



New Zealand Al-Anon Conference 2011
9–12 June 2011



planning for abundance

SUMMARY

New Zealand General Service Office, PO Box 68124, Auckland 1145
www.al-anon.org.nz email nz-al-anon-gso@xtra.co.nz

The Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Contents

Welcome from the Board Chair	4	Board Reports	63
General Information	5-8	Board Chairman	63
Conference Agenda	9-10	General Secretary	64
Spiritual Goals for Conference 2011	11	Treasurer	65-66
Setting Boundaries Slide Show summary	12	Board Member Report	66
Feedback from Delegats' meeting	12	Committee Reports	67
Workshop #1: Incorporating of GSO Al-Anon NZ	13	Conference	67
Financial Presentation	14-22	Editorial	67
Presentation: WSC Conference Report	23-25	Northern Regional Board Member	68
Workshop #2: Planning for Abundance	26-29	Central Regional Board Member	68
Ask It Basket Questions	31	Southern Regional Board Member	69
Presentation: Panels in NZ	32-33	Public Outreach Calendar	70
Presentation: Finding our hidden talents	34-35	Other Reports	71
Workshop #3: Proposed adjustments to Alateen guidelines and supporting ideas	36-38	IAGSM Reports	71-75
Presentation: Thought and Task Forces update	39-45	National Alateen Coordinator	77
Presentation: Regional Service Seminar becoming a flexible TEAM	41-45	Public Outreach Report	77
Area One – Outgoing Sharing	46	Board appointments	78
Area Four – Outgoing Sharing	47	Motions and decisions from Conference 2011	79
Area Nine – Outgoing Sharing	48	Conference Members 2011	80
Hot Topic sheet time - all sessions	49-50	Al-Anon Declaration	81
Delegates Reports	51		
Area One	51-52		
Area Two	53		
Area Three	54		
Area Four	55		
Area Five	56		
Area Six	57		
Area Seven	58-59		
Area Eight	60-61		
Area Nine	62		

Welcome from the Board Chair

Arnold H

Conference July 2011

Welcome to the 41st New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference during which as trusted servants representing Al-Anon Family Groups we will share, consider and decide what is best for the whole. We will also enjoy fellowship with each other. Our mission statement is "To help friends and families of alcoholics".

I've heard it said that if you fail to plan then you plan to fail!

Some will be attending Conference for the first time. To those members I say there is no need to stress. You have probably already learned in Al-Anon that each day is an opportunity to grow and this is no different.

Al-Anon must build for the future and not make the mistakes of the past.

We as a Board, endeavour at all times, to be transparent in the way we operate. We encourage the delegates to share their ideas with the Board, and, if they think the Board is on the wrong path, we ask that they share their views on this.

The Board Chair then introduced the Board members.

Members with voting rights

Voting at Conference are all Delegates present

Voting Board members: (drawn by ballot) Joan G, Helen A and Peter A.

Conference scrutineers are Gillian and Chris W.

General Information

Venue Details

St Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough, Auckland
Phone 09 625 6651 Email admin@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

Dates and Times

Conference starts: 5.00pm Thursday 9 June 2011

Conference finishes: 2.00pm Sunday 12 June 2011

Arrival and Departure Times

Board Members: Arrive Thursday 9.45am for 10.00am Board Meeting
Depart Sunday 4.00pm after Annual Board Meeting

Delegates: Arrive Thursday 5.00pm (anytime during the day but meals prior to Conference starting at 5.00pm are at your own expense)
Depart Sunday 2.00pm after lunch

All members please bring

- A ring binder or lever arch folder (either last year's folder or one that takes 100 or more pages)
- This Conference Brochure (there are no spare copies)
- All your service manuals including;
NZ AI-Anon Alateen Service Handbook 2010
The AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013
KN17 – NZ AI-Anon Service Guidelines
- Ideas for discussion relating to this Conference Brochure
- Written suggestions on changes to the NZ AI-Anon Alateen Service Handbook
- Researched answers to the Ask-it-Basket questions

5

Delegates please bring

- Any articles that have been used for public outreach, also any workshop ideas that have been successful, they may be useful to others.
- Any good fundraising ideas.

Personal items to bring

- Toiletries
- Extra warm clothes, electric blanket hot water bottle, etc if you feel the cold.

Venue facilities include

- All bedding and a towel
- Heated rooms
- Free parking for Conference members.

Please contact us if you have any queries on any of the above. For information regarding travel arrangements contact GSO on (09) 309 4792.

General Information continued

Conference Sessions

It is our aim to have all sessions start and finish on time. Your prompt arrival at all sessions is important. We want to cover as much material as possible. You are expected to attend all sessions. Please switch all cellphones off during sessions.

Note taking

It is suggested that you take notes at all sessions to use when preparing your report on your return to your area. It will be mid October 2011 before you receive your Conference Summary.

Hot Topics

There will be a Hot Topic Session just before each lunch and dinner break. Sheets will be provided for use. Hot topic sessions are to help you pre-prepare your Area report.

Chairman's Prerogative

Each member is requested to keep his or her remarks as short as possible on each subject.

Motions

All motions must be submitted in writing to the Conference Chairperson before they can be put to the Conference.

Conference Members

The following attend the NZGSO Conference: Area Delegates and General Service Board members only.

Conference Finances

The Conference is financed on the pattern of the World Service Conference in that the delegates expenses are shared equally by areas taking part. All other costs are met by the general fund of AI-Anon in New Zealand.

Voting Procedure

As in the New Zealand AI-Anon-Alateen Service Handbook

The Conference Chairperson will explain the voting procedure at the start of Conference.

- The delegates have voice and vote.

The General Service Board has voice, and will vote on a proportional basis equivalent to one third of the delegate votes. Voting members are chosen by ballot. The proportional voting remains constant irrespective of numbers attending.

- Others attending have voice and no vote.

All important decisions will be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by unanimity. Unanimity is two thirds of those members voting.

"if a decision cannot be readily reached, the Chairperson can elect to appoint an ad-hoc committee to discuss the matter and to report back to Conference".

Note: Please read all of Warranty Three in the AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2006-2009 under the AI-Anon Twelve Concepts of Service page 207. This will help us to have clarity on the voting procedures.

Voting

The suggested voting procedure is by written ballot for people and by show of hands for principles.

Joan G: Conference Committee Chairperson

Traditional Approval

What is traditional approval?

Traditional approval is the procedure that takes place as the Board presents to the Conference the nominees for successors onto the Board.

To summarise the Board appointment process briefly: before the Conference the Board decides on nominations for new Board members. At the Conference, these nominations and the RBM nominations are presented for an expression of traditional approval. After Conference, at the annual Board meeting, the Board formally makes the appointments by electing the nominees.

Main ideas behind the traditional approval process

The Board elects its own successors.

“The Board elects its own successors, with nominees subject to the approval of the Conference or a committee thereof.” *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2006-2009 p154, and NZ Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook p74*

“Nominees are interviewed and selected by the full Board of Trustees. ... The names of Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large nominees are presented to the Conference for an expression of traditional approval.” *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2006-2009 p123*

The vote for traditional approval has both symbolic and actual importance.

“The influence of ultimate authority must always be felt, but it is perfectly clear that when delegated authority is operating well, it should be left alone.” *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2006-2009 p191*

The vote gives expression to several important principles in our service structure.

From Concept One. The Al-Anon groups have final authority, which they express through their delegates at Conference – this is why the Conference is asked for approval of the Board nominations.

Concepts Three, Six, Seven, and Ten. The delegated trusted servants (Board) must be given adequate trust and authority to act – this is why the Conference is not asked to redo the work of the Board in selecting the nominees.

Concept Three. The delegated authority needs to be accountable and provide proper reports – this is why profile forms of the nominees are provided to the Conference members.

In summary, the traditional approval vote acknowledges the ultimate authority of the groups through their delegates and demonstrates their oversight of the Board and General Services while leaving them free to carry out their responsibilities while they are functioning adequately.

Process at Conference

- The traditional approval process is chaired by the Board chairperson.
- There is a brief summary of the traditional approval process
- The new Board members (new nominations, reappointments for a second term, and newly elected Regional Board Members) are presented to Conference with their profile forms.
- The chairperson asks for approval to have a single vote by written ballot for approval of all the nominees. Otherwise there are separate votes for each nominee.
- The nominees leave the room while there is any discussion.
- The Conference votes. The proposal is: “That the Conference gives traditional approval of the nominations of for the General Service Board”.

Following the traditional approval vote the other Board members continuing terms (with their roles on the Board), the Board officer appointments (Secretary, chairperson, treasurer), and Executive/Budget committee chairperson and members are presented to Conference for their information.

General Information continued

Conference Meeting Procedure

At Conference the voting procedure is explained to the Conference members. Refer to general information in the front of the Conference Brochure.

At the end of each session, workshop or presentation there will be time for questions. Please raise your hand, and when acknowledged by the Chair come to the front of the room to ask your question.

State your name and what area you come from. So that we get it on the tape, the question will be repeated by the session presenter, followed by the answer.

Addressing the Conference

At all sessions anyone wishing to address the Conference must first raise their hand and come up to the microphone when invited. Please do not request to speak more than once on any discussion. Ensure that you have all your information ready so that you do not leave out anything you want to say. After everyone has spoken, and where time permits, you may request to speak again but only to add new information (eg, information that no one else has said previously).

Motions

Using a Knowledge-Based Decision-Making process we will have a discussion on the motion before deciding that it needs to be a motion.

Once the motion has been proposed and seconded.

You will only be allowed to speak once to any motion, so make sure you have all the relevant information beforehand. The proposer and seconder of the motion will have right of reply to clarify any issues or questions raised.

Ask-It Basket Questions

Please study the Ask-it-Basket Questions so you come to Conference with informed answers based on your research.

Terms of Service

If you were elected to complete a term, this may be your first time at Conference but you may be in the second or third year of a term

2011 Panels

Delegates attending the Conference are divided into three panels, remaining in the same panel throughout their term. In this way one panel will always consist of experienced members (p68 NZ Handbook).

Panel 33

3rd year 2009

Area One
Area Four
Area Nine

Panel 34 (Editorial)

2nd year 2010

Area Seven
Area Two
Area Five

Panel 35 (Literature)

1st year 2011

Area Three
Area Eight
Area Six

Conference Agenda

Thursday 9 June

10.00 - 4.00pm	Board Meeting
5.00 - 6.00pm	Informal get-together / Ice breaker / Housekeeping / Buddies
6.00 - 7.00pm	Dinner
7.00 - 7.30pm	Welcome to new delegates – Arnold H
7.30 - 8.30pm	Delegates meeting – Gordon P

Friday 10 June

8.00 - 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30 - 9.00am	Welcome by Board Chairperson – Arnold H
9.00 - 9.30am	Reminders, notices and scrutineers for the day Traditional approval, and voting – Arnold H
9.30 - 10.30am	Spiritual Goal for Conference – Joan G Clearing the air /any concerns – Arnold H
10.30 - 11.00am	Morning Tea
11.00 - 11.30am	Delegates meeting summary – Gordon P
11.30 - 12.30pm	Delegates reports – feedback and questions – Joan G **Hot Topic sheet time
12.30 - 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00 - 2.30pm	WORKSHOP #1 Incorporation of GSO Al-Anon NZ – Peter & Chris H
2.30 - 3.00pm	IAGSM, Combined presentation – Arnold H & Peter A
3.00 - 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
3.30 - 5.15pm	PRESENTATION and discussion of Budget/Reserve Fund – Peter A
5.15 - 5.30pm	Conference Goal/Convention Theme/Conference Theme 2012 – Joan G **Hot Topic sheet time
6.00 - 7.00pm	Dinner
7.30pm	Free time

Saturday 11 June

8.00 - 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30 - 9.00am	PRESENTATION WSC Conference Report – Rose A
9.00 - 10.00am	WORKSHOP #2 Planning for Abundance – Joan G
10.00 - 10.30am	Morning Tea
10.30 - 11.30am	Ask-it-Basket – Robbie F
11.30 - 12.30pm	PRESENTATION Panels in New Zealand – Paula B
	**Hot Topic sheet time
12.30 - 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00 - 2.30pm	PRESENTATION Finding our Hidden Talents – Helen A
2.30 - 3.00pm	WORKSHOP #3 Alateen Guidelines, progress and summary – Rose A Followed by a brief overview of Alateen online meetings software – Peter A
3.00 - 3.30pm	Outgoing sharing – Area One, Melda T; Area Nine, Robbie F
3.30 - 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea
	PRESENTATIONS
4.00 - 4.30pm	Task force and thought force update – Arnold H /Karen W
4.30 - 5.00pm	Regional Service Seminars evolving into TEAM events – Rose A/Gillian W
	**Hot Topic sheet time
5.00 - 5.45pm	Visit to GSO – Helen A
6.00 - 7.00pm	Dinner
7.30pm	Free time

10

Sunday 12 June

8.00 - 8.30am	Breakfast
8.30 - 10.30am	Unfinished business and motions – Joan G Board appointments – Arnold H Venue and date for Conference 2012 – Joan G
	**Hot Topic sheet time
	Spiritual goal review – Joan G
10.30 - 10.45am	Morning Tea, group photo
11.00 - 12.00pm	Spiritual meeting – Stephanie G
12.00 - 12.30pm	Outgoing sharing – Area Four, Gordon P Presentation of Certificates Conference end – Arnold H/Joan G
12.30 - 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00 - 4.00pm	Annual Board Meeting

PRESENTATIONS

To be no longer than 20 minutes allowing time for questions and hand over for the next session. Pre-reading or handouts need to be in the Conference Brochure to make sessions most effective.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops run for 1–1½ hours please leave 10 minutes for questions either during or after the workshop.

HOT TOPIC SHEETS

At the end of each morning or afternoon session – if the delegates (three or more) wish – can call out “Hot Topic” and we will take five minutes to let them fill in a Hot Topic Sheet.

Spiritual Goals for Conference 2011

Why have goals for the Conference?

Having simple and clear goals that are mutually agreed upon creates a commitment from the participants that creates focus, commonality, and accountability. Our Board acts as custodian of the Twelve Traditions and our Conference is the principal guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen's harmony and survival.

We are guided by the Traditions and Concepts of service in our service work. The idea is that the goals support and reinforce these foundations and the purpose of the Conference. They act as reminders of the spiritual nature of our organisation.

These particular goals

These goals focus on the spiritual aspect of our Conference, encourage taking responsibility for the partnership relationship of the members of the Conference, and for personal conduct. The goals support practising the aspects of Knowledge based decision making with open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation. All decision-makers will have common access to full information and we exist in a culture of trust; that we would practise presuming goodwill.

Spiritual Goal 1

"That the spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail through mutual respect and acceptable conduct of its members."

11

Spiritual Goal 2

"Conference members will understand the purpose of Conference, the relationships within Conference, and be able to articulate Conference decisions."

Spiritual Goal 3

"Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, and we will presume goodwill."

SUMMARY

Conference wanted to acknowledge in the spirit of the programme the people of Christchurch and their struggles.

SUMMARY

Setting Boundaries slide show

Stick to the agenda.

No clapping cheering or booing (this means not to clap for someone's opinion as that might show approval of that person's opinion. It's ok to clap when something wonderful happens).

Start and stop on time

Cell phones turned off.

Goodwill – be polite and courteous.

Keep on the topic.

No side conversations.

2 minutes at microphone – come up and stand in line.

If someone before you says what you were going to say, walk away. Don't repeat.

No distractions (knitting etc)

No perfume or flowers as some people offended by them

SUMMARY

12

Feedback from Delegates' meeting

The Area Five Delegate commented on the depth of experience and knowledge in the meeting. Four or five new delegates to Conference still brought huge experience in the fellowship. No one had anything to add to their reports. He referred to the fact that some groups had closed but noted pluses as well where a member was dominant in a group and it closed.

At an Al-Anon area meeting there was a workshop on finding our hidden talents. This became a catalyst for moving words into life – my life, my community and family life. It inspired the group and as a result of workshop some members drove to Auckland to volunteer at GSO. The Chairperson for Conference 2012 is the Area Two Delegate.

Clearing the Air Session

The Delegates felt there were no issues of concern or matters to be raised separately from the Conference Agenda.

Workshop #1: Incorporation of GSO Al-Anon NZ

Peter A, Chris H

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to inform the Conference about the Board's consideration of incorporation and the reasons for the decision not to incorporate the GSO at this time. Conference members will be able to bring this information to their Areas should any questions arise.

Background

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (GSO) is not incorporated.

But the World Service Office is, and so are the NZ AA GSO, the Christchurch Al-Anon Information Service, the Australian Al-Anon GSO, and many of the other GSO's around the world.

Incorporation has been considered in the past by the GSB but a decision was made not to proceed.

The question of incorporation was raised again on the Board over the last year mainly because of the concern over personal legal liability of individuals serving on the Board and GSO employees.

What is "incorporation"?

The word incorporation is used here to describe the process of forming a legal entity for the GSO. There are two legal structures that could be considered for incorporating the GSO in New Zealand, and the one that would best apply is becoming an incorporated society.

What is the issue of personal legal liability?

At present because the GSO is not a legal entity, it is not able to sign contracts as a legal entity e.g. to open bank accounts, or sign leases. This means that individuals working for the GSO have been signing these contracts in their names and so are exposing themselves to liability for claims or damages arising from the contracts. Incorporation would provide the individual with protection of their personal assets from such liability.

What are the issues with incorporation?

Distraction from our primary purpose – if the process of becoming incorporated and maintaining incorporation is long, difficult or expensive there will be a significant distraction of our time and resources.

Maintaining the principles of the legacies – legal requirements for incorporation may conflict with our Traditions and Concepts.

The Board's decision

After consideration and obtaining legal advice, the Board decided not to incorporate at this time. The main reasons were that there were difficulties with our legacies in the legal requirements, and that a solution was found for protecting individuals from legal liability in contracts. We found this protection can be achieved by adding a phrase to the effect that the individual is signing on behalf of the GSO.

We will be pleased to provide more detail on these issues during the discussion at Conference.

SUMMARY

- Proposal was made and considered that Al-Anon GSO incorporate
- Advantage would be to limit liability currently being borne by Board, employees and volunteers
- GSO has bank accounts, lease for building and individuals have to open these in their own names so are personally liable
- Problem in terms of Incorporation is that a membership of at least 15 is required and this could not be done without fiddling numbers
- We are members of the fellowship, not a society
- If the fellowship were incorporated the 15 signatories must certify that they have support of 50% of the members of the fellowship which would be difficult.
- Incorporation is not necessary

Financial Presentation

Peter A

Presentation of the Treasurer's report, Financial statements, Budget, Financial Plan, and proposed changes to financial contribution limits and Seventh Tradition pamphlet.

Discussion of the Treasurer's report

Expanding on the comments about how we use the Legacies

- Legacies are not rules with which to diminish each other or attack each other.
- Use the legacies as guides or supports. The attitude with which we use them is important. Part of the change or presuming good will and supporting each other.

Making sure the financial information is accurate.

