

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Tracing Our Growth	1
Writers Reaching Out.....	1
Policy Motions.....	2
Use of Material	2
Reprint Authorization.....	3
Visit from Al-Anon Family Group Trustee.....	3
TEAM Events	4
<i>The Forum</i>	4
AWSC Yahoo Group.....	4
Al-Anon Participation in A.A. International.....	5
How to Strengthen an AIS Thought Force Assignment (2009).....	5
KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making)	6
Conference and WSO Pictures.....	6
Big/Recurring/New Questions	6
Wrap-Up	6
Your Sharings Are Needed.....	7
TRACING OUR GROWTH (working title).....	8
Writers Reaching Out Information	9
Get your own copy of <i>The Forum</i>	10

Introduction

This report updates the report that was presented to the Missouri Area Convention, May 18, 2009. Some information is new and some information that is especially important is repeated or updated.

The May 18 presentation included the just some of the total report. The total report is on the Missouri Area web site, members page—it can be found at: <http://missouri-al-anon.org/200905DelegatesReport.pdf>.

Tracing Our Growth

Attached to this report (pages 7-8) are details regarding a new book about Al-Anon's history. The 2008 World Service Conference (WSC) approved the development of the book which is to cover Al-Anon's first sixty years (1951-2011). Each decade of Al-Anon's history will be represented. Send sharings to the World Service Office (WSO) by October 31, 2009.

Writers Reaching Out

Also attached are details of Writers Reaching Out. If you are an experienced or aspiring writer see details on page nine of this report on how you can submit stories of personal recovery to non-Al-Anon publications.

Policy Motion

The following are part of a motion that will be presented to the 2010 World Service Conference; the rest of the motion is mostly organization in nature. The motion has been approved by the Policy Committee and reviewed by the Board of Trustees. If you have comments on this motion, please contact me.

Use of Material

CURRENT, pp 92-95 2006-2009 version	PROPOSED, pp 92-95 2006-2009 version
<p><i>Use of Material</i></p> <p>To keep Al-Anon’s message in focus, it is suggested that only Al-Anon /Alateen Conference Approved Literature and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools be displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, conferences and conventions. These items reflect an informed group conscience.</p> <p>Conference Approved Literature provides a unified view of Al-Anon/Alateen to members, professionals, other individuals, and outside agencies. Service tools produced by the World Service Office reflect the Al-Anon/Alateen service structure and the shared experiences of our membership.</p>	<p><i><u>Use of Material at Al-Anon Meetings and Events</u></i></p> <p>To keep Al-Anon’s message in focus <u>and encourage unity</u>, it is suggested that only Al-Anon /Alateen Conference Approved Literature (<u>CAL</u>) and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools be <u>are</u> displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon and Alateen meetings, conferences, and conventions. These items reflect an <u>the informed group conscience of the Al-Anon Family Groups as expressed by its World Service Conference since 1961.</u></p> <p><u>While individuals may use whatever they find helpful as part of their personal recovery outside of meetings, Al-Anon does not evaluate or recommend anything other than Al-Anon materials. When sharing at meetings, members limit any mention of outside material to a brief reference.</u></p> <p><u>A.A. literature is not used at Al-Anon meetings because it is written for and from the viewpoint of alcoholics and is not Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature. Reliance on opinions expressed in A.A. and other outside materials can distort the Al-Anon approach.</u></p> <p>Conference Approved Literature provides a unified view of Al-Anon/Alateen to members, professionals, other individuals, and outside agencies. Service tools produced by the World Service Office reflect the Al-Anon/Alateen service structure and the shared experiences of our membership. <u>(See Al-Anon Spoken Here [P-53], Why Conference Approved Literature? [P-35], and the “Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon,” as found in Alcoholism, the Family Disease [P-4].)</u></p>

Reprint Authorization

CURRENT TEXT, pp 96-97	PROPOSED TEXT, pp 96-97
<p><i>Reprint Authorization</i></p> <p><i>Requests to Reprint</i> The World Service Conference has authorized Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., also known as WSO, to be the publishing agency for the fellowship worldwide. Permission to reprint extensively from our publications is not granted in the United States and Canada to any individuals, within or outside of our membership, or to any outside agency. Forms to request reprint permission are available from the WSO. ...</p>	<p><u><i>Reprint Authorization to Publish and Reprint</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Publishing</i></u> <u>The World Service Conference has authorized Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. also known as WSO, to be the sole publishing agency for the fellowship worldwide. Therefore, no Al-Anon group, Information Service (Intergroup), Literature Distribution Center, or any other service arm may produce or publish its own literature or sell outside literature and/or materials. (The only exception is found under “Public Information Literature” in the “Public Relations” section.)</u></p> <p><i>Requests to Reprint</i> The World Service Conference has authorized Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., also known as WSO, to be the publishing agency for the fellowship worldwide. Permission to reprint extensively from our publications is not granted in the United States and Canada to any individuals, within or outside of our membership, or to any outside agency. Forms to request reprint permission are available from the WSO. ...</p>

