

April 2021 Chairperson of the Board Letter

Dear fellow Al-Anon members,

The purpose of this Chairperson of the Board Letter is to share with you some of the highlights from our 2021 World Service Conference (WSC), along with updates from the Board of Trustees' Quarterly Meeting and the Annual Meetings of the Board. You will also find updates from our Policy Chairperson, a finance update from our Treasurer, and an update from our outgoing and incoming Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

World Service Conference: The 61st World Service Conference (WSC) was held virtually April 12–16, 2021. The theme of the Conference, “Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance,” guided us throughout the week. The Conference Leadership Team (CLT), having ample time this year to plan a virtual Conference, gave us five full days of Conference with an agenda that contained nearly all of the elements of a face-to-face Conference. The virtual format of the Conference allowed us to welcome 12 International guests and gave them an opportunity to share their experience, strength, and hope with us.

Two historic decisions were made at this year's WSC. The first decision was to recognize permanent electronic meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups. The second decision was to allow creation of non-geographically based Areas, the first of which will be a non-panel Area for groups which meet on electronic platforms. These decisions allow groups which meet electronically to elect all the service positions identified in the *Service Manual*, including a Group Representative (GR). Everything in the *Service Manual* will apply equally to all groups whether they meet physically or electronically.

Some other important decisions made at this year's WSC are:

- Conceptual approval was given to develop an Alateen “Just for Tonight” bookmark
- Interpretation will continue to be part of the WSC and will be funded through the Full Amount/Equalized Expense paid by each Area for their Delegate to attend the WSC
- Conceptual approval was given to add a new introduction to *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6) that places the book in historical perspective
- Approval of the revised Alateen Preamble language that was presented, which will be updated in all Conference Approved Literature (CAL)
- Conceptual approval was given to add a new introduction to *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4) that places the book in historical perspective and to create a booklet of gems from this book
- Approval of a Longitudinal Study starting in 2021 which consists of annual surveys of Al-Anon members who opt-in to the study (more details below).
- Approval to allow the election of the Regional Committee on Trustee Chairpersons, Alternates, and the drawing of the names for Out-of-Region Delegates to occur outside the general Conference session and prior to the WSC. This decision will allow more time on the WSC agenda for other discussions.

(See the CLT Update attached to this letter for more updates on the 2021 WSC.)

I want to send a huge shout-out to the members of the WSO Conference Tech Team! Your support and knowledge throughout the week were invaluable. Thank you for all you did to make Conference week flow as smoothly as it did.

For a more detailed report of the 2021 World Service Conference, please look for the free online *Conference Summary* which is scheduled for posting in July. A printed version will be made available for purchase in August.

WSO Volunteers: Five Regions—US North Central, US Northeast, US Northwest, US Southeast, and Canada West—began the process of nominating Regional Trustees by forming their respective Regional Committees on Trustees (RCT). While the process for nominating a Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large is different, **the deadline for résumés to be submitted to the WSO is August 15, 2021.**

The Conference gave traditional approval and during the Annual Meeting the Board of Trustees, in their legal capacity, elected the following trusted servants:

Regional Trustees:

Debbie P., Canada Central	First three-year term
Tony S., Canada East	First three-year term
Linda R., US Southeast	Remaining one year of a first three-year term

Trustees at Large:

Lynette K.	Second three-year term
Don B.	First three-year term
Kathi M.	First three-year term
Nancy S.	Remaining two years of a first three-year term

Board Officers 2021-2022:

Lynette K.	Chairperson of the Board
Marianne B.	Vice Chairperson of the Board
Cindy M.	Treasurer

The Board of Trustees, in its legal capacity, elected the following:

Executive Committee:

Deborah (Debbie) G.	Third one-year term
Terry F.	Second one-year term
David B.	First one-year term

Chairperson of the Executive Committee:

Deborah (Debbie) G.