- Since the report the Board meeting extensively discussed the difficulties in the administration of finances and reports. There is a good plan in place.

Discussion of Financial Statements

Comment on donations to WSO being quite small

- Traditionally we have made a small donation while we don't have a surplus of funds. It is a token donation with the understanding we would make more of a contribution if funds were available. We make quite a large contribution to WSO by our literature purchases.

Statement of Assets

- Most important thing is the money in the bank – small decrease this year compared to last year.

Income

- Impressive to see people's regular donations by direct credit.

Expenses

- Different year – usually expenses are quite stable but this year there were increases in several larger expense items.

The Board Members' expenses included all expenses for Southern Region. The bulk of expenses was airfares for Board Meetings.

Expenses for sending Delegates to IAGSM was equalised. We paid the cost to Delegates for their fares then we get a partial refund from WSO.

Discussion of Draft Budget for 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

Treasurer comments

- Conservative budget with regard to donations as it projects donations staying the same.
- Follows the practice of previous years.
- Incorporate an increase in expenses – wages and rent
- Budgeting for a small loss
- Budgeting for a team event

Is the proposed website budgeted for?

- This is included in the Public Outreach budget and generally we have not spent what has been budgeted for the Public Outreach budget.

Surprise expressed at literature sales down

- New book helps with sales and the dollar exchange rate has reduced the cost of importing from the USA.
- Should we reduce the price of the books or keep them the same? We currently review the price list every six months.

Feedback

- Interesting to learn about literature sales. WSO experience. UK and Australia print their own literature and make a substantial profit. We make very little profit as we order our books from the WSO. WSO makes a large profit from literature sales.
- Our income comes from donations rather than from literature sales. This is not common. Many GSOs get most of their income from literature sales because they print their own literature.
- Look at the exchange rate – if good buy more books
- We do not order our literature from Australia as it is a similar cost to order from WSO.

The possibility of printing our own literature was raised:

- In the past low volumes make it too expensive.
- Perhaps this needs to be looked at again
- This was looked at 10 years ago.
- Literature purchase is our way of supporting WSO.
- England and Australia edit their literature.
- Structure of doing that is difficult.
- We can get disks to print.

Messenger and GSO News

- Make suggestions – open and honest
- An extra \$1 per week from each member would have GSO in abundance
- Sharing these suggestions with your group
- Get little response and feedback.
- Keep expenses down

Do people know about what is on offer; is the message in the GSO newsletter getting through? How can we improve this?

Response:

- Within group a member passes on all the details with enthusiasm. Encourages others to buy their own books.
- It takes a while for members to hear things. Takes a while for penny to drop.
- Commitment to GSO should be top of the list. An additional \$1.00 per member attending the meeting.
- Pot for small change and donates these to GSO or week's donation. Simple and helps those in your Groups who are not good givers.
- GSO very diligent on expenses and spends money very well. Great work.

Motions approved the draft financial statements and the draft budget.

Financial Plan Discussion

There was a lively Conference discussion about the financial plan, commencing with a brief review of the main ideas. Some of the comments are summarised in bullet-points.

- Looking for a change in thinking about contributing to the General Service Office.
- Thinking of it not being a charity or somewhere to send left-overs is a valuable initiative.
- How are we going to involve Delegates more in what is happening at the Board level?
- Small sub-committee of those interested in the initiative.
- In creating a budget, have to accept that some of the groups will not contribute. Two thirds is a good number to work with. It seems to be a fairly consistent number in AI-Anon history. When Lois sent letter to 87 family groups in May 1951 she had a response from 2/3 of the groups. She didn't wait to get 100%. Moved ahead on that basis without waiting.

- Incorporate that into budget to develop it.
- One Area worked out they have 148 members, with an annual donation of \$7164 to the GSO = \$48.40 per year = 80 cents per week to GSO per member.
- Supporting the GSO is a group expense just like rent or tea and coffee.

Clarification on calculation of figure for General Service Office sought

- To support GSO each member needed to contribute \$1.15 per meeting last year. This was for the previous budget. This year it will be a little more as we have more expenses.

Responses

- Having trouble emphasising how important it is to donate to GSO.
- Groups donations have been increasing to Area and this is passed on to GSO. They seem to like that.
- Mindset that needs to be changed.
- One Area said they had been previously told: all surplus funds to Area and then GSO – trickle down effect. This is not the right attitude.
- Appreciate the thought we need to give money. Encourage our groups to give. What works?
- Not to say GSO, instead New Zealand Al-Anon and the fellowship as a whole to help people develop a sense of connection to the GSO. Not just about the money. This could be picked up as an idea.
- Delegates voting to support the budget means they support the \$1.15 needed for GSO
- Budgeting on Group basis – some small isolated groups struggle to pay rent. Per person basis, people compare themselves to the lower payers. Gold coin is sufficient
- Remind groups that those who can not afford costs need to be supported. Only contribute if you can.
- When talked about more the collections improve.
- What value do you place on your meeting: the price of a cup of coffee?
- Suggested closing to include that we pass the basket.
- Some don't have much.
- People who can pay need to pay.
- Members to budget for what they want to do – pay for the weeks when away.
- Rent still needs to be paid.
- What is my part?
- When you arrive have it in your pocket.
- It is important to pay your way in all areas.
- That is how I stay in recovery.

Experience in personal groups

- Budget good idea. It is working. Not how much.
- 2/3. Stop worrying about the ones that don't.
- Basket is the way to go
- Don't focus on person who does not contribute but celebrate and move forward with the ones that do. When Lois wrote the letter in 1951 inviting the then Family Groups to unify as Al-Anon family groups, the one third who did not initially support the idea joined later or faded away.
- Include Al-Anon in your personal budget, even if it is \$1.00.
- Different approach.
- New way of being in Al-Anon – to include GSO.
- Give it the whole name ie NZ Al-Anon General Service Office – not an acronym – an entity.
- Groups that didn't have to pay rent are now open to contributing to GSO.

- More Tradition meetings could be helpful.
- Renewed commitment

There was general support for ideas of informing and encouraging the groups around finances and to develop a group budget.

Suggestion:

Project to work out new group budget so we can plan finances and inform members of new thinking. **Delegates to be part of a team to report to Conference next year.** The treasurer will form a workgroup from interested delegates.

There is a new guideline available from the WSO website – G41 Reserve Fund Guideline. This gives information for groups and Areas for setting a reserve fund, doing a budget, and taking a financial inventory. This would be helpful for groups starting to look at these issues.

Suggestions for changes to Financial Contribution Limits

- The main change is removing the limit for bequests - now it is any amount - which is the same as the recent change at the WSO. The GSO has received two calls from lawyers about bequests.
- The GSB will also create a plan for what to do with large donations. Some GSOs in other countries have received substantial bequests and their experience was that there can be problems when there was no plan in place for what to do with large donations. Message – not money that spoils us but not having a plan that spoils us. Our plan will be similar to the WSO plan and will include having a Special Projects Fund for funds in excess of our annual budget.
- There is an increase in the annual personal donation limit.
- Birthday Club – happy with the Status Quo for existing members and a change for new members to \$5.00 plus \$2.00 each year.

There was general support for the changes.

Profit & Loss Statement

1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Income		
Donations		
Donations Area One	2,709.00	
Donations Area Two	1,212.48	
Donations Area Three	7,164.32	
Donations Area Five	250.00	
Donation Area Four	170.00	
Donations Area Six	800.00	
Donations Area Seven	10,243.90	
Donations Area Eight	5,410.50	
Donations Area Nine	2,283.00	
Donations - personal/birthday	10,705.70	
Total Donations		40,948.90
Other Income		
Interest/Dividend Received	598.33	
Conference Donations	4,524.78	
Convention Donation	969.15	
Messenger Donations	2,278.00	
Total Other Income		8,370.26
Other Income		1,462.84
Sales		
Literature Sales	24,359.78	
Postage & Handling Collected	1,477.50	
Total Sales		25,837.28
Total Income		76,619.28
Cost Of Sales		
Literature purchases	11,120.68	
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	2,075.58	
Stock Adjustments	600.86	
Total Cost Of Sales		13,797.12
Gross Profit		62,822.16
Expenses		
ACC Levy	135.43	
Bank Charges	60.24	
Board Members Expenses	4,659.38	
Computer/Office Equip	318.19	
Conference Payments	5,709.30	
Conference Travel Delegates	2,331.75	
Convention Expenses	88.89	
Sharp Copier Finance	483.68	
IAGSM - Paid expenses	2,217.80	
General Expenses	216.14	
Insurance	818.80	
Postage	3,326.92	
Printing & Stationery	3,618.22	
Rent & Rates	10,170.95	
Repairs & Maintenance	400.00	
Petty Cash	200.00	
Telephone/Internet	2,482.60	
Volunteer Travel Fund	881.41	
Office Administration	26,601.70	
Bad Debt	14.00	
Total Expenses		64,735.40
Operating Profit		-1,913.24
Other Income		
Net Profit/(Loss)		-1,913.24

Profit & Loss Statement – Last Year Comparison

1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

	This year	Last year	Difference	% change
Income				
Donations				
Donations Area One	2,709.00	2,081.40	627.60	30%
Donations Area Two	1,212.48	466.38	746.10	160%
Donations Area Three	7,164.32	4,754.28	2,410.04	51%
Donations Area Five	250.00	782.80	-532.80	-68%
Donation Area Four	170.00	0.00	170.00	
Donations Area Six	800.00	1,410.00	-610.00	-43%
Donations Area Seven	10,243.90	10,308.80	-64.90	-1%
Donations Area Eight	5,410.50	7,534.40	-2,123.90	-28%
Donations Area Nine	2,283.00	1,977.40	305.60	15%
Donations - personal/birthday	10,705.70	8,862.00	1,843.70	21%
Total Donations	40,948.90	38,177.46	2,771.44	7%
Other Income				
Interest/Dividend Received	598.33	770.69	-172.36	-22%
Received interest-TermDeposit	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transfer/Deposit	0.00	10.00	-10.00	-100%
Conference Donations	4,524.78	3,500.00	1,024.78	29%
Convention Donation	969.15	5,651.89	-4,682.74	-83%
RSS Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
Messenger Donations	2,278.00	2,466.00	-188.00	-8%
Total Other Income	8,370.26	12,398.58	-4,028.32	-32%
Other Income	1,462.84	320.00	1,142.84	357%
Sales				
Literature Sales	24,359.78	27,306.93	-2,947.15	-11%
Postage & Handling Collected	1,477.50	1,440.55	36.95	3%
Total Sales	25,837.28	28,747.48	-2,910.20	-10%
Total Income	76,619.28	79,643.52	-3,024.24	-4%
Cost Of Sales				
Literature purchases	11,120.68	13,311.72	-2,191.04	-16%
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	2,075.58	1,942.45	133.13	7%
Stock Adjustments	600.86	-204.55	805.41	-394%
Total Cost Of Sales	13,797.12	15,049.62	-1,252.50	-8%
Gross Profit	62,822.16	64,593.90	-1,771.74	-3%

Profit & Loss Statement – Last Year Comparison (cont.)

1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

	This year	Last year	Difference	% change
Expenses				
ACC Levy	135.43	127.89	7.54	6%
Audit/Accounting Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Archives	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Assets < \$500	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Bank Charges	60.24	5.14	55.10	1072%
Board Members Expenses	4,659.38	3,236.62	1,422.76	44%
Computer/Office Equip	318.19	456.98	-138.79	-30%
Donations WSO	0.00	712.25	-712.25	-100%
Conference Payments	5,709.30	5,395.10	314.20	6%
Conference Travel Delegates	2,331.75	1,069.73	1,262.02	118%
Convention Expenses	88.89	133.33	-44.44	-33%
Sharp Copier Finance	483.68	1,287.24	-803.56	-62%
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	
IAGSM - Paid expenses	2,217.80	3,089.00	-871.20	-28%
General Expenses	216.14	701.59	-485.45	-69%
Insurance	818.80	782.24	36.56	5%
Postage	3,326.92	2,165.24	1,161.68	54%
Printing & Stationery	3,618.22	2,866.64	751.58	26%
Public Outreach exp	0.00	1,402.14	-1,402.14	-100%
Rent & Rates	10,170.95	9,600.00	570.95	6%
Repairs & Maintenance	400.00	0.00	400.00	
RSS expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Staff Amenities	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Petty Cash	200.00	140.00	60.00	43%
Telephone/Internet	2,482.60	2,228.48	254.12	11%
Volunteer Travel Fund	881.41	961.12	-79.71	-8%
Office Administration	26,601.70	24,592.97	2,008.73	8%
Bad Debt	14.00	39.90	-25.90	-65%
Total Expenses	64,735.40	60,993.60	3,741.80	6%
 Net Profit/(Loss)	 -1,913.24	 3,600.30	 -5,513.54	 -153%

Budget Calculations

for 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

	ACTUAL		Budget 2011	Draft Budget 2012	Notes
	2011	2010			
Income					
Donations					
Donations Area One	2,709	2,081	2,408	2,709	All donation budgets are based on what was received in the last financial year
Donations Area Two	1,212	466	1,766	1,212	
Donations Area Three	7,164	4,754	5,163	7,164	
Donations Area Five	250	783	1,934	250	
Donations Area Four	170	0		170	
Donations Area Six	800	1,410	976	800	
Donations Area Seven	10,244	10,309	10,225	10,244	
Donations Area Eight	5,411	7,534	7,345	5,411	
Donations Area Nine	2,283	1,977	1,766	2,283	
Donations - personal/birthday	10,706	8,862	11,442	10,706	
Total Donations	40,949	38,177	43,025	40,949	
Other Income					
Interest/Dividend Received	598	771	1,152	800	Based on 4% interest on \$20,000
Conference Donations	4,525	3,500	3,500	4,500	\$500 per Area x 9
Convention Donation	969	5,652	1000	2000	From Janjalry AA convention
RSS Donations	0	0	0	500	To budget for TEAM event in 2011
Messenger Donations	2,278	2,466	2,400	2,400	
Total Other Income	8,370	12,399	8,052	10,200	
Other Income	1,463	320	0	0	
Sales					
Literature Sales	24,360	27,307	27,000	27,500	Based on literature sales going back up to 2010 level
Postage & Handling Collecter	1,478	1,441	1,258	1,500	
Total Sales	25,837	28,747	28,258	29,000	
Total Income	76,619	79,644	79,335	80,149	
Cost Of Sales					
Literature purchases	11,121	13,312	15,500	12,000	About \$1,000 per month
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	2,076	1,942	2,500	2,000	
Stock Adjustments	601	-205	200	100	
Total Cost Of Sales	13,797	15,050	18,200	14,100	
Gross Profit	62,822	64,594	61,135	66,049	
Expenses					Expenses budgets are the same as current year unless otherwise noted
ACC Levy	135	128	120	135	\$135 per year in Oct
Audit/Accounting Fees	0	0	250	250	\$250 per year in May
Archives	0	0	96	96	Use prev budget
Assets < \$500	0	0	450	450	
Bank Charges	60	5	80	50	
Board Members Expenses	4,659	3,237	2,700	4,000	Cost of airfares to Board meetings
Computer/Office Equip	318	457	500	500	An estimate
Donations WSO	0	712	500	500	A small donation has been our practice
Conference Payments	5,709	5,395	3,820	5,500	Based on Conf. budget from Conference committee (single payment July)
Conference Travel Delegates	2,332	1,070	1,200	2,000	Based on Conf. budget from Conference committee
Convention Expenses	89	133	100	100	
Sharp Copier Finance	484	1,287	0	0	The Sharp copier is now paid off
Electricity	0	0	0	0	The electricity is part of rent in new premises from July 08
IAGSM - Paid expenses	2,218	3,089	4,000	3,000	
General Expenses	216	702	400	400	
Insurance	819	782	720	820	Paid in March
Postage	3,327	2,165	2,800	3,000	
Printing & Stationery	3,618	2,867	3,000	3,000	
Public Outreach exp	0	1,402	2,000	2,000	PO has a \$2000 budget
Rent & Rates	10,171	9,600	9,600	10,400	New rent increase (incl electricity)
Repairs & Maintenance	400	0	600	500	
RSS expenses	0	0	0	800	To budget for TEAM event x 1
Staff Amenities	0	0	200	200	
Petty Cash	200	140	200	200	
Telephone/Internet	2,483	2,228	2,400	2,400	
Volunteer Travel Fund	881	961	1,100	1,000	
Office Administration	26,602	24,593	25,000	27,000	Wages have increased
Bad Debt	14	40		0	
Total Expenses	64,735	60,994	61,836	68,301	
Net Profit/(Loss)	-1,913	3,600	-5,722	-2,252	

Statement of Assets

as at 31 March 2011

Funds at Bank	2011	2010
NAT -00 Cheque Account	7,305.00	7,625.13
NAT -02 IAGSM	3,269.88	985.98
NAT Term Deposit	19,543.20	20,000.00
NAT -01 Online On Call	1,174.82	3,583.49
Undeposited Cheques/Cash	0.00	0.00
	<u>31,292.90</u>	<u>32,194.60</u>

Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation For the Year Ended 31 March 2011

ASSET	Date	Cost	Accum Depn	Book Value 31/03/2010	Additions/ (Disposals)	Depreciation Rate	Amount	Book Value 31/03/2011
Office Equipment								
Binding Machine	1996	501	501	-		15.50% SL	-	-
Computer	Nov-05	222	222	-		50.00% SL	-	-
Sharp Copier - leased	Mar-06	-	-	-		SL	-	-
		<u>723</u>	<u>723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Office Furniture								
Furniture	1988	2,791	2,791	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Shelving	1990	241	241	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Furniture	1991	344	344	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Moveable Shelving	1996	872	872	-		12.50% SL	-	-
Office Chair	1996	240	240	-		10.00% SL	-	-
Refrigerator	1996	199	179	-		15.50% SL	-	-
		<u>4,687</u>	<u>4,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets			<u>5,390</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>

LITERATURE STOCK on Hand	31/03/11	31/03/10	31/03/09
at US dollars before freight	3,912	5,108	4,876
Exchange rate	0.76	0.71	0.57
at NZ \$ Cost Price excluding GST	<u>5,147</u>	<u>7,194</u>	<u>8,554</u>

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011

Presentation: WSC Conference Report

Rose A

51st World Service Conference

April 2011

60 years of Al-Anon Family Groups report

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the World Service Conference (WSC) and represent New Zealand. It was a dream come true and a wonderful service opportunity! The WSC is the annual Conference of the USA & Canada AFG service structure, our senior conference. Instead of writing a lot of information I have chosen what I think would be interesting to the Conference and since you will be reading this in the brochure I will look forward to any questions and add some fun things to do.

Supporting new Conference members

- Orientation for three hours the day before Conference. A big focus of this was clarifying roles of the different Conference attendees: Delegates, Trustees, Staff, Executive Committee members.

Some cool things that were similar

- Sharing Area Highlights is optional to attend and happens before the Conference opens. There are 67 Delegates who have one minute each to talk about their Area. They all read what they had already sent in. It is not an official part of the Conference yet it is invaluable.
- The Conference supported the three spiritual goals.
- Knowledge-based decision making is used, specifically the five questions.

