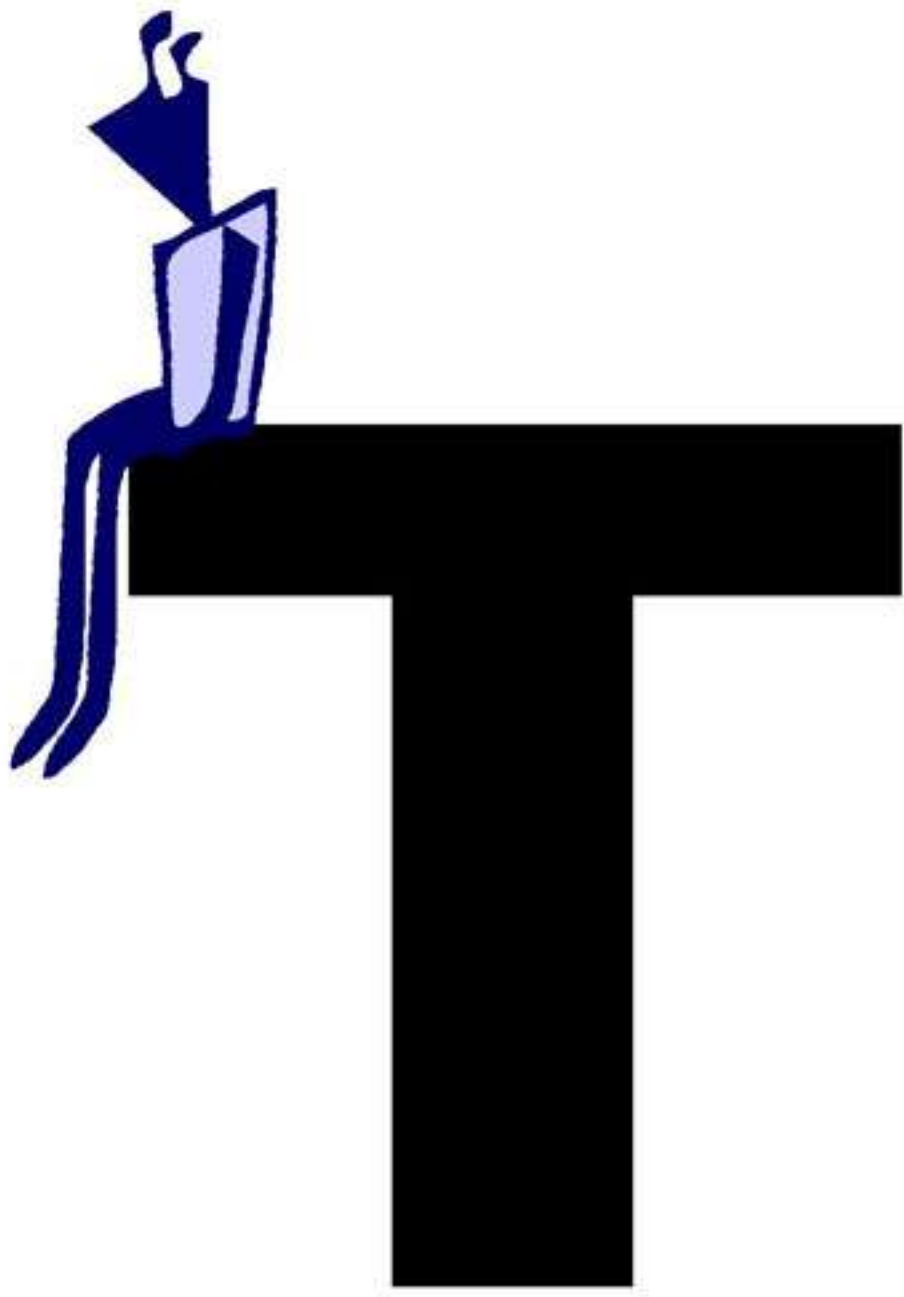






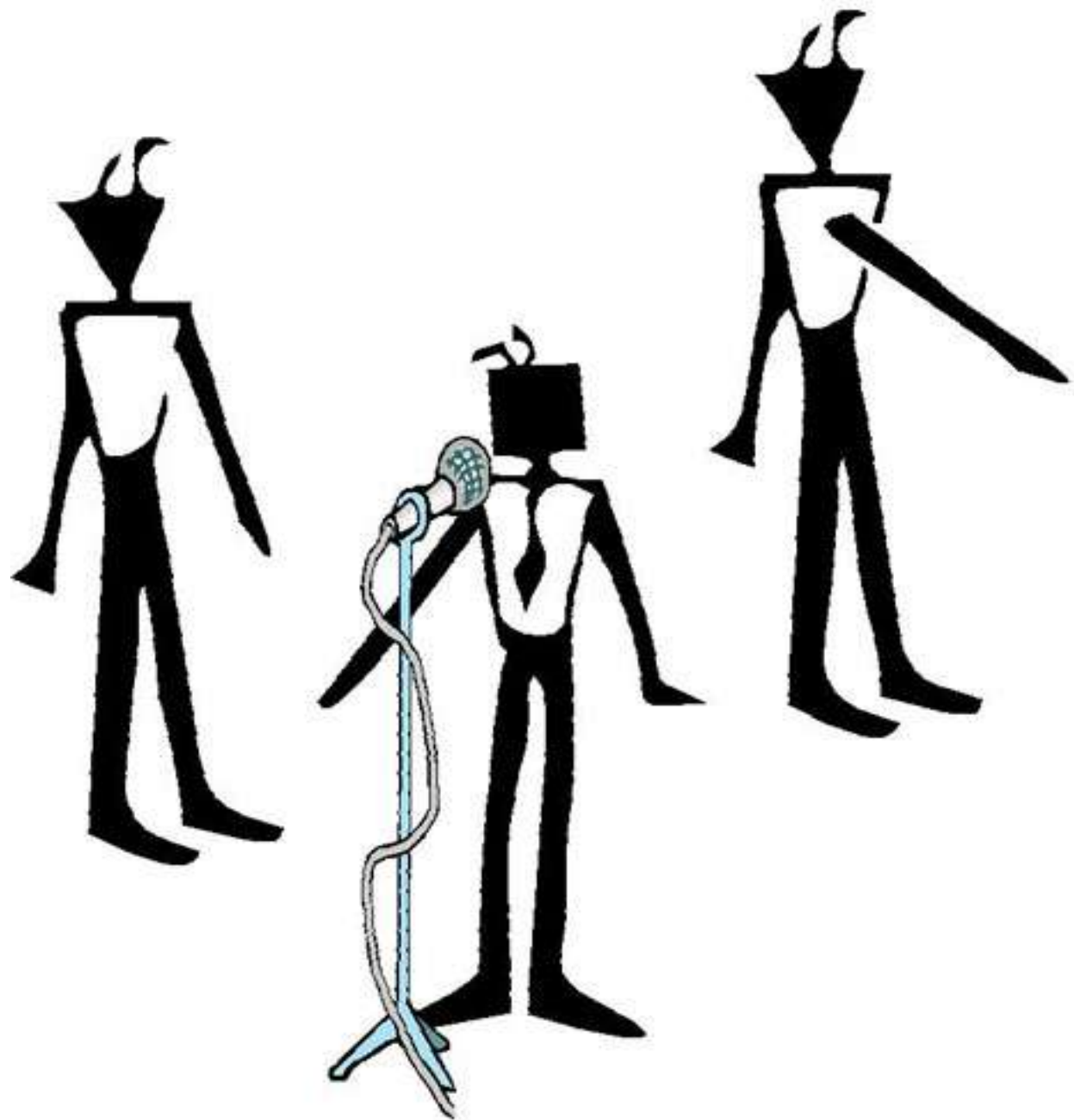


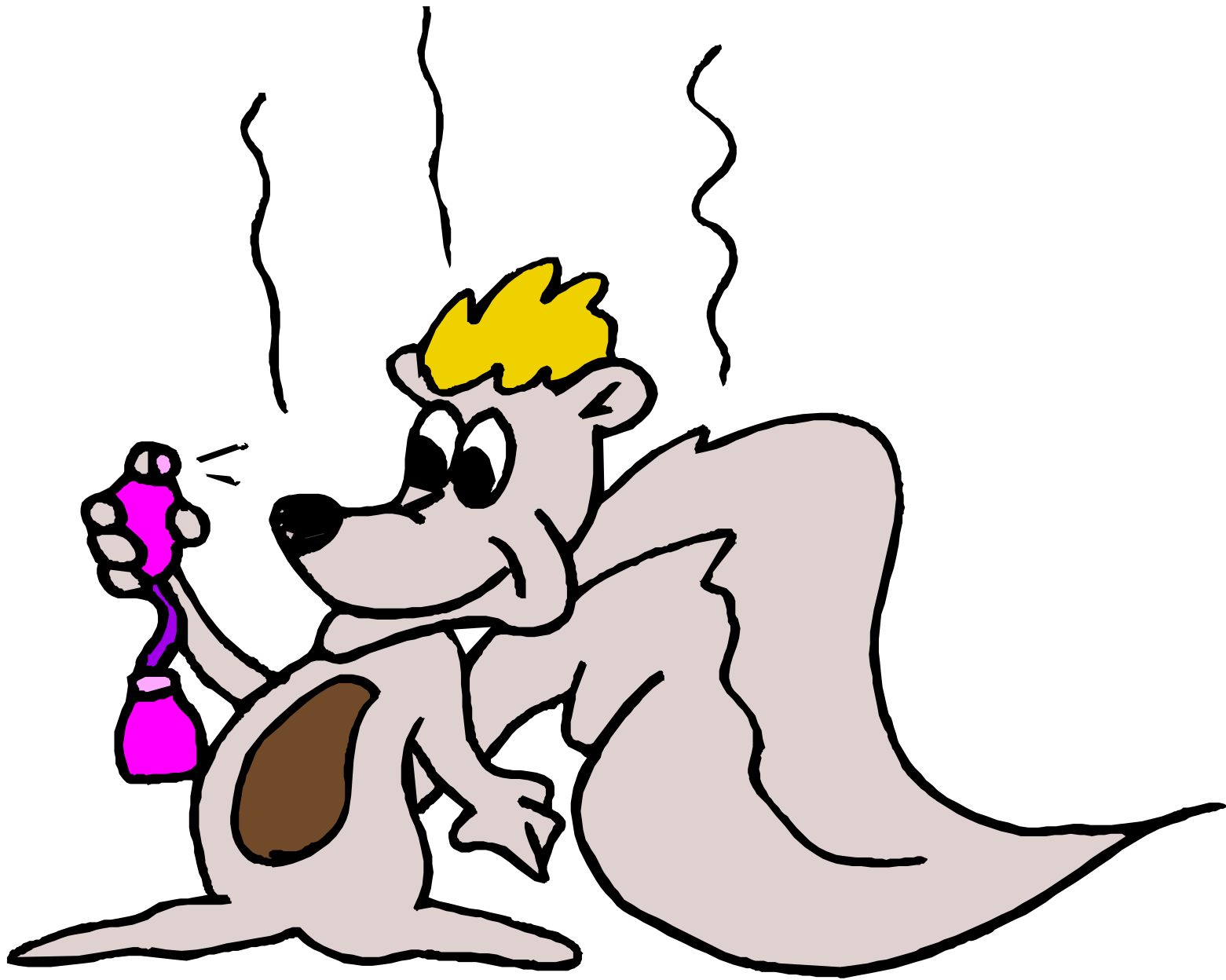