Executive Committee for Real Property Management Chairperson:

Elizabeth (Liz) D. One-year term

Save the Date—Road Trip! Mark your calendars for this year's Road Trip! event which will be held in Cleveland, OH on October 23, 2021. This event gives Al-Anon members an opportunity to interact with members from the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. Be on the lookout for more details and registration information regarding the Cleveland Road Trip! Event.

Longitudinal Study/Membership Survey: WSO Staff began the process of developing the 2021 Membership Survey in 2020. During this process, Staff reached out to research professionals in the field of alcoholism/addiction asking for their opinions regarding our survey process. The professionals suggested a longitudinal study which would consist of asking the exact same group of members the exact same questions over a period of five to ten years. This would allow the WSO to track an Al-Anon member to understand the impact that consistent

Al-Anon membership has on mental health, etc. As with the Membership Survey, the data would be anonymous.

The Longitudinal Study participants will be selected at random from members who opt-in at the time they take the upcoming Membership Survey. Members who opt-in to the longitudinal study will be contacted via email and asked a set of ten questions, the same questions each year, for a period of five years from 2022 through 2026.

All Al-Anon members are welcome to participate in the Membership Survey regardless of the amount of time you have in the program. The Membership Survey will be available in English, Spanish, and French at the following link al-anon.org/membersurvey starting June 16, 2021 to July 27, 2021.

Electronic Welcome Packet (eK-10): The brand-new *Welcome, Newcomer!* will be available through all the eBook vendors in May, most for \$1.40 per copy! Due to Apple's pricing policy, the booklet will be \$1.99 per copy on Apple Books. The *Welcome, Newcomer!* has been reformatted and streamlined. This new recovery tool helps newcomers learn about the family disease of alcoholism, understand how Al-Anon can help families and friends of alcoholics, find meetings, and discover CAL. The current print version of the *Al-Anon Newcomer Packet* (K-10) will also be reformatted and streamlined with the next printing which will happen when the copies currently in the warehouse are sold.

[NOTE to Designer: Add Front Page Graphic for *Welcome, Newcomer!*]

2023 Al-Anon International Convention: Here is another opportunity for Al-Anon members to come together and celebrate recovery! Al-Anon's Seventh International Convention will be held June 29 – July 2, 2023 in Albuquerque, NM. This exciting event will be here before you know it. Stay tuned for more details as 2023 approaches.

Online Store Update: Conference members received a preview of the online store upgrades which will be completed in mid-May. The new store will be mobile friendly, which means you will be able to order from your phone, tablet, or other mobile device. Different topics have been created such as Newcomer, Parent or Grandparent, Al-Anon History, or Al-Anon Essentials (literature every member needs) to help you quickly find literature related to those topics. There will also be a quick order option—if you know the product code and quantity, you can enter and check out quickly. The new store will offer CAL for sale in all three languages: English, Spanish, and French!

COB Letter Presentation: At the April 2021 Quarterly Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a trial through November 2021 to present the COB Letter to Conference members in a virtual format, similar to the Town Hall events, with interpretation provided as needed. Each presentation will be an hour-long and will involve all Trustees. The agenda will consist of:

- 15 minutes – COB Letter updates
- 10 minutes – Policy update
- 10 minutes – CLT update
- 10 minutes – Finance update
- 15 minutes – Questions and Answers

The presentations will take place on May 1st, August 7th, and November 6th. The sessions will be recorded and made available only to WSC members via AFG Connects. Delegates will be able to share the information in the updates with their respective Areas.

Following the May 1st presentation, there will be breakout rooms available for the purpose of a “meet and greet” so Delegates can have the opportunity to make contact with their newly assigned Trustee.

The COB Letter will still be translated into Spanish and French. Once the letter has been translated, it will be posted and made available to all AI-Anon members.

Being a part of the 2021 WSC has left me feeling grateful that I get to be a tiny part of this amazing worldwide organization. As the Delegates return to their Areas and share the information they received at Conference, I hope you will get to experience that same feeling.

In appreciation,