New things and things in the pipeline

- Developing e-readers (our literature in digital format to purchase and read on your computer-thingsies).
- Developing i-phone apps (small digital software that you install on your i-phone about AFG).
- The two new books, *One Journey, Many Voices* and softcover *How Al-Anon Works* USD\$5 (USA and Canada for now).
- Exploring how we can better work with treatment centres and professionals, rebuilding these relationships.
- There is a new Public Outreach site to attract the newcomer to meetings: al-anon.alateen.org
- New Public Outreach tool – a DVD. (I will show it to you)
- AFG 5th International Convention in Vancouver 5-7 July 2013 with 6-10,000 members attending.
- The WSO has established 15 Area Alateen chat rooms. We will be informed when they are ready to accept requests from our GSO to do the same, probably this year.
- There is discussion about how items can be submitted to the WSC agenda.
- There is a new financial blog where people can write ideas and ask questions. (We will look at this).

Interesting and amazing

- The WSO received \$1 million dollars per annum donations and has done for the last 20 years.
- Financial health of WSO is good, no debt. In the financial climate it is great.
- Some areas have delisted groups that are not following AFG Traditions. This is being discussed.
- There are 1000 sharings per annum for the Forum.
- At the Board meeting everyone has a net or notebook (small or regular laptop). Hardly any paper.

- There are 21 people on the Board of Trustees.
- The web is used a lot by areas and the WSO to create communities, noticeboards, share information.
- Most presentations included partnerships with Delegates and Trustees.
- The WSC voted to authorise ownership of real property. This means after the fifteen year trial that ended 2010 the WSO will continue to be owned by Al-Anon Family Groups Incorporated.
- The WSC was shared leadership in action, each Conference member equally contributing.

Ideas to understand that are pivotal

- The votes of the Conference are traditional, the votes of the Board are legal.
- The WSC is looking at being 'Culturally and Linguistically Competent'. Surveys reveal that the majority of our members are fifty-something, pale-faced, girly-types. Discussion of an idea called 'in-reach' instead of outreach – approach groups not represented and ask how AFG principles could work for them.
- Humour, fun, skits were used and recommended for sharing information and inspiring members.
- The GSO is a spiritual connection, members are spiritually connected but may not realise it, how can we help them to realise this?

I look forward to your questions and comments.

SUMMARY

24

Presentation: WSC, Rose

Thanks to the Board for endorsing the trip.

Soft cover 'How Al-Anon Works' book, \$5 US, aimed at the newcomer

Orientation at the World Service Conference

- Impacts positively on new delegates' experience and returning members to new role. Is the day before conference, not part of conference. Very welcoming, made sure that everyone understood.
- Roles of participants are discussed and clarified. Is a participative process
- Knowledge based decision making was clarified

Areas de-listing groups

- Where groups are doing black belt sponsorship or have hierarchical sponsors
- After trying lots of solutions areas are de-listing groups in a respectful manner.
- WSO is considering whether to get involved.
- Use of Al-Anon name is not unconditional.

Board of Trustees is legal /Conference is traditional

- Attended presentation – the two bodies are governed by different rules/laws. Conference is guided by Al-Anon Guidelines and Trustees by laws.

Spiritual Connection to GSO/WSO

- Presentation that Tradition Seven is expression of gratitude eg, Abundance Blog by Board of Trustees Treasurer – www.al-anon.org/members/ThinkingAbundantly

Items Submitted to WSC Agenda

- Task force presented on how to submit to WSC agenda, was not successful – replicated what is already in place- primarily focuses on Ask It Basket type questions.
- There was interest in the process of how to get a question answered and having a voice and the rights of Appeal and voice of minorities to be heard.
- Discussed how this applied to NZ Conference or WSC

Partnership Presentations

- Nearly all presentations were done jointly by a staff member and/or Trustees and Delegates – demonstrated strong shared leadership
- Workshops or thought forces or task forces occurred during the year between Conference then presented back at WSC.

e-Literature

- Just starting to look into this.

In-reach instead of Outreach

- Idea of reaching out to community sectors that aren't represented in our meetings; going in with an open attitude and having a conversation and saying what we have and could it work for them rather than going in and imposing our ways .

Public Outreach DVD

- Three topics: How AI-Anon can help/How Alateen can help/How the Professional fits.
- Will be reasonable price.

AI-Anon/Alateen Public Outreach Website

- Website redeveloped.
- Members website has blogs eg, thinking abundantly – finance and sharing and Podcast.

It is hoped to get more information about the idea 'having a spiritual connection to the WSO' and include it in this Conference Summary.

Workshop #2: Planning for Abundance

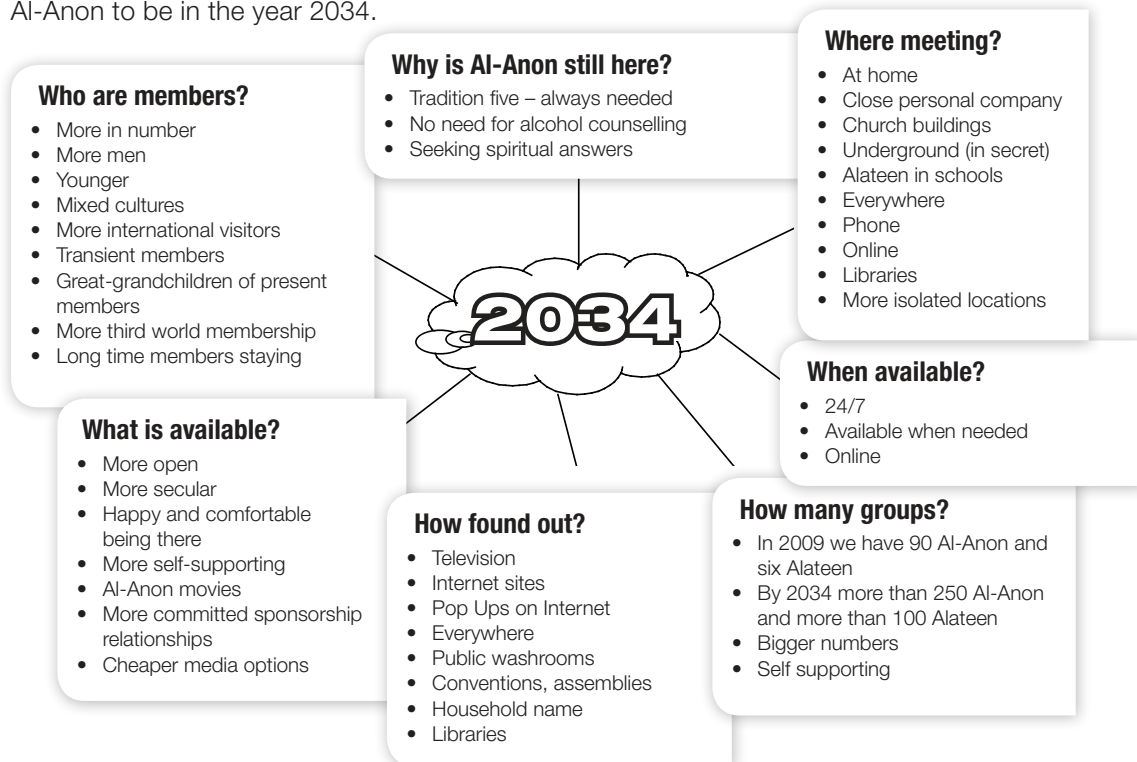
Joan G

One of the expressions heard around AI-Anon is; “we don’t have enough”.

This objective of this workshop is to outline what is missing or in short supply, and then to go on to plan for an abundance of all sorts of things in our areas.

In order to make this happen we need help from the fellowship.

In 2009, Conference had a session on Future Vision Planning so we could see how we would like AI-Anon to be in the year 2034.



26

In order to make this vision happen we need to plan for an abundance of whatever we need. We also need to know about our members’ wants, needs, and preferences.

Each age group had differing needs and requirements.

Before 1946 – silent/traditionalist generation

Hard working, loyal, respect authority, less tech savvy, prefer personal interaction.

1946 – 1964 The Baby boomers

Loyal, work-centred, goal-oriented, cynical, proactive, like praise and challenges, want to stay involved, like hierarchal structure, responsible and will do charitable work, want to leave the world a better place.

Born 1965 – 1976 Generation X

Freedom to manage work/life balance, like flexible working conditions, accept diversity, like feedback and recognition, challenging work, value relationships, independent and resourceful, respect rules, pragmatic and practical and use technology, every job is temporary/no loyalty to organisation.

Born 1977 to 1997 – Generation Y

Celebrate diversity, rewrite rules, optimistic/realistic, use technology, email/txt rather than face to face communication, achievement oriented, want meaningful work, want clear guidelines/job descriptions, want instant responses/replies.

Conclusion

Often people are in service too long and feel they have to 'stick it out' because they feel there is no one to replace them and are not often supported or thanked.

We need to be aware that people doing service (volunteering) have different lives and responsibilities from those people who first did service in AI-Anon.

In order to encourage them:

We need to encourage Generations X & Y and the Millennials, perhaps with job sharing and flexibility of roles, also:

- Clear explanation of written job descriptions, not 'it's in the manual look it up'.
- Continued enthusiastic advertising of the role and how that benefits the person and the group.
- Training, support, and regular review via a service sponsor(s).
- Recognition and reward in whatever way the group or area thinks appropriate.

Planning for Abundance

- We saw in the Vision workshop in 2009 – planning for the future
- We know we want more, but an abundance of what?

Groups – identified what is missing their area and identified what is abundant already.

+1 = more than one group experienced this.

Abundant

What's lacking in our area	What's abundant already
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public outreach +1 • Clear consistent communication • Enthusiasm • Good Sponsors – Personal & Service +3 • Healthy Groups • Fellowship +1 • Fun • Not prepared to mix widely even in areas • Commitment to Service Positions +2 • Generosity re financial contributions /dig deep + 1 • Number of members +2 • Openness to newcomers +1 • Keep coming back • Diversity +2 • Gratitude • Old Timers +1 • Participation +1 • Attendance at Assemblies • Area Unity • Attraction • Effective Communication between Area/GSRs/Meetings • Working the Program ‘ • Connectedness to NZ AI-Anon • Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing members + 1 • Fellowship +1 • Knowledge +1 • Recovery +1 • Venues + 1 • Anchor Members + 1 • Literature +1 • Sick people • Denial • Hope • Food • Laughter +1 • Willingness • Closed Minds • Need

The goal is to provide a tool for everyone to take back to their area to create an abundance of whatever they want for AI-Anon in their area. The groups had to pick a topic and use the worksheet below.

Planning for Abundance *Worksheet* Can be photocopied

Title:	Be clear. Use a sentence to describe what you want.
Tenure:	Normally how long would this be or take? Brain storm variations of time and personnel.
Training:	Who will...
	Train?
	Support?
	Regular review? (how often).
Thanks:	How will we say thank you?
	When will we say thank you?
	How often will we say thank you?
	In what way will we say thank you?
Tick it off:	(How do we know we got there?) at the end of the project.
Questions to ask:	Did we achieve our goal (as in the Title)
	How did you feel about the role/project?
	Is there any way we could have done this better/ supported others better?
	Is there anything that could be changed in the way we did this? Who will do the tick it off process and who will report back to group or area?

Small Group Work

GROUP 1

Title:

- Sponsorship

Tenure:

- Temporary – use trial periods
- Asking newcomers what they need and want

Training:

- Consider sponsorship workshops
- Demystifying sponsorship
- Relationship
- Encouragement
- Focus on Twelve Steps
- Review as part of the initiation – how often
- Ask if it's working for you

Thanks:

- When – Verbal written and electronic

GROUP 2

Title:

- People fighting for service positions.

Tenure:

- No timeframes

Training:

- Lead by example, using meeting topics
- Using incentives.
- Sponsorship using the time to study traditions
- In reach – find out what people need – why and what is putting them off. – survey informal or informal. Sharing why you do service.

Thanks:

- How? Verbal and written, during service position not just at the end.
- Suggest that people stand up and say what their position is and how long

Tick off:

- More than one nomination and a waiting list.

GROUP 3

Title:

- Attract more members
- Let it begin with Me? We want to effect

Tenure:

- 2-5 years
- Healthy groups need to attract

Training:

- Role of the area is to care for the area in this way ie, have entertaining workshops at an area assembly to take back to the groups

Thanks:

- The people doing the work
- Food! – phone calls
- Participation – putting names into a raffle without having to buy a ticket. Presentations and awards.

Tick off:

- How do we know – area participation?
- All are responsible

GROUP 4

Title:

- To encourage members to be self supporting in Al-Anon

Tenure:

- Ongoing consistency and becomes part of way of life
- Not just money but time and energy.

Training:

- How do we share the message – share what we learnt at Conference and Assemblies.
- Area Delegates to train GR's and GR's to enthuse
- Target individual members to grow them.
- Most groups do Steps/Traditions/Concepts
- Once per month have a budget meeting.

Time:

- Year 1 establish a budget and awareness of GSO. Year 2 make budget work = growth.

Thanks:

- Personal thanks and local appreciation.
- GSO news changed to NZ Al-Anon news – have all the groups' names in the news.
- NZ Al-Anon thanks us through

Tick off:

- Money is measureable
- At area level the committee takes responsibility.
- This will work we just have to get going and do it.

GROUP 5

Title:

Good sponsorship and personal service

Tenure:

- Group offer a temporary sponsor as part of the welcome.
- Come alongside and swap phone numbers

Time:

- Temporary time frame
- Ask what they read

Training:

- Sponsors workshop and let it begin with me.
- Healthy programme
- Qualifying sponsorship
- Having time
- Honest and transparent
- Area sponsorship and encouragement
- Sponsor Twelve Steps

Tick off:

- Review your part of the relationship.
- Is this working for you?

Thanks:

- Verbal, written, with fellowship
- I truly appreciate....
- What way, hug, verbal, written, other.

Wrap up

Conference members asked that another session be held at next year's conference to evaluate their progress and abundance.

Ask-it-basket questions, Robbie F

1. Is it possible for the Al-Anon freephone number for all NZ Groups

- Groups wholeheartedly support it. It would need a different phone system to work
- First level – can have a menu of eg, 3 – Menu Routing – \$35 per month – Telstra Clear
- It would be great if numbers reflect the areas. To make it consistent.
- Napier runs its own 0800 number – if we can do it maybe the whole country can be covered. So that meetings list is short and manageable.
- The web page has phone numbers listed. Weren't thinking of meetings list.
- Auckland already has a phone number with Area Seven & Eight shared. It would need to be well thought through but won't work for Far North.
- It is not an 0800 number – costs could be prohibitive if long menu.
- Have talked about having a similar system in the General Service Office.
- Show of hands had majority of participants interested.

2. Can newcomers be more explicitly warned about the danger of getting into relationships with newcomers?

- There is a way we can talk to members about this behavior. It is a thirteenth step. As a sponsor we can recommend staying out of a relationship for two years when new to Al-Anon.
- 2-3 yrs ago, in Al-Anon home group in LA, where anonymity was really important – this was referred to this in meeting welcome – pay attention to friendship and sponsorship.
- This is not about just a sexual relationship that is problematic, it can also be inappropriate relationships like being stalked by a member.
- One way is to take a group inventory. The matter doesn't need to be hidden – a group solution can be found.

3. Mention God in the literature and 36 principles

- A member who is an atheist suggests that we accentuate the God of our understanding
- Diversity means that we should consider this question seriously. Attended a workshop at WSC – we need to examine ourselves – there is a process for change. Lois was not attached to anything except what works.
- That's why we are in a mess – we don't have the solution and the steps and traditions are the solution. What combated the skepticism was encouragement and support from the group.
- Moved our Al-Anon meeting from café venue to a church and I freaked out, however conscious contact is constant now.

4. AA camps with Al-Anon participation

- Ongoing issue in this area. Found out about a problem comes when it goes to other groups –there's always confusion about it not being NZ Al-Anon. AA invites Al-Anon to these camps.
- There is confusion about ad-hoc and formal AA events. Whether the camp is organised by the service structure – or by individual members.
- AA retreats – not organised by the structure – therefore they usually do not ask Al-Anon for their participation.
- Formal invitation to AA assemblies is usually made through GSO.

5. Why do we have a Service Manual and an NZ Service Handbook? They contain contradictory information.

Two books are both used – they are similar and different. The handbook identifies what is different and summarises it. The NZ Service handbook is a living document that needs to be updated. Any contradictions please raise them with the Literature committee.

Presentation: Panels in New Zealand

Paula B

Background:

Conference 2010 asked that the Board examine the archives to learn about the historical place of panels in New Zealand. The Board was asked to also look at how panels can work more effectively. This will be reported at Conference 2012.

I have examined the archives and found that New Zealand Al-Anon has had panels in place for over 20 years.

I have had discussion with previous chairs of select committees and all said they didn't get much help from panels members and wondered really why we have them.

Discussion:

Are Panels in their present form working?

Could we present to Conference a way that the Panels could work better for New Zealand Committees?

Why don't we have the four select committees for the delegates to choose i.e. Public Information, Conference, Literature, and Messenger?

In Summary:

During my role as a delegate I never really understood why I was appointed to participate on a committee via a panel.

Often we presume that members know certain procedures, they are often not able to ask why? At Conference, my suggestion is that we have a more in depth discussion regarding the delegates' role. This role would support them in a general way.

This could be done at the beginning when the delegates are welcomed or when we introduce the Goals for Conference.

32

SUMMARY

Presentation: Panels in New Zealand

Paula B

District representatives – saw the name on the panel and didn't know anything about it. Nothing ever came about. They were not told their duties or responsibilities. There needs to be more education about the role for newer members of the Conference.

Panels in their present form aren't always working. It depends on who has been in charge of panels. It was felt that information needs to be given to people before the beginning of a term on a panel as to their roles and responsibilities on a panel.

Discussion was held at Conference to find a way that the Panels could work better for NZ Committees.

It was felt that panels should be disbanded as they don't work and we don't need them. Delegates were forced to work on a particular selected committee eg, Literature & Editorial. Delegates do want to be involved and want to participate in Panels. They could be part of workgroups and other board activities e.g. Public Outreach committee. This is important. It's valuable to get involved, we don't want to throw out the baby with bathwater and we need to form ongoing links.

The benefits of involvement in a workgroup or committee are ongoing links to the board and shared leadership with Conference.

Why don't we have the four select committee of the delegates choose ie Public Outreach, Conference, Literature and Messenger?

People shouldn't be forced onto a committee where they have no knowledge or skill.

Other point of view is that you get on with the job and learn. Some would rather be directed to where they should go, especially new delegates.

Delegates could have a longer orientation to understand the panels and use Knowledge Based Decision Making.

After the Delegates meeting they come back to Conference knowing which panel they want to be on. On those committees there would also be a board member.

