

Spring Assembly
Delegate's Report
June 11, 2022

Hello Friends,

I am overjoyed to convey to CT Al-Anon what I have learned and experienced at my first "IN PERSON" World Service Conference "Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity and Understanding". There was a total of 89 WSC voting members which included Delegates, Trustees & WSO Staff.

This was the First In-person World Service Conference since 2019! What a difference to experience the World Service Conference in person and it only took 3 years to get here!! It was an amazing to interact with Delegates I'd only met virtually, to share meals and conversations, laughter and tears, and get to know WSO Staff members and volunteers. I just gained a new larger extended family who are loving and supporting!! I felt our unity as Al-Anon members as well as non-members that are serving the worldwide fellowship together.

The first motion presented to the 2022 World Service Conference (WSC) was to admit the non-Panel Global Electronic Area which will now be referred to as Global Electronic Area (GEA) to the WSC Structure whereby the Area's elected Delegate will serve as a voting member of the 2022 WSC as a member of Panel 62.

The Global Electronic Area (GEA) Background and all the work that was done to bring us to this moment:

- In 1986 Alaska voted to join the World Service Conference.
- In 2021, the WSC voted to recognize Electronic Meetings as AFGs, and to create an Electronic Area.
- This year, WSO staff and volunteers worked alongside the new Global Electronic Area to ready them for possible admittance to the 2022 WSC.
- The GEA held their first Assembly in January 2022 for 650 registered meetings: 162 out of 217 elected GRs attended. Ten members stood for Delegate and one was elected.
- In March, a second Assembly was held to elect an Area Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. There were now 674 electronic groups in the GEA, and 141 out of 251 GRs voted.
- Within two weeks, the GEA raised enough contributions to pay the Delegate's equalized expense to attend the 2022 WSC in Tarrytown. The GEA Delegate, Ozzie stepped out of the room while WSC members discussed whether to accept the GEA as Area 98 of the WSC Structure, and seat the Delegate with voice and vote. One concern raised was if this motion

passes would that imply that all future WSC would be hybrid? The answer was NO, the GEA Delegate would be required to attend WSC in person like all other Delegates.

The Vote was a resounding YES, the GEA Panel 62 Delegate Ozzie was welcomed back into the room to a standing ovation. Based on his home location, the GEA will participate as part of the Southeast Region and attend the Southeast Regional Delegate meeting. With this 98th WSC Area, our circle is expanding again. I'm so grateful to have been part of this historic decision.

There is still some confusion on the types of groups that are recognized by the World Service Office. WSO is now simplifying the phrasing of the different types of groups and using the two following types of groups:

- **Physical Groups**: may include an electronic component (eg., virtual or phone aka hybrid) that enables members to join the physical meeting remotely in the same location and at the same time.

- **Electronic groups**: these are 100% electronic and would also include those groups that spun off from a physical group and would like to remain electronic. In that case these new electronic group would have to register separately with WSO.

- Here's what's new: If electronic meetings wish to attract a global membership, they can register now and be placed in the Global Electronic Area. If they wish to be connected to a geographic Area and attract a local membership, they may want to hold off registering until the Area has developed a process for accepting electronic groups. Connecticut Area had conducted a Thought Force on how CT Al-Anon would accept electronic meetings and their findings were presented at the May meeting and more will be revealed to see where CT Area goes from here.

****Please note WSO does not intend to set a date yet for when physical groups who are temporally meeting electronically will have to decide whether to return to meeting physically or stay electronic.**

Alateen:

Alateen figured prominently in the 2022 Conference Agenda. Here are the highlights.

1. **Chosen Agenda Item #1: Rebuilding Alateen Meetings after the Pandemic and Alateen's 5th Tradition In many Areas.**

Alateen attendance decreased dramatically during the pandemic. How can we support Alateen as it rebuilds after the pandemic, in keeping with Alateen's 5th Tradition? There was a lot of discussion on this and all these brain storming ideas were forwarded to WSO staff to determine what the next steps are appropriate based on our feedback.

