

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance
Avancemos con unidad, valor y perseverancia
Allons de l'avant avec unité, courage et perseverance

The 61st World Service Conference took place virtually from April 12-16, 2021.

These were long days and nights, and I was so grateful for the support of our Area in the form of e-mails, cards, snacks, and love gifts. Thanks to the generosity of our members, groups, and districts I was able to mail NYS greetings and love gifts to all Delegates and WSC Members.

So, what happened at Conference?

Because of the virtual format we were able to welcome twelve international guests from all around the world! It was a joy to hear them share their experience, strength and hope and to see the commitment of those, like the Australian representative, who logged onto Conference at 1:00 am every morning and stayed all through the night until the Conference ended at 9:30 am Australia time.

During Conference, we entertained a total of fifteen motions. They will be published in the 2021 WSC Summary. Some, like the seating motion, 2020 Audit, 2021 Budget, and 2020 Annual Report motions were routine, but others were historical and momentous. I'll get to those now:

I. Two Historic Proposals by the Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG)

The EMWG met biweekly since the 2020 WSC to grapple with the question of whether and how to incorporate permanent electronic meetings into our WSC service structure.

After two full hours of discussion, WSC members voted to: 1) recognize permanent electronic meetings as AI-Anon Family Groups, and 2) to create a non-geographically based Area for the 450 groups (700 meetings) that meet on electronic platforms. These decisions will allow electronic groups and the virtual Area to elect all service positions identified in the *Service Manual*, including Group Representatives (GRs), District Reps, Area Coordinators, Officers, and Delegate. The electronic Area is where the groups will receive support and give service.

Implication for New York South Area

This decision has implications for the geographic Areas, including ours. Each geographic Area needs to decide if they want to accept electronic meetings into their Area should an electronic meeting request it. But we have at least a year to come to this decision.

First, every permanent electronic AFG will be automatically placed in the "non-Panel Electronic Area." It will be up to the virtual groups to propose a slate of officers and schedule a virtual Assembly where newly elected GRs will vote on officer positions and elect a Delegate. Once they do this, the non-Panel Area can propose to the next WSC that they be officially recognized as our 68th WSC Area, and that the new Delegate be seated with voice and vote.

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

Only then may individual electronic groups ask to move to a geographic Area. It will be up to both the electronic Area and the geographic Area to approve this change.

Actions for New York South between now and 2022 WSC

We have at least a year to consider whether New York South Area wants to accept electronic meetings into our Area. We may wish to form a thought force to consider various parameters, and work out what our Area process would be.

II. Six important decisions taken at the 2021 WSC:

1) Interpretation at World Service Conference

After a three-year trial funded by WSO, members voted to continue offering interpretation in Spanish and French at the WSC so Areas can elect the best Delegate regardless of language. WSO won't be able to budget for this added expense without cutting salaries or other essential services. After much discussion, WSC members voted to fund interpretation costs through the Full Amount/Equalized Expense paid by each Area.

2) *Just for Tonight* Bookmark for Alateen

Conceptual approval was given to the Literature Committee develop a "Just for Tonight" bookmark with sharings from Alateen members.

3) Alateen Preamble

Approval of a revised Alateen Preamble, which will be updated in all Conference Approved Literature (CAL), and included in the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

4) *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6)

Conceptual approval was given to the Literature Committee to add a new introduction to *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* that places the book in its historical perspective.

5) *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4)

Conceptual approval was given to the Literature Committee to add a new introduction to *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* that places the book in its historical perspective, and to create a booklet of gems from this book.

6) Longitudinal Membership Study

Approval of a Longitudinal Study beginning Summer 2021, which consists of annual surveys of Al-Anon members who opt-in to the study. (*More details to follow in Announcements.*)

III. 2021 WSC Routine Motions:

- 2020 Annual Report was approved.
- 2020 Audit: WSO received an unmodified opinion from the Audit company, which means our accounting practices continue to be above reproach.

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

- 2021 Budget: Passed

In the last few Area meetings, I've reviewed the revised 2020 budget and how, because of over \$3 million in member contributions and cuts in expenses (WSO staff operating at 80% capacity, no staff travel, etc.) WSO ended the year with a \$509,000 surplus.