Discussion

- Description could go in the Conference brochure and in the Orientation.
- Delegates had burnt out doing panels.
- Keeping it simple needs to be attractive so that others can be attracted to serve
- Where to from here? Form a work group to come up with a couple of scenarios – how can we make it work in the meantime?
- Suggest that the panels meet prior to end of conference and use email in the meantime.
- Suggest that we have volunteers to go on the current panels
- Use the hidden talents workshop to find out what their talents are first.
- The chairperson forms the committee – the panel members are only additional extras for each committee.
- Could write up the white board various committees – and form a workgroup how the panels operate with a couple of options. Individuals could write their name up on the area of interest. Workgroups included.
- Each of us needs to be clear about how much individual energy we have to give
- Panels don't necessarily take a lot of time e.g. Messenger – emails the messenger for editing.
- Have a resource person for each committee/panel that people can ask what the role involves. Instead of thought and taskforce use Workgroup to help keep it simple.
- Buddy system for a board member to contact participants. All part of the program. Need to be mindful of selfcare.

Conclusion

It was decided to write the panels up on the white board and Conference members were asked to put their names on the board under whichever panel they would like to volunteer for.

This is a trial for one year and members will be given time to report back at 2012 Conference as to how well this worked and whether to continue or modify the process.

Presentation: Finding our hidden talents

Helen A

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A NEW TYPE OF AL-ANON SERVICE

- Are you one of Al-Anon's 'Abundant Resources'?
- Do you have knowledge you can share?
- Do you have expertise in a specific career field?
- Do you have a specialised skill or special talent?
- Do you have an understanding of the three Legacies?
- Are you a regular traveller to foreign countries? Do you speak another language?
- Are you willing to use your abilities to help carry the Al-Anon message?

The Unlimited Abundant Resources theme of the Board of Trustees' Strategic Plan reminds us that our spiritual perspective leads to a life rich with possibilities, choices, and personal growth. Our Seventh Tradition reminds us that we are a self-supporting fellowship. These spiritual principles reinforce our sense of abundance when we see that our fellowship ensures that we have – or can obtain – all that we need to carry out Al-Anon's Twelve Step work. To paraphrase a spiritual principle: the more we serve, the more prosperous we become.

Our members are Al-Anon's abundant resource. Our members can also be an unlimited resource when barriers to service are removed. The world services undertaken by the WSO are a result of the interest, contributions, and support of our members who give their time, talents, and funds to ensure that we can carry our messages of hope and recovery to those who need it. Advances in technology and communications now enable the wider fellowship to participate with the WSO in ways not possible before.

Our way of doing work has changed from long-term service commitments to more dynamic, short-term task forces. This change has stimulated an interest in finding individuals in our fellowship who are willing to participate in service projects no matter what their lifestyle, where they reside, or how little time they have to give.

The Questionnaire

Responding to Al-Anon's questionnaire is the beginning of an on-going process of building a database of members who have skills, talents, or expertise that they would be willing to share with the fellowship on a short-term basis.

Why fill out the questionnaire?

- To show gratitude to the fellowship for recovery
- To further develop skills, talents or expertise while giving to the fellowship
- To participate in Twelfth Step work.

Who should fill out the questionnaire?

Members in the New Zealand service structure who want to contribute as one of Al-Anon's unlimited abundant resources!

Participation doesn't require travel to attend meetings or a long-term commitment. If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the attached form.

Presentation: Finding our hidden talents

Helen A

- The existing profile forms are not giving sufficient information.
- WSO is working on improving them.
- We need to develop a database to gather information on people's talents.
- Members were asked to fill in a suggested profile form in this Conference session.

Discussion on suggested profile form

- Some found it confronting and it was hard to recognise own talents.
- Skills elude to professional qualifications not to other skills.
- Not easy to know what level of experience is required in the form.
- Easy to fill in on the website.
- Useful for gathering information (see the list below).

Discussion on existing profile form

- How could the existing form be improved?
- Where do we head now, do we stay with what we have or do we want to change it?
- There is lots of other information that could be provided.
- Both forms have a specific requirement – is this what we want?
- Hidden talent forms show the specific skills that people have.

Conclusion:

We need a working group to sit down and work on tweaking the new form.

The list below shows the hidden talents among our Conference members.

Further discussion to be held at Conference 2012.

Skills/experience	No.
Public speaking	13
Council or Board	12
Event planning	11
Interviewing	10
Training	10
Communicating	10
Organisation	10
Mentoring	9
Non profit	8
Writing	8
Research	7
Recording sound or video	7
Collaborating with non-profit organisations	7
Presentation	7
Microsoft Office	6
Finance	6
Legal	6
Teaching teenagers	6
Budgeting	5
Teaching adults	5
Implementing new programmes	5

Skills/experience	No.
Recruiting	5
Published author	4
Medical	3
Medical assistant	2
Promoting a company or cause	3
Education	3
Social services	3
Professional writing	3
Advertising	2
Graphic design	2
Broadcasting	2
Financial auditing	2
Inspecting buildings	2
Analysing data	1
Accountant	1
Estate planning	1
Web design	1
Marketing	1
Ministry	1
Sign language interpretation	0

Workshop #3: Proposed adjustments to Alateen guidelines and supporting ideas

Rose A, National Alateen Coordinator

Please find below the Board recommendations for Conference 2011 discussion and approval:

1. Adopt the use of the term AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service) and its guidelines.
Please see attached definition from *2010-13 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*.
2. Encourage each area to have an Area Alateen Coordinator.
3. Adopt:

Alateen Minimum Safety and Behaviour requirements

These are the national Alateen Safety and Behaviour Requirements. Every Al-Anon Member Involved with Alateen Service (AMIAS) must:

- a) be an Al-Anon member regularly attending Al-Anon meetings
- b) be at least 21 years old
- c) have at least two years in Al-Anon in addition to any time spent in Alateen
- d) complete the AMIAS form and undergo a police check
- e) have at least a 2/3 majority support of their home group
- f) be approved by the area
- g) be annually renewed.

There must be two Alateen sponsors at every Alateen meeting.

All Al-Anon members Involved in Alateen service are AMIAS and must go through the approval process.

Each area implements and maintains the Alateen Minimum Safety and Behavior Requirements.

Events with Alateen participation must also comply with the Alateen Minimum Safety and Behaviour Requirements.

If an AMIAS, Alateen group, convention, gathering or event with Alateen participation is not adhering to the Alateen Minimum Safety and Behaviour requirements, they will be unable to use the Al-Anon or Alateen name and if it is an AMIAS they are prohibited from Alateen service.

Supporting information

1. Adopting the term AMIAS

What is an AMIAS?

An Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) is an Al-Anon member who is currently certified through their area using the national Alateen Minimum Safety and Behaviour requirements process. The AMIAS is therefore eligible to be directly responsible for Alateens while being of service to Alateen. AMIAS may be certified by more than one Area; however, they must first be certified by the area in which they reside. AMIAS may serve as Alateen group sponsors, chaperones, drivers, or other roles that are deemed suitable. Area Alateen coordinators are required to be certified AMIAS; the area determines which other service roles require certification. *Pg 83-4 2010-13 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*.

History

At Conference 2010, the members were asked for their feedback regarding adopting the AMIAS term. The response was positive. In 2010 at the World Service Conference (WSC) a new section was added to the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual adopting the addition of a new 'Alateen Policy' section in the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies section. The term AMIAS is used throughout the section. The AMIAS term was adopted in 2009 by the WSC. In New Zealand we usually choose what is suitable for our service structure from the changes that are made at the WSC and this is felt to be a beneficial one to adopt.

Current practice in New Zealand

We have Alateen sponsors who attend the Alateen meeting and who have been approved by their group, area and have been police checked.

There are two terms not used very widely that we can find in our New Zealand Service Guidelines *KN-17*, Al-Anon Guidelines for Alateen Sponsors *GN-35*, they are co-sponsors and other assisting adults. A 'co-sponsor' is when more than two members sponsor an Alateen group, those other adults are considered co-sponsors and the qualifications are the same as Alateen sponsors. An 'other assisting adult' is at least 21 years old and has an interest in helping Alateen groups and assists the group with the approval of the group. They can assist in ways such as chaperoning, providing literature to Al-Anon and AA members, assisting the sponsor in maintaining order, and sponsoring a transitioning Alateen.

Advantages to adopting the AMIAS term:

- It simplifies and complementarily replaces our own current terminology – Co-Sponsor, Other Assisting Adult.
- We would be compliant with Alateen Safety for all members involved with Alateen not only the Alateen sponsors.
- Adopting the term would help us be compliant with the policy in the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual.
- We will probably gain more members who are willing to assist Alateen without being sponsors, and therefore the foundation of Alateen will be strengthened.

Relevant definitions

Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS): an Al-Anon member who is currently certified through their area Alateen process and is therefore eligible to be directly responsible for Alateens while being of service to Alateen, including service as an instant or temporary Alateen group sponsor.

Alateen group sponsor: an Al-Anon member who is currently certified by their area process as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service and has made a commitment to be of service to an Alateen meeting on a regular basis.

Alateen personal sponsors: fellow teenagers who can discuss personal problems or questions with those they sponsor. Personal sponsors willingly share the experience, strength, and hope of the Alateen programme. *Pg 66 2010-13 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual.*

2. Encouraging areas to have Area Alateen Coordinators

It is a good way to foster Alateen awareness and groups even if the Area doesn't have any Alateen group(s). The Coordinator can play a vital role in making sure the Area is up to date with guidelines and approval processes. We are creating an ample reserve so to speak.

3. Alateen Minimum Safety and Behaviour Guidelines

99% of these guidelines are already adopted. 2010 Conference Delegates were given the opportunity to give their opinion about such changes and the consensus has guided the following proposals.

The main changes are:

- i Group approval is changed from 100% approval to a minimum of 2/3. This change is because our General Warranties guide us to make decisions whenever possible by unanimity. The Conference can decide what the requirements of substantial majority should be, two-thirds, three-quarters, or an even greater majority. The Warranty discusses the balance between safeguarding against hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority and not allowing a minority however well intended to block an action. *Pg 212 2010-13 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual or pg 201 2006-9).*

The suggested guidelines state that at a minimum a two-third majority is required for group approval. In the spirit of Concept Twelve's General Warranties it would seem appropriate that we do not place ourselves in the extreme position of requiring 100% unanimity. Therefore if you are happy with a substantial majority we will need to rescind the 2004 Conference motion that requested the unanimous support of the group.

- ii The term AMIAS is used. This is from recommendation #1.
- iii The four points at the bottom of the requirements state responsibilities that reinforce the importance of the approval process, the area's responsibilities especially at events with Alateen participation and the consequences of not adhering to the guidelines.

Workshop #3: Alateen Guidelines

Rose A

- Proposed adjustments to Alateen guidelines – page 17
- Follow up from 2010 Conference on the term AMIAS and adjusting to 2/3rd majority instead of 100% majority for Sponsor approval.
- These are the Minimum Alateen Behaviour and Safety requirements. Each area has autonomy and may add more requirements.

Discussion:

Area Eight – Clarity. Would be useful to know whether approval in one area is all that is required to sponsor an Alateen group in other areas. ie, if he is approved in Area Eight, is he able then to be a sponsor in Area Seven or Six for instance.

Quote from page 83 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual “AMIAS may be certified by more than one Area; however, they must first be certified by the area in which they reside.” Needs to be clear in NZ guidelines.

Area Seven – What about the rotation of sponsors? Concerned that people will be reapproved each year and stay as a sponsor for a long period of time.

There are no guidelines on how long a member may be a sponsor, this is a good point.

An indication was asked for in accepting these changes. There was majority approval of using the AMIAS term and its guidelines, encouraging each area to have an Alateen Coordinator, and changing to 2/3rd majority for sponsor approval.

Area Eight endorses the change completely. Some people won't vote because they don't know the person. The 2/3rd majority would eliminate that problem

Board Treasurer supports 2/3rd majority but said there also needs to be a complaint process to be added

Motion will be proposed tomorrow.

Peter A – presented an overview on Alateen online meetings

- There has been a lot of planning around safety for this website
- It is an online meeting at specific times. Not a chat room
- Participants need to register to get a screen name and password and there is a list of requirements that are agreed to
- The USA/Canadian structure has about seven Alateen chat.
- The WSO is currently working with Germany to set up Alateen chat
- Age requirement is 13–18
- It is moderated, which means messages are checked before being sent out and the moderator checks that identifiable information is not sent out
- Someone could impersonate a teenager to gain access to this site
- The WSO will offer the opportunity to NZ later this year to create this service
- There will always be two moderators/sponsors sitting in on each online meeting.

Presentation: Thought and Task Forces update

Arnold H/Karen W

This topic has been with us for a period now and we have to define how we will use it in New Zealand.

In New Zealand as I view it, service positions at GSO and Board level were all held by Auckland members. Today this has dramatically changed and we have representation from across the country. But again we seem to have a lack of members who believe in themselves enough to put their hand up for the differing roles our service structure requires. As a Board we have taken on ideas from the WSO which experience similar problems and which came up with the idea of thought/task forces to overcome the lack of volunteers.

Below is the history of this subject researched by Rose A, thank you:

- *March 2009 Board meeting a paper called "Should we reform and restructure our selected committees?" was discussed. We decided to discuss the idea with Conference 2009 along with another paper from that meeting about how we appoint Board members in a new way. Also at that Board meeting we moved that we are open to appointing people onto the Board who are not selected committee chairpersons.*
- *Page three in the 2009 NZ conference summary the Board presents to the conference a paper by Helen and myself entitled: Moving from Committees to Task and Thought Forces. There was discussion but no motion or decision. The discussion is probably good to look at.*
- *Conference 2009 IAGSM report from me (Rose A) mentions the ideas of using task and thought forces when reviewing Mary Ann R's presentation from the IAGSM called "Reforming and Restructuring our Committees to Increase Communication".*
- *September 2009 Board minutes we delegate to a task force to develop ideas for the 2010 conference. Dec 2009 & June 2010 I (Rose A) wrote two tasks including for Dawn for the literature translation*
- *September 2010 Board minutes we form a task force to carry out adapting TEAM events to suit NZ and prepare a conference presentation for 2011.*
- *2010 – NZ Conference Summary task and thought forces mentioned in Peter's WSC report, pg 50, about RSS new ideas, the Conference approved setting up a task force to look at the WSO suggested changes etc, and finally in the Board chairperson welcome on pg 73, I mentioned how we brought up task and thought forces from the 2008 IAGSM and we are trying it out with the literature translation.*
- *2011– I (Arnold H) set out a task in respect of the NZ AI-Anon website using the outline (format) of a task prepared by Mary Ann R. Chair of the WSO Board.*

Joan G has shown us the current study on differing age groups and how the study has found they respond to volunteer roles or tasks.

We as a Board believe Task/Thought force (groups) are the way to go. To date however, when the fellowship has been asked for ideas (ie, website) and/or specifically Area Delegates relating to ideas for Conference 2011, nothing has happened.

We look to you as delegates to be part of this change, to lead groups of members in your respective areas to look at ideas or be part of an electronic (Skype) group covering the length and breadth of New Zealand. Too often in my experience lone, strong voices raise issues at area meetings of what we as a Board do or don't do. All have the right to be heard but not necessarily be right. How do you or we encourage those people to be part of the solution?

For this process to work we need you as delegates to lead, take ownership of a task if so asked to lead one.

If you require previous papers that have lead discussions at the Board please email me and I'll attempt to get them to you. (arnoldandvic@extra.co.nz)

You might consider discussing this at the delegates meeting? Your ideas will be warmly welcomed.

Presentation: Thought and Task force

Arnold H/Karen W

Public Outreach heads a task force group to work out a plan for improving the website. The Christchurch quake has hampered her efforts. She has been in touch with a colleague who has website experience. She showed a CD with an overview of what the concept will look like.

- Meetings available have been enhanced. A google map will be available showing the locations of each meeting.
- Literature will be available to view and purchase online
- Comments can be posted on the literature
- Members' sharings can be added

Discussion:

Areas of concern were where the endorsements show on the bottom of the page:

- The picture looks like it is a foreign country
- Putting the availability of donations to be made is still to be worked on
- Could have a link to a profile form
- Richard – The 2011 website is very interactive. He sent some ideas in and they didn't get through. He has seen some websites that really drew people in. This one seems very static. He has designed one like a notice board and it really grabs your attention. We have an opportunity to do something really fun and simple. He is frustrated that his ideas haven't been received.
- Arnold was disappointed to hear that Richard's ideas weren't received. It is people like Richard with the expertise that we need.
- Suzanne – People put a lot of effort into designing pictures for the Messenger. These could be used elsewhere. People need to be recognised for their efforts.

The GSB proposes that for a trial of three years beginning June 2011, the New Zealand Al-Anon fellowship and service structure carry out TEAM events along the lines suggested above. A review is to be carried out after the trial ends at Conference 2014. A review will be made in an ongoing way after each TEAM event. Recommendations will be made to the

Presentation: Regional Service Seminar becoming a flexible TEAM

Rose A, Gillian W, Robbie F

Background

Last year the Board presented to the Conference the possibility of having TEAM events instead of Regional Service Seminars. The Conference indicated that it was happy to take a look at it.

What is a TEAM event?

The idea of a TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) is an idea that has come from the WSO (World Service Office). A TEAM event was created as an alternative to Regional Service Seminars and is characterised by being dynamic, flexible and nimble. As well as being renamed, the approach and content is one of shared leadership compared to a Regional Service Seminar.

TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members): A TEAM event is a partnership between an area(s) and the World Service Office (WSO) with the aim of providing an opportunity for Al-Anon and Alateen members to learn more about service and the Al-Anon programme. This is accomplished by the area and a WSO Task Force working together to plan an agenda of workshops and presentations that address the area's specific needs and expand members' understanding of our worldwide fellowship. TEAM events are sponsored by the area(s) and the WSO. *Pg 69 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010-13*

The advantages of a TEAM event

- A TEAM event partners one or more areas with the GSO.
- It is a unique service event tailored to the interest of the members in the hosting area or areas.
- TEAM events target smaller audiences.
- Responsibilities are shared.
- The hosting area is responsible for choosing and paying for the facility and possibly equipment and for all aspects of registration and may offer hotel or meal packages.
- The GSO is responsible for the expenses of the GSO staff, volunteers, Board members etc
- Together the area(s) and the GSO will plan the programme topics and provide supplies, materials, and literature.
- TEAM events can be tied to an existing event such as an assembly or it can be a stand alone event.
- An area, group of areas, or a region can host a TEAM event.
- Members from anywhere can be invited.
- Similar enough to a Regional Service Seminar a TEAM event will offer some familiarity to the fellowship and at the same time provide a tailor made event suited to the area/areas/region.
- It offers flexibility and shared partnership.

What is the difference with a Regional Service Seminar (RSS)?

- Regional Service Seminars were only ever in a region.
- Regional Service Seminars have not been tailored to suit the region's needs/preferences.
- Usually with a Regional Service Seminar the region only takes care of the hospitality.
- A Regional Service Seminar was always a stand alone event held over a live-in weekend.
- A Regional Service Seminar is aimed to be biennially rotated around our three regions.
- A Regional Service Seminar does not offer flexibility and shared partnership.