2. **Alateen Presentations: Yearly Alateen Recertification Deadline and the importance of having recertification completed by deadline due date set by WSO.**

- In 2021, eleven Areas missed the June 15th recertification deadline and lost their Alateen certification! This was devastating for both Alateens and AMIASs, who lost the ability to use the Alateen name and to host Alateen groups. Areas had to start from scratch to get certified again with WSO.
- This year's recertification deadline for AMIASs and Alateen groups is 11:59 pm on June 15th. Per Suzanne Perez, Associate Director of Groups stated that WSO will do whatever it can to help Areas meet the deadline. It was heartbreaking listening to emotional accounts from Areas that have lost their Alateen Certification and the struggles to get Alateen Certification back. I have to give a HUGE shout out to both CT Alateen Coordinator, Lisa and AAPP, Miguel for all their hard work and dedication to CT Alateen program and for completing CT recertification for both last year and this year the deadline date. You are both Rock Stars!!

*******Area Alateen meetings should not be meeting electronically if the Covid restrictions are lifted in that area, the meeting should move back to FTF. Different than the adult meetings*******

3. Alateen Electronic Group Feasibility Strategy

Sarah Smith, Director of Programs started her presentation about how WSO is currently studying the feasibility of sponsoring electronic Alateen meetings across geographic boundaries, while ensuring the safety of Alateen members. Currently, there are 6 electronic Alateen meeting on Al-Anon Mobile app, which are well attended. These are the only Alateen electronic meetings that are supported by WSO, certified AMIAS and Group Service Staff via Al-Anon Mobile App.

• The study is being conducted with Alateen meetings via the Al-Anon App, and a handful of meetings hosted by Areas and a General Service Office (GSO). Some questions that need further study are:

- What are the country's laws regarding the safety minors?
- Do you have laws that restricts online participation based on age?
- Do AMIAS require additional training?
- How do you verify participants are from your structure?
- What measures are in place to ensure a safe meeting place for the teen

"The Alateen train has left the station, and this leg of the journey is all about exploration." Stay tune for updates as they become available.

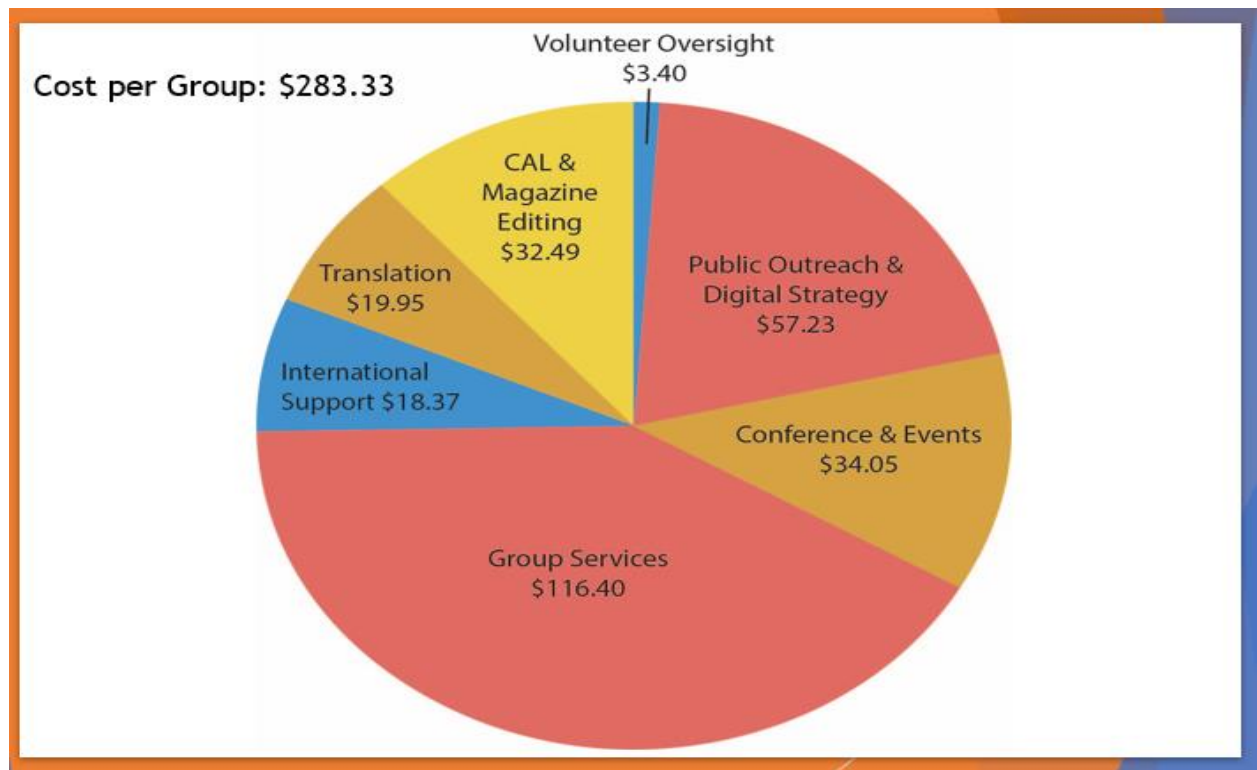
WSO Audit and Budget Reports:

1. Here are the highlights from the 2021 Audit Report:

- The Audit was conducted from January 18 through January 25, 2022. A clean opinion was issued and there were no audit finding.
- 2021 total Revenue from the General Fund was **\$5,173,609** and total Expenses were **\$5,249,675**.
- In 2021 Literature sale were **\$1,906,751**
- 2021 Contributions were **\$2,623,242** which was a decrease from 2020. Contributions continue to exceed Literature sales.
- Group contributed the most-\$1,029,077 or 39 % followed by individuals at \$521,296 or 20 %
- Other income includes magazine sales, Mobile App premium subscriptions and investment income or loss
- The market was favorable in 2021 and WSO ended the year with a gain on investments of \$1,826,683. However, those investments are restricted to the Reserve Fund and not available for general operations. The Board of Trustees, through the Finance Committee, has oversight of the Reserve Fund.
- The major expenses categories included:
 - a) Salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits)
 - b) Office expenses (postage, telephone, stationery and supplies, printing, Canadian office)
 - c) Occupancy
 - d) Public service announcements (PSAs)
 - e) Professional fees
 - f) Travel
 - g) Conference cost which includes interpretation
 - h) Bank/credit card fees

Now onto the 2022 Budget which again is a deficit budget! This is due to the effects of the Global Pandemic along with decrease in Literature Sales and Contributions. Please remember that WSO has been working short staffed for almost 2 years.

Each year WSO provides the WSC with the annual cost to WSO to support each Al-Anon Group. The slide below shows that it cost WSO \$283.33 per group. PLEASE SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH YOUR GROUPS.



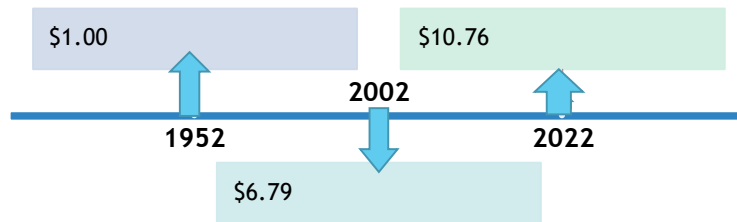
Here is the breakdown of how WSO supports the Fellowship:

- Provides Conference Approved Literature
- Produces Public Outreach Materials
- Promotes Community Awareness
- Maintains Group Registrations
- Hosts World Service Conference
- Aids in Electronic Meeting Transformation
- Hosts Mobile App with 100 meetings per week
- Supports International Structures
- Organizes Biannual IAGSM Conference
- Administers Membership Survey & Longitudinal Survey
- Produces and translates Service Manual
- Updates and translates Guidelines
- Hosts International Conventions

What total shocked it was to me was that even though **100% of Al-Anon groups are utilizing this service only 52% of groups contributed to WSO in 2021**. I am sad to report that of all of CT groups only 68% are contributing to WSO!!

