

ABUNDANCE

LET IT BEGIN WITH ME



New Zealand Al-Anon Conference 2012
7–10 June 2012

Summary

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

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Welcome from the Board Chair

Arnold H

Welcome to OUR New Zealand Al-Anon Conference. It is the 42nd time we meet as members of this wonderful fellowship to carry on the legacy of past conference participants.

We are here to protect what has been learned, change or bring in new ideas that we think will better Al-Anon New Zealand and look at ideas to carry the message, so Al-Anon Family Groups in New Zealand will flourish.

We are a fellowship of equals. No one here sits above anyone else, we all have differing experiences that we can bring to the conference discussions and as a group, hopefully will reach decisions we can all accept.

Our Board is changing with members rotating; whether you are a first time delegate, a long time delegate or a returning delegate, I encourage you to think about your future in service. It would seem a shame to waste the learning you have in your service roles, your participation at conference's, only to walk away without considering a position on the Board. Equally if you know of people in your areas that have potential to serve, have been around a while and appear to be grasping our programme, encourage them, walk with them, show them service is a challenge but also another opportunity to further their personal recovery.

I want to thank the Conference Committee for the wonderful work they have done so that we all can have a hassle free time here.

Remember if you don't know something – reach out – ask – we will help you.

I now open the 42nd New Zealand Al-Anon Conference.

Voting at Conference

8 Delegates at Conference – present to vote

The following Board members were drawn by Ballot to vote

3 Board members voting: Paula B/ Arnold H/ Rose A

Clearing the air/any concerns

1. How do we observe the passing of an older member in AI-Anon? Is it appropriate to stand in silence at a business meeting? If we start or continue this practice, how do we decide who we observe and who we don't? What happens when we forget someone or don't get information about them?
 2. I noticed mention in the GSO News of the passing of two older members, is this appropriate in AI-Anon? Is this traditional?
-

1. General discussion:

- Any outside issue is potentially divisive.
- Need to be careful if some are acknowledged and others are not.
- What is definition of 'older member'? Is it time in AI-Anon or age?
- There is a need to show compassion.
- Each area is autonomous.
- WSC The Forum magazine did not carry obituaries.
- World Service tours introduce Lois and Anne as co-founders – though these are not meetings.
- The need for principles on the wider issue of any acknowledgement of an AI-Anon member.
- Traditions Five and Six on anonymity and focus on our single purpose.
- Paths to Recovery pp237-238 covers principles above personalities, benefits of humility and anonymity.

Volunteers for knowledge based decision workgroup called: Area Seven Delegate, Area Eight Delegate, General Secretary, Central RBM, Southern RBM.

Decision: To research and present a KBDM paper to next Conference with regard to acknowledgement of passing of AI-Anon members and other personal acknowledgements

2. Clarification from General Secretary:

Recent publication of two obituaries in General Service News was because those members had served at conference level and the information regarding their deaths was known. Sometimes information was not received. The guideline decided by Conference was that if it were known that an AI-Anon member had passed away and that they served at Conference it is reported.

Delegates Meeting Summary

Stephanie G

Canterbury decided to ask three different questions of the delegates in order to focus on the experience delegates had had and not only the tasks they have performed. After all we are not defined by what we do but by who we are.

1. How have I felt as a delegate?
2. What am I proud of doing?
3. What issues do I formally bring to Conference?

There was time for general sharing from the Delegates and they decided there were no issues to be brought forward to Conference.

The Executive Budget Chairperson attending Conference

Arnold H, Board Chair

The role of the Executive Budget Committee and of Conference

This Committee meets monthly and is empowered to act on behalf of the Board between Board meetings. It has legal authority bestowed by the Board to have oversight of the day to day affairs of the General Service Office. The role of Conference is to make “the group conscience available and effective for all AI-Anon. The Conference protects AI-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters.”¹ The Board is the servant of the Conference and works in partnership with the other members.

Historical framework

Looking into the history of the role of the Executive Committee Chairperson and their attendance at the New Zealand Service Conference shows there has been many different alternatives. These are the range that we have had at some times and for different reasons:

- a) Attending Conference with voice and no vote
- b) Attending Conference with no voice and no vote
- c) Not attending Conference at all
- d) Attending Conference with voice and vote (?)

When the GSO came to Auckland in 1988 the Conference was also held here. The Board from that date did not have a General Secretary and the Executive Chairperson did a report and attended Conference along with the Treasurer.

In 1990 there was an Executive Chairperson and a General Secretary which was a new position and both gave reports and spoke at Conference

In 1992 the Executive and Budget Committees combined and the General Secretary did not attend or give a report as it was felt that they were covering the same ground.

This was the case until 1996 when a new General Secretary was appointed and presented a report and attended Conference. The Executive Chairperson did not attend.

This continued until 2002 when it was agreed by Conference that the Chairperson of the Executive attend as an observer. That is with no voice unless supplying specific information, and no vote. This continued up to Conference 2005.

In 2006 and 2007 this was not continued. At the Board meetings before Conference 2007 it was decided that the Executive Chairperson would not attend Conference but would attend all the Board meetings. (They are not a Board member but attend the meetings with voice and no vote.) It was felt that there was ample representation at our Conference from the Executive Committee in the form of the Treasurer and the General Secretary.

Current dynamics

The chairperson of the Executive Budget Committee attends Board meetings with voice and no vote. At Conference in 2003 the Executive Budget chairperson was voted to be a member of the Board. This motion was rescinded at Conference of 2005 in line with the World Service Board that the Executive Chairperson attends the meetings with voice and no vote so as to have a sense and knowledge of the Board's thinking.

The composition of the New Zealand Service Conference is the delegates from each area and the General Service Board. Currently there are three members of the Executive Budget Committee who attend the Conference – the General Secretary, the Treasurer and the Board Chairperson (ex-officio).

How is it in other AI-Anon structures?