How does a TEAM event work?

To request a TEAM event, areas submit an Event Request Form, available from the GSO. This form requires proposed dates, facility information, Host Committee information, and signatures of the area chairperson and area delegates. A minimum of six months is requested for planning.

Once received the GSO will verify availability of staff and others to participate in the event. After the event has been confirmed, the GSO will create a Task Force of staff members and volunteers who will attend the TEAM event and work with the Area's Host Committee. A time line of tasks and responsibilities is included on a Suggested Planning Worksheet.

TEAM events are a minimum of one day and a maximum of a weekend.

Proposal

The General Service Board proposes a trial of three years beginning June 2011, that the New Zealand AI-Anon fellowship and service structure carry out TEAM events along the lines suggested above. A review is to be carried out after the trial ends at Conference 2014. A review will be made in an ongoing way after each TEAM event. Recommendations will be made to the 2015 Conference.

A brief outline of skit

Four Conference members dressed ridiculously and acted outrageously to humorously present the essence of a TEAM event. They were nimble, flexible (creakingly) and definitely dynamic!

Portraying the new concept, we'll go anywhere, do anything, to empower AI-Anon members to better serve and grow the AI-Anon fellowship.

How can my area participate?

The items below are intended to generate discussion. Your area may also have additional things to consider.

Discuss hosting an event with your area, make a commitment to attend the event, and decide the details. Then submit a [TEAM Event Request Form](#)!

Will my area host this event alone or invite one or more areas to host with us?

Things to consider:

1. The hosting area(s) and the GSO plan the event together.
2. The hosting area(s) can invite other areas to attend the event.

When will the event be held? *Things to consider...*

- ☐ How long will the event be? Six hours is the minimum and eight hours the maximum time.
- ☐ Will it take place over one or two days?
- ☐ What is the best date? What is a good alternate date?

Where will the event be held? *Things to consider...*

- ☐ Does the facility have adequate general session space?
- ☐ Is space available if we want smaller breakout sessions?
- ☐ Is the facility centrally located and easy to find?
- ☐ Is audio visual equipment – microphones, screen, LCD, etc – provided by the facility?
- ☐ Are there hotels nearby for attendees who are staying overnight?
- ☐ Are there restaurants nearby?
- ☐ Will the Area offer a meal package option?
- ☐ Will the Area charge a registration fee to cover the cost of the facility and other host expenses?

What topics are of interest in my Area? *Things to consider...*

- ☐ The agenda will be a collaborative effort between the hosting Area(s) and GSO.

Who will serve as the Host Committee Chairman? *Things to consider...*

1. Does the member have event planning experience? Area service experience?
2. Does the member work well with others?
3. Does the member generate enthusiasm?
4. Is the member able to select and oversee subcommittee Chairmen: publicity, registration, hospitality, set-up, etc.?
5. Does the member have adequate time available to perform the duties? Is the member available for scheduled calls during GSO business hours?



Event Request

Form

Please fill in ALL information and include the facility floor plan/layout.

Today's Date _____

Area(s) _____

Anticipated Attendance at Service Event _____

Requested Date _____

Alternate Date(s) _____

Will the TEAM event be held either immediately before or immediately after another event?

If so, please describe

44

Length of event: _____ How many hours (minimum of six)? _____ Over how many days?(1 or 2)_____

Facility

Facility Name _____

Address _____

Facility Contact Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Title _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Area Requested Topics of Interest (Please prioritize)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

GSO Presentations

1. GSO members' 15 minute
personal sharings
2. Giving - Our Spiritual Link To Gratitude:
AI-Anon services in action
3. Dealing with Conflict

Area Signatures

The form must be signed by the Area Delegate and Area Chairperson. If more than one Area is hosting the event, all Delegates and Chairpersons hosting must sign. Unsigned or incomplete forms will be returned unprocessed. After the TEAM event is confirmed by the GSO, the Area Delegate(s), and Area Chairperson(s) will be invited to participate with the assigned GSO Task Force in a call regarding the Area topics. The Host Committee Chairperson may also attend the call for information regarding workshop and presentation audio/visual needs.

Area

Delegate _____ <small>please print</small>	Chairperson _____ <small>please print</small>
Delegate _____ <small>please sign</small>	Chairperson _____ <small>please sign</small>

Area

Delegate _____ <small>please print</small>	Chairperson _____ <small>please print</small>
Delegate _____ <small>please sign</small>	Chairperson _____ <small>please sign</small>

Area

Delegate _____ <small>please print</small>	Chairperson _____ <small>please print</small>
Delegate _____ <small>please sign</small>	Chairperson _____ <small>please sign</small>

Host Committee

Host Committee Chairperson _____
Address _____ _____
Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Area One – Outgoing Sharing

Melda T

I was brought up with a very verbally abusive mother. I had one brother who was eight years older than me and the apple of my mother's eye. I tried to live up to what I thought would please my mother and get her to love me as much as she loved my brother.

I became quiet and kept my thoughts to myself as I quickly realised if I retaliated I always came off second best as I was always in the wrong. So I grew up believing I was dumb and the only way I could get on with people was to do whatever I could to please them and then they would not know how dumb I really was.

My Dad was the drinker in the family. Although my mother drank too I was always told my Dad was an alcoholic. I got on really well with him as he did not seem to be able to do anything right either and although he did not give hugs or say how he felt he was a quiet gentle man not saying anything when he was on the end of my mum's verbal attacks.

I came to really hate the way my dad was treated.

When I met my husband I thought I had someone who would look after me and I told him my sad story and how I did not want drinking to be part of our life. My expectations of a perfect future were very high.

We had three children and life was not at all a garden of roses.

My husband was drinking and there was more arguments, with me threatening to leave or just being quiet and doing exactly as I had done as a child. I went to work to make sure my children got more than I did. I tried to do everything to make a better life. Did it get better? No, things got worse. I could forget how unhappy I was at work or when I was with my children. I felt it was all my fault and I became more and more withdrawn – blaming everything on my mum and the drinking – not at all on my behavior. I was so afraid of everything that I couldn't take a gift I had bought for a neighbour's baby and give it to her. I just went to work and stayed at home.

My husband was suspended from his job for drinking and had to go to a treatment centre if he wanted his job back. Great I thought, now things will get better. I went along to help get him sober.

Then I did the family course. Yes! To get him sober. I was holier than holy.

This lead me to Al-Anon. The best thing that has ever happened to me...a lot of hard work. But it changed my life. I did not like it when I realised my part in the way our life was going. My childhood was not as it maybe should have been but I had to take responsibility for my actions now I was an adult. I did not like the person I had become and I wanted to change and be like the other Al-Anon members...happy, laughing and content.

Our marriage improved with my changed attitude even though the drinking did not stop completely.

Today I can do and achieve more than I ever dreamed I was capable of doing. Service has been the icing on the cake. The knowledge I have gained, has increased my growth and self esteem.

Thank you Al-Anon for a life changing programme.

Area Four – Outgoing Sharing

Gordon P

It has been a privilege for me to be Area Delegate for Area Four/Five and now Area Four for these last three Conferences. They have certainly opened my eyes to the outreach Al-Anon has here in New Zealand. I have enjoyed becoming friends with you all and look forward to many lifelong friendships with you and others I have met and come to know through Al-Anon.

Last year, I was given the task of bringing to Conference, the proposal from Al-Anon members in Area Four/Five that we should go back to being separate areas. The arrangement is working well. But with Peter (the new Area Five delegate) not having been able to get here for this Conference, I'll put on the Area Four/Five hat again and give them a copy of my Conference report.

For me the greatest thing I have got from the Al-Anon programme so far is summed up in Steps Three and Eleven – I made the decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God as I understand Him, and, I seek through prayer and meditation to improve my conscious contact with God as I understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for me and the power to carry that out. I have been searching for a long time in my life and it has taken someone else's addiction for me to get to this place where I have found what is for me my true spiritual reason for being.

Looking at all of you this morning, I realise what a 'newby' I am – I'm not yet five years old in the fellowship (August 2006). But it has been a privilege to get to know you all and work and share with you. I trust we will be friends for many years yet!

Area Nine – Outgoing Sharing

Robbie F

My outgoing sharing – What to say? What have I done? How has Area Nine grown?

In Dr Zeuss's words "I puzzled and puzzled til my puzzler was sore". Then I did as I have learned... handed this conundrum over to my Higher Power.

My first conference came unexpectedly – having to step in at a moments notice. I arrived half a day late in the middle of a session, totally out of my comfort zone. A whispered warm welcome helped so much. I sat, listened and quaked, asking myself what made me put myself up for Area Delegate nomination. After my first break I was seated next to my service sponsor who gave me guidance and help – though I couldn't work out if it was his foot or my higher power who kicked me under the table to prod me along at times. I learned so much that first day.

The things I have learned about myself and our programme has been inspirational and unmeasurable. The sad and defeated person I was 10 years ago when I was guided into AI-Anon is not the person you see before you today. AI-Anon, with the help of the programme and members like yourselves, have shaped a new Robbie, who I am proud of and enjoy (most of the time). I came to conference and met members who I put on a pedestal far out of my reach but by keeping an open mind and following the programme, these same people have become treasured people in my heart and trusted friends, who I know I can contact at any time.

Being Area Delegate has not been an easy task. I have had group difficulties and challenges along the way, which, with my sponsors, my area and our Southern Regional Board Member Arnold there to support, have been overcome.

I feel that our area will be doing more public outreach, bringing more awareness to the broader community, so those affected as we have been, find this wonderful family.

Having worked closely with AA for the January convention, we now have a good liaison there. Two of our groups have gone into recess meantime but having spoken to their members it may not be long until they are operating again. Area Nine is a close-knit community giving support to each other as needed. I am proud to be part of it.

So here I am giving you my outgoing sharing, thinking of the things that I have overcome in the three years of being Area Delegate. My husband's breast cancer and more recent fractured pelvis, my depression, sick friends. And do you know what? At each challenge I have felt calm and able to let go and let God and my Higher Power guide me...and they do, all the time. I went to Thailand all on my own to play with elephants and didn't get lost.

Thank you, all of you and thank you AI-Anon.

HOT TOPIC sheet time – all sessions

1. Delegates' Reports

Outline topic for my assembly

Wide outlook on what's happening

Main point to tell my assembly

- Participating with AA
- Summary where AFG is today in NZ
- Public Outreach ideas
- Great workshop topics
- Common concerns
- Special interest meeting
- Attracting members into service
- Different ways to hold meetings (any meeting including Assemblies)

Outcome/conclusion?

- Stimulation for moving forward eg, Higher Power, spiritual growth in the future.
- Conference allows the sharing so we can learn from each other.

2. Incorporation of GSO AI-Anon New Zealand

Outline topic for my assembly

Why we didn't do it at this stage?

Main point to tell my assembly

- We want to keep it simple
- We would have to lie as we don't have 15 members
- We would have to form a Trust
- Legal issues with different structures
- Distraction from our primary purpose
- We have found an alternative solution for viability

Outcome/Conclusion

- Move on with faith
- Let go and let God
- Business as usual using the solution which is to use limitation of personal liability clause in contracts

3. Finances

Outline topic for my assembly

Budgeting and finances

Main point to tell my assembly

- Knowing where the money goes
- Accountability and responsibility
- Being self supporting
- Personal recovery and finances
- Ongoing project to develop a budget for sending money for New Zealand AI-Anon
- Donations have increased while membership has remained static
- Bequests
- Re-writing Seventh Tradition literature

Outcome/Conclusion

- Active involvement by all members needed.
- Clarity and understanding on finances and how to move forward given.
- Changing our approach is necessary.

4. Abundance

Outline topic for my assembly

- Looking at our weaknesses and moving into the solution.
- Used a workshop to explore weaknesses and explored how it could be abundant by using questions.

Main point to tell my assembly

- Facing reality and dealing with it.
- Repeating the same thing get the same results
- Our vision could be now – changing what we can now.
- Using the worksheet to go out and use on a particular problem.
- Using the idea of “inreach”.

Outcome/Conclusion

- Accept that some things are not working – we need to do something to change.
- Hidden talents have the resources to do it.
- Willingness to be flexible.
- How can we help people to volunteer – talking to people
- Our attitude stops us seeing the abundance we already have.
- Don't burnout our current volunteers.
- Ask people “how can I help?”
- Offer food to go with the volunteering!

5. Website

Outline topic for my assembly

Web page being updated – we are excited!

Main point to tell my assembly

- Easier to use
- Improved online ordering
- Meeting info improved
- Ongoing interest for further updates
- Contact Public Outreach
- Alateen page
- Good visual impact

Outcome/Conclusion

- Ask for and consider suggestions for improvement. New page up soon

50

6. Spiritual Goal Review

Outline topic for my assembly

Spiritual Goal Review

Main points to tell my assembly

- How the spiritual goals work:
- Through Conference and personal.
- Opportunities to express belonging.
- The AI-Anon principals apply to business as well as personal lives.
- People are noticing that the goals are supporting Conference.
- Encouraging openness.

Outcomes/Conclusions

- Unity/bonding
- Clarity of purpose
- We had a good time.

The discussion:

- Feels like a natural spiritual conclusion
- Conference members wanted to acknowledge in the spirit of the programme the people of Christchurch and their struggles because of the earthquake.

Delegates' Reports

Area One

Melda T

Area One covers the entire lower South Island from Oamaru southwards. There are 11 Al-Anon Family Groups. At present there are two lone members.

In the past year one meeting has closed and one new meeting has opened in Balclutha on a Thursday morning. A Wanaka member has started a meeting in Cromwell on Monday nights and they had nine present at two meetings. It has not been registered as they are fine tuning a few details. They might change the night because Alexandra meets on a Monday night. I hope it will be all sorted and registered by Conference.

All groups are self-supporting. Some of the groups have grown in membership while others have remained small.

Area Assemblies, Workshops

Since Conference we have participated in the August 2010 AA Southern Area Assembly in Dunedin and also had two Area One business assemblies in Queenstown on 6 November 2010, and Wanaka on the 19 February 2011. Members attending, 12-20 on average.

The workshops = How Al-Anon works for you, using the Slogans.

Living with Loss, taken from the book 'Opening our Hearts'

We have been invited to participate in an AA Southern Area Assembly in Queenstown on 14 May this year.

The Serenity weekend at Pounawere was very successful. 10 members registered for the weekend with two other members coming to as many meeting as they could. The fellowship and bonding was there on the very first night. Awesome. At the end of the weekend everyone agreed this was a worthwhile and important event and voted we have it again next year even though the camp fee was to go up. We were able to send GSO \$196.00 from the auction. I am pleased to be able to announce, due I am sure to Lucy, the camp fees are to be the same this year. The Serenity Weekend at Pounawere will be held on 7-9 October 2011.

Concerns

We still have not got an area delegate to take over from me when my term finishes this year. Also the outreach and literature positions are still vacant. How can we get members interested in service?

Conclusion

I feel Area One has had a very successful year. All the groups are very positive and there has been membership growth. And some of the groups are tagging one another's meetings enjoying a change of sharing and fellowship.

I would to like to thank my Area One Committee for their help and cooperation throughout the year and allowing me to be a trusted servant.

Area One additional to report, Melda T

We had another Area One Assembly, AA with Al-Anon participation in Queenstown. It was one of the most attended area meetings for quite some time. There had been a communication breakdown with AA and so the request to participate by AA was by word of mouth. The topic 'The Promises' led to much soul searching on what the promises mean, I think when I work the Al-Anon programme and do the action, the promises are fulfilled. We now have an Area One Delegate to take over from me.

Discussion:

The Wanaka group organised a "Living with Loss" workshop. There were five questions taken from the end of chapter two from the book "Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses". Members split into groups for discussion. Each group shared answers and experiences. It brought the book to people's attention.

Another workshop, "Slogans and How They Work for You". Each member was asked to pick their favourite slogan and write how the slogan helped them work their programme. This was held to produce contributions for the Messenger.

Area One had a good relationship with AA in terms of being notified about assemblies until about two years ago. When I asked a member of AA about this he said there are new AA members organising assemblies who were unaware of the need to inform Al-Anon. AA were disappointed when Al-Anon members did not attend their event. We are working at improving communication between the two fellowships.

The paper on co-operation with AA has been a helpful.

Groups – If a group is not functioning well, I go to give help and encouragement. A recently closed group although small was happy to stay that way, no encouragement to participate in Area One meetings or with other groups was acted upon. I think sometimes it is better for a group to close if it is not working the Al-Anon programme. It is hoped that this group will reopen in the future.

There are no "Promises" in Al-Anon.

An Al-Anon promises page 269 from *Survival to Recovery* – Growing Up in an Alcoholic Home... if we willingly surrender ourselves to the spiritual discipline of the Twelve Steps our lives can be transformed.

Area Two

Stephanie G

Area Two covers Canterbury, north of Oamaru, to the South, midway between Kaikoura and Blenheim to the North and straight down West of the Canterbury Plains along spine of Te Wai Pounamu (South Island).

Meetings: Monday Hornby AFG, Tuesday: St Annes, Mens Steps Group, Kaiapoi AFG, Wednesday: Spreydon AFG, St Martins AFG, Thursday: Bishopdale AFG, Linwood AFG, Friday: Steps Meeting Oasis Centre, Sunday: Opawa AFG. New Meeting: Rolleston AFG, Ashburton: Wednesday AFG, Rangiora: Lapsed Meeting, One member. Timaru: Timaru AFG.

Highlights

Tuesday Night Mens' group up and running.

There was increased participation at Area Two Assembly meetings.

AI-Anon Participation at Hanmer with AA in 2010 still happened despite a natural disaster in September

Public Outreach

Linwood AFG have distributed literature to a range of doctors and medical facilities Outreach still going ahead slowly when human resources available

Concerns: Debate continues as to the future of our Information Centre, given that a natural disaster put paid to our rented space, among other things.

Discussion is going ahead regularly at Area Assembly Meetings.

Looking to the Future: Area Two hosting a full Area Assembly on 18 June with a whole day being set aside for the meeting and lunch and a workshop for all participating members.

A Serenity Day has been planned and booked for 23 July at a central venue for all

AI-Anon Members who wish to attend.

How has the year gone?

Steady attendance at meetings, increased communication between Area Two Group Reps and the Area Committee has resulted in an improvement in both morale of Area Two and increased efficiency of info to the AFG groups.

Area Three

Richard C

Area Three is at the bottom end of the North Island. It stretches from Masterton in the Wairarapa, down along the Hutt Valley to the Wellington CBD and then up the Kapiti Coast to Otaki.

We have a growing number of groups and at last count there were 16. Unfortunately we have no Alateen groups at this time.

Area Assemblies, Workshops

Our first assembly of the year was held in Petone on Saturday 12 March 2011, a very good number of GR's attended and we received about 90% of group reports. This was particularly gratifying for me as a first time delegate. Groups have reported picnics, social gatherings and after the assembly we held a workshop, 'Understanding Our Gorgeous Guidelines' that was very well attended and successful. It certainly had members understanding what a resource our Service Manuals are. Over 30 people attended the assembly.

