

## Area Delegate Report

### AWSC Marshalltown March 2025

Hello everyone!

January feels like such a long time ago and at the same time here we are already into March!

I was able to attend the February Chairperson of the Board meeting. There are many things happening at the World Service Office and today I will be sharing a few of topics that were discussed. I would encourage everyone to review "In the Loop" and you will also see more of the discussed from that meeting.

I would like to ask a question....In January, I informed you of the theme for this years World Service Conference. Can anyone tell me what it is? Correct, it is **Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy.**

With that being said, there is a need for Regional Trustees. Currently Jean L. is our Regional Trustee for the US North Central Area. This is a position that hopefully someone is thinking about and how vital it is to AI-Anon.

If you know some history of AI-Anon, originally, the trustees were only from the New York area. Lois and Anne suggested it would be beneficial to have other opinions and suggestions and thus, Regional Trustees were developed. Let's work on preserving our legacy and encourage members to think about this position. In 2025, the Board will be seeking applicants for three Trustees at Large as well as Trustees from seven Regions: The comment below is from the COB letter:

*Originally, we received resumes for two Regions (Canada East and the Southeast). Regrettably, the Canada East applicant had to withdraw for personal reasons, and the Southeast candidate was unable to complete the application process. As a result, the Board had no Regional Trustee candidates to consider. Given the Board's practice of honoring the Areas' traditional authority by limiting the appointment of Regional Trustees, this lack of Regional Trustee candidates will leave the Board with five vacant Regional Trustee positions in the 2025-2026 term.*

When there are open positions, this puts a bigger load on the Trustees that are there now. We all know what it feels like when we are asked to take on more work, and we already feel like we barely have our heads above water! If anyone is interested in filling out a resume, please contact me and I will be happy to help you with it. A Role Description for Trustees of the Board, the online application, listing of Areas within Regions, along with other information, can be found at:

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/> .

## **Beyond the Group Level Service Definition**

*Through its nominating process this year, the Board became aware that it was using the phrase “service beyond the group level” on its applications without a consistent definition. The topic was added to the January 2025 Board agenda to allow Trustees an opportunity to align on their understanding of “service beyond the group level,” given that the phrase is not defined in the current 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v4.*

*“What is the definition of ‘service beyond the group level’ when used to describe service experience?” What was hoped to be a relatively short conversation confirming common understanding turned instead into a thoughtful discussion reflecting a diversity of perspectives. In the end, the Board agreed its primary purpose for the discussion was to clarify requirements for members applying to serve at the World Service level. As a result, the Board reached a consensus to ask the Nominating Committee to define the service requirements necessary for each position so that the term “beyond the group level” can be replaced by specifics in the requirements section of each of its applications.*

This next topic will be interesting to share with your groups and districts.

## **Past A.A. Membership Requirement for WSO Service**

*After the October 2024 Policy Committee confirmed the current “Service Participation by Al-Anon Members Who Are Also Members of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)” Policy, the Board of Trustees was asked to review its current criteria for members applying to serve as WSO Volunteers and At-Large Committee members. The Policy Committee recommended the Board revisit the requirement that applicants “cannot have ever been” rather than “are not” members of A.A., as the Policy states.*

*Consistent with its practice of reaching an informed group conscience, the Board members answered the four questions utilized to conduct Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) prior to the meeting and had the opportunity to review others’ responses and perspectives. After considering key themes, such as the original intention of the Policy and the spiritual principle that each member decides for themselves whether they are a member of Al-Anon or A.A., the Board reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the Policy Committee group conscience by deciding to revise its requirement related to A.A. membership on its applications to read “Cannot be an Al-Anon member who is a member of A.A.”*

I imagine I will have more insight on this topic after I return from the World Service Conference in April, so stay tuned!

Do you remember hearing about “**Road Trip**” and it was out in South Carolina in October? Guess what, in 2025, yes, this year, it is going to be in Omaha, Nebraska!! It is close to home folks. This usually happens when Iowa has our Fall Assembly, but still, put it on your calendar because you just never know!

The Policy Committee has been working on “**Choosing a Group’s Name Policy**.”

*The World Service Office (WSO) Staff began discussing how to implement the Policy as adopted. Consistent with their carefully defined service authority and responsibility, Staff presented their suggestions for implementation to the Policy Committee for review at its July 2024 meeting. Committee members considered suggestions related to new group registrations, existing group updates containing new names, and existing groups more broadly. After thoughtful discussion, the Policy Committee confirmed the suggested implementation for new group registrations and existing group updates containing new names was in alignment with the “Choosing a Group’s Name” Policy and supported Staff implementing the approach. The Policy Committee also confirmed that the Policy approved by the 2024 WSC applied to both new and existing groups; however, it agreed that further conversation with the WSC was required before any action was taken toward applying the new Policy to existing groups.*

*Quickly after the COB Letter and Policy Committee Update was posted, the WSO and Policy Committee began to receive multiple member appeals to this new Policy. The appeals were considered by the Policy Committee in October 2024. In the continuing spirit of Concept Five, “The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard.”, the Policy Committee concluded at that meeting that the appeals needed to be brought to the 2025 WSC as it was the decision-making authority which approved the Policy in 2024.*

**“Task Force: Implementing Choosing a Group Name”**

*This Policy Committee Task Force has been charged with creating a clear and detailed framework for a discussion at the 2025 WSC on the WSO Staff strategies for educating the fellowship on the need for existing groups to consider updating their name to reflect the new Choosing a Group’s Name Policy approved by the 2024 WSC. The goal of the Task Force is to gather feedback on concerns and potential improvements to the strategies before implementation.*

I personally look forward to this Task Force presentation and hope to share some insightful decisions with you after the conference. As you can see, Concept Five, the rights to appeal and petition are an important Concept. Again, what is the theme this year? **Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy.**

Finally, the finance report that ended 12/31/2024 is as follows:

**Revenues (Income)**

*Revenue consists of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue sources include magazine sales, Mobile App premium subscriptions, and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for December were \$233,254. Contributions for December were \$384,204. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget.*

**Expenses**

*The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO Staff salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits), technology support, Conference costs (including interpretation), and office expenses (postage, telephone, stationery, supplies, printing, Canadian office). Expenses for December were \$572,360.*

**Net Increase/(Decrease)**

*The change in net assets has resulted in an operating surplus of \$461,644, which is higher than the projected budget.*

*The members continue to respond to our message about consistent donations with our year-to-date contributions being above budgeted expectations by \$379,144 or 14 percent.*

*As mentioned on page one of Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), Lois specified at the 1968 World Service Conference that “she and Anne were cofounders of Al-Anon's World Service Office—Al-Anon, the organization—not Al-Anon, the fellowship, which was created by many anonymous members.” Both the organization and the fellowship are committed to the spiritual principles defined by our three Legacies: the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of Service.*

I look forward to sharing much more with you after I attend the World Service Conference in April. Thank you for your time today and again, let us all keep

**Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy.**

Becky V.  
Area Delegate/Panel 63