Visit from Al-Anon Family Group Trustee

At the November Assembly (November 7-8, 2009) Mary G., Trustee at Large, will share her story and give an interactive/dynamic workshop on Leadership. Leadership is a persistent theme at Al-Anon World Service Conferences. I hope that the Missouri Area will offer Mary G. a warm welcome. ***Can we muster 150 to 200 attendees to the November Assembly?—I hope so!*** After her visit we may want to consider the Missouri Area sponsoring a TEAM event.

TEAM Events

I previously reported that Regional Service Seminars (RSSs) are being replaced by TEAM events.

The full presentation of the new event was announced at Conference. The new event is called TEAM, an acronym meaning

T ogether
E mpowering
A l-Anon
M embers

See an addendum to the May 2009 Delegate's report for an outline of the details of TEAM events.

The Forum

Have you read *The Forum* article "Will *The Forum* grow—or fade away?" in the July 2009 issue of *The Forum*? My May 2009 report asked "What is the future of *The Forum*?" Our *The Forum* Coordinator has raised the question in her *Round Robin* article in the June 2009 issue and will have articles for upcoming *Round Robins*. I encourage all to subscribe to The Forum.

Among the duties listed for the Group Representative (as mentioned on page 44 of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*) are the following.

- serves as local representative of the Al-Anon/Alateen magazine, *The Forum*, by:
 - acquainting members with its usefulness
 - suggesting personal subscriptions and submitting group subscriptions
 - encouraging members to write articles

A subscription form is attached to this report on page ten.

The Forum is good reading, good for new members, and great for public outreach!

AWSC Yahoo Group

I encourage all AWSC members to join the AWSC Yahoo Group; there are currently 15 members. It is a place for sharing of ideas via emails and postings of information. Posted information is secured to approved members. More on how to join the group is available from the Web Page Coordinator Sharon S.

Al-Anon Participation in A.A. International

I am sure that there will be Al-Anon participation at the A.A. International in 2010. As of 7/20/09 the following information is available from the A.A. Internet site at www.aa.org.

"The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 1-4, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels.

"We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and San Antonio, our host city, will be provided.

"We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and San Antonio, our host city, will be provided. Also, watch for articles in Box 4-5-9, the newsletter from G.S.O. that is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and posted on the Web site.

"Convention registration and housing reservations will open on September 1, 2009. In August, the registration packet will be mailed to every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O., as well as to intergroup/central offices and other G.S.O.s around the world. It will also be posted online."

How to Strengthen an AIS Thought Force Assignment (2009)

As previously reported AIS is the acronym for Al-Anon Information Services. Some are familiar with AIS being called Information Centers or Intergroups. For more information about AIS see Al-Anon Guideline G-3, *Al-Anon Information Services (AIS)*. All Al-Anon Guidelines are available for view on the WSO members' web site at www.al-anon.org/members, or specifically at <http://al-anon.org/members/guidelines.php>.

For 2009 I have been assigned to this Thought Force. The Thought Force has been busy with a flurry of emails and two teleconferences. Our plan of action is now being reviewed by the Board of Trustees. One of the plans is a fact finding survey to AIS and Delegates. More on this later as plans develop.

I find it amazing how much can be accomplished via emails and teleconferences.

KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making)

The Conference Leadership Team has developed a series of common questions for all committees to use in their work. These questions provide structure to the Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) process used at Conference. The questions are outlined in my May 2009 report.

I have written a detailed report on KBDM. It is posted on the AWSC Yahoo Group.

Conference and WSO Pictures

At the May 2009 Convention I brought the PowerPoint of Conference and WSO pictures. I had two foam boards with the pictures on them and left them at home. The pictures are here and available for viewing. They will also be available for viewing at the November Assembly.

Big/Recurring/New Questions

We have had some interesting discussions at the end of previous Conference reports. Best would be for lots of questions or comments to come to me at least two weeks before each Missouri Area meeting. Here is a starter list of questions that you may or may not be interested in discussing. Many of these topics have come up time-and-again. All this means is that they may still need to be discussed.

Al-Anon Promises	Dual Members as GRs	Trusted Servants
Al-Anon Structure	Group Problems	WSO Contributions
Combined Meetings	KBDM	
Conflict	Leadership	

Wrap-Up

Please contact me regarding this report or any other questions or concerns or recommendations. I am a resource for you and it is my pleasure to serve the Missouri Area Al-Anon Family Groups which includes Alateen and Al-Anon Family Groups as a whole.

Yours in service,

Remember Concept Four: Participation is the key to harmony.