At the World Service Conference the Conference members are: the Delegates, the Board of Trustees, World Service Office staff and the Executive Committee (which at the 2007 World Service Conference numbered eight members). Some of the reasons we haven't followed this are it would be too costly; and our Conference would be unbalanced as the Board, staff and the executive outnumbered the delegates.

Here is the experience of the General Secretary: "When I attended the 2000 World Service Conference I was impressed by the attendance of a number of staff and committee members that did not have a vote but were present and were called on for information when needed. They mixed with everyone and I felt that it added to the Conference, a broader number had heard the discussions. I felt this would only benefit everyone and have always felt that the more that attend the broader is the inspiration passed around, from what comes out of these Conferences."

In Germany the chairperson of the Executive Committee attends the Conference. She/he is a member of the Board with voice and vote therefore she/he automatically attends the Conference with voice and vote.

What are the ethical implications?

We can see that role of the Conference and the Executive Budget Committee are inter-related. Concept Eight advises that our executive committees are delegated full authority for routine management of the GSO. If the Board is to focus on policy, leadership, finance, group and public relations, as the main service arm of the Board, the Executive Committee need to be informed to operate effectively. Currently two ways this is achieved is firstly that the Executive Budget chairperson attends Board meetings and secondly by open ongoing communication between the Board and Executive chairpersons.

In the spirit of knowledge based decision making and Concept Three where we need the executive to have the right to decide when to act wholly on their own and when to refer a problem to the next higher authority², the more informed this body is the greater chances of successful leadership and decision-making. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee plays an important role in managing the committee and the employee(s).

Historically we have seen the Executive Chairperson attend Conference when there was no General Secretary and vice versa at times to prevent over representation. The spokesperson for the Executive Budget Committee is ideally its chairperson; others on the committee have their own positions. Concept 10 reminds us to take good care with delegated authority and responsibility; and to prevent double headed management: "The guarantee of harmonious and effective function of good operational structure is in the relation of its several parts and people, so that none can doubt the nature of their respective responsibilities and corresponding areas of authority."³

One could imagine an Executive Budget Committee meeting post Conference where the Chairperson did not attend and found they did not have the information or experience to participate with authority on the committee but other members were able to do so such as the Treasurer and or the General Secretary. This places the Chairperson in a weakened position and would affect their ability to perform their role. For this reason alone it is essential they attend the Conference.

Summary

The negative

We could find that the Executive Budget committee is over represented at the Conference and that there would be an increase in costs.

The positive

The participation of the Chairperson would create more effective leadership within their committee and management of the General Services due to being more informed. The Conference would benefit because the Chairperson can provide the informed authority about relevant issues and give a broader view.

² Pg 173 AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2006-2009

³ Pg 237 *ibid*

The benefits far outweigh the negatives and prove it is essential that the Executive Budget Chairperson would attend Conference in an ongoing way.

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

The other issue to decide is when they attend do they have voice and no vote, voice and vote or no voice and no vote.

To attend with no voice and no vote not only defeats one of the purposes of their attendance, it also tends to be reserved for observers.

To attend with voice and no vote would prevent dominance of the Executive Budget Committee members and would allow the Conference to hear firsthand experience and perspective from this role including hearing about the General Services.

To attend with voice and vote in our present voting balloting could create dominance from the Executive Budget Committee. We currently have eight delegates and there is a minimum of two thirds majority of delegates to other voting members of the Conference. Therefore the Board can have four voting members which could by chance create the aforementioned situation. Therefore a guideline would need to be in place to prevent this.

One idea is to ballot the members of the Executive separately and allow for one out of three to be a voting member of Conference. This would guarantee that there would only ever be one voting Board member who is a member of the Executive Budget Committee. And if the two committees were separate then the first guideline would apply (one third of Conference), or if it was the Budget Executive Committee when the Treasurer is the chairperson then the second guideline would apply (one out of three).

If the Executive Budget Chairperson votes at Conference and not at Board meetings the question needs to be asked what is the benefit of them voting at Conference?

Conference Trial – 2009 to 2011 to have the Executive/Budget Chair be seated at Conference with voice and no vote.

Over the many years this matter has changed depending on Boards of the day and Conference Delegates. The current Board sought this to be standard for all conference's and accordingly in 2008 Conference agreed to have a three year trial which concluded last year.

Over the last year I canvassed all conference participants from the above period and all of those that responded agreed that the person holding the position Chair of the Executive/Budget committee should attend Conference with voice and no vote.

Motion:

That the Chairperson of the Executive/Budget committee be seated at the New Zealand Al-Anon Conference permanently, with voice and no vote.

Trial 1 – Exec Budget chair attend Conference with voice and no vote

In the case of the treasurer living in the Auckland area – she can attend meetings, does she automatically become the chair of the exec committee?

The Exec Budget Committee has the General Secretary on it, and the Board treasurer will always be a member of committee. The previous treasurer was unable to attend as he lived out of town.

Pg 63 NZ Service Manual we have flexibility. The treasurer is always a Board member.

This brings up over representation of Exec Committee at Conference. The Exec/Budget chair attends but has no vote, this was designed for both group's exec committee and board to know each others.

The board chair contacted everyone who has been on the board in the last three years, 50% of people asked replied with let the Exe/Budget Chair attend Conference with voice and no vote.

Motion: That the Chairperson of the Executive / Budget committee be seated at the New Zealand AI-Anon Conference permanently with voice and no vote. ***Motion Carried***

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 was reported and discussed at Conference 2012 (*pg 32, 2012 Conference Summary*).

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

- Public Information
- Conference
- Literature
- Messenger
- Alateen.

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.

Why don't we have the five select committees for the delegates to choose ie, Public Information, Conference, Literature, Alateen and Messenger?

In Summary:

After discussion with the chairs of the Select committee's and two of the Delegate's:

I would still support the process for another year as I think people will respond better to it the next time around – perhaps this could be a three year trial.

