

## January 2026 Chairperson of the Board (COB) Letter

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen members:

The purpose of this Chairperson of the Board (COB) letter is to share highlights from the January 2026 Board Week. As in past years, you will also find updates from the Policy Committee Chairperson, a Finance Committee update from our Treasurer, and a Conference Leadership Team (CLT) update, which together provide a fuller picture of the work being done on behalf of our worldwide fellowship.

### Welcome to Panel 66 Delegates

It is my privilege to welcome the new Panel 66 Delegates as members of the World Service Conference (WSC). On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee (EC) members, and World Service Office (WSO) Staff, I wish you all the very best as you begin your service as Delegates. I am looking forward to seeing you in Newport News, Virginia, for the 66th World Service Conference.

### January 2026 Board Week

The Board meeting began on January 12, 2026. The Trustees spent four days interviewing candidates and discerning which Trustee nominees to put forward to the World Service Conference for affirmation. We reconvened January 27–29, 2026, to complete the remainder of our Board agenda. As has been our practice in recent years, the January Board meeting was held virtually.

While Board service requires significant time and energy, these meetings continue to be deeply spiritual and fulfilling experiences, including two Al-Anon meetings. I am continually grateful to be part of a Board that shows up with willingness, openness, and commitment to serve Al-Anon as a whole.

### Nominations

The Board continued its practice of conducting Trustee interviews virtually. Following careful consideration, the following nominees will be presented to the World Service Conference for affirmation:

#### ***Regional Trustees***

- Robert “Bob” C., Southeast Region, first term as Trustee, fulfilling remaining two-year term
- Miriam B., North Central Region, first term as Trustee, fulfilling remaining two-year term
- Noah P., Northeast Region, first term as Trustee, fulfilling remaining two-year term
- D. DeLynn H., South Central Region, first three-year term
- Thomas “Tom” B., Southwest Region, first three-year term

#### ***Trustees at Large***

- Jayme C., second three-year term
- Jeffrey “Jeff” F., first three-year term
- Clara C., first three-year term

### **Board Officers**

- Katherine “Kathi” M., Chairperson of the Board, third one-year term
- Debbie P., Vice-Chairperson of the Board, first one-year term
- David B., Treasurer, second one-year term

### **Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM)**

- Brianna M., three-year term

Following traditional approval, the Board of Trustees may elect the nominees at its annual meeting following the WSC.

The following resumes will be presented to all Conference members for their information:

### **Executive Committee**

- Angela A., third one-year term
- Kari O., second one-year term
- Cindy B., first one-year term

### **Chairperson of the Executive Committee**

- Kari O., first one-year term

### **Chairperson of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management**

- Lori H., second one-year term

The Board of Trustees offers heartfelt gratitude to all candidates and nominees. Our service structure depends on the dedication and ability of an ever-new generation of leaders, and we are thankful to everyone who was willing to stand for service.

## **Governance and Policy Work**

During the January meeting, the Board continued its review of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. (AFG, Inc.) Bylaws. This careful, sentence-by-sentence review is intended to strengthen the Trustees’ shared understanding of governance responsibilities and to capture suggestions for future consideration.

The Board also reached a consensus to direct Staff, in collaboration with experienced WSO Volunteers, to evaluate and revise the WSO Committee At Large member resume, with particular attention to the Requirements and Criteria sections. A revised application and appointment timeline will be brought forward by the Executive Committee for Board consideration at the July 2026 meeting.

## **Finance Committee Update**

The Board approved the 2026 Preliminary Operating Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. In addition, a motion was approved to:

- Publish the *2026–2029 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)* in ebook format, consistent with the previously approved eBooks Globally Strategy.

The Board also began discussion on questions related to investment income, stemming from a member appeal. This conversation will continue at a future Board meeting.

## **Strategic Priorities and Projects**

The Board approved the 2026 WSO Projects Landscape as the priority framework guiding WSO planning, resource allocation, and execution. Strategies carried forward from 2025 include:

- WSO Core Systems – Both CRM/AMS and Accounting systems
- Electronic Alateen Validation and Implementation Planning
- eBooks Globally
- *2026–2029 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*
- CAL Globally

- Refresh of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*
- 2028 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation
- Passing It On
- AFG, Inc. Branding Guidelines for Trusted Servants
- al-anon.org Website Redesign
- 75th Anniversary Event and Public Outreach Campaign

The Board took time to acknowledge the enormous effort invested on these Strategies in 2025 and congratulated all involved on successfully completing the WSO Risk Mitigation Strategy, the Public Outreach to Professionals – Young People campaign, and the 2025 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon Participation.

Given resource capacity and the significant effort required to complete carryover strategies, only one new Strategy was approved:

- SharePoint Implementation Feasibility

## Looking Ahead

The Board is excited about the upcoming 75th Anniversary celebration which includes the WSO Open House and Gala Banquet. While the Gala Banquet is already sold out, a waitlist is being established—an inspiring reminder of our fellowship’s enthusiasm and gratitude.

With an eye toward connection and effectiveness, the Board reached consensus to make incremental updates to the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect agenda, focusing on increased interaction, personal sharing, and engagement, while preserving the heart of the experience. The 2026 October Board Week and Road Trip! event will be held in Chicago, Illinois, October 19–24, 2026.

The Board thoughtfully considered several member requests to introduce a hybrid component to the Road Trip! event. In its deliberations, the Board drew upon best-practice insights from experienced event planners, who informed the Trustees that creating a truly engaging hybrid experience would, in effect, require developing two nearly independent programs. Such an approach would significantly increase workload and would detract from the spirit of in-person connection that Road Trip! was envisioned to foster.

While affirming its commitment to maintain Road Trip! as an in-person event, the Board also expressed openness to exploring additional virtual opportunities to strengthen connection with the WSO Structure fellowship in the future.

## In Closing

January Board Week once again reminded me that our collective service is grounded in spiritual principles—listening, patience, humility, and trust in a loving Higher Power. I am deeply grateful for the WSO Volunteers, Delegates, WSO Staff, and countless trusted servants whose willingness makes this work possible.

Thank you for your continued service and support of Al-Anon, which includes Alateen. May we each continue to remember our purpose these 75 years later as we carry our message to families and friends of alcoholics, wherever they may be.

With gratitude and in service,

*Katherine M.*

**Katherine “Kathi” M.**

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.