Public Outreach

The area has hung an Al-Anon banner opposite the ASB Sports Stadium aka The Cake Tin and this remained in place during the recent rugby tournament. Along with this has been a strong outreach push of mail box drops and we also have a free radio promotion all this year. We have the Area Three Serenity Weekend coming up on the 13-15 May 2011.

We have no AIS office and so rely on GSO to provide Conference Approved Literature and other information.

Concerns

At the present time our main concern appears to be the service positions at area level. The roles of chairperson and secretary are now vacant as the current terms are completed. This was discussed at length and we are going to try out a team concept where we have people sharing these roles.

The only negative feedback reported to me from the last Conference was one concerning delegates reports, the time to submit and the short time to present. I guess I will see firsthand these issues this year. I am rather concerned, in this day and age of computer technology, that we need to submit reports three months in advance. I have expressed my concerns to the Board. I am reminded that Al-Anon is a bottom up fellowship and we need to pay attention to this principle when making decisions.

Next year, January 2012, the AA Convention with Al-Anon participation will be held at the Silver Stream Retreat Centre, which is in Area Three. We are creating a working committee at present.

As a newcomer to this service position, even though I was a District Representative in Los Angeles, I am on a major learning curve, which is why I decided to put my name forward to see and learn how Al-Anon works in New Zealand. I am truly looking forward to the next three years and hope and believe that I can make a contribution.

Area Four

Gordon P

Re-establishing Area Four

This time last year we were Area Four/Five. Since the 2010 Conference we have been Area Four and Area Five. Area Four extends down the East Coast from Gisborne to Hastings. We had our first area assembly on 13 November 2010 at Jacaranda House in Kennedy Road, Napier. About 25 members attended the morning programme and 17 or 18 stayed for the rest of the day. (Area Five had their first area assembly on Waverly the following weekend).

John, the Regional Board Member flew to Napier to be at the meeting with us. We elected an area Committee and its members are: Chair, Margaret; Secretary, David; Treasurer, Robert; Public Outreach, Rowena; area delegate, Gordon.

After the Area Five Assembly, we were able to split up the funds and books for sale of the old Area Four/Five, and that went very smoothly.

Unfortunately the Gisborne group has disbanded. The GR brought through the group's books, literature and banners, and they are stored at my place for now.

Our Groups

We have three groups. Napier has over 12 people attending and Hastings and Wairoa are both up to seven or eight. Some newcomers come once or twice, then we don't see them again. Either we can't be what they think they need or they just keep going with life as it is.

Area Assemblies, Workshops

Since our first assembly we have just the three groups meeting in Napier, Wairoa, and Hastings.

Our next assembly was scheduled to be held 19 March 2011 but our committee was advised that AA was going to hold an assembly in Hastings again on the first weekend in March, so we rescheduled ours to coincide with theirs, 5 March 2011.

Our business meeting was attended by the area Committee members and a few others, and lasted until lunchtime. Though it was smaller than our first assembly, we covered a lot of information and agree we are small but strong. In the afternoon many more joined in with our sharing meeting, then there was a combined AA/AI-Anon meeting.

We have decided to have our own assembly on 9 July 2011 in Napier, because that is where most of our members are. We have chosen this date so that those who want to can also go to the AA/AI-Anon Assembly that is always held in Palmerston North on the first weekend in July. At that assembly, we will choose our new area delegate for 2010-2014.

Public Outreach

We continue our public outreach into libraries by placement of bookmarks. We have attended meetings concerning youth drinking and made ourselves known to school counsellors.

Conclusion

Members and their families have continued to face difficulties in their lives – employment issues, health problems, and more recently, concerns about relations in Christchurch. However we are buoyed by our groups and the friends we have in them. Now we are concentrating on building healthy groups and a strong area committee.

Area Five

Peter F

Area Five is now on a trial basis until Conference 2013 and is back to the original area of New Plymouth (in the north) down the West Coast of the North Island to Whanganui, Palmerston North and to Levin (in the south) with the ranges being the divider for the east.

We have five active groups. Two in New Plymouth, one in Whanganui (two meetings) and two in Palmerston North.

Highlights

New Plymouth Friday lunchtime held a Fourth Step meeting at a member's house which included a pot luck lunch with real success.

New Plymouth Monday night had an AA speaker join them for a meeting.

Palmerston North had a combined groups' family barbeque on a Saturday night in late february with great success and attendance.

Public Outreach

- Al-Anon member's spoke at the college of hairdressing (as hairdressers quite often hear of people's/family concerns).
- Supplied Al-Anon books, NZ Al-Anon Messenger, sad house posters – to libraries/doctor's waiting rooms
- Local community radio stations/newspapers – put adverts with meeting times/locations etc at either no cost or very little
- Put notices of meetings in church newsletters

Area Assemblies

Our first area assembly for Area Five was held in the central location of Waverley with 16 attending but only 10 at the business meeting (which included John our Regional Board Member) which went successfully. Our next area assembly is to be held at Waverley on Saturday 26 March 2011.

We had a small Al-Anon attendance at the last central AA Assembly.

Conclusion

There was a good fresh feeling at the first Area Five Assembly held in November at Waverley, but as usual the groups' concerns are the ability to attract new members and hold them in the Al-Anon fellowship as there are a lot of other alcohol support agencies around. Also members' ability to support Al-Anon financially.

I hope after Conference to attend as many Area Five meetings as my family/work commitments allow.

Area Six

Cherie K

Groups: Cambridge AFG, Hamilton City South AFG, Hamilton Serenity, Hamilton Hope for today, Rotorua Geyserland AFG, Tauranga Monday AFG, Thames AFG, Tokoroa AFG, Whakatane Supporting Families, Waihi AFG. Area Six now has 10 groups, up two from last year. We also have a lone member in Opotiki. To my knowledge we don't have any Alateens.

Area assemblies

No assemblies have been held recently. I know that within the next couple of months, there is an assembly in Coromandel. Hopefully the word will get out soon. We also need to know in advance where AA is having their meeting so Al-Anon can participate.

There is a concern about AA inviting Al-Anon to take part in the assemblies. Sometimes they leave notification too late or we haven't been invited. Short notice takes a toll on every Al-Anon member due to other commitments.

Area concerns

Each group within our area has low numbers. Therefore filling service roles has been difficult especially, the role of GR. We had an area meeting recently and there weren't enough GR's to vote, which was disappointing. Hopefully in the next meeting we will have more GR's attending.

The area committee positions are currently full. I'm the new area delegate. This position for me is another stepping stone in my recovery as I'm in my 18th year of being in Al-Anon.

I will do my utmost to do my part as area delegate. I have kept in contact with all the GR's on a regular basis to see how they are doing and if they have any concerns. I'm impressed as there's been lots of public outreach going on. Is the message getting out there?

GSO is open during the week and it's great to have this opportunity to contact GSO for any concerns regarding literature and meeting lists. Area Six does well contributing donations which helps a long way. It is great to have the GSO news to spread the message and an up-to-date calendar of events sent out to us all. These are read out in our meetings.

General

The alternative delegate will be attending Conference this year as I have another commitment. This is my first delegate report and it's opened my eyes to know what's required from area delegates. I know I will get better as this programme works, one day at a time.

SUMMARY

Area Six, Suzanne F

1. Some of the Area Six groups have adopted the suggestion from Peter A, our NZ Al-Anon Treasurer; that in the group budget to include on a regular basis contribution to NZ Al-Anon.
2. The ask-it-basket question from Area Six was left in the air. Not enough platform time to move it anywhere. Al-Anon being invited to the AA camps. Why doesn't AA do it through Al-Anon service structure?
3. The question asked; does AA have to co-operate with Al-Anon? Why not?
4. Unfinished processes need to be heard at some level of the Al-Anon structure .

Area Seven

Sagree N

Area Seven stretches from Dominion Rd in central Auckland, south to the Bombay Hills. There are 11 weekly groups, and one monthly Intergroup meeting, held on the third Wednesday of the month. The Alateen meeting in Papakura has disbanded, with no regular Alateen members.

Highlights

The area chairperson position has been finally filled at our last interim area assembly.

A book review is carried out at our area assembly and donated to the group whose name is drawn, as an attraction to GRs to attend the area assembly.

Public Outreach

Our billboard displaying the Sad House poster is still on display at free community noticeboard sites throughout Auckland City.

Five city groups are pooling their money and paying for advertising in the community newspaper, Central Leader.

The Manurewa group organises speakers at the Salvation Army Bridge programme in Manukau, and at the Capri treatment centre.

We continue to email professionals, individuals, organisations with the area meeting lists. Our public outreach board is circulated amongst the groups.

Alateen

At our February assembly, one of the Alateen sponsors asked the GRs to let their groups know that they were looking at the possibility of starting the Papakura Alateen meeting again as there were current sponsors available.

Area Assemblies, Workshops

The Recovery Weekend was held at the Aio Wira Centre in February on Steps 10, 11 and 12.

The AA Northern Area Assembly with AI-Anon and Alateen participation held on 13 November in Parnell was attended by about 50 AI-Anon members. The meetings were successful and members enjoyed the topic.

The AA 12 Events with AI-Anon and Alateen participation was held on March in Wellsford.

Groups have been holding birthday meetings, which are advertised in the Area Seven and Eight Highlights.

There was a committee appointed to hold a workshop – dates and theme still to be confirmed.

Concerns

Area Seven does not have a Public Outreach person. The group numbers have declined in a few groups. The Public Outreach display board is heavy to carry and it was suggested that it needs to be replaced by a smaller board.

Thursday Night Khyber Pass has shrunk in size and the GR emailed for assistance. It is pleasing to note that on my recent visit, all group positions were filled and there were nine members attending.

The area treasurer's house was broken into and the area chequebook was stolen. The thieves had banked a cheque totalling \$5800, however the money was refunded to the area by the bank and the dishonour fees were cancelled.

It was challenging not having an area chair person, however this position has been filled. I hope to visit all the groups over the next few months.

Area Seven additional to report, Kirsten W

The Delegate noted that the Conference report was written by the former Delegate who recently resigned.

The AA event in Wellsford mentioned in the report was an Area Eight event.

Area Seven had been without an area chair for a year, but this had been filled, and the area was currently looking for a public outreach co-ordinator.

There was a welcome and much closer relationship developing between Areas Seven and Eight.

For public outreach, each month Area Seven emails the updated Area Seven and Eight meetings lists (with personal names and phone numbers removed) to a database of professionals, with a cover letter asking the recipient to circulate the meetings lists around their organisation. This was a free tool that other areas could develop.

Area Eight

Chris H

Area Eight includes all of Auckland west of Dominion Road and all points north of Auckland's Harbour Bridge. We have 15 groups including two Alateen groups and one "Adult Child" group.

Alateen

We have two Alateen groups served by eight approved and police-checked sponsors.

Our Pt Chevalier Alateen Group has recently been struggling to attract Alateens.

Our Browns Bay Alateen Group averages five to six members each week. Five sponsors share the service on a rotating roster of two weeks on and three weeks off. Two sponsors (one regular and another sponsor available only occasionally as an "emergency back-up") are parents of Alateens who attend the group. The guideline that where possible it is "preferred" that a sponsor not be a relative of any Alateen attending the group has been carefully considered. We find that the rotating roster brings balance in that regard.

Highlights

Our monthly speaker style Intergroup meeting on the 1st Sunday of each month (except January) continues to be self supporting.

The new Helensville meeting continues to survive and is slowly growing.

A Recovery Day in July and a GR's workshop in October were both well attended and enjoyed.

Several members from our area travelled to the National AA Convention in Nelson in January.

We participated in the AA Northern Area Assembly in Wellsford in March with 26 Al-Anon members attending in addition to numerous dual members for a day which was a huge success.

Public Outreach

We continue to provide three speakers every four weeks to the Higher Ground Drug and Rehabilitation Centre to speak to the residents.

Our area Public Outreach Coordinator and several of our groups have been active in talking to, and providing literature to, branches of CADS and many of the schools and libraries in our area.

Area Assemblies

We have held area assemblies every three months with more of our groups becoming progressively better represented by GRs who are more engaged in their service roles. At our area assembly in February 2011, 12 of our 15 groups were represented and in addition to members of our Area Committee another 12 members also attended.

Concerns / Solutions

The area Chair position was vacant for a full year before finally being filled in November 2010. The area Secretary position immediately became vacant. We believe that the area Secretary position will be filled at our interim assembly in May but the position of alternate delegate remains vacant. We have real difficulty attracting many of our longer term members into service beyond the group.

A group reported to an area assembly that it was obtaining a copy of the TV movie "When Love is Not Enough – The Lois Wilson Story" to donate to the local public library as a public outreach exercise. Another group adopted the idea and obtained a copy to donate to the Higher Ground Drug and Rehabilitation Centre on the same basis. A member of the latter group belatedly objected that the film was not CAL so "could not" be donated. Clarification was sought. Following extensive discussion with longer term experienced members it was suggested to both groups that donation of such material in the name of Al-Anon (whether as a group or as individual members of Al-Anon) could properly be considered contrary to our Tradition Six as endorsing and/or lending our name to an outside enterprise. It was, however, made clear that donation of such material in any name(s) without reference to Al-Anon would not be inconsistent with the Traditions.

Area Eight, Chris H

Group in Kerikeri closed.

Whangarei plans to trial a second meeting of the same group.

We have an Alateen meeting with no young members and are keeping it open.

Area Eight has filled all service positions except Alternate Delegate and is working very well after a lull for some time.

At May assembly, just a few GR's were missing.

Serenity weekend and recovery day had lapsed as there was no one to organise these but committees now formed for a serenity weekend and a recovery day which is planned for July 2012.

Great co-operation with Area Seven.

Increasing numbers of men at meetings – at adult children meeting there is often a majority of men and there are many dual members.

Our relationship with AA is great thanks to our Regional Board Member and the service people in AA.

It would be good to do something at Conference on getting people interested in service.

The area is healthy but there are groups with problems. One looked as though it would implode.

Men ask when they are the only man in a group about getting a sponsor – had it been considered to have a joint Area 7 and 8 male meeting?

There have been suggestions of men's group in the past.

- Could be seen as exclusion
- Might discourage women in fellowship
- There are many men in Area Eight and they are as welcome as the women are
- Encourage men to move around the groups and if the only male they can share the male perspective

A group for men may happen.

If people move around groups how do we get them to commit to home group and to service positions? Concerns about not donating properly – give \$5 to one then less to second meeting as affordable.

Re people moving around groups – no problem with that. It was suggested we encourage people to do that but to identify a home group and do service at that group.

There is nothing in the guidelines re appointing an area chairperson. The area chair position falls to the alt delegate by default. On a meeting at a time basis people step up but agenda setting etc declines with this procedure.

Placing the film Love is not Enough in libraries seemed to be a great idea and then someone pointed out that it was not CAL. Basically, Al-Anon could not lend its name to outside issues and so the film could be donated only on a personal basis.

Area Nine

Robbie F

Area Nine covers the West Coast of the South Island as far down as Hokitika including Reefton up to Blenheim then down to Nelson.

Our groups are Hokitika, Greymouth, Westport, Reefton, Blenheim, Nelson Monday, Nelson Wednesday, Nelson Friday, Motueka, and Golden Bay.

We also have loners who travel and visit meetings and assemblies when they can.

Highlights

As our planned Serenity weekend didn't happen the West Coast groups had a highly successful impromptu weekend in Punakaiki. Those attending had a great time.

- Groups tagging other groups
- End of year celebrations, including pot luck dinners, special topics, fellowship opportunities love and singing
- SRBM attending our assemblies
- AA convention with Al-Anon participation in January
- Overseas visitors following the convention.

Public Outreach

We are hoping to have a new PO coordinator after our March assembly. A chance encounter opened an opportunity to contact Youth Transition Services who support school leavers, many of whom are affected by alcoholism. Talk to Drug and Alcohol services, Police and St Marks rehab. Library displays also.

Area Assemblies

We have assemblies three times a year rotating hosts, West Coast, Nelson, Blenheim. These are well attended with about 20 attending. Groups try to fill a car with members. Beginning at 3pm Saturday and finishing 1pm Sunday. Saturday night is an evening of fun and fellowship. We have Al-Anon books for sale. The March assembly is having a bring and buy to add to funds.

Concerns

Attracting new members. Cross talking. Dominance – three concerns that have appeared at times. These were addressed by the group contacting the area delegate, holding conscience meetings and discussing concerns in the group reps meeting at assemblies, and using the guidance of the Traditions.

Extras

Area Nine has had a very traumatic year with our loved Treasurer dying and four members' husbands died also, bringing our area even closer together.

The AA Convention with Al-Anon participation was a huge success. It has been said by both fellowships there was absolutely no 'them and us' feeling and was so friendly. It was a lot of work for our small committee but typical of Al-Anon it all fell into place with members giving their time so willingly. We are pleased with the money we were able to send to GSO.

I am in contact with our area to put together plans and topic for a TEAM/RSS at an assembly later in the year.

Board Reports

Board Chairman

Arnold H

I took this role on after having served an apprenticeship alongside Rose A at our last annual general meeting of the Board. It has been an interesting year for me coming to grips with the new responsibilities that go with the role of chairman. Luckily I've learned in AI-Anon as we are given new challenges those around us (me) support and guide me.

We do meet four times a year and following on from last year our September meeting is used as a planning session to review what we've done, what we think we need to do, what we have to finish and who will take the lead role in bringing certain information to the Board. Certainly the use of KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) leads to more effective use of our time when we meet.

Subjects we decided to look at covered these topics: Alateen sponsors document, translation of literature into Māori, incorporation of the GSB/GSO, financial plan, updating literature, reviewing the AI-Anon NZ website, creating guidelines for Thought/Task forces, strategic planning, looking at volunteers generally, looking at Panels, looking at TEAM events, finding the fellowship's "hidden" talents. As these issues were looked at all members carried on with their other roles in AI-Anon.

You will hear more about some of these at this Conference. As trusted servants of the fellowship we have enjoyed serving you and hope that you as delegates will be equally enthused and carry this new information back to your areas in whatever form you feel appropriate. To leave here and do nothing would be a loss for your area.

The General Service Board consists of:

Karen W	Public Outreach Coordinator
Arnold H	Board Chair – Southern Regional Board Member – IAGSM delegate
Rose A	National Alateen Coordinator
Peter A	Treasurer – IAGSM Delegate
John B	Central Regional Board Member
Paula B	Northern Regional Board Member – Alternate Board Chair
Joan G	Conference Chair
Helen A	General Secretary

We have Esta S producing the Messenger outside of the Board. It may well be time to review this publication in my opinion as the fellowship doesn't seem to support it by sending in sharings.

We as individuals are willing to attend your area assemblies or gatherings to support you in some way in sharing the message. This year we have as a Board taken on "To help friends and families of Alcoholics" as our guiding vision statement. So as we make decisions we hold them against this statement to see if they are in fact assisting us meet the vision statement.