Richard B
Missouri Area Delegate, Panel 48
richardb1935@sbcglobal.net

PS...2010 Conference is April 11-15, 2010 *or* April 9-16, 2010 (travel and day before meetings included).

Your Sharings Are Needed

Following a motion from the 2008 World Service Conference, the WSO is preparing a book about Al-Anon's history, TRACING OUR GROWTH (working title). The book will tell Al-Anon's story from the perspective of Al-Anon members, including those whose personal progress involved working in Al-Anon service on the challenging issues of their day.

Please share your recollections about the events you have witnessed since you joined Al-Anon—and what you learned from the experience. Your sharing could include the founding of Alateen, the first Conference, the creation of Conference Approved Literature, the influx of adult children of alcoholics, the relocation of the WSO, the introduction of the Alateen safety requirements, or many other events and achievements.

Here are some questions to consider as you write your sharing:

- How did the history you witnessed contribute to your own experience, strength, and hope?
- In your time in the program, what innovations did you witness? How did Al-Anon evolve as a program and as an organization? Were you witness to any milestones in Al-Anon's history?
- Which of your experiences in Al-Anon resulted in the most personal growth?
- What is your recollection of Al-Anon at the time you entered the program? What were your expectations when you entered Al-Anon? To what extent did Al-Anon meet those expectations?
- If you were involved in service, what were the major challenges? How were these challenges overcome? If you were a Delegate, what were the issues that your panel cared about most? How have those issues been resolved?
- What brought you to your first meeting? What was your first meeting like? How was that first meeting different from the Al-Anon meetings you go to today?
- If you were a WSO volunteer or staff member, what were the most important issues while you served?

This history book will need sharings from every decade from the 1950s to the present. Even if you think that the mid-1990s or the early twenty-first century is too recent to be history, please share your perspective with us so that this book can reflect every stage of Al-Anon's growth.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail your completed sharing **by October 31st, 2009** to:

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
Virginia Beach VA 23454-5617
Attn: Al-Anon History Book
Fax: 757-563-1655
E-mail: wso@al-anon.org

Writers Reaching Out Information

Are you an experienced, published writer and a member of Al-Anon?

Are you a member of Al-Anon and an aspiring writer who would like to publish stories, articles, or essays?

If you fit into either of these categories, have you wondered if it is okay to submit stories of personal recovery to non-Al-Anon publications?

The answer is, "Yes!" The Al-Anon World Service Office invites you to use your talent and writing skills to help carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to readers who are still suffering from someone else's drinking. Select local, regional, or national magazines, journals, Web sites/blogs, or other publications that you feel appropriate for your work. If you haven't been published before, try submitting your work to your church bulletin, organizational newsletter, or community newspaper. Please apply the principles of Al-Anon in your recovery writing—especially anonymity and confidentiality.

Anonymity outside the Fellowship

When writing or speaking *as an Al-Anon or Alateen member* in publications, films, on TV, radio, or the Internet, we do not reveal our full name or allow our face to be shown. On the other hand, if we **do not reveal** our Al-Anon/Alateen membership, we can use our full name and face in the media/printed word.

Some Ways to Write a Story without Breaking Anonymity

Write your personal experience anonymously as an Al-Anon member, using first name only or a pseudonym as author. Do not allow your photo to appear in connection with the story.

"Attending Al-Anon helped me learn how to take care of myself and gave me wonderful support through all the tough times." (Authored by Betty B.)

Write your personal experience using your full name as author without revealing Al-Anon membership. Photos may be used.

"Growing up with alcoholism left me wounded. I began to heal when I sought help in a recovery program." (Authored by Betty Brown)

Write ABOUT Al-Anon without revealing your own membership.

"Alcoholism affects more than just the drinker, the whole family suffers. Help is available in Al-Anon Family Groups right here in our community." (Authored by Betty Brown)

Write nonfiction in the third person using your full name as author. Write about yourself as if it happened to someone else. This does not reveal the author's membership. If you want to use elements of other members' stories, it is important to obtain their permission, and to withhold identifying details.

"Susan Smithers (not her real name) broke through her isolation when she reached out for help. In Al-Anon, she met others who had experienced what it was like to live with alcoholism." (Authored by Betty Brown)

Write fiction using your full name as author. Create a character who has been affected by alcoholism and attends Al-Anon or Alateen.

We'd like to share your success...

- Would you send the WSO a copy of your submission and indicate where you sent it? Please send to WSO, attention: Writers Reaching Out
- Would you let the WSO know when and where your story will appear?
- Would you accept the gratitude of worldwide Al-Anon/Alateen for carrying the message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics who are still suffering?

Let us know if we can help...

For more information see <http://al-anon.org/members/writers.php>.

Get your own copy of *The Forum*

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