Below is an illustration of the Power of the \$1.00 from 1952 to 2022

Power of a \$1



2) Here are the highlights from the 2022 Budget:

- WSO is forecasting total revenue for 2022 to be \$5,460,061
- 2022 Contributions goal is forecasting to be \$2,850,000 and Literature sales for 2022 forecasting to be 2,604,381
- 2022 expenses are being project to be \$5,813,175 which exceed revenues, and therefore there is a deficit of \$353,114.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.
2022 OPERATING BUDGET

	2022	2021	YTD
	Preliminary	Revised	Audited
	Budget	Budget	Actual
<u>Estimated Revenue</u>			
Literature Sales less cost of printing	2,057,461	1,993,000	1,906,751
Contributions	2,850,000	2,543,535	2,623,242
Magazine sales	235,000	255,000	238,040
Subscription income	32,000	28,000	33,328
Investment Income/Transfers	285,600	280,600	235,693
Total Estimated Revenue	5,460,061	5,100,135	5,037,054

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.
2022 OPERATING BUDGET

	2022	2021	YTD
	Preliminary	Revised	Audited
	Budget	Budget	Actual
Total Estimated Revenue	5,460,061	5,100,135	5,173,609
Total Expense	5,813,175	5,333,888	5,249,675
Net increase(decrease) from Operations	(353,114)	(233,753)	(76,066)

For the current budget year 2022, WSO are committed to restoring services that have been significantly reduced over the past two years. WSO recognizes that we will continue to experience revenue shortfalls due to the lagging literature sales from fewer LDC orders as a

result of the pandemic. We continue to reduce expenses wherever possible. We plan to return Staff levels to normal so the WSO can continue to deliver services to the fellowship, consolidate electronic Al-Anon groups with our physical groups, provide the updated 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) in all three languages, hold the 2022 World Service Conference in New York, and plan for the 2023 International Convention.

The Takeaway that was conveyed to us by Niketa Williams, Director of Finance and Operations was that even though the 2022 budget is a deficit budget, she states that WSO has always manage to have enough operating income to pay their bills. She also stated that this is unprecedented times due to the worldwide pandemic and the third year in a row that has been a deficit budget. It was stressed by both Niketa and Cindy Board of Trustees Treasurer that if all registered groups (13,841) in 2021 contributed the cost per group of \$283.33 that would equal \$3,921,571 in contributions !!!If all the groups that contributed in 2021 (7,179) contributed the cost per group of \$283.33, that would equal \$2,032,590 in contributions, which is 71 percent of our goal!

WSO still needs to rely on contributions to support operations in 2022. The Finance committee meets every month to compare the budget to that month's income and expenses. In the 1st quarter of 2022, contributions and Literature sales fell below projected levels. That means that as of March 31,2022 our YTD actual deficit has already increase to \$244,4920. we could potentially be at a deficit by year-end of \$980,000 (245,000 x4). Board of Trustees (BOT) will review the budget mid-year and make adjustments as needed. If they are significant, the Treasurer of BOT will report at the July COB presentation.

There will be a special appeal letter that will be sent out after the May appeal letter as contributions are lower than expected. Please give generously!!

(See below Finance Update in graph form.)

Finance Update: Cindy M. Treasurer

The following update is based on the unaudited financial statements for the period that ended 03/31/2022.

Revenues (Income)

Revenue consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue includes magazine sales and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for March were \$246,603. Contributions for March were \$221,849. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget, and Total Budget.

Expenses

The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO Staff salaries and benefits, Public Service Announcements (PSAs), technology support, and postage. Expenses for March were \$523,924. See the table below for YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget, and Total Budget. We continue to monitor all expenses and reduce them wherever possible.

Net Increase/(Decrease)

Change in net assets resulted in a net decrease of (\$244,495) which reflects the decrease in total income.

Investments

Our ample reserve is contained mostly in the Reserve Fund under the careful watch of our investment managers. Market conditions in March were unfavorable as the market experienced some losses. To date, we have an unrealized gain of \$3,181,775 in the Reserve Fund. Our investment accounts continue to be sensitive to market conditions.

