

WSO Delegate Report
NYSA Assembly
June 28, 2020

Usually, it takes eleven months to put together the agenda for the World Service Conference (WSC). This year, in just one month, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) worked around the clock to train delegates, set up the technical team, cancel travel and hotels, streamline the agenda, and create a hybrid portion to the virtual Conference.

This year's Conference consisted of two parts followed by the Annual Board Meeting:

- 1) **Hybrid Conference (HWSC):** Three 24-hr online comment periods
 - a) Electronic Meeting Work Group (WSO Staff & Trustees)
 - b) Unifying Rural Districts Task Force: (Questionnaire, Rap, Breakout Session)
 - c) Identifying Ways to Look at Al-Anon Service in Relation to Roles, Terms, & Possible Road Blocks
 - d) Fear of Change Thought Force (Skit, Powerpoint)
 - e) CAI: How is Al-Anon going to reach new members in the 21st century and the millennial generation?
 - f) CAI: Our Envisioned Future sees Al-Anon being a global organization with barrier-free access to the program, how do you see this manifesting?

- 2) **Virtual Conference (VWSC):** Two 4-hr virtual periods for presentations, discussions, voting on the legal matters of AFG, Inc., and questions.
 - a) Audit Report (We received the highest marks from the audit company)
 - b) 2020 Budget (We expected to have a deficit budget because of strategic initiatives of Spanish and French interpretation, and the mobile app)
 - c) 2019 Annual Report (42 pp. of reports and sharings) plus a 9-pg. addendum (Jan-March 2020) It's incredibly impressive and moving—the amount of work WSO does for our worldwide fellowship!
 - d) Affirmation of Trustees and officers for the 2020-21 Board
 - e) Choosing Regional Trustee Committee Members (I'll be serving on the Southeast Regional Committee)

- 3) In the Open Annual Board of Trustees meeting, they voted unanimously to accept all Conference recommendations, and departing Trustees had a chance to say goodbye.

What we missed by meeting virtually:

- a) In-person presentations of thought forces, task forces, work group with all their fun creativity
- b) Breakout sessions and committee reports
- c) Policy discussions and committee recommendations (moved to 2021)
- d) Meeting and hearing international guests
- e) Sharing meals, conversations & hugs
- f) Hearing talks by Panel 58 Delegates and watching their skit
- g) Hearing Spiritual speakers, Board members, and Dinner speakers
- h) Being pinned by our Delegate mentors

- i) Exchanging and sharing love gifts from our Areas

Advantages of the Hybrid/Virtual Conference:

- a) The chance to reflect on questions and presentations with written comments that were substantive, thoughtful, well-researched and grounded in the Legacies.
- b) Sharing Area Highlights (SAH):
Each Delegate sent in a photo and highlights from our Areas. The SAH team turned this into a virtual yearbook, which helped us identify Conference members and get to know them and their Area.
- c) Sleeping in our own beds!

What moved, inspired, and excited me the most?

- 1) Reading how the role of Delegate is looking to the future of Al-Anon:
The Delegates, who meet only once a year, are concerned primarily about policies, plans, and actions to take effect in the future...
--From 4.15.20_Who Attends the World Service Conference, and Why?

Looking to the Future of Al-Anon

An inspiring future-oriented focus ran like a *leitmotif* throughout the Hybrid Conference, in the Thought Forces, Task Force, Work Group, and Chosen Agenda Items. Some noteworthy examples:

- Opening statement by COB Gail G.
- CAI: Envisioned Future comments
- Gratitude expressed by retiring BOT members

What questions were answered between April and June?

- 1) Welcoming Newcomers to our temporary virtual meetings: Now, the electronic Newcomers packet info **and** links to free WSO downloads may be posted in the chat function of our virtual meetings.
- 2) The 2020 Road Trip! in Ohio has been postponed until Oct. 2021.
- 3) WSO Finances: Treasurer, Trustee Cathy T., wrote in her May 14th letter that literature sales are down 75% and contributions are down 35%. Expenses have been cut and some workers have been laid off or furloughed: A \$1.6 million deficit is currently being projected for 2020.
- 4) How can we help support WSO? If every group gave an extra \$100 over their usual contribution to WSO, and if every Area contributed \$5,000, this would help tremendously! As individual members we can also contribute on the WSO website: al-anon.org/contributions
- 5) The Al-Anon Mobile App (English, Spanish, French) is about ready to launch! WSO will begin registering Mobile App meetings on July 1, 2020.
Some features:
 - Attend Al-Anon meetings within the App:
 - Record private notes/gratitude in a personal journal
 - Find and connect with other Al-Anon friends who have accounts on the App

- New announcements will be posted from WSO
- Take a virtual tour of the WSO with pins showing points of interest
- Seventh Tradition contributions may be made through the App
- Premium content: Initial release of the App will offer a daily members' sharing through a yearly subscription. Each day a new sharing will be posted.

What do we wish we knew but don't? (*Answers in future COB letters*)

- 1) How will the global health crisis ultimately affect WSO finances?
- 2) How will the equalized expenses be handled now that hotel and flights were cancelled?
- 3) What will the next version of T.E.A.M. look like?
- 4) Will the IAGSM take place in October 2020 in London?
- 5) The 2021 World Service Conference is planned for New York in April 2021. Will local health officials approve gatherings of 100 people?
- 6) The 70th Anniversary of Al-Anon banquet is planned for April 2021. Will local health officials approve gatherings of 500 people?

Questions for our Area:

- 1) 2021 is the 70th Anniversary of Al-Anon! How do we wish to celebrate it?
- 2) Shall we conduct a survey of all groups in NY South to strengthen awareness of links of service and encourage more participation?

Other News:

- ❖ WSO continues to be committed to translation and interpretation in three languages (French, Spanish, English). The April COB letter in English and Spanish was sent out with your Assembly documents. It is also available on the WSO website: <al-anon.org>
- ❖ The 2019 Annual Report is in the process of being translated and should be available this summer, along with the 2020 World Service Conference Summary.
- ❖ [Este informe de la Asamblea de Delegados está disponible en español y se publicará en ambos idiomas en nuestro sitio web: <al-anonny.org/Delegate's Corner>](http://al-anonny.org/Delegate's%20Corner)
- ❖ On our Area website, we're launching a NYSA Delegate's page for timely news and reports, including this one. Whenever possible, these will appear in both English and Spanish: <[al-anonny.org/Delegate's Corner](http://al-anonny.org/Delegate's%20Corner)>

Closing Remarks

Thank you for letting me represent you in the first ever Hybrid/Virtual World Service Conference! I look forward to being in service with all of you, and to infusing our journey with fun, creativity, and inspiration.

With love and gratitude,
Emily D-C

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