

Fall Area Assembly Delegate Report

October 2020 – Katy P.

2020 has provided unexpected and ample opportunities to *Dream Big with 20/20 Vision*. The use of virtual platforms has been a boon for those taking advantage of gathering electronically during this time of sequestration. Using the new AI-Anon Family Groups mobile app allows us to experience the worldwide fellowship in a single place at the click of a button.



The app is a work in progress. The World Service Office is working on fixes to the app based on our suggestions and requests. There is a Mobile Guide on the WSO website at <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/mobile-app/> if you have any questions. If you need help downloading it, please reach out to me or members in your group. Like a new meeting, it is heartwarming to watch an endeavor grow and change to meet its members' needs.

Speaking of meetings, have you attended a meeting through the virtual app yet? Sue P., Director of Group Services, is presenting a workshop at our Area Assembly and will answer all of our questions about our meetings. In real time, many of us are transitioning to face to face meetings, possibly including a hybrid component, or considering going completely virtual. She is the go-to person at the WSO for responses to the questions these changes bring up. If you are reading this before Area Assembly on October 9/10, invite all of your friends to attend this free event by signing up through the links on our flyer.

Finance

Thank you, members and groups alike, for your generous response to the WSO's special financial appeal. The good news is that the June contributions were \$335,732 (194% above budget expectations). The year to date contributions are \$615,206 (65% above budget). Year to date literature sales are trending below budget at \$541,392 (29% decrease). June electronic sales climbed to \$19,613, surpassing May sales of \$8,506. I love having access to electronic books. This will come in handy as meetings move back to a physical location, but book sharing is limited.

Expenses are down \$99,967 (45.10%) overall due primarily to travel elimination for the IAGSM, WSC and monthly executive committee meetings. The WSO is cutting spending wherever possible, including travel, employee furloughs and limited hiring.

There is still a projected deficit of \$420,000 through the end of December 2020. Our program teaches us to take care of our immediate needs first, ensuring our group can meet its priorities, and that our District and Area operations are fiscally sound. The WSO commends this process and asks that they be remembered with additional donations as finances allow. Donations to the WSO can be sent to AFG, Inc., 1600 Corporate Parkway Landing, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 or through the website at www.al-anon.org/contributions.

Virtual Town Hall

Areas are invited to participate in a Virtual Town Hall forum with three key presenters from the WSO: Lynette K., Chairperson-Board of Trustees, Vali F., Executive Director, and Debbie G. Chairperson - Executive Committee.

4 opportunities to engage in a Town Hall will be offered on November 14, 2020, December 12, 2020, January 9, 2021, and February 6, 2021.

The presentations will be 45 minutes long with approximately a 15-minute question and answer period. Topics include: Personal Sharing by Presenters, Finances and the WSO, Electronic/Hybrid Meetings & Mobile App, and Requirements for Serving on the Board.

Iowa has done a terrific job integrating technology into our events. Based on our success, I will submit a bid on October 8th to be one of the host areas. Each Area that is chosen will be responsible for pulling together all of the meeting logistics including technical support and inviting the membership to attend.

With only four dates available, it feels like we might be lucky to win a 'golden ticket'. I'll let you know!

CLT- Conference Leadership Team

The CLT is organizing a virtual 4.5 hour event on November 7th to honor outgoing members of the 2020 World Service Conference (WSC). I'm thrilled for the opportunity to listen to the personal stories that each outgoing panelist and volunteer will share.

The 2021 theme, Moving forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance, provides principled guidance as we move back into physical interactions. The 2021 WSC will be held on April 12 through April 16, 2021 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York. On April 17th, AI-Anon will celebrate its **70th Anniversary** with a banquet from 7:00 - 10:00 pm at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York. Tickets (price to be determined) will go on sale early next year and will be sold on a first come, first served basis (500 guests maximum). All members are welcome to attend the 70th anniversary. Plan to pair the banquet with a memorable tour of Stepping Stones, home of Bill and Lois.

WSC Thought & Task Forces/Work Groups

Updates: In June I included an in depth look at the Electronic Meeting Work Groups presentation on electronic and digital meetings. Since then our real time experience has brought nearly everyone up to speed on the inclusion of electronic meetings into our recovery structure. The July Chairperson of the Board letter notes that the workgroup is reviewing the definition, purpose and responsibilities of the Group Representative in electronic meetings. I will continue to share information on the structural underpinnings of electronic meetings as they are shared.

The Electronic Workgroup also discussed the role of the WSO in registering or providing electronic licensing to virtual events that are not connected to our structure through a service arm. The service arms are also called our links of service - GR, DR, Delegate, etc. Many fellowship-based events are excellent to attend, but since they are not connected through a service link, we don't include flyers or information about them on our District or Area websites or mention them in meetings. Events that are hosted through the structure, like this event or Area Serenity Weekend, or group and district events, can be presented digitally or in print at meetings. The Service Manual is an excellent resource for further information on this topic.

In August I noted the Task Force on Reaching & Unifying Rural & Large Geographic Populations would be an appropriate presentation for many of our Districts. I would be happy to share information with you at your virtual or physical events.

The Thought Force on Identifying Ways to Look at Service in Relation to Roles, Terms, & Possible Roadblocks is another pertinent discussion for our Area/Districts. The discussion among the attendees at the WSC included using the inventory process at all levels of service to open up discussion on barriers to service participation. Time and distance seem to be two obvious roadblocks. Technology and time limits were also mentioned. For many of us, rotation of service, paired with enthusiasm, can be keys to encouraging members to grow through service. The Thought Force created a presentation that I would be happy to share with the Area or at a District event.

Employment

There are two positions open at the World Service Office: *Group Service Specialist – Alateen* and *Magazine Editor*. Both require five or more years of membership and service in Al-Anon. Use this link for more information about job requirements <https://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon>. To apply for either of these positions, please forward your resume and cover letter to HumanRes@al-anon.org.

Albuquerque in 2023!!

Celebrate Al-Anon's Seventh International from June 29- July 2, 2023 in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. This will be an excellent way to meet your new besties that you've only been able to 'see' through digital means.

Attending an International has been one of the true highlights for me in my recovery. I've been able to gain new insights into my own personal recovery from members across the globe, to put faces with names of authors in The Forum and most importantly enjoy travel and adventure with my fellow lowans.

Our Area, districts and groups deserve a special shout out for continuing to meet during this challenging time. I am proud of the way we have grown in our understanding and utilization of technology while using the Legacies to guide us as we strive to maintain unity while responding

to a virus that we are powerless over. I know my life is better today because I can practice these principles in all of my affairs. Together we will continue to be a beacon of help and hope for those affected by another's drinking.

Virtually yours,

Katy P.

iowadelegate@gmail.com