Year to Date (YTD) March 2022

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Total Budget
Revenue			
Literature Sales-net	\$445,309	\$529,299	\$2,057,461
Contributions	\$613,398	\$661,828	\$2,850,000
Other income	\$121,014	\$138,150	\$552,600
Total Revenue	\$1,179,721	\$1,329,277	\$5,460,061
Total Expenses	\$1,424,216	\$1,453,294	\$5,813,175
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(\$244,495)	(\$124,017)	(\$353,114)

For me, Al-Anon has taught me the importance of having balance in my life and so WSC schedule in keeping with that concept, scheduled a little down time in the form of a visit to Stepping Stones. It was amazing to watch my fellow delegates from the Midwest and West Coast experience their initial awe at being at Stepping Stones. It was incredible to share this experience with 89 of my newest friends!!

Updates on Regional Trustees & Trustees at Large:

- There are currently 2-3 vacancies for Regional Trustee (RT), and 5 openings for Trustee at Large (TAL). That means we have twelve out of a possible nineteen Trustees.
- The 2022 WSC affirmed the slate of RT and TAL trustees, and Board appointments, as presented and at the Annual Board Meeting all were approved.
- No special appointments were made at this time.

Is this your next service commitment?

Highlights on 2021 World Service Office Annual Report:

The Annual Report is an extensive 50-page document that contains what WSO has been working and or accomplished in 2021

- New trilingual Online Store was launched
- WSO completed the English manuscript for the new daily reader
- WSO updated several new guidelines in all three languages
- Hosted a virtual 70th Al-Anon anniversary
- Completed the 2021 Membership Survey
- 2021 Global Al-Anon Family Groups' Statistics show that there is a total of 20,707 Al-Anon and Alateen Groups Worldwide.
- Translation and Reprint requests for Al-Anon Literature processed for the following languages: Russian, Spanish, Maltese, Brazilian, Danish, Finnish, Greek, Lithuanian and Icelandic.
- Due to Pandemic, there was a significant decrease in the sale of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism in 2021 in all three languages.
- 2021 Top Selling Book in English was "How Al-Anon works" (B32), In Spanish it was "One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (SB 6) and "Courage to Change- One Day at a Time in Al-Anon" in French.
- **Al-Anon Family groups mobile app. The official Mobile app of the Al-Anon Family Groups.**
<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/mobile-app/>
 - Since its launch in August 2020, the Mobile App has averaged over 1,000 new registrations every week, going from 25,000 in the first week of January to over 75,000 at the end of December 2021
- In Addition to the 2021 Annual Report, WSO provided information on several projects scheduled for 2022 which included the following: Electronic Meeting Data Base Transformation, 2022-2025 Service Manual Translation, New Daily Reader Translation, First Longitudinal Study, 2023 International Convention.

International Coordination Committee (ICC)

ICC Purpose: it was formed in 1978 as a way to communication and support international growth and perpetuate Al-Anon and Alateen. Support the growth of General Service Office (GSO) national Structure or evolving structures. WSC is an example of one structure.

~ International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM): Coordinated by the WSO, held biennially on even years for national structures. Currently 140 countries outside the US/Canada Structure (WSC)

* Accomplishments: International Growth: Service area registrations (Russia), translation and reprint, new and renewed contacts with Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, Antarctica, Israel), pilot projects for CAL distributions.

~ 2022 IAGSM: London, hosted by UK and Eire Structure, October 12-15, Theme: "Connecting Hearts and Minds Around the World", historically 15 -25 Structures participate

Is this something that excites and interest you?

Good News, WSO is currently seeking a new Assoc. Director of the ICC (in Virginia Beach). Here are the pertinent information about this position.

Reports To: Director of Programs

Supervises: International team

Al-Anon Membership: 6-8 years

Job Brief: Leads the World Service Office (WSO) efforts to develop and implement plans and programs to serve Al-Anon Family Groups in countries without a service structure as well as to meet the needs of evolving service structures and General Services Offices (GSOs). Manages the International Team, ensuring the principles of the Twelve Concepts of Service are applied to create an atmosphere of trust and to offer principle-based support to members across the worldwide fellowship.

Interested? If you believe you might be-even if you have only an inkling-we encourage you to talk to your Sponsor and your Higher Power and then, if you feel called, to simply do the footwork and trust the outcome. Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity. We gratefully anticipate receiving and reviewing your cover letter including details of your Al-Anon service history together with your professional resume at HumanRes@al-anon.org

Deadline for Application has been extended to June 20, 2022.