SUMMARY

Trial 2: We evaluated how this is done in New Zealand last year and all committees were written up on the whiteboard. Delegates wrote their names where they wanted to lend a helping hand. Page three of the brochure outlines panels as they are normally seen – the method we are trialling gives delegates more choice rather than assigning them to set panels.

Summary

Literature panel – a delegate selected it and others were co-opted, it went very well.

Some delegates were still keen on the old system and were interested as to how it worked last year. This system works well in the USA. Delegates have a sense of family from which panel they are on. It gave them a sense of identification.

One delegate has been on two panels, one hidden talents and Alateen, Hidden talents, snail mail not effective, poor communication, emails better, phone calls the best way to contact geographically.

Some people are not happy to be seconded onto any committee – let's continue the trial of the current system.

Taskforces – can be written on the white board and be part of the panels too.

GSO is looking for more members with experience and who live in Auckland, especially for a Taskforce, where the Board may decide to do a follow up on things ie: football RWC, one offs, posters on toilets.

A term on a panel is a year by year commitment.

Decision: That the trial of delegates choosing their preferred panel/committee to assist on be carried on for another two years. Carried

The Financial Plan

Group and Area Financial Information and Budgets

Peter A, GSB Treasurer

The main focus of the Financial Plan, is to give members, groups and areas better financial information, to encourage members to think about what being financially self-supporting means and to encourage groups to develop a budget.

Over the last year we have been collecting a new set of data on group attendance to update the information on per-member donations to support the GSO, and encouraging groups to develop a budget including GSO and area as well as direct group expenses. Thank you for the ongoing support of the delegates and the work in your areas.

Using the new attendance data, the calculations have produced a per-member per-week donation amount of **\$1.16** to support the GSO. This is the value groups can use to work out a budget for GSO donations. It may also be useful for individual members when they are considering how much to donate.

Behind the group budgets there are several ideas that may involve a change of thinking for some members and groups. Although these ideas are about learning to apply the principles of our program, we understand that change can be challenging and require a period of support. To assist with this we have produced a short summary of the ideas behind the group budgets, and continue to be available to talk to Delegates or other members. We have also had an opportunity to discuss the ideas at the Greymouth TEAM event and at Area Assemblies.

I am looking forward to the time in Conference to discuss the Financial Plan. There are a couple of additions to the plan we would like to discuss.

One is about improving the way we collect information on average group attendance. The idea is to use the question on the annual group registration form about the number of members, so that the attendance information is collected in this way, and frees the Delegates from this task. We would change the wording to make it clearer that we wanted to know the **average weekly attendance** at the meeting.

The other is to change the way the budgets for areas are calculated on the GSO budget we discuss at Conference. At present the area budgets are set at the same amount as the actual donations for the previous year. It gives little information about whether the area is doing well or not. The suggestion is to divide the total donation budget by areas according to the total attendance for each area. We also would like to use this information in the monthly financial report in the GSO news so that the areas can see how much they have donated in the year to date and how that compares to their budget. We think this will be useful information. This year the draft budget will be prepared using this new approach so you can see what it looks like.

To give an indication about what it looks like I have prepared the table below which shows what the budgets would have been for the financial year just ended at 31 March. Some of this information is easier to explain in person so don't worry if it doesn't all make sense at this stage and I am looking forward to the discussion at Conference.

Area Statistics and Budgets 2011 to 2012

Area	No. of Groups	Attendance per area	Percent of Budget	Area Budget 2011-2012	Actual 2011-2012	Difference	Per Member Donation
1	11	81	11%	\$3,462	\$2,374	-\$1,088	\$0.56
2	15	140	20%	\$5,971	\$1,828	-\$4,143	\$0.25
3	12	131	19%	\$5,599	\$6,931	\$1,332	\$1.02
4	3	19	3%	\$812	\$960	\$148	\$0.97
5	4	33	5%	\$1,408	\$512	-\$896	\$0.30
6	11	59	8%	\$2,522	\$753	-\$1,769	\$0.25
7	11	105	15%	\$4,488	\$8,834	\$4,347	\$1.62
8	14	106	15%	\$4,528	\$7,107	\$2,579	\$1.29
9	8	34	5%	\$1,453	\$2,874	\$1,421	\$1.63
Totals:	89	708	100%	\$30,243	\$32,173	\$1,930	

Explanations

No. of groups	<i>the number of groups in the area</i>
Attendance per Area	<i>the average number of members attending per week in the area</i>
Percent of Budget	<i>calculated based on the attendance</i>
Area Budget 2011-2012	<i>the proportion of the total donation budget (\$30,243) for the area</i>
Actual 2011-2012	<i>the actual donations from the area for the last financial year</i>
Difference	<i>the difference between the area budget and actual donations</i>
Per member donation	<i>the average donation per-member per-week from the area</i>

Financial Report and Financial Statements

Peter A

This report is an explanation of and commentary on the attached Financial Statements for the GSO for the financial year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

The Financial Statements

These consist of:

- Profit and Loss Statements
- Profit and Loss – Last Year Analysis
- Profit and Loss – Budget Analysis
- Statement of Assets and Depreciation Table
- Balance Sheet

Explanation of reports

General

At this stage the reports have not been audited. Completion of the end-of-year processes and checking the reports indicates only minor errors, so the final audited reports should not vary by any significant amount.

Profit and Loss Statements with Last Year and Budget comparisons

These reports give a summary of the income and expenses for the year, and compare them with last year and the budget.

Statement of Assets, and Depreciation Table

Shows the bank balances at end of year, depreciation of fixed assets, and the conversion of the literature stock value for US\$ to NZ\$. The literature is purchased in US\$.

Balance Sheet

Shows a summary of the assets and liabilities and net value of the GSO at the end of March.