Talk talk
talk talk talk
talk talk





ROLES OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

- **Delegates**
- **Executive Committee**
- **Staff**
- **Board of Trustees**



GROUPS

INDIVIDUALS

DELEGATES

INDIVIDUALS

STAFF

**GROUP
CONSCIENCE**

**CONFERENCE
DECISIONS**

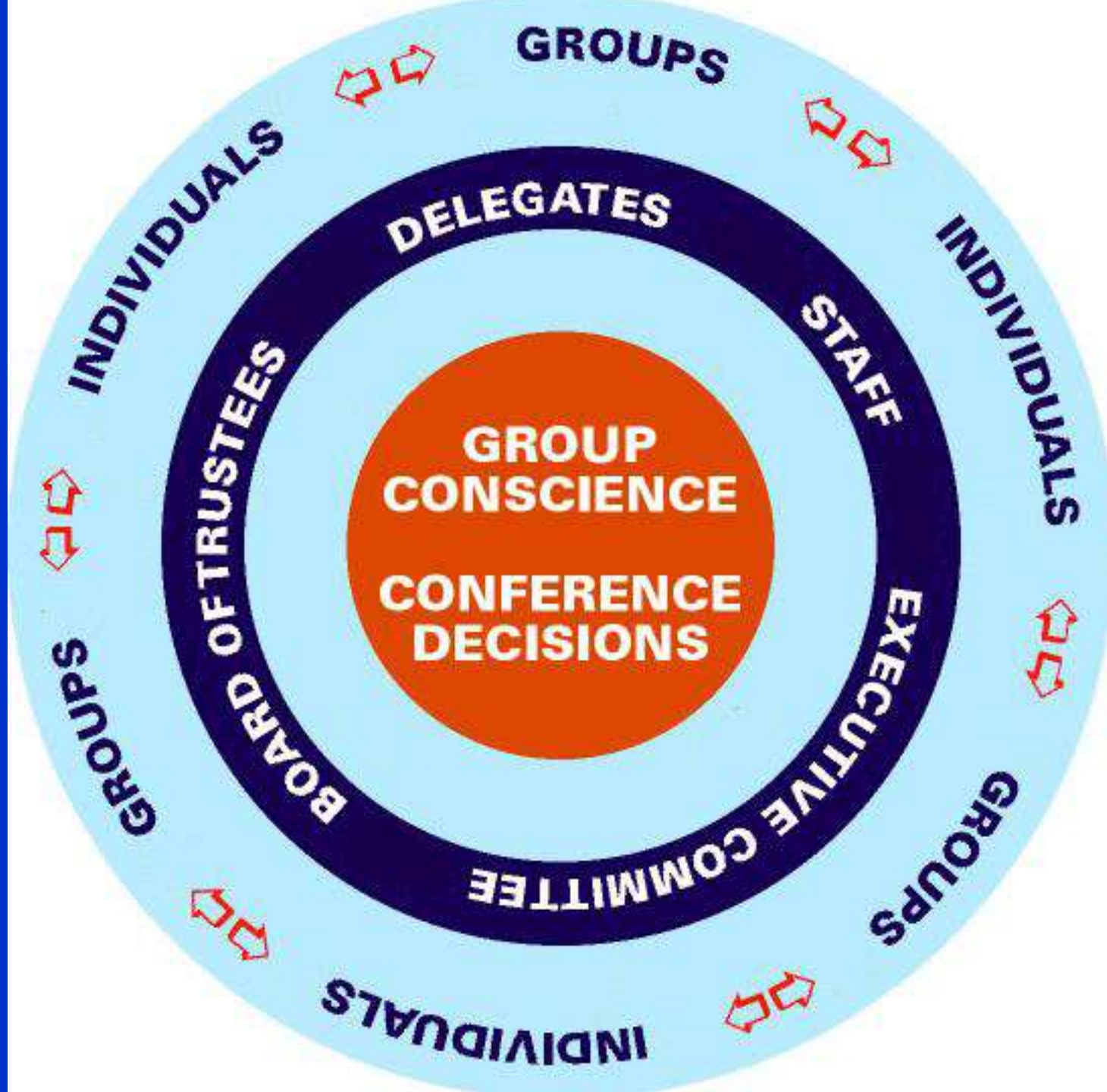
**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