PSA's: With new vendor we reach 22,000 stations. Do not reach Christian, local cable and University channels. In 2016 WSO was happy if the PSA's were played on 300 stations. Contact Scott P. if a contact with the Christian, Local Cable and University Channels identified and the PSA can be provided. Let's spread the word!!!

There were two Thought Forces and one Task Force on the 2022 WSC schedule:

- **Thought Force: Diversity Today** presented a skit on what is diversity. One powerful statement made was "Diversity begins with me". Their recommendation was to create a

Task Force with Focus on the “How to’s”, Focus on Inclusivity/ Inclusiveness, Utilize the information from the triennial survey, Attracting Diversity.

- **Thought Force: Creating a sustainable future using Abundant Thinking;** They mention the use of Guideline (G41) which has tips to creating simple budget for groups, districts and Areas. Will help to assure sustainability of the future of the entire WSC structure. Their recommendation was to create a Task Force.
- **Task Force: Encouraging Service Participation.** The Task Force was charged with developing an action plan to encourage Service participation. Here are some of the plans that were suggested to the WSC:
 - 1) Service Inventory which would focus on service needs and opportunities.
 - 2) Breakdown service jobs into smaller duties,
 - 3) Create a team to help with each service job and
 - 4) Use of Technology to save time and expand the ability for members to participate in new service positions.

Are you up for a road trip this Fall? You are in luck. **Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect** is back after a year hiatus. It will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on October 28, 2022. There you will meet and interact with the entire Board of Trustees and Executive Committee following Fall Board Week, like a mini-World Service Conference. Registration begins August 2022.

There was a funny skit about applying for 2023 Road Trip in your Area. Applications for hosting 2023 Road Trip! are due Sept. 23, 2022. The New England Delegates will be getting together to discuss the pro and cons of maybe have a Combined New England Area submission to apply for hosting of 2023 Road Trip. We thought that it would alleviate one area from the burden of hosting this event alone and would bring a bigger draw of members from New England Area. We are schedule to meet in June 2022 and will get back to you with more info.

Ok so if Cleveland is not wowing you. Maybe a trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico sounds better. The Al-Anon International Convention is coming to Albuquerque, New Mexico which is scheduled for June 30, 2023 through July 2, 2023. Prior to the opening of the International Convention, on June 29, 2023 there will be a Day of Connecting, followed by a party in Civic Plaza. Below is the artwork for the Al-Anon International Convention theme is “New Hope, New Friends, Renewed Recovery”. Registration begins: January 2023. More information to follow. The title for the new Daily Reader is called “A Little Time for Myself” which will be released in three languages at the 2023 International Convention in Albuquerque



Albuquerque, New Mexico
June 30 – July 2, 2023



One of the perks of being at a in person WSC was the opportunity to attend the Annual Board Meeting, which takes place right after the WSC ends. It was a pleasure to see the Board of Trustees in action.

World Service Conference Site (2023) Announcement

The dates selected for the 2023 World Service Conference are Thursday, April 20 through Sunday, April 23, 2023. Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Wednesday, April 19, and depart on Monday, April 24. The Conference will be held at The Founders Inn, Virginia Beach, Virginia. In searching for a site to hold the Conference, the availability of adequate meeting space, hotel room costs, meal costs, and dates of religious holidays were taken into consideration. As reported in the 2021 World Service Office Annual Report, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to approve reducing Conference Week to four days effective 2023 on a three-year trial basis.

In closing, it is hard to capture in words the range of emotions I have felt from excitement, humor, Joy, love and unity that I have experienced at my First in Person as well as my Last World Service Conference as Connecticut Delegate! I am forever changed from this experience and the bonds and friendships that I developed with my fellow members of my 2022 WSC including my panel 60 peeps aka as "The Webex Bunch". It will stay with me forever. Thank you for allowing me to be your Panel 60 CT "Pandemic" Delegate. I'm grateful beyond words for this amazing and unique experience. I wish you all the joy and fun and growth that comes from service. Where is your HP leading you?

Love in Service

Marcia M

Panel 60 "Making History"

CT Delegate