Commentary on Financial statements

The Profit and loss shows an overall pleasing picture of GSO finances for the year. Compared to last year, total donations are up about 5%, and literature sales are also up about 6%. Expenses are 4% less.

This has given us a small overall operating profit of about \$4,000.

Particularly encouraging is the increase in donations with the increase this year continuing a yearly trend of gradual increases. This is in the context of our group numbers remaining fairly static.

The expenses give a slightly rosy picture, in that the costs of the projector purchase and the IAGSM Delegate expenses have not fallen in this financial year, and will be added to the next financial year, with about \$6,000 of extra expenses that we did not have this year.

The Assets and Depreciation table does not contain particularly important information. It shows that the fixed assets continue to be fully depreciated (have \$0 book value), and the literature stock remains at a similar value.

The balance sheet reflects these trends with the total assets increasing from \$35,000 to \$39,000. We are pleased by the build up in the reserve funds after a few years of gradual decline. The maximum of the ample reserve for the GSO is one year's budget, which is about \$80,000. Ideally we would like the reserve to be close to this level for financial security.

We are self-supporting by our own donations, and I would like to thank all the members for their ongoing support.

Financial Presentations

The financial presentation covered three areas:

1. Presentation and discussion of the financial statements for the financial year ended March 2012
2. Approval of the budget
3. Discussion and review of the Financial Plan

Financial Statements

The presentation commenced with the Treasurer explaining the financial statements using the material in the brochure and PowerPoint slides.

The good news about donations increasing over the last two years was repeated, and the Treasurer thanked the delegates for getting the message out to the members.

Information on auditing the accounts was updated with the decision to work together with the incoming Treasurer, after Conference, on the audit as part of handing over to the new Treasurer.

A question was asked about donations to the WSO. Although there is no separate item listed in the expenses for WSO donations, the WSO makes a substantial profit on money spent on literature purchases and that can be considered as our financial support for the WSO.

Motion: That the draft financial reports for 2012 be accepted. Carried

Budget 2013

The draft budget was reviewed using the comparison of the figures for 2011 and 2012 to show the differences and similarities.

The public outreach budget remains but has not been spent over the last two years because there is no Public Outreach committee at present.

The main focus was on the budgets for area donations with the proposed change as outlined in the financial plan. The new budgets will give the GSO and areas useful information and it is hoped will be a better way of budgeting than was done in the past. It can give areas information about how much they are donating per member and can give other information. For example it was noted that Area Seven has a larger population but has less members than Area Two.

The area budgets are now based on the number of members in each area.

The discussion highlighted the need for increasing awareness of our members understanding what their donations are used for and understanding of the spirituality in finances.

It was thought important that the new area budgeting tool was used carefully – for example not to shame the areas that were donating less per member. On the other hand it was thought that areas doing well should be acknowledged. Just like our Legacies which can be used either to attack or support each other, this information can be used for positive support and encouragement. For example Areas Seven, Eight and Nine are doing well and they deserve recognition.

It was noted that in general areas that are donating well for their members are also those that have well functioning service structures.

The budget at the moment shows a \$5,000 loss for this year, but the expected actual deficit should be less if for example donations continue to increase as they have in previous years and PO budget is not taken up.

Discussion

One member: goes to three meetings a week and puts in \$5 each time – promotes we need more money – asks how much is held in area and in group bank accounts – will still carry on at \$15.

One shared about being excited by seeing how the spiritual component went hand in glove with people having awareness of the finances.

The updated calculations were shown with the new information of 690 attending meetings each week in NZ and the per-member donation target of \$1.19 per meeting to support the GSO.

It was important that members realised the \$1.19 was not the total donation but just the suggested amount to support the GSO and a suggested personal donation should cover support for the group and area as well. Also the \$1.19 was mainly to help groups develop a budget for donations to the GSO.

There was a discussion about personal donations to the GSO. By making personal donations members can receive a tax rebate, by claiming the rebate on the receipt or through payroll giving.

There is about \$11,000 in personal donations. A member commented that they gave most of their donation directly rather than putting it in the basket and that would affect the donations that showed up as donations for the area. From this discussion the Treasurer said the GSO would try to allocate personal donations to areas, and asked that when making personal donations to try and identify the group or area eg, by using their group number.

Motion: That the draft annual budget for 2013 be accepted. Carried

Financial Plan

The progress and new ideas for the financial plan were presented as outlined in the Conference brochure.

The two new things in the plan are dividing up the budget for areas based on percentage of members and to use the group registration form to collect information on average attendance.

Much of this had already been covered in the budget discussion on area donations.

The financial plan is part of the Board's strategic plan. We are proud of this, and it is part of the goal to have healthy groups with ongoing support for the service structure.

There is continuing encouragement for groups to develop a budget as part of being self-supporting, and this is now supported by the new Seventh Tradition pamphlet.

Discussion

Heard at the Australian General Service Conference "Just get over yourself and give".

On \$1.19 per person per week for the GSO. I feel I should give more now. This is the minimum amount for a GSO to be fully self supporting.

Another commented \$1.19 per person is the percentage that will go to GSO – and is only a break even figure – a bottom line – \$5 is the minimum for donation.

If I miss a meeting I put in that amount the next week, supporting all of the parts with vigour – if I'm not going one week I should be paying.

One member said they used "we get as we give" when they gave more when they were struggling or feeling poorly, believing they will get more if they gave more.

There was a discussion about profit from literature sales. In New Zealand there is little profit on literature sales. We are lucky that we are mostly self-supporting by donations – at the WSO and in many other countries they are reliant on profit from literature sales and they are concerned about loss of income with electronic literature sales.

On passing the basket at meetings. It works better to pass the basket than leave the basket in the middle of the room – picking up the basket makes conscious contact. Can use a bag if you don't want people to see how much you give. Don't close the meeting until the basket has been around the entire meeting.