As groups continue to meet virtually, literature sales are not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels for much of 2021. This reasoning is reflected in the estimated revenue below:

AFG Headquarters, INC. 2021 Operating Budget

	2021 Revenue Estimate	Actual 2020 Revenue	Actual 2019 Revenue
Literature Sales:	\$1,882,110	\$1,846,492	\$2,914,246
Contributions:	\$2,924,400	\$3,295,720	\$2,186,645
Other	\$ 585,000	\$ 335,258	\$1,247,361
Total	\$5,391,510	\$5,477,470	\$6,623,313
	2021 Expense Estimate	Actual 2020 Expenses	Actual 2019 Expenses
	\$5,465,290	\$4,968,281	\$5,540,557
Net incr/(decr)	(\$ 73,780)	\$ 509,189	\$1,082,756

January - March 2021 Update: Good News from Treasurer's April Finance Letter

Income for the 1st quarter:	\$37,000 higher than budgeted		
Literature sales:	\$20,000 higher	“	“
Contributions:	\$17,000 higher	“	“
Expenses:	\$154,000 lower than budgeted		

The following chart provides more detail:

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

Year to Date (YTD) January - March 2021

WSO 2021 Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Total Budget
Revenue			
Literature Sales–net	\$469,080	\$449,099	\$1,924,400
Contributions	\$688,924	\$671,311	\$2,882,110
Other income: (Magazines, Mobile App, Investments)	\$158,920	\$146,250	\$585,000
Total Revenue	\$1,316,924	\$1,266,660	\$5,391,510
Total Expenses	\$1,211,867	\$1,366,322	\$5,465,290
Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$105,057	\$(99,662)	\$(73,780)

IV. Ten Important Discussion Topics at 2021 WSC

1) Board of Trustees Chosen Agenda Item: Diversity Today: What Does Diversity Mean?

“In this context, we can define diversity as understanding that each individual is unique. Diversity embraces varying abilities, belief systems, cultures, ethnicity, gender (including sexual identity and orientation), languages, thought process, and socioeconomic status.

“Because alcoholism affects people from all walks of life, respecting and acknowledging these differences as we come together for our common welfare can present challenges. Within the confines of Tradition One, how can we value and adapt to today’s diverse population? Are we evolving and growing in our interactions with others allowing for the creation of a more inclusive environment?”

2) Board Mega Issue (3 sessions): “How can we encourage and support members to share their talents and expertise on the Board of Trustees?”

WSC Members’ Chosen Agenda Items:

3) How does AFG, Inc. maintain the relevancy of the links of service in a time of increased and accessible electronic information?

4) Newcomers in a virtual world--How can we service them?

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

Time to Talk Topics:

- 5) Group Inventories in a Virtual World
- 6) Share your hybrid assembly, hybrid district meeting and/or AFG meeting experiences
- 7) Returning to face-to-face meetings: Looking for experience, strength and hope

8) Thought Force: Dreaming Big: Envisioning our Future

This presentation may help our Area think more strategically about future goals

9) Task Force: Conflict Resolution Workshops

Using three CAL pieces on Conflict Resolution this task force came up with three workshops to explore and work through particular conflicts (group, district, Area)

10) Task Force: Twelve Concepts of Service in our Personal Lives

Using CAL resources, this task force created a PowerPoint presentation with personal sharings on each of the twelve Concepts of Service

There is so much to explore in all these topics. I'd like to open some of them up in future workshops and Assembly breakout sessions. If any of your districts are interested in hosting one of these topics or workshops, I'd be happy to collaborate with you!

V. Eight WSO Announcements and Updates

1) Literature:

New Daily Reader (working title) with its focus on Diversity: If everything goes as planned, it will be available at the 2023 International Al-Anon Convention in English, Spanish, and French.

2) Save the Date—Road Trip! 2021 will be held in Cleveland, OH on October 23, 2021. This event gives Al-Anon members an opportunity to interact with the entire Board of Trustees and all Executive Committee members. It's a great opportunity to get to know all our WSO volunteers and see WSO service in up close.

3) Road Trip! 2022: For Areas wishing to put in a bid to host the next Road Trip! the application is due Sept. 2021.

4) Membership Survey/ Longitudinal Study: The **2021 Membership Survey** will be available June 16, 2021 to July 27, 2021 in English, Spanish, and French at al-anon.org/membersurvey

All Al-Anon members are welcome to participate in the **2021 Membership Survey**. Please encourage GRs and members to announce in their groups. **It's especially important for Spanish members to fill out the survey, as they were under-represented in the 2018 survey.** We

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

all need to be counted!

Longitudinal Study participants will be selected at random from members who opt-in at the time they take the **2021 Membership Survey**. Members who opt-in to the longitudinal study will be contacted via email and asked a set of ten questions, the same ones each year, for a period of five years from 2022 through 2026. All the data will be anonymous, but it will provide invaluable and convincing information on the benefits of sustained membership in Al-Anon on healthy functioning, and will make it more likely that researchers will cite the information in articles and that professionals will recommend Al-Anon to those they work with.

5) Electronic Welcome Packet (eK-10): The brand-new *Welcome, Newcomer!* is now available through all the eBook vendors (Amazon, GooglePlay, Barnes & Noble, for \$1.40 per copy or \$1.99 through Apple Books. The current print version of the *Al-Anon Newcomer Packet* (K-10) will be reformatted and streamlined with the next printing.