General Secretary

Helen A

There has been a steady increase this year in the use of email and direct credit to our bank account, of donations and literature payments. Most of this is done by a member of the group with online banking. It is used by groups all around the country and very noticeable with the groups in Auckland. It is making banking each week so much easier.

We are in need of a member with skill to work with our archives. This department has been lovingly sorted and stored up until last year, but we need a new person to come forward and keep this work up to date.

There has been a slight increase in the number of groups this year. A few of our yellow Sad House posters are still around the country, having been seen in one or two places and new members mention that this is how they found us. Our Alateen groups are still only two at present, both in Auckland.

New groups since last Conference

Balclutha
Rolleston
Waimate
Cromwell

Groups closed down

Westport
Kerikeri
Dunedin Monday

We have plans in place to improve the function and look of our website. It is getting used a lot, as we are regularly told by people that phone the office that they found our number on our website. So do check that your group's details are correct and your Assemblies and Weekends are listed.

Birthday Club cards have a change of member and it is working well. Remind groups that anyone can join and how simple and pleasant it is to receive a birthday card.

Bookroom

We have had notice of a new book which does look exciting and interesting called *Many Voices One Journey*. We will have copies available at Conference and a new edition of the WSO Service Manual 2010-2013, is now in stock. Also you will notice that Forum Favourites is not the Literature order form as it no longer in print.

We have continued to increase our literature stock, as the US dollar is currently in our favour. We have had a large increase in the shipping costs from WSO, but have been able to keep the price of books much the same because of the conversion rate.

We did briefly run out of *The Paths to Recovery* in April which has been steadily becoming a **must have** alongside *How Al-Anon Works*, our "big book". This has been revised and the Concepts are included now, so for anyone wanting to seriously look at our programme of Steps, Traditions and Concepts, these are essentials.

We have continued to have book specials, which we put in the GSO News. They are usually for two months so that everyone hears about them. Do the GRs read out the specials and encourage members to consider them?

We do receive occasional orders from new members using the *Getting Started* pamphlet in the Newcomers pack, but I think many members do not realise how this can be used when giving them a Newcomer pack. Do pull this flyer out of the pack when talking to them and show them what it is, also adding your phone number on the back and inviting them to phone you, rather than handing them a long list of numbers. It does keep it simple.

Our sale of literature at Nelson Convention was over \$500.

Treasurer

Peter A

The year in GSB finances

After the last Conference there were some unanticipated increases in expenses which put the budget out.

As the year progressed, the budget deficit seemed to grow steadily, and was looking like it could be almost \$7,000 at one stage. As it turned out, we were relieved the full year result showed a smaller loss of less than \$2,000.

Some extra work was required around October to account for the GST change from 12.5% to 15%. The change went smoothly.

After the administrative assistant left at the end of last year trying without that extra help was not successful, and we are now searching for a replacement. In the meantime we are grateful the former staff has continued to assist from time to time on a voluntary basis.

The financial reports

I apologise for the lateness of the financial reports and for the reports being incomplete. Review of the records at the end of the financial year found some errors, and we have been working to correct them, but at this stage there are some remaining inaccuracies.

Nevertheless, some useful financial information is still available with the records as they are. The Profit and Loss report is quite accurate and the final version is not expected to be much different from this version. The Balance Sheet is more affected by the present inaccuracies and has not been presented at this stage but is expected to show a small decrease in total equity from about \$36,000 to \$35,000.

Financial statements for 2010

See attached 2011 financial statements.

- Profit and loss report
- Profit and loss – last year comparison
- Depreciation table and statement of assets.

Comments on financial statements

Reviewing the profit and loss report with last year comparisons shows how items have changed. Some of the notable changes were:

Income

Total donations increased by 7%, continuing a trend of yearly increases which is very pleasing. There was a notable increase in donations from the South Island Areas, and a large increase in personal donations. We must be doing something right here and it is worth noting that at the WSO the donations have been static for the last 20 years.

Literature sales were less, and there was a large decrease in the 2010-2011 Convention donation, but the large 2009 amount was an unexpected windfall.

Overall these combined to produce an income of about \$1,800 less than last year.

Expenses

The year was marked by significant increases in several expense items:

- Rent increased by about 8% after a rent review and backdated to July
- Staff wages increased after the annual staff review. In future the staff reviews are planned early in the year, so any changes can be incorporated in the budget.
- Insurance

- Board member expenses. This is basically the cost of airfares to Board meetings. It works out at about \$200 per out of town Board member per trip to Auckland, and the increase relates to more out of town Board members and the smaller availability of very cheap fares.
- Conference Payments and Conference Travel Delegates increased
- Postage increased
- Overall the expenses increased by only \$3,700, partly offset by not spending the PO budget.

Financial Guidelines

After Conference last year, we developed a draft update to the financial guidelines. These will be discussed at this Conference before being published.

Group budgets.

We have not had replies from sufficient delegates about the group numbers to produce a new budget for groups for supporting the GSO at this stage. The plan is to have a discussion at Conference about support to continue this project.

I think it is valuable and would like this to continue.

Budget for 2012

A draft budget has been prepared, and will be discussed at Conference.

Personal notes

As in previous years the work of the Treasurer has continued to be unexpectedly rewarding. I had a particularly busy time last year in service with attendance at the WSC and the IAGSM and they were a rich source of ideas and growth for finances.

A couple of things I particularly enjoyed were:

- the discussion around changing financial guidelines and planning for abundance.
- the better understanding of how to use the Legacies as guides and supports, and not as weapons to attack each other with.

This coming year will be my last on the Board, as I have served my full term. I hope to assist in finding a replacement for this exciting position, and to offer my support for that person in their role. Some good “How To” guidelines have been written for producing the financial reports so that part of the job should be easy.

Board Member Report

Karen W

It is with some feelings of inadequacy that I write this my small report as a Board member.

The earthquakes and subsequent aftershocks and trauma work have left my role as a Board member a little lacking.

I had at one stage thought of standing down from the Board as for a variety of reasons, I have been unable to attend the meetings. However, I have been assured by others on the Board, that it is okay to remain in the role.

I have enjoyed being part of and hearing about the things discussed at the meetings and have on some occasions been able to contribute I think.

I was voted into the role of Public Outreach Coordinator at the last conference and have been able to and be excited about updating the website and have managed to get together some members from Christchurch and make a start on this project. It has given us all a sense of being connected by the programme in trying times. I look forward to things settling down a little and being able to put some more energy into things at Board level.

Committee Reports

Conference Report

Joan G, Conference Chair

Welcome to Conference 2011

The Conference Committee this year is, Joan G, Helen A, and Nikki R (Brochure and Summary), Jules G (Scribes) and Chris W (Host).

The agenda and structure was successful last year and we are keeping with that format for the present. We will continue to have Hot Topic time at the end of each morning or afternoon session; this will be facilitated by the Conference Chair and will be a fast paced fun way of summarising the morning or afternoon's events.

The Conference committee has communicated well over the months, sometimes by email, as some members have other commitments but we are confident of the Conference running smoothly and more efficiently than in other years.

The concept of Traditional approval will be explained to the Conference by the Board chair, thus increasing the knowledge and smooth running of the Conference. The request for Delegates to be able to present their reports has been honoured and has been included in the Conference agenda as agreed.

On behalf of the Conference Committee, I hope you enjoy your stay at the Friary and Conference 2011.

67

Editorial Committee Report

Esta S

Sharings are arriving steadily, and not often do I need to add some from the Forum. The idea of sharings coming from the area connected with the month ie, Area One, January; Area Two, February etc. has been slow to start. I was hoping it would remind groups when their sharings would be, at the beginning of the Messenger. Some areas have responded, so that is a start.

The suggestion we have a new cover on the Messenger, by asking groups and individuals to forward their ideas was a great success. I believe that quite a number of ideas were sent in.

The chosen cover is modern, bright and with our New Zealand Fantail on the front, inside top left and on the back of the cover is FANTA-STIC.

Upgrading the font on the inside of the cover is very up-to-date, thanks to GSO.

Stapling the sharings together was something I had been suggesting for a little while, now the pages are together I think that is another step forward in presenting a good Messenger.

The Editorial Committee have been very supportive, keeping me on the right track especially Helen from GSO who has been my mentor with lots of suggestions and some great ideas. I believe more members are subscribing to the Messenger, I hope so.

Thanks again for giving me this great opportunity to grow as I serve in AI-Anon.

Northern Regional Board Member Report

Paula B

The region covers Areas Six, Seven and Eight.

This is my second term and I am really enjoying being a Regional Board Member.

The guidelines say: A RBM's concern as that of other Board members, is with the fellowship as a whole. The RBM does not represent a Region, but brings an overall viewpoint from the membership of the Region.

This was difficult to implement as the areas had been used to double headed management and having the delegate and the RBM carry a similar role at an assembly. I too had a problem letting go, my life became unmanageable and only then could I make changes.

Managing my life and finding a balance has been a process. I am grateful for being in service and learning the role as it unfolds.

The Region is in good health. I hope to visit all the areas this coming year.

Central Regional Board Member Report

John B

This is my second year of the current three year term.

68

Area Three

Area Three has recently appointed Richard C as its Area Delegate. Dawn who successfully chaired for the last three years has stood down. At the last meetings, there were no nominees for this position and the secretary position was also vacated. It has always been difficult to fill the positions which is an indication of the pressures our members are under. The secretary's position is likely to be filled on a shared basis and this may be the way of the future.

The area has continued to grow with new meetings in the central city (Principles Above Personalities) and Otaki. It is noted that there are more males and double-winners attending meetings.

Area Three continues to facilitate the Forest Lakes Serenity Weekend which has continued to grow and this year is on 13-15 May 2011.

Area Four

Area Four has successfully transitioned from being a combined area with Area Five. As RBM, I attended the last combined meeting of Area's Four and Five, where agreement was reached on the split of assets and the first meeting of Area Four. Since the split, the meeting at Gisborne has been closed and Area Four now represents meetings in Napier, Hastings and Wairoa. All positions are filled. The last area meeting was a combined meeting with AA in Napier which I wasn't able to attend as it was the same weekend as our last Board meeting.

Area Five

Area Five being the bigger of the two areas, has also managed the split successfully. I have enjoyed attending Area Five meetings at Waverly, which last the whole day. There is a workshop meeting to start, a business meeting and a shared meeting. This area is in good heart with all positions filled. The secretary position is shared which is working well. The next area meeting will be in Palmerston North and will be at the AA Assembly.

AA Convention 2012, Wellington

I am in the process of forming the AI-Anon Committee for this Convention and now have two experienced members who have indicated that they wish to be part of the Committee.

Southern Regional Board Member Report

Arnold H

This is my second year in the role and this is the final year of this current three year term.

Area One is in good heart from reports I receive both from Melda and those I know in the fellowship. As always numbers and distance don't see full participation at all assemblies but those attending enjoy good fellowship. I was only able to attend one meeting in August of 2010.

Area Two has completed a one year trial of the Area Two Committee and Area Information Office being one committee. The last two meetings were disrupted by earthquakes. A meeting held on 2 April 2011 agreed the trial will continue. There was some plain talking on current issues and there appeared to be some enthusiasm from some members present to try and progress Area Two forward.

Area Nine has been a bit of a focus for me as AA held its 48th National Convention with our participation. Thanks to Robbie F who led from the front as liaison person and with everyone else's assistance the event was well run. From the sales table and sale of literature GSO received a cheque for \$1400 odd. At the Area Nine assembly at the end of March, the majority felt it was a fantastic event.

Other Committees

69

Convention Report

Arnold H

AA National Convention (Nelson)

The AA National Convention was held in Nelson 21-23 January 2011. Planning started sometime before that.

At an Area Nine meeting in July 2010 part of the meeting was focussed on this event and all chairpersons for individual meetings were organised. By default they became committee members. Robbie F and Marguerite B did the hard yards on Al-Anon's behalf, my thanks to them. Then in the weekend all the others pitched in.

It is abundantly clear that any sales table or fundraiser needs to be near our AA brothers and sisters otherwise the financial result would read quite differently. This can become an issue of are we being "self-supporting". I imagine each time this event is run we'll trust those who do it and hope for a good result. The donations and fundraising were \$900 odd and about \$400 in literature sales.

Unfortunately I couldn't make the Area Nine Assembly in March which would have acted as a debrief. In talking with the area secretary it was acknowledged by the majority it was a great event.

2011-2012

Public Outreach Calendar

Remember: We are all responsible to tell: Who we are • What we do • How to find us.
Use the full name “Al-Anon Family Groups” rather than just “Al-Anon”

(This helps eliminate the confusion that Al-Anon is another way of saying Alcoholics Anonymous)

August	Places of Entertainment – anywhere and everywhere. Leave posters or pamphlets at video stores, movie theatres, cafés or restaurants. A poster can be left on the inside of a toilet door. Visit www.coffee.news to add an advert in your area.
September	Magazines and Newspapers – participate in the FREE community advertising available, write letters to the editor. Write a response to articles you have read or topics in the Media. Send a copy of publications with Al-Anon Family Group articles to your PO person or delegate. Show gratitude by sending a letter of thanks to publications that have had Al-Anon Family Group articles.
October	Hospitals and Health Clinics – leave some reading matter, update or replace old posters. Include Church, Community and Whānau Health Centres; medical training establishments. ‘Remember to Forget’ a pamphlet in a place or magazine or leave ‘Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2010’ somewhere.
November	Cooperating with Professionals – visit Lawyers, Counsellors, Doctors, Spiritual Leaders, Police. Offer to speak at their meetings. Make new contacts, update existing contacts. Use suggested letters, literature and guidelines from the NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines (KN17). The ‘Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Magazine’ is ideal for waiting rooms, reception etc.
December	Poster Campaign – from letter boxes to supermarkets, car park drops to doctors surgeries, use your imagination. Ask permission, use local phone numbers, replace faded posters, include www.al-anon.org.nz . Put the ‘Sad House’ poster out to show.
January	Personal Outreach (one-to-one) – recognise a need in someone and share your experience, strength and hope. Attraction not promotion (be a good Al-Anon example). Meet them for coffee and take them to their first meeting. To lead another person from despair to hope and love blesses us in turn.
February	Cooperating with AA – communicate with the local AA Outreach person and offer Al-Anon Family Group speakers to accompany AA speakers during this month. Send a letter of thanks to AA for their time and cooperation with Al-Anon during the past year. Invite your local AA group to your meeting or visit theirs (don’t show up unannounced).
March	Focus on Schools – check their library resources; offer books, pamphlets, tapes and videos. Offer Al-Anon/Alateen speakers for their classes on addictions, alcohol or social issues. Visit the counsellors, offer Al-Anon and Alateen information and literature with up-to-date contacts. Posters are useful for Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Universities. Pay to put an advert in their Newsletter. Suggest Al-Anon be on their list of ‘Local Support Services’ they supply to their students.
April	Radio Stations – Read and utilise the Media & Public Outreach Kit with CD. Fax your meeting details and use free community announcements. Respond to Talk Back Radio by sharing about your growth in Al-Anon when related topics come up.
May	Open Meetings (birthday month) – celebrate by telling your story at your meeting, at an AA meeting, at an open Public meeting or to a group of professionals. Explain what your life was like before Al-Anon, how you found Al-Anon and how it has helped you. Open your meeting to the public – use local paper to invite visitors.
June	Community Groups (prepare for displays in July school holidays) – Visit libraries, CABs, Sports Facilities, RSAs, Community Centres – ask where best to display Posters and Table Display cards to be most effective, and listen to their suggestions. Leave ‘Sad House’ bookmark in a book when returning a book to the library.
July	Other Recovery Agencies/Groups – offer Al-Anon Family Group speakers, ask if starting an institution meeting is appropriate for their facility, provide meeting lists and information, and donate the Al-Anon videos, tapes, books and pamphlets.

Add local phone numbers and www.al-anon.org.nz to literature.

International Al-Anon General Services (IAGSM) Reports

Arnold H, IAGSM Delegate

Virginia Beach

USA

6–9 October 2010

Many Structures, Many Languages One Purpose

This journey started for me 20 years ago when I first came to the rooms of Al-Anon Family Groups in the small town of Alexandra, Central Otago. From that first tentative step towards self-discovery, continuing to attend Al-Anon meetings and becoming involved in service I had the pleasure to represent my country in this wonderful fellowship at an international level. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

The IAGSM summary will be produced in a short while by the WSO and if you are interested in the full reports of the meeting then I/we (Peter A) will be able to make them available.

I'll just give an overview of the time and makes comments where I received some particular learning or experience from.

6 October, we met for an evening meal and at the conclusion of this all participants were invited to introduce themselves and speak about a highlight of their structure. For me I shared about the gulf that existed in my mind between the South Island and Auckland, who were these people in a far off city? They kept asking for money! With time and the changing location of members on the New Zealand Board, representation now came from all parts of New Zealand and with that, changed thinking. I also learned that people from Europe had trouble understanding my "kiwi" accent and I tried harder in the days following to speak more slowly and slightly louder.

7 October, the conference formally started in the morning with one of the Italian's sharing at breakfast and then the rules of voting etc. were spelt out. All sessions closed with a person from one of the various countries reciting the Serenity Prayer in their language. After formal sessions were delivered by the respective individuals the discussion was then opened to the floor and attending members came up and spoke on the matter or on matters arising from the discussion.

We had a session on Preparation for Strategic Planning led by Nilce T from Brazil, Sharing Structure Successes or Challenges led by Mirja Malmbert of Finland, Technology led by Sigridur Thorteinsdottir from Iceland and three workshops were run with the conference breaking into three groups, these were on Knowledge based Decision Making, Shared Leadership and Translation. In the evening after our shared meal we again broke into groups and members from the ICC (International Coordinating Committee) rotated through three groups answering any issues or questions individuals had that couldn't be addressed on the floor of the conference.

8 October, we had sessions on the Big Question led by Roger C from USA and Canada, The Five Warranties led by Izabela B from Poland, Abundant Resources in all Aspects led by Anne-Marie W from UK & Eire and workshops on Finance – Tract 1, Finance – Tract 2 and The Concepts.

After the evening meal we had a presentation of bids for the IAGSM in 2012. There was only one bid which was from South Africa.

This was an interesting session, the members from South Africa did a great presentation dressing up in South African garb, wearing head scarves of the South African flag and somehow blowing the Vuvuzela which we all of course heard if you watched any of the soccer world cup! But the interesting thing was in the time before this we spoke of abundance and as soon as money became the issue we all seemed to retreat to thinking "of lack". As a group we sort of stopped and started and even had a break to clear our heads before voting. In the end it was accepted and as usual Virginia Beach becomes the default option if necessary for whatever reason which will become more apparent in 2011.

Also “The Big Question” – How can we strengthen our Al-Anon and Alateen groups so that we can meet our one purpose of helping families and friends of Alcoholics? For me this was an interactive process where large sheets of paper were pinned on the wall and in groups we moved through all adding our thoughts using the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) questions. It ran like I perceive a thought force would run, we just put up ideas good, bad or outrageous, that was it, but again it reinforced by doing or being part of it we as a conference all felt involved.