Profit & Loss Statement

April 2011 through March 2012

Income		
Donations		
Donations Area One	2,374.19	
Donations Area Two	1,827.75	
Donations Area Three	6,930.95	
Donations Area Five	960.00	
Donation Area Four	511.90	
Donations Area Six	753.00	
Donations Area Seven	8,834.40	
Donations Area Eight	7,107.00	
Donations Area Nine	2,874.03	
Donations - personal/birthday	11,019.65	
Total Donations	43,192.87	
Other Income		
Interest/Dividend Received	214.27	
Received interest-TermDeposit	1,052.19	
Conference Donations	5,000.00	
Convention Donation	1,486.52	
Messenger Donations	2,411.00	
Total Other Income	10,163.98	
Sales		
Literature Sales	26,130.60	
Postage & Handling Collected	1,400.78	
Total Sales	27,531.38	
Total Income		80,888.23
Cost Of Sales		
Literature purchases	11,373.69	
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	3,443.93	
Total Cost Of Sales		14,817.62
Gross Profit		66,070.61
Expenses		
Audit/Accounting Fees	631.75	
Bank Charges	8.00	
Board Members Expenses	5,008.02	
Conference Payments	6,163.05	
Conference Travel Delegates	1,087.03	
Insurance	831.71	
Postage	2,648.63	
Printing & Stationery	3,177.63	
Rent & Rates	10,368.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.95	
Petty Cash	128.00	
Telephone/Internet	2,593.14	
Volunteer Travel Fund	697.00	
Office Administration	27,613.88	
Total Expenses		61,956.79
Operating Profit		4,113.82
Other Income		
Net Profit/(Loss)		4,113.82

Profit & Loss (Last Year Analysis)

April 2011 through March 2012

	This Year	Last Year	\$ Difference	% Difference
Income				
Donations				
Donations Area One	2,374.19	2,709.00	-334.81	(12.4%)
Donations Area Two	1,827.75	1,196.48	631.27	52.8%
Donations Area Three	6,930.95	7,164.32	-233.37	(3.3%)
Donations Area Five	960.00	250.00	710.00	284.0%
Donation Area Four	511.90	170.00	341.90	201.1%
Donations Area Six	753.00	800.00	-47.00	(5.9%)
Donations Area Seven	8,834.40	10,243.90	-1,409.50	(13.8%)
Donations Area Eight	7,107.00	5,410.50	1,696.50	31.4%
Donations Area Nine	2,874.03	2,400.00	474.03	19.8%
Donations - personal/birthday	11,019.65	10,705.70	313.95	2.9%
Total Donations	43,192.87	41,049.90	2,142.97	5.2%
Other Income				
Interest/Dividend Received	214.27	1,188.50	-974.23	(82.0%)
Received interest-TermDeposit	1,052.19	0.00	1,052.19	NA
Conference Donations	5,000.00	4,524.78	475.22	10.5%
Convention Donation	1,486.52	969.15	517.37	53.4%
Messenger Donations	2,411.00	2,278.00	133.00	5.8%
Total Other Income	10,163.98	8,960.43	1,203.55	13.4%
Other Income	0.00	1,578.78	-1,578.78	(100.0%)
Sales				
Literature Sales	26,130.60	24,501.80	1,628.80	6.6%
Postage & Handling Collected	1,400.78	1,477.50	-76.72	(5.2%)
Total Sales	27,531.38	25,979.30	1,552.08	6.0%
Total Income	80,888.23	77,568.41	3,319.82	4.3%
Cost Of Sales				
Literature purchases	11,373.69	11,355.69	18.00	0.2%
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	3,443.93	2,075.58	1,368.35	65.9%
Stock Adjustments	0.00	600.86	-600.86	(100.0%)
Total Cost Of Sales	14,817.62	14,032.13	785.49	5.6%
Gross Profit	66,070.61	63,536.28	2,534.33	4.0%
Expenses				
ACC Levy	0.00	135.43	-135.43	(100.0%)
Audit/Accounting Fees	631.75	0.00	631.75	NA
Bank Charges	8.00	60.24	-52.24	(86.7%)
Board Members Expenses	5,008.02	4,659.38	348.64	7.5%
Computer/Office Equip	0.00	318.19	-318.19	(100.0%)
Conference Payments	6,163.05	5,709.30	453.75	7.9%
Conference Travel Delegates	1,087.03	2,331.75	-1,244.72	(53.4%)
Convention Expenses	0.00	88.89	-88.89	(100.0%)
Sharp Copier Finance	0.00	483.68	-483.68	(100.0%)
IAGSM - Paid expenses	0.00	2,217.80	-2,217.80	(100.0%)
General Expenses	0.00	216.14	-216.14	(100.0%)
Insurance	831.71	818.80	12.91	1.6%
Postage	2,648.63	3,326.92	-678.29	(20.4%)
Printing & Stationery	3,177.63	3,618.22	-440.59	(12.2%)
Rent & Rates	10,368.00	10,170.95	197.05	1.9%
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.95	400.00	600.95	150.2%
Petty Cash	128.00	200.00	-72.00	(36.0%)
Telephone/Internet	2,593.14	2,482.60	110.54	4.5%
Volunteer Travel Fund	697.00	881.41	-184.41	(20.9%)
Office Administration	27,613.88	26,601.70	1,012.18	3.8%
Bad Debt	0.00	14.00	-14.00	(100.0%)
Total Expenses	61,956.79	64,735.40	-2,778.61	(4.3%)
Operating Profit	4,113.82	-1,199.12	5,312.94	443.1%
Other Income				
Net Profit/(Loss)	4,113.82	-1,199.12	5,312.94	443.1%

Profit & Loss (Budget Analysis)