GROUPS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GROUPS

INDIVIDUALS



GROUPS

INDIVIDUALS

DELEGATES

STAFF

INDIVIDUALS

GROUP CONSCIENCE

CONFERENCE DECISIONS

GROUPS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GROUPS

INDIVIDUALS









HOT TOPIC



Area Reportback

- High priority/in-depth and in Area newsletter
- Report outcome
- Report if time allows

Topic: _____

Background (what we know): _____

Main Points to tell my Assembly:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Outcome/Conclusion: _____

How does this topic tie to the Board's Strategic Plan? _____

“To Presume Goodwill”

**An intricate part of who and
what we are as a conference**

To see and ponder the daily CAL quote

**“I ask myself: Am I ready
to make a difference?”**

**When I get Busy I get
Better, p 21**

**“I don’t need to understand
the Power greater than
myself, only to trust it.”**

As We Understood, p 159

“My leadership style from the strict authoritarian style in the alcoholic home of my childhood. I simply present my experience, strength, and hope to others and provide support and encouragement for them to do their best. I strive to let it begin with me, which is true Al-Anon leadership in action.”

Hope For Today, p 251

“I was glad to know that the wishes of the membership would be checked by the trustees for all legal aspects, by the Conference for all Traditional aspects, and by the guidance of a Higher Power that would see to us all.”

Paths To Recovery, p 291

**“Good leadership never
passes the buck”.**

**2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen
Service Manual, Concept Nine
descriptive text, p 186**

“We all must remember, that our Higher Power is here at Conference and present in all of the final decisions, whether we agree with them OR NOT. Our Higher Power is an intricate part of Group Conscience.”

Judy Philson, 2007

Our purpose is to come together to take care of the business of Al-Anon. We are the voice of Al-Anon and the principle guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen's harmony and survival.

Conference Members interact as the Group Conscience of World Wide Al-Anon

“Knowledge Based Decision Making”

“Knowledge Based Decision Making Process to reach an informed Group Conscience”

4 Elements of KBDM

- **Open communication between leadership and membership**
- **Dialogue before deliberation**
- **All decision makers will have common access to full information**
- **We exist in a culture of trust**

Presume

Goodwill !!

**PRIMARY/HOT TOPICS
FROM THE 2008 WORLD
SERVICE CONFERENCE**

HOT TOPICS

- 1. Anonymity**
- 2. Excess bequest funds motion and Areas input for the process to distribute these funds**
- 3. Trip to Stepping Stones**
- 4. The use of Taskforces with Delegate members, for example the Reserve Fund Guidelines Taskforce that produced the Reserve Fund Guideline (G-41)**
- 5. Charter changes to protect the Alateen Traditions**

HOT TOPICS

6. **Conference Theme Session: How can we more effectively use the skills and talents of our WSC members to energize their spiritual growth?**
7. **Conference Theme Session: How can we, as WSC members, expand, renew, and strengthen our connections with the fellowship?**
8. **The Quarterly Appeal Letter**
9. **Chosen Agenda Item #3 – On creating and maintaining healthy groups focused on our spiritual principles and free from program dilution.**
10. **Chosen Agenda Item #5 – Are we preparing our future trusted servants for their positions?**

ANONYMITY

The policy chairperson appointed a work group to propose language pertaining to anonymity in electronic media for each of the three sections of the Policy Digest under Anonymity:

“Anonymity outside Al-Anon”

“Anonymity within Al-Anon”

“Anonymity in our personal growth”

ANONYMITY

Policy Motion #3

ANONYMITY

Background (what we know): Members have asked for internet classification.

