

WSO Delegate Report  
Area World Service Committee  
May 17, 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 interpretation and 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. In some cases (vis, CAI: “Our Envisioned Future sees AI-Anon being a global organization with barrier-free access to the program, how do you see this manifesting?”) responses were both inspired and inspiring, forward-thinking, and visionary.
- b) Sharing Area Highlights (SAH):  
Delegates were asked to send in a photo and highlights from our Areas. The SAH team turned this into a virtual yearbook, which could be used to identify those who were speaking during the VWSC and get to know them and their Area a little better.
- c) Not having to travel or adjust to jet-lag, 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 AI-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?*

At our June Assembly, I'll speak more about how 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.

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

**What questions were answered?**

- 1) Difference between the Hybrid and Virtual Conferences
- 2) Difference between electronic Newcomers packet and links to free WSO downloads that may be posted during virtual meetings in the chat.

**What do we wish we knew but don't?**

- 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 mobile app be able to do, and when will it be ready?
- 4) Will 2020 Road Trip! take place in October 2020 in Ohio?

*Dreaming Big With 2020 Vision  
Rêver grand avec une vision 20|20  
Soñar en grande con visión 20|20*

- 5) Will the IAGSM take place in October 2020 in London?
- 6) Will there be an in-person 2021 Conference in New York in April 2021?
- 7) Will we have an in-person 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2021?

*The questions above will either be answered in the July COB letter or later.*

**Questions for our Area:**

- 1) 2021 is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al-Anon! How do we wish to celebrate it?
- 2) Would we like to conduct a survey of all groups in NY South to strengthen awareness of links of service and encourage more participation?
- 3) There is an application for *2021 Road Trip! You and your Board Connect*, due September 2020. If the Oct 2020 *Road Trip!* in Ohio is cancelled, Ohio may ask to host in 2021. Given our present situation, do we want to apply for 2021?

**Other News:**

1) WSO continues to be committed to translation and interpretation in three languages (French, Spanish, English). The April COB letter will be released in late May in all three languages. The 2019 Annual Report is also in the process of being translated and will be available when it's complete.

2) Together with our Website Coordinator and Chairperson, we'll be launching a NYSA Delegate's page for timely news and reports. Stay tuned...

**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  
Panel 60 Delegate  
New York South Area 40