April 2011 through March 2012

	Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference	% Difference
Income				
Donations				
Donations Area One	2,374.19	2,712.00	-337.81	(12.5%)
Donations Area Two	1,827.75	1,212.00	615.75	50.8%
Donations Area Three	6,930.95	7,164.00	-233.05	(3.3%)
Donations Area Five	960.00	252.00	708.00	281.0%
Donation Area Four	511.90	168.00	343.90	204.7%
Donations Area Six	753.00	804.00	-51.00	(6.3%)
Donations Area Seven	8,834.40	10,248.00	-1,413.60	(13.8%)
Donations Area Eight	7,107.00	5,412.00	1,695.00	31.3%
Donations Area Nine	2,874.03	2,280.00	594.03	26.1%
Donations - personal/birthday	11,019.65	10,704.00	315.65	2.9%
Total Donations	43,192.87	40,956.00	2,236.87	5.5%
Other Income				
Interest/Dividend Received	214.27	0.00	214.27	NA
Received interest-TermDeposit	1,052.19	804.00	248.19	30.9%
Conference Donations	5,000.00	4,500.00	500.00	11.1%
Convention Donation	1,486.52	2,000.00	-513.48	(25.7%)
RSS Donations	0.00	500.00	-500.00	(100.0%)
Messenger Donations	2,411.00	2,400.00	11.00	0.5%
Total Other Income	10,163.98	10,204.00	-40.02	(0.4%)
Sales				
Literature Sales	26,130.60	27,504.00	-1,373.40	(5.0%)
Postage & Handling Collected	1,400.78	1,500.00	-99.22	(6.6%)
Total Sales	27,531.38	29,004.00	-1,472.62	(5.1%)
Total Income	80,888.23	80,164.00	724.23	0.9%
Cost Of Sales				
Literature purchases	11,373.69	12,000.00	-626.31	(5.2%)
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	3,443.93	2,004.00	1,439.93	71.9%
Stock Adjustments	0.00	96.00	-96.00	(100.0%)
Total Cost Of Sales	14,817.62	14,100.00	717.62	5.1%
Gross Profit	66,070.61	66,064.00	6.61	0.0%
Expenses				
ACC Levy	0.00	135.00	-135.00	(100.0%)
Audit/Accounting Fees	631.75	250.00	381.75	152.7%
Archives	0.00	96.00	-96.00	(100.0%)
Assets < \$500	0.00	456.00	-456.00	(100.0%)
Bank Charges	8.00	48.00	-40.00	(83.3%)
Board Members Expenses	5,008.02	3,996.00	1,012.02	25.3%
Computer/Office Equip	0.00	504.00	-504.00	(100.0%)
Donations WSO	0.00	504.00	-504.00	(100.0%)
Conference Payments	6,163.05	5,500.00	663.05	12.1%
Conference Travel Delegates	1,087.03	1,932.00	-844.97	(43.7%)
Convention Expenses	0.00	96.00	-96.00	(100.0%)
IAGSM - Paid expenses	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	(100.0%)
General Expenses	0.00	396.00	-396.00	(100.0%)
Insurance	831.71	820.00	11.71	1.4%
Postage	2,648.63	3,000.00	-351.37	(11.7%)
Printing & Stationery	3,177.63	2,004.00	1,173.63	58.6%
Public Outreach exp	0.00	2,004.00	-2,004.00	(100.0%)
Rent & Rates	10,368.00	10,404.00	-36.00	(0.3%)
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.95	504.00	496.95	98.6%
RSS expenses	0.00	804.00	-804.00	(100.0%)
Staff Amenities	0.00	204.00	-204.00	(100.0%)
Petty Cash	128.00	204.00	-76.00	(37.3%)
Telephone/Internet	2,593.14	2,400.00	193.14	8.0%
Volunteer Travel Fund	697.00	996.00	-299.00	(30.0%)
Office Administration	27,613.88	27,000.00	613.88	2.3%
Total Expenses	61,956.79	67,257.00	-5,300.21	(7.9%)
Operating Profit	4,113.82	-1,193.00	5,306.82	444.8%
Other Income				

Statement of Assets

As at 31 March 2012

Funds at Bank	2012	2011
NAT -00 Cheque Account	7,821.83	7,305.00
NAT -02 IAGSM	6,417.58	3,269.88
NAT Term Deposit	20,105.96	19,543.20
NAT -01 Online On Call	1,174.82	1,174.82
Undeposited Cheques/Cash	0.00	0.00
	<u>35,520.19</u>	<u>31,292.90</u>

Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation For the Year Ended 31 March 2012

ASSET	Date	Cost	Accum Depn	Book Value 31/03/2011	Additions/ (Disposals)	Depreciation Rate	Amount	Book Value 31/03/2012
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	31/03/12	31/03/11	31/03/10
at US dollars before freight	4,066	3,912	5,108
Exchange rate at 31 March	0.82	0.76	0.71
at NZ \$ Cost Price excluding GST	<u>4,959</u>	<u>5,147</u>	<u>7,194</u>

Balance Sheet

As at March 2012

Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank			
NAT -00 Cheque Account	7,821.83		
NAT -02 IAGSM Online On Call	6,417.58		
NAT Term Deposits	20,105.96		
NAT -01 Online On Call	1,026.47		
Sundry Debtors	-104.50		
Literature on Hand	4,066.32		
Total Cash at Bank		39,333.66	
Total Current Assets		39,333.66	
Total Assets			39,333.66
Liabilities			
GST			
GST to/from IRD	-1.70		
Total GST		-1.70	
Total Liabilities			-1.70
Net Assets			39,335.36
Equity			
Retained Earnings (Reserve)		35,221.54	
Current Earnings		4,113.82	
Total Equity			39,335.36

Budget 2013 Information

Peter A, Board Treasurer

General comments

Setting the budget has followed the same general pattern as previous years. Generally it is a conservative budget and most years, the net profit has been better than budget. At present the draft budget forecasts a loss of about \$5,000.