Main Points:

Cover all media

Making sure we know who our intended audience is

On going and evolving

Internal vs. External – How does technology change the use of the publication

Produce webinars or PowerPoint presentations on recovery topics

ANONYMITY

How does this topic tie to the Board's Strategic Plan?

It relates to the plan under the Support and Strengthen Our Structure section

Goal #1 – The Board and Staff will be catalysts to strengthen the groups and to expand our mutual relationship.

Excess Bequest Funds Proposal

Allow a one-time bequest to the WSO in any amount desired by the member so long as it is not earmarked.

Report separately on the Financial Statements any amount that exceeds 10% of the total revenue of the WSO General Fund as identified in the previous year's audit.

The World Service Conference would authorize the expenditure of these amounts. The Board of Trustees would then administer those expenditures with the Conference's guidance.

The proposed policy gives the World Service Conference express oversight of these funds.

Excess Bequest Funds Proposal

Important Information

A legacy is a gift with strings attached. A bequest is an outright gift.

This is the first the time the Conference has been given this kind of responsibility.

Money may be available for special projects related to the strategic plan.

The spiritual principle of Tradition 7 is still maintained.

This topic falls under the Unlimited, Abundant Resources section of the Board of Trustees Strategic Plan. Goal #1 – Discover and use Universal Resources.

Excess Bequest Funds Proposal

The proposal was passed as Motion #9 at the 2006 World Service Conference by more than the required 2/3 vote.

Its implementation methodology is still being discussed.

Trip to Stepping Stones

The home of Bill and Lois Wilson from 1941 until their deaths in 1971 and 1988. It has been designated a state and national historic place.

Trip to **Stepping Stones**

“Wits End”

The book “Alcoholic Anonymous” was written on the desk that is still there. This is also known as the “Big Book” and has sold more than 20 million copies world wide.

Trip to Stepping Stones

Website: www.stepsstones.org

Available to visit Monday through Saturday ay 1:00 pm (with reservation) and at other times by appointment

Annual Al-Anon Family Groups Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 12:00 pm-5:00 pm (rain or shine)

Telephone: 914-232-4822

Trip to **Stepping Stones**

The Stepping Stone Foundation

Began in 1979 to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of alcoholism and its effects on family and society, and to preserve Stepping Stones, and its historic archives for Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Family Groups members and those interested in alcoholism education and research.

The use of Taskforces with Delegate Members

Presentation on Committees

The first committees were composed of staff members and volunteers. Later Trustees were added and then in order to widen participation, Delegates were assigned to committees.

Delegates are given the choice of being on a committee or short-term task-oriented groups where results are readily apparent.

Presentation on Committees

Taskforces or Thought Forces

Can be formed to move forward with the activities of the strategic plan, for example, and many other short term tasks.

Trial Periods

Allow us to make decisions to either continue a new committee or process, make changes to it, or go back to our previous way of doing things.

Charter Changes to Protect the Alateen Traditions

A motion was introduced at the 2008 World Service Conference to amend the World Service Conference Charter contained in the 2006-2009 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, World Service Handbook (pp 152-156)

The motion was tabled and sent back for clarification and rewording

Conference Theme Session:

How can we more effectively use the skills and talents of our WSC members to energize their spiritual growth?

Conference Theme Session:

We can convey information to our membership more effectively by utilizing today's technology to enhance providing the information from the WSC throughout the links of service.

Conference Theme Session:

For the WSO to develop and make available PowerPoint/ipod presentations for training purposes that will guarantee a standard message or answer to be distributed throughout the fellowship. They could develop more technical presentations regarding important or controversial topics.

Conference Theme Session:

Produce CDs for Districts, Groups, or Individual members on subjects such as the 12 Steps – 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts – Sponsorship – Detaching with Love – etc.

Provide more funds to make visits from WSO Staff or Trustees to discuss subjects or policies that need clarification.

Conference Theme Session:

Develop e-CAL pieces that will send spiritual messages to our membership.