9 October. we had a session on Concept Eleven led by Cheryl C of Australia, How to Deal with Conflict led by Mary Ann of the USA and Canada and then a presentation of Zonal meetings held in Europe delivered by Sebastian M of Germany and the Iberoamerican meeting delivered by Nilce T of Brazil.

These meetings are held I think in alternate years to the IAGSM and countries without structures may attend and in their respective corners of the world which aim to do at a different level what is achieved at the IAGSM.

We then ran a session on Unanswered Questions and as issues were raised the conference addressed them. I think Alateen chat rooms became the “hot topic” here. Peter A made copious notes on this subject so I’ll leave that to him. There was a short time of “reflections” where members thanked the ICC and spoke of their appreciation for this IAGSM forum.

The conference then formally closed after which we had a spiritual session where Pamela C from South Africa shared her personal story. That evening our final meal was held on the Virginia Jewel a luxury motor boat which cruised the waterways around Virginia Beach while we wine and dined. A very pleasant evening.

For me I had many personal highlights, serving you at an international level, visiting Stepping Stones in Bedford Hills where Lois and Bill Wilson did a lot of their work, visiting the World Service Office of Al-Anon and in the spirit of cooperation visiting the AA World Service Office in New York. From visits to both these offices it appears to me the office layout and functions are identical as it pertains to each fellowship. I also attended an Al-Anon meeting in New York, I was prepared for the many I hear go to these and in the end there were eight of us, just like home.

My higher power was at work the day we visited Stepping Stones – we had taken the train to Bedford Hills with easily an hour to spare. The information we had suggested Stepping Stones was only a mile away, so we thought we’d walk, taking in the autumn colours and experiencing the area. When we first arrived I was walking up a street in Bedford Hills village and a lady said “my god you look just like my boyfriend” but you can’t be...he’s an Australian and I’ve just been talking to him on the phone. I replied “I’m not he and I’m from New Zealand”, so we had a yarn. We had a light lunch and then my darling who is drawn to shops disappeared once again so with only quarter of an hour to spare we set off for Stepping Stones. It’s then my “American girlfriend” drove by and offered us a lift which we accepted and the “mile” mentioned certainly seemed a lot longer climbing up the hill to the Wilson homestead. I was grateful we made it in time for the tour.

I believe the IAGSM is a good forum and certainly cements the idea that we are a part of a worldwide fellowship. That some of our learning experiences in New Zealand do assist other countries and we by attending continue to build bridges on a worldwide basis.

Peter A, IAGSM Delegate

Along with Arnold H, I attended the IAGSM 2010 at Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA, from 6-9 October 2010 as one of the delegates from New Zealand.

As a returning delegate I experienced the value of attending for a second time, and I very much enjoyed the meeting. I liked the topics on the agenda. I was pleased to see that so many of the topics were relevant to what we are focusing on in Al-Anon New Zealand at present, and there were lots of my favourite topics – finances, Concepts, conflict resolution. In this report, I have only selected one or two of the highlights of the meeting for me. There is also a full report as I wanted to share what I learned but it was too long for the Conference brochure so I am bringing copies for those who are interested.

Question time

Question time was a highlight. This is something they repeated from the last IAGSM and is similar to an Ask-it-Basket session, and a great opportunity to understand applying the principles of the programme to problems. We delegates were seated at tables, and two members of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) or WSO trustees visited our tables in a round-robin way to answer questions. We could hear about the current issues faced by other service structures, and hear some suggestions about how to apply the principles to the situations.

In one structure there was a problem with AA members dominating meetings and producing their own printed material containing copyrighted Al-Anon and AA literature. Their response to being challenged is that Al-Anon is autonomous. A suggested response was a reminder that there are some conditions to use of the Al-Anon name by meetings including not doing things that bring controversy to the Al-Anon name (see the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2006-2009 p77). It was suggested to address the issue with an honest conversation and explain this requirement.

When reviewing sharings for the Forum magazine to see if it is Al-Anon, ask the question “Do I think it is breaking any Tradition?”

How will they check our literature translation into Māori? In practice they know us and would trust that we had done a good job. To help them with this, when we send it over for them to check, it would be good for us to also send a letter outlining the steps we had taken.

There was a good discussion about how to get the Board to function well. It seems a lot of structures around the world have difficult times on their Boards.

There were good tips about running a Board and dealing with controversy, eg,

- Keeping the Board the right size for the structure eg, not more than 1/3 of the number at Conference.
- Was told that Lois said there is no difference between good business practice and good spiritual practice – they are the same thing.
- Have to have a sense of expansion – not trying to save cents.
- Board should stay focused on the big picture and the long-term.
- The Board can change anything – reorganise to meet needs of fellowship.
- Their Board has a Board development period of three hours every meeting where they might have a guest speaker, or learn how to use Windows 7, or training on framing. They also fill out an evaluation form at the end of the Board meeting.
- Having a conflict of interest policy
- The Executive Director talked about how he would not respond to anonymous complaints. He will invite the person who made the complaint to talk about it, and if they don't want to, it is not discussed.
- Get the Board to agree that they will behave as adults.
- Set the ground rules, ask for acceptance of goals at the start, and have to challenge unacceptable behaviour.
- Have a discussion about how we are going to deal with unacceptable behaviour.
- Minorities have a right to be heard, once; then guarantee that once they are heard they will accept the majority decision.
- Voting. After some discussion ask “Is there a consensus that we are ready to vote on?” You don't have to make a rash decision. After a vote they often ask the minority why they voted one way which leads to greater understanding and one time a single member who abstained changed the whole vote. Also do this when there is a close vote. The Board can ask if anyone wants to change their vote, and also look around to see how unhappy or settled people are to decide to accept the vote or reopen the topic.

It was fascinating to hear about some of the scary sponsorship in some places. Pyramid sponsorship is where there is a hierarchy of sponsors, and sponsors are very controlling eg, telling sponsees who to go out with and what to wear. Black belt sponsorship is aggressive sponsorship

often from dual members who make their sponsees conform to a rigid programme and there isn't much love or gentleness. The suggestion was to see it as an issue of lack of understanding and to hold meetings on sponsorship so they understand what it is about.

Eliminating the “them” and “us” at Conference.

A suggestion for this was to have a generous orientation two or three hours at the start of Conference where members are welcomed, and given the message that we want you all to be a success. Having a goal of being successful and giving people the tools for success. Asking ourselves how do we make people feel a success? A session about what each person's role is, and representatives of each group attending talk about this.

New Understanding and clarity about the Concepts.

Concepts in general

See them as spiritual guide posts instead of boundaries or rules. A mistake often made in service is to use the Traditions and Concepts as weapons to attack each other with. Don't go back and say “You are wrong”. Say “We should have a conversation and look at the Concepts”.

To understand them, look for the spiritual principle or basis underlying them. They are spiritual because they challenge us to think beyond how we used to.

Concepts 6 and 7

It was acknowledged that it is hard to know at first how to match the legal (the Board) with the spiritual (our fellowship). We were told the WSO has itself only recently come to a better understanding of these relationships.

The essential idea is that the legal needs to be separated from the spiritual. The Board is the legal part. The Conference is the spiritual part and we don't want that to be in the legal part. The spiritual has primacy over the legal, and the Conference Charter is a spiritual document which describes this relationship. It says the Conference is never legal but has ultimate (spiritual/traditional) authority. There is a contract that if the Conference decided, it could dissolve or reorganise the Board – the Board members agree that they would vote themselves out of office and vote in a new Board appointed by Conference.

Concepts Six and Seven outline this relationship. Six – Conference give administrative authority to the Board. Seven – While the Board has legal authority the Conference has ultimate authority.

In the discussion after the presentation on this topic it was apparent that several structures have difficulty with making sure the legal responsibilities do not compromise the Traditions. I enjoyed the discussion and found a new clarity around applying Concepts Six and Seven. This is timely for us as we are thinking of incorporation at the moment. A couple of the mistakes that some places had made:

- The legal requirements were complex and time consuming leading to distraction of the Board from its purpose.
- The legal and Traditional roles were not clearly separated, leading to confusion about the setup and function of the Board.

As a response to these issues it is important to let the lawyers know how we work so they can fit us in with the laws of the country.

Other topics covered in the full report:

General

Workshops

Finances Tract 1

Workshop on KBDM

The Five Warranties in Concept Twelve

Framing and Brainstorming

Alateen online meetings (Alateen Chat)

Alateen

Abundant resources

Site for hosting the next IAGSM –

bid from South Africa

How to Deal with Conflict (in the service structure)

See also separate report on Alateen chat meetings.

IAGSM Reports

The Conference had a combined presentation from Peter A and Arnold H, and included a slide show with highlights of the trip.

Peter A said he was proud to represent New Zealand Al-Anon. The IAGSM was held at a hotel at Virginia Beach. It was a fantastic experience personally. Thanks so much for letting me go. He put together a longer report of things that made an impact on him and is happy to provide a copy.

Arnold H reported a great experience. Highlights were the fellowship and hearing from different people. It was an emotional experience and it was awesome to represent New Zealand Al-Anon. There was much learning and sharing. Our Conference brochure was very well received. Obstacles were overcome through sharing our experience strength and hope. Compared with other countries we are tracking well. European countries are having difficulties with the law and fellowship. It was a journey of firsts and special moments and he said thanks for allowing him to serve.

Questions and discussion about the Reports?

What benefits are there in the International Meeting for New Zealand?

- The experience is a personal one, but we try to share as much as possible with the fellowship and service structure in NZ on our return
- Pathways are offered in discussions with others in different parts of the venue
- We are a world wide fellowship and we play our part in that link
- There was exposure to a broader range of Al-Anon people and ideas
- It is valuable to bring back information on outcomes and how conclusions are reached
- It is important to know we are on track and it is something to be proud of.

Have you been asked to report to Areas on what you have brought back with you?

- Peter A said since the IAGSM he had not been asked to speak on his experience so far but was hoping it will happen
- Arnold H has presented short version in South Island.

Is there a regional way of checking in with Australia and the Pacific?

- Setting up a Regional meeting with Australia and SE Asia was encouraged at the IAGSM. We have lots of common issues with Australia. The Board has discussed exchanging Delegates to each Conference which might be a good way to start. No decisions have been made yet.

Workshop ideas comments

- Appreciation expressed at the broader report with workshop ideas
- Liked reading about ways of facilitating Board Meetings and we could take that further
- At a group level the right of appeal is important
- Interest in the Concepts
- Groups through their delegates have the ultimate authority.
- Interest in minority views
- Interest expressed in having Peter and Arnold come and present to areas.

Clarity sought on behaviour of Black Belt sponsors

- Commonality we have with other countries (we all have problems at times with issues like sponsorship)
- Hearing from other countries experience helps us find ways to manage what happens in our own country. We hear of new skills and then we can try them.
- “Black belts” sponsors have very strict demands on their sponsees and no tolerance for failure, even telling them what to wear and who to date – gruesomely fascinating.
- Opportunity to talk about how these things are dealt with. This was very valuable. Need to know how to approach these things.
- Taking a meeting on sponsorship and showing them how it works and when it is not working as it should.
- Can talk about these problems and solutions to add interest to Area meetings.

Using knowledge-based decision making

- An updated version of the five questions of KBDM process to an informed group conscience has been printed out. The questions are now in more plain language and easier to use.

Sending one Delegate? Could you comment on whether one or two should go?

- Very good to have a fellow New Zealander to bounce ideas off. Bottom line is the Board will have to make – financial decision.
- A delegate can attend the World Service conference at their own expense. At Al-Anon expense this should be discussed. No answer today.

Other comments

- Spiritual Goals of Conference – WSO told stories of how in the past WSO Trustees were elite and wouldn't eat with delegates. They have worked hard to have good will and care for each other and they leave Al-Anon outside just because they are at a business meeting.
- Being on the Board and seeing people come back from overseas trips they have so much to add as a result of their experience.
- Concept Five: Minorities and how to practice that concept. This could be developed. This is a good thing to pick up on for the next conference.
- Can talk about these problems and solutions to add interest to area meetings.

SUMMARY

Visit to GSO

.....
New Delegates were taken for a visit to GSO, where they met some of the volunteers and were shown the office and the literature.

SUMMARY

Spiritual Meeting

.....
The Sunday morning spiritual meeting was chaired by Steph G, Area Two delegate. The topic was One day at a time (*pg 315, Courage to Change*).

National Alateen Coordinator Report

Rose A

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. The focus since appointment into this role has been on clarifying our Alateen guidelines and updating the guidelines with Alateen policy changes. This was achieved by using the area delegates feedback from the 2010 Conference, talking with a selection of area delegates at the World Service Conference in 2010, talking with Mary Lou M, Associate Director of Group Services, Alateen and Special Needs at the World Service Office, and keeping current with changes in the AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual.

The thinking has been, that if our guidelines are clear, then the way is forward. The spirit of this approach has been influenced by the General Warranties of Concept Twelve. We are encouraged to be prudent in all our affairs and take thought for the future based on the lessons of the past. New Zealand has led the way with its safety guidelines for Alateen and it has taken us time to adjust to our new guidelines. With the help of the Conference members the aim has been to reinforce our solid foundation and allow what already exists some flexibility and autonomy.

It seemed cart before the horse to do a big Alateen drive when our guidelines needed updating and tweaking. Therefore I have put my focus there. I wish my incumbent all the best and hope we all put it in our minds that Alateens are AI-Anon members, to remind us to make our meetings welcoming to younger members, to inspire us to share the gift of recovery with our own children by insisting on educating our kids about alcoholism as they attend Alateen/AI-Anon meetings, to appoint Alateen Coordinators in our areas, and of course to become certified to be of service to Alateen.

I wish Alateen in New Zealand and around the world a safe and healthy growth supported by our areas.

77

Public Outreach Report

Karen W

With the entire goings on in Christchurch over the past nine months I hope you will excuse the lack of communication re this form of service.

After Conference last year the Board has had several discussions on public outreach with the main focus being the website. I returned from the Board meeting in September with a task to bring back to the next meeting a paper regarding where to from here with the development of the site. It was decided that I would put it out there to members nationwide to find out if there was a need to update the site and what members felt they would like to have available on the site.

A note was sent out by GSO asking for suggestions or offers of help in setting up an updated website, however, few suggestions were returned. A small number of members from Area Two came forward and offered their time to become part of a think tank. Along with the suggestions from Conference and those put forward by these members we contacted another member from Area Two who has her own business in web design. This member was keen to put forward a proposal and quote to the Board for their feedback. After discussions between this web designer, myself, other Board members and the treasurer we felt that there had been enough discussion at Conference to accept this offer. A task team will now be put together to assist with the design and ongoing maintenance of the site and it is hoped to have a preview of the site ready to be viewed at Conference.

Another public outreach focus is that we continue to use the calendar put together by previous public outreach co-coordinators as a way of getting the message out there to the public.

I am looking forward to Conference and hope this report finds you all well and happy in your recovery.

Board appointments

Board Chairperson	Arnold H
Alternate Board Chair	Paula B
2012 AA Convention Committee Chairperson	John B
Archivist (non Board)	Vacant
National Public Outreach Coordinator	Karen W
National Alateen Coordinator	Rose A
Editorial Chairperson (non Board)	Esta S
General Secretary	Helen A
Literature Chairperson	John B
Treasurer	Peter A
Executive/Budget Chairperson	Gillian W
Northern Regional Board member	Paula B
Central Regional Board member	John B
Southern Regional Board member	Marlene G
IAGSM Delegate	Arnold H & Paula B
Conference Chair	Joan G

78

Convention 2011

Theme – Many Voices, one journey.

2011 Conference Goal for the year

Planning for Abundance.

Closing – the Board Chair person closed Conference 2011 and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Conference 2012

7-10 June 2012

The Friary

50 Hillsborough Road

Hillsborough

Auckland.

Motions, decisions and trials from Conference 2011

Motion: that the draft financial accounts be accepted

Motion: that the draft annual budget be accepted

Voting – that Marlene G is voted into the position of SRBM

Decision – repeat workshop on Abundance 2012

Decision – Trial of Panels for one year as per the wall Chart (incl in Summary) p4 Brochure -

Voting – IAGSM delegates – Arnold H and Paula B appointed.

Motion: that we adopt the use of the term AMIAS (Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service) and its guidelines; that we encourage each Area to have an Alateen Coordinator in an ongoing way; and that we adopt the Alateen Minimum Safety and Behaviour Requirements.

Proposal – John B be appointed as Convention 2012 Chair.

Proposal – 2012 AA Convention. Al-Anon theme – Many Voices One Journey.

Decision: to approve the editing of material in the Conference Brochure and summary, and where there is ambiguity or lack of clarity the editing person will contact the person concerned.

Proposal re advantages of a TEAM event. Endorsed by a show of hands Saturday 11 June. **To be included in the Conference Summary.** Proposal: The GSB proposes that a trial of three years beginning June 2011, that the New Zealand Al-Anon fellowship and service structure carry out TEAMS events along the lines suggested above. A review is to be carried out after the trial ends at Conference 2014. A review will be made in an ongoing way after each TEAM event. Recommendations will be made to the 2015 Conference.

79

Trials

Conference	Trial	Review Date
2009	Exec/Budget Chair to attend Conference with voice and no vote	2012
2008	2008 Vision planning over next three years	2012
2010	Area Four/Five split into separate areas for three years to report back to Conference	2013
2011	Panels – trial for one year. Area Delegates volunteering on to selected committees and other work groups of interest	2012
2011	TEAM Events instead of RSS for three years	2015

Conference Members 2011

Board Members

Alateen Coordinator	Rose A	2nd Year
Treasurer IAGSM Delegate	Peter A	3rd Year 1st Term 2nd Year 2nd Term
General Secretary	Helen A	
Northern Regional Board Member Alternate Board Chairperson	Paula B	1st Year 2nd Term 1st Year
Central Regional Board Member	John B	2nd Year 1st Term
Board Chairperson Southern Regional Board Member IAGSM Delegate	Arnold H	1st Year 3rd Year 1st Term 2nd Year 1st Term
Conference Committee	Joan G	3rd Year 1st Term
Executive/Budget Committee Chairperson	Gillian W	3rd Year 1st Term (Trial to review 2012)
Board Member	Karen W	2nd Year 1st Term

Area Delegates

Area One	Melda T	3rd Year 2nd Term
Area Two	Stephanie G	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Three	Richard C	1st Year 1st Term
Area Four	Gordon P	3rd Year 1st Term
Area Five	Peter F	1st Year 1st Term
Area Six	Cherie K <i>Represented at Conference by Suzanne F – Alternate Area Delegate</i>	1st Year 1st Term
Area Seven	Kirsten W	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Eight	Chris H	1st Year 1st Term
Area Nine	Robin F	3rd Year 1st Term

2011 Panels

Panel 33 3rd Year 2009	Panel 34 (Editorial) 2nd Year 2010	Panel 35 (Literature) 1st Year 2011
Area One	Area Seven	Area Three
Area Four	Area Two	Area Eight
Area Nine	Area Five	Area Six

Al-Anon Declaration

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there,
and let it begin with me.

