

## **Delegate's Report Fall assembly 9/21/13**

Good morning. I will be going over a number of different topics this morning. Much of what I will be talking about comes from the Chairman of the Board of Trustee's letter. This letter was sent after the July Board of Trustee meeting.

As of July 31<sup>st</sup> the eBook "Having had a Spiritual Awakening" has sold 1338 copies. The Forum is still a work in progress, it is hoped to be in electronic format soon.

The first audio book "How Al-Anon works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics" is now available. This first audio book became available on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

It is being sold as a download MP3 file not as a set of 10 or more CDs because it cannot protect the CD format from being copied. The book is 16 hours and 19 minutes long.

It is available through Audible.com, Amazon.com and apple iTunes store rather than directly from WSO. These vendors' have the technology and can provide copyright protection.

The book is narrated by anonymous Al-Anon members.

The letter provided an update on finances from the April World Service Conference. This update was for the period ending June 30, 2013.

The General Fund had a loss of \$140,200 compared to income of \$29,000.

Literature sales were below budget by \$179,100. Contributions were below budget by \$11,000. Other income and expenses were in line with the budget.

Literature sales were \$1,942,500 compared to \$2,121,600 for the previous year. This decrease was 8.4%. the gross profit was \$1,504,100 (77.4% of sales) compared to \$1,588,500 (74.8% of sales) last year.

Contributions totaled \$663,300 compared to \$674,400 last year. The decrease is 1.6%. I again think of the idea expressed at this year's WSC that if each group that did not contribute to the AFG, Inc. were to give just \$1.00 a month contributions would increase by \$75,000. If each group that is currently

contributing were to increase their contribution by \$1.00 a month that increase would be \$113,000. We would not have any losses.

While income has gone down expenses have increased. Operating expenses were \$2,480,500 this past year, compared to \$2,401,300 the previous year, an increase of 3.3%. This increase was primarily due to cost of living and merit raises that took effect 6/1/12, cost of living raises to staff effective June 2013 and an increase in computer supply costs over the last year.. Expenses were in line with budgeted amounts.

Fair value of investments in the Reserve fund total \$5,290,000 as of 6/30/13. This includes an unrealized gain of \$922,000. 4% of the average balance of the Reserve Fund over the prior 36 months will be transferred to the General Fund.

The theme for the 2014 WSC is “World Service Conference: Our Spiritual Principles in Action”. The Conference will be held from Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Again this year I am sure we will be very busy during those 5 days. In the Chairperson’s letter the question was asked, “What information could we provide so that you are prepared for a 12 hour business day at the World Service Conference?” To me this means we are in for a lot of work this coming Conference.

The equalized expense for Delegates for 2014 has been set. It is \$1280. The actual expense is \$1907. Last year there were 6 Areas that paid more than the full amount and 38 Areas that paid the full amount. NYN is working its way toward paying the full amount. This year NYN will be paying \$1650 and next year the \$1750 is budgeted. The expense is to be paid before the end of the year.

The Policy Committee has been discussing a few topics since the WSC. One that was discussed at the open meeting at the 2013 WSC concerned the spiritual and financial principles behind reserve funds within the context of Concept 12, Warranty 1. A thought force was charged with researching the “Digest of Al-Anon

and Alateen Policies” to identify the sections that could incorporate the spiritual and financial principles in relation to an ample reserve. The committee reviewed the initial work and agreed that it could be helpful to include the principles in either the “Digest” or in “Groups at Work”. The thought force continues to look at materials for future meetings.

The Policy committee discussed the “Convention: and “Religion/Philosophies” sections of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” after a Delegate requested clarity to determine if these policies are consistent with the text in “Groups at work”. A thought force will be created to further explore.

I’m sure we will hear more about both of these topics in the future.

A number of Areas have shown interest in the “Meet the Board” for July 2014. NYN submitted our bid earlier this month. The Board will thoughtfully consider every bid and select one area.

The Board is working on the agenda in anticipation of a day filled with meeting new and old friends, celebrating together our service work and gratitude for the fellowship in our lives.

Each year Delegates are asked to submit a Chosen Agenda Item that might be discussed at the WSC. During the conference two of the CAI will be discussed. The question behind these CAIs is “What are the items that shape Al-Anon as a whole that you believe needs to be discussed at the World Service Conference?”

I am asking for some help, if you have any ideas that you would like to see discussed at the WSC please give them to me. I will be using these ideas to help me write my CAI to be submitted later this year.

The process to choose a new Northeast Regional Trustee has begun. As you may remember Joan S. was chosen in April to fill a special one year position. The process will now fill that position for the final 2 years. Resumes have been sent to Delegates to score them. These will then be sent to the nominating committee to choose the two finalists and the Board of Trustees will meet them and make their decision in January.

One last topic I would like to touch on is something that I wrote about in this month's "Northern Hi Lights" and also talked about at the August AWSC meeting. The Literature Committee is looking for at-large members to fill vacancies that will occur in May 2014. These are 1 year positions that can be held for up to 6 years.

I won't go into all the requirements now but this is a service opportunity that is open to both Al-Anon and Alateen members. I have the resume forms with me today and I would love to talk with anyone interested in more depth about this wonderful opportunity. Resumes must be submitted by January 1, 2014.

I want to thank you all for listening this morning. I also want to thank you for the opportunity to be your Delegate. I cannot believe that I have completed two out of three years!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth S.