Develop a “Thought for Today” from the WSO that a member could register for and receive via e-mail.

Conference Theme Session:

Have a targeted willingness to share with other and especially new members the skills and talents you have developed through your service to the fellowship.

Conference Theme Session:

Make an effort to survey our fellowship to determine what members have various skill sets that will be helpful in advancing our fellowship message and methods of delivering it.

Some examples: Computer skills, writing skills, speaking skills, skit development and production skills, e-CAL, talent, etc.

Conference Theme Session:

**We are Conference Leaders –
How can we as WSC members
expand, renew, and strengthen
our connections with the
fellowship.**

Conference Theme Session:

Invite and host World Service Conference staff to our Area to help energize members

Set up a series of DR conference calls

Delegate meetings with different districts by delegates and others

At Assemblies, help GRs recap important points to take home. Design and use effective “Hot Topic Forms” to streamline the process

Conference Theme Session:

Re-cap critical points at the end of Assemblies

Invite newcomers to Assemblies and Regional Service Seminars

Bring home and convey “Hot Topics” as determined by the Conference

Work hard and developing strategies to get a high % of GRs at assemblies outcomes.

- 1. Preparing others to be future leaders**
- 2. Every level of Service can learn to Think Big**

Conference Theme Session:

How does this topic tie to the Board's Strategic Plan?

It relates to the plan under the Support and Strengthen Our Structure section

Goal #1 – The Board and Staff will be catalysts to strengthen the groups and to expand our mutual relationship.

The Quarterly Appeal Letter

Most groups think it is a reminder to send in the group contribution

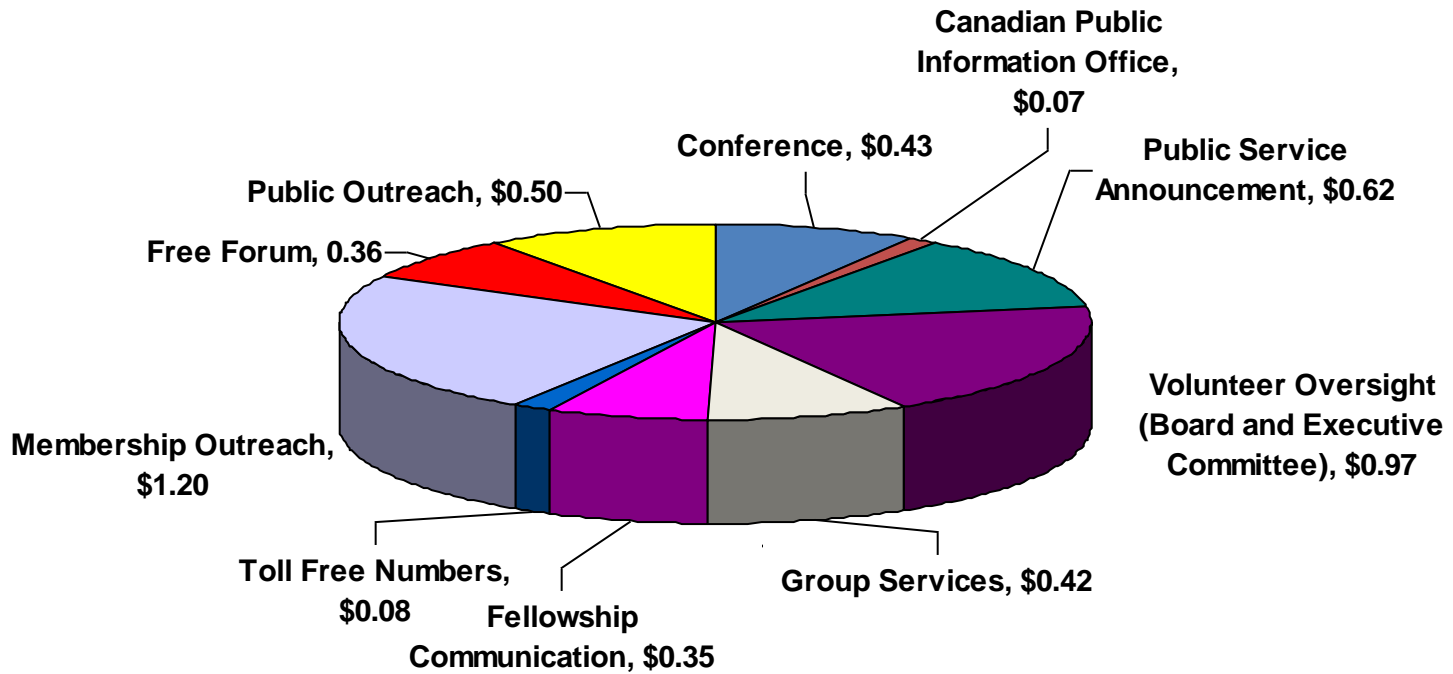
Originally in 1952 Lois asked for a semi-annual contribution of \$1.00 per member. People are still giving a dollar.

