

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to everyone here today. Attending Al-Anon business meetings provides deeper insight into another aspect of Al-Anon recovery. The coveted GR role is pivotal to the growth and success of our Al-Anon meetings through keeping the membership connected to the District and the Area. This year marks Al-Anon's 70th anniversary. Our longevity is a testament to our members' dedication to continue to serve our fellowship. A resounding Thank You to those that serve at any level, with special mention to our GRs, DRs, Coordinators, Officers and Past Delegates. Continuing to fill these roles ensures that this program will continue to be available for generations to come.

MOVING FORWARD

Many of us continue to feel our way through change as we melt back into the hybrid or virtual world or enjoy sitting together at face-to-face meetings. The 2021 Conference theme *Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance* continues to guide our membership to focus on our spiritual principles as we find our way forward. The WSO has again had to make a tough choice to postpone the Road Trip! event that was scheduled for October 2021 in Cleveland, Ohio. I don't have details beyond this and will share information as it is revealed.

UNITY

At the June Assembly I shared the Thought Force from Conference entitled Dreaming Big – Envisioning our Future. This weekend, Betty A., our AFG speaker (MN Past Delegate – Panel 58), will share a Task Force presentation that we both worked on for the 2021 Conference called Using the Concepts in Personal Recovery. Conflict Resolution, a third presentation from Conference is also available for use at your events. Please let me know if this material would be helpful for your districts and I will share these with you. I will always raise my hand to bring these to your district too! I am currently on a Thought Force called Maintaining a Sustainable Future using Abundant Thinking. I love the deep dive we are taking into how our Literature, Contributions and Principles of recovery reflect an abundant reality for our fellowship as a whole. Working on this Thought Force has helped me look at how my personal thinking is limited when I edge my Higher Power out. Staying focused on recovery through events like this one, using CAL and being with positive people builds unity in all areas of my life.

COURAGE

Who is ready to raise their hands?

The World Service Office is looking for volunteers to serve on four At-Large Committees – Public Outreach, Audit, Literature and Forum Editorial Advisory. Resumes are due by October 29th. Interested applicants must have five continuous years in Al-Anon and can never have been a member of AA. Alateen members need at least one full year of membership and must be at



least 13 years old. A resume may be found by clicking [here](#). Positions are one year and may be held for up to 6 years. This is a unique way to be of service to the fellowship worldwide.

PERSEVERANCE

Money talk is not always easy...yet we must.

As the WSO's liaison to the Area, it's valuable for me to reiterate the financial information the World Service Office shared from the July Board of Trustees meeting. The back of each quarterly appeal letter reminds us of the myriad ways in which the WSO acts as an agent of help to families and friends affected by alcoholism. Our own personal experience also speaks to the value of services received, ever evident during this pandemic. As the end of the year approaches and I am considering which organizations I would like to make charitable contributions to, I am remembering how vital Al-Anon has been to me this year and donating in kind. If you want to make a larger donation to Al-Anon Family Groups, or wish to have a personal receipt, a check or online payment should be made directly to the WSO so that you can receive a receipt for your tax records.

As your group reviews its budget or takes its annual inventory, please ask your group to expand its 7th tradition giving by including the WSO in its generous sharing of surplus funds.

A guide for group giving is to remember that it costs the WSO an average of \$263 to support each group. Iowa averaged \$76.85 per group from January to June 30 in 2021 for a total of \$5,149.62 donated by 67 of our 160 groups. Your DR can confirm that your group's contributions were received and see how they compare to the amount it takes to provide services from the WSO for each group.

Finance – Gratitude and Consistency Year to Date (YTD) June 2021

	YTD Original Budget	YTD Actuals	Total Original Budget	Revised Budget
Revenue				
Literature Sales- net	\$831,585	\$918,415	\$1,924,400	\$1,993,000
Contributions	\$1,373,092	\$1,261,535	\$2,882,110	\$2,543,535
Other income	\$292,500	\$330,771	\$585,000	\$563,600
Total Revenue	\$2,497,177	\$2,510,721	\$5,391,510	\$5,100,135
Total Expenses	\$2,732,645	\$2,493,674	\$5,465,290	\$5,333,888
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$(235,468)	\$17,047	\$(73,780)	\$(233,753)

The WSO revised their budget for the second year in a row due to the financial unpredictability caused by the pandemic.

- Year to date literature sales were up by \$86,831 while contributions were below expectation by \$111,557.
- Expenses were less than budgeted because staff positions had not yet been filled.
- The expected deficit of \$233,753 equals approximately one month of member contributions or 15 days of expenses. Cindy M., Treasurer, Board of Trustees, shared a message of Gratitude and Consistency when groups and members consider how much to donate. Again, a consistent donation through the quarterly appeal, with a goal of meeting the basic cost of supporting a group (\$263), is an achievable target for many groups.

NEXT!

The 2022 Conference theme is *Enhancing our Recovery through Abundance, Unity and Understanding*. Expanding on ideas generated this year will aid our fellowship to continue to meet the needs of ALL people. One of the Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) at Conference was *Diversity Today - What does diversity mean?* Specific areas of diversity include but aren't limited to language, gender, culture, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and (non) religious belief systems. The topic of diversity and conversely, focusing on what keeps us together despite obvious and covert differences, were threaded throughout the week. As we gather in newly formed groups both online and in person we may be interacting with a greater diversity of people affected by alcoholism. At Conference we were challenged to ask ourselves how well do our groups create an atmosphere of welcome to all peoples from all demographics? Annual group inventories can help the group provide an atmosphere of welcome and reveal barriers that might be standing in the way of continuous growth and the health of the group.



The historical vote to include both French and Spanish interpretation at Conference confirmed the desire to include all people equally at Conference. A trilingual Conference allows members with strong skill sets to serve at the World Service level regardless of language. The Conference believes that the added expense of interpretation meets the goal of being a global organization that provides barrier free access to recovery and allows for universal access to recovery (see page 4 of the [World Service Conference Summary](#)). The 2023 International Convention in Albuquerque, NM from June 29th through July 2nd will bring members from all over the world together to celebrate in shared recovery. Speakers, meetings, tourist opportunities and a fun time in fellowship with new and old friends make this a rewarding event to plan for.

I am eagerly awaiting the October Board of Trustees information, particularly the WSO's financial status, and look forward to sharing that information with you in January. I also eagerly

await attending my first physical Conference in Tarrytown, NY from April 26 – April 30, 2022. I want to show how big our hearts are in Iowa by showering the Delegates and Conference members with love gifts. Get your crafty wheels spinning! I'm looking for light, easy to pack symbols of our growth, recovery and love here in the heartland. These can revolve around the Conference theme of Enhancing our Recovery through Abundance, Unity and Understanding, or be reflections of your group, your District or our Area. I appreciate your thoughtful attention to this fun service request.

Know I am serving our Area with joy, love and appreciation for you and this service opportunity.

With gratitude,
Katy P., IA Delegate – Panel 60