Income budgets

This year, the big change is setting the budget for area donations. They have been divided up based on the number of members in the area. As in previous years the total donations budget is the same as last year's actual donations.

Last year we experienced a significant increase in the cost of inward freight for literature primarily because the WSO substantially increased it's freight costs. The increase is reflected in this year's budget.

Other income budgets are generally based on remaining the same as last year's actual values.

Expenses budgets

Expenses budgets mostly match the previous year. Two exceptions are the purchase of the projector and the IAGSM expenses. Part of these expenses was expected to fall in the previous year, but they are all falling in this year now.

The office administration expenses are being kept the same. Last year there was some overlap in employment with new staff starting, and this year the extra is being left in to accommodate anticipated extra staff leave.

Budget Calculations for Financial Year

1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

	ACTUAL		Budget	Draft		
	2012	2011	2012	Budget 2013		
Income						
Donations					Percent of Members	Notes
Donations Area One	2,374	2,709	2,709	3,539	11%	Area donation budgets are based on percentage of members in the Area
Donations Area Two	1,828	1,212	1,212	6,435	20%	
Donations Area Three	6,931	7,164	7,164	5,791	18%	
Donations Area Five	960	250	250	965	3%	
Donations Area Four	512	170	170	1,609	5%	
Donations Area Six	753	800	800	2,574	8%	
Donations Area Seven	8,834	10,244	10,244	4,826	15%	
Donations Area Eight	7,107	5,411	5,411	4,826	15%	
Donations Area Nine	2,874	2,283	2,283	1,609	5%	
Donations - personal/birthc	11,020	10,706	10,706	11,020		Based on the same as last year
Total Donations	43,193	40,949	40,949	43,193	100%	
Other Income						
Interest/Dividend Receivec	1,266	598	800	800		Based on 4% interest on \$20,000
Conference Donations	5,000	4,525	4,500	5,000		\$500 per Area x 9
Convention Donation	1,487	969	2000	1500 b		From January AA convention
RSS Donations	0	0	500	500		To budget for TEAM event in 2013
Messenger Donations	2,411	2,278	2,400	2,400		
Total Other Income	10,164	8,370	10,200	10,200		
Other Income	0	1,463	0	0		
Sales						
Literature Sales	26,131	24,360	27,500	26,100		
Postage & Handling Collec	1,401	1,478	1,500	1,400		
Total Sales	27,531	25,837	29000	27500		
Total Income	80,888	76,619	80,149	80,893		
Cost Of Sales						
Literature purchases	11,374	11,121	12,000	12,000		About \$1,000 per month
Freight Inwards (Overseas	3,444	2,076	2,000	3,500		
Stock Adjustments	0	601	100	100		
<i>Total Cost Of Sales</i>	<i>14,818</i>	<i>13,797</i>	<i>14,100</i>	<i>15,600</i>		
Gross Profit	66,071	62,822	66,049	65,293		
Expenses						
<u>Expenses budgets are the same as current year unless otherwise noted</u>						
ACC Levy	0	135	135	135 b		\$135 per year in Oct
Audit/Accounting Fees	632	0	250	250 b		\$250 per year in May
Archives	0	0	96	96		Use prev budget
Assets < \$500	0	0	450	1,600		Purchase of projector and screens
Bank Charges	8	60	50	50		
Board Members Expenses	5,008	4,659	4,000	4,000		Cost of airfares to Board meetings
Computer/Office Equip	0	318	500	500		An estimate
Donations WSO	0	0	500	500		A small donation has been our practice
Conference Payments	6,163	5,709	5,500	5,500 b		Based on Conf. budget from Conference committee (single payment July)
Conference Travel Delega	1,087	2,332	2,000	1,600 b		Based on Conf. budget from Conference committee
Convention Expenses	0	89	100	100		
Sharp Copier Finance	0	484	0	0		The Sharp copier is now paid off
IAGSM - Paid expenses	0	2,218	3,000	4,500		2 x airfares to South Africa (equalised expenses)
General Expenses	0	216	400	250		
Insurance	832	819	820	840 b		Paid in March
Postage	2,649	3,327	3,000	2,700		
Printing & Stationery	3,178	3,618	3,000	3,200		
Public Outreach exp	0	0	2,000	2,000		PO has a \$2000 budget
Rent & Rates	10,368	10,171	10,400	10,400		
Repairs & Maintenance	1,001	400	500	500		
RSS expenses	0	0	800	400		To budget for TEAM event x 1
Staff Amenities	0	0	200	200		
Petty Cash	128	200	200	200		
Telephone/Internet	2,593	2,483	2,400	2,600		
Volunteer Travel Fund	697	881	1,000	700		
Office Administration	27,614	26,602	27,000	27,600		Wages have increased
Bad Debt	0	14	0	0		
Total Expenses	61,957	64,735	68,301	70,421		
Net Profit/(Loss)	4,114	-1,913	-2,252	-5,128		

Welcome to Hidden Talents!

We would love you to fill in this survey!

The idea behind having this survey is that our members, YOU, are our most valuable resource. We on the Board would like your help. Our goals are: to support healthy groups, to let everyone in our country know about Al-Anon Family Groups and to imagine our place in the future. We are working at thinking abundantly and realise our members are in abundance and are our most valuable resource.

So in June 2012 we decided to trial using these member surveys to discover with your help what 'Hidden Talents' you have that you could share with us to carry out our goals. We need help with big and small jobs and we thank you for filling in the form. Building a membership skill data base will allow us to access the abundant expertise, talent, and experience that exist in our membership.

Any information you provide will not be shared with anyone, in any form, outside of the General Service Office without your permission. As always, your anonymity in our programme will be maintained.

By filling this in you are not agreeing to carry out your skills but you may be asked to help out.

Sharing your hidden talents

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this skills inventory!

Building a membership skill database will allow us to access the abundant expertise, talent and experience that exists in our membership. You are one of our most valuable resources.