6) Al-Anon Turns 70 in 2021! The 70th Anniversary Celebration hosted by WSO will be made available to members from July – December 2021 through the Mobile App. Other Areas and service arms are hosting celebrations this year. Would New York South like to create a virtual 70th Anniversary event, too? If interested in exploring this option, please let us know!

7) 2023 Al-Anon International Convention: Al-Anon’s Seventh International Convention will be held June 29 – July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, NM. Stay tuned for more details. I’m going, are you?

8) Online Store Update: Conference members received a preview of the online store upgrades, which was completed in mid-May. We can order from our phone, tablet, or other mobile device. Most importantly, the new store will offer CAL for sale in all three languages: English, Spanish, and French!

VI. Chairperson of the Board Report, Lynette K.

As you may know, the Board of AFG, Inc. is responsible for Strategic Planning to meet the Board Goals for Members, Organization, and the Public. The Board is responsible for the “what” and the staff is responsible for the “how.”

At the October 2020 Board meeting, three new Strategies for 2021 were approved. Two of the strategies are associated with **Goal: Public:** “Both the public and professionals recognize alcoholism as a family disease, and Al-Anon as the universally available, effective, and sustainable resource for those affected.”

1. To create a public outreach virtual meeting on wheels

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

2. To commit targeted spending in LinkedIn advertising to raise awareness of Al-Anon, for which the Board approved a \$12,000 transfer from the Reserve Fund.

And for **Goal: Organization:** “AFG, Inc. has one global structure, increasing access to knowledge, resources, and the program”:

3. To evaluate barriers to the international structures attending WSC

Along with these three new Strategies for 2021, carryover strategies from 2020 include:

- Goal: Members—Upgrade Online Store (*Completed*)
- Goal: Members—Mobile App—Premium Content
- Goal: Members—Mobile App—Alateen Feasibility Evaluation
- Goal: Members—Update and Translate Guidelines
- Goal: Organization—Improve CAL Availability Globally

VII. Annual Report Update (Jan-Mar 2021)

Executive Director, Vali F. opened the session with a brief introduction, then turned it over to the Directors and Associate Directors who oversee the many departments of WSO:

- **Niketa Williams, Director of Finance & Operations (non-member)**
- **Marsha W., Director of Programs**
- **Natalie McC., Associate Director – Administration & Strategies**
- **Scot P., Associate Director—Brand Communications** (New title: The Digital Strategy Team has been renamed Digital Communications.)
- **Suzanne M., Associate Director—Conference**
- **Sue P., Associate Director—Group Services**
- **Kerri K., Associate Director—International**
- **Tom Coffey, Associate Director—Literature**

2021 WSC Delegate Report
New York South Area
June 12, 2021

After their reports and updates, Vali F. closed with a heartfelt tribute to WSO Staff. At 80 percent capacity, the staff worked tirelessly this year to provide continuous services to the members and groups of Al-Anon, and to prepare a wholly virtual and amazing Conference!

VIII. The Board's Goals for the Conference

The Conference, Al-Anon's largest group conscience, will act in the spirit of unity and goodwill to assure that Al-Anon's world services are continually available to the Al-Anon fellowship:

Goal 1: The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of Al-Anon's core principles in action.

Goal 2: The Conference will provide guidance to Al-Anon's Board of Trustees and the World Service Office (WSO) on services to the fellowship and guardianship of Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions.

Goal 3: Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference, relationships within the Structure, and be able to articulate Conference discussions and decisions.

All three Board goals for the Conference were beautifully met. The tone throughout was one of unity and goodwill. During Conference, we voted on fifteen motions. For each, we moved from presentation of a framing document (previously sent to us for review) to discussion, to a consensus on creating a motion, to discussion on the motion, to a vote. By the time we voted, the decision was virtually unanimous. Throughout this process, it was exciting to see Tradition Two and Warranty Three in action!

All in all, it was an amazing Conference! We accomplished so much, and some of the discussions and decisions will have historic significance for the fellowship.

It will take me the better part of a year to absorb all that we did in one packed week, and to convey just a small portion of it to all of you. I look forward to meeting in person next year for my first and last chance to experience Conference as it was meant to be—with all the hugs, shared meals, fellowship, and an actual trip to Stepping Stones!

2022 World Service Conference will be held in New York South!

The 62nd WSC is from April 26 - April 30, 2022. Delegates will arrive at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York on Monday, April 25, and depart Sunday, May 1. I hope we can give WSC members a warm New York South welcome!

As always, I thank you for your service to our Area, and for allowing me to represent the groups of New York South at the World Service Conference. It is an honor and a privilege.

Yours in grateful service,

Emily D-C

Panel 60 Delegate

New York South Area