Since 1960 the groups contributing have only increased by 1.5%

A good idea is sharing the reading of the Appeal Letter to create enthusiasm (Delegate at Assembly) (GR at Group Level)

How your \$5.00 is used

Direct Service Expenses



The Quarterly Appeal Letter

Outcome/Conclusion

“Money is our messenger in places where you cannot be.”

Members contribution is a reflection of a members gratitude

The Quarterly Appeal Letter

How does this topic tie to the Board's Strategic Plan?

It relates to the Board of Trustees Strategic Plan under: “Unlimited, Abundant Resources” Goal #2

The Finance Committee will ensure that the budget reflects the priorities of the strategic plan as set by the Board of Trustees.

**Chosen Agenda Item #3 –
On creating and maintaining
healthy groups focused on
our spiritual principles and
free from program dilution.**

Chosen Agenda Item #3

KBDM Process Format for this Agenda Item

What do we know about our fellowships needs, want and preferences that are relevant to this discussion/decision?

What do we know about the “capacity” (resources) and “strategic position” of our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion/decision?

Chosen Agenda Item #3

KBDM Process Format for this Agenda Item

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of our fellowships environment that is relevant to this discussion/decisions?

**What are the implications of our choices?
(Pros/Cons/Other)**

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

**Chosen Agenda Item #3
KBDM Process Format for
this Agenda Item**

**Some thoughts of one
of our Panel of
Delegates**

Chosen Agenda Item #3

Fellowship seen as a garden, started small and now has become quite large.

Each of us has to help with the upkeep.

Weeds and invasive plants may try to take over our garden.

Informed participation may be one of the principles that helps us to keep our garden producing bountiful results.

Chosen Agenda Item #3

Balanced approach needed

Keep oneself informed

**There will always be instances
where our primary purpose is
challenged**

Chosen Agenda Item #3

Tradition One – Our common welfare should come first, personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.

Tradition Four – Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.

Concept One – The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon World Service belongs to the Al-Anon Groups.

**Chosen Agenda
Item #5 – Are we
adequately
preparing our
trusted servants?**

Chosen Agenda Item #5

Use the Knowledge Based Decision Making process format in determining if we are adequately preparing our trusted servants.

A weakness in the process.

Chosen Agenda Item #5

Suggestions to better prepare our trusted servants.

**World Service Staff and
Trustee visits to our Area**

More detailed job descriptions

Transition Meetings

Chosen Agenda Item #5

Suggestions to better prepare our trusted servants.

WSO to increase the use of technology in our AI-Anon training programs

Webinars

Chosen Agenda Item #5

Outcome/Conclusion – Standardized training from the WSO that is easily accessible

How does this topic tie to the Board's Strategic Plan – It falls under the strategic category of “Unlimited, Abundant Resources” Goal #1

Discover and use universal resources

**Other Important
Topics from the
2008 World
Service
Conference**