The information provided in this skills set will help Al-Anon Family Groups gather volunteers for specific short term projects as they are needed. This will assist with the Board's strategic plan: Help Friends and Families of Alcoholics and supporting Al-Anon Family Groups to be a household name.

Any information you provide will not be shared with anyone, in any form, outside of the

General Service Office without your permission. As always, your anonymity in our programme will be maintained. By filling this in you are not agreeing to carry out your skills but you may be asked to help out.

Your contact information is necessary as it will be used for getting in touch should the General Service Office wish to request your assistance on an Al-Anon Family Groups project.

Name

Home phone

Mobile phone

Email

Address

Name of home group

Area

No. of years in Al-Anon/Alateen?

How much spare time do you have?

Do you have time to make phone calls?

Are you able to come in and volunteer at the General Service Office (GSO)?

Please send this form to: AFG, PO Box 68124, Auckland 1145 or email to: nz-al-anon-gso@xtra.co.nz

Please tick if you have a particular skill or experience.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Furniture mover
<input type="checkbox"/>	Truck driver
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cook
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carpentry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Printer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraiser
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analysing data
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graphic design
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recording sound or video
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chartered accountant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial auditing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budgeting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Estate planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspecting buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interviewing people
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recruiting people
<input type="checkbox"/>	People training skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Relations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advertising
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-profit organisation experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collaborating with non-profit organisation experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Council or Board experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mentoring experience

<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public speaking skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign language interpretation skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social service experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ministry experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Events planning experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisational skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementing new programmes experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic media skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Web design skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Office skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ad design skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Broadcasting skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promoting a company or cause
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writing experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional writing experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Published author
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education experience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teaching adults
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teaching teenager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Speak/write another language

I speak: _____

I can translate: _____

Other skills or experience not mentioned here: _____

Guidelines for next delegates meeting

Stephanie G

Is the current format of our delegates meeting serving us well? Yes/No? Why?

- Extremely well
- It's essential.

How do we best support our delegates in their role and in presenting their reports?

- Knowing each other is very important
- Understand differences in each area and what delegates need from conference
- Good to have a framework
- Brings common issues to the fore.

What out of the box/left field light bulb have we had about our delegates meeting?

- Essential – and essential to get here on the Friday morning so they feel part of it right from the start
- Needs to be fluid
- Connection to the conference is important
- Gathering on Sunday for feedback and consolidation
- Informality removes intimidation – we are all AI-Anon people.

Orientation

Joan G & Arnold H

This workshop has come about as a direct request from Conference delegates who felt that they would like a more comprehensive orientation for new conference attendees.

Traditionally new conference attendees have been welcomed and given orientation by the Board Chair and alternate Board Chair on the Thursday evening before Conference commences fully.

The usual amount of time taken is approximately 30 minutes and covers an introduction of people present, explaining how Conference evolves over the days, a little bit about the Spiritual Goals, the buddy system and a question and answer time to clear up matters raised.

As a result of this request we will now as a group explore Conference members' wants, needs and preferences for the Orientation process at the NZ AI-Anon Conference.

Information about Conference and its workings is outlined in the Conference Brochure sent to Conference Delegates a month before Conference. This gives time for the new delegates to consult with the person they are succeeding and to get background information and support regarding conference and its processes.

Every year a Board member is seated alongside of an Area Delegate, so that new Delegates and new Board members are sat with a more experienced Conference member who will assist them with any questions they may have and can explain various events and issues that come up during conference. These people are known as Buddies, and you are sat next to your Buddy at conference and keep in touch with your buddy during the forthcoming year, this means a relationship is built while an understanding of the programme is enhanced.

This process relates to our principles of us never doing anything alone. In Conference, we are always supported and assisted by our fellow Conference members at all times. We learn to work smarter and not harder (*Service Sponsorship Pamphlet P88*)

Using the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) process we at this 2012 Conference will explore what needs to be incorporated in the orientation process we deliver to Conference attendees.

The principles of Knowledge Based Decision Making are open communication, dialogue before deliberation, all decision makers will have common access to full information and that we exist in a culture of trust.

This helps make better decisions by everyone participating being fully informed which provides greater unanimity.

We'll break into groups and work on the issue.

SUMMARY

Purpose: to obtain conference participants' ideas of what they require as part of the orientation process when attending Conference for the first time.

This came from the Board's desire to meet the needs of Delegates when attending conference and for the conference committee to develop an accepted orientation process.

Numerous comments were received from conference participants and here is a summary of the salient points which will be developed into the orientation.

Purpose: Prepare new conference members to understand the Conference and its processes in a relaxed environment allowing members to settle themselves.

Time for Orientation: One to two hours.

What participants need to know? Read the Conference Brochure – this has many answers to comments received. That as Delegates we'll be supported. Understand an atmosphere of goodwill is present in all Conference activities. That as Delegates we don't need to know everything.

What participants would like to know? What is expected of me? Understanding my role at conference. Become aware of others roles (excluding delegates) at conference. A nice welcome on arrival. Be aware of spare time available to us – choice about attending evening sessions.

Buddies: Yes enjoy the buddy system. New Board members could be buddied with experienced delegate – create equality. Possibly introduce buddy/delegates prior to attending Conference. Normally Conference "pairings" last for following year if practicable.

What information do you want from your buddy? Phone call prior to Conference. Reassurance throughout Conference. Encouragement. Phone call shortly after Conference maybe in line with Board newsletter. Be brave and indicate if your relationship with a buddy isn't working – ask for another.

Ask-it-Basket Questions 2012

Suzanne A & Gordon P

1. Why is Conference completely closed to members? I had the opportunity to take minutes at the Conference meeting and it was this service that got me into further service.

- New Zealand Handbook p 68
- We need to be encapsulated in order to concentrate and carry out the business of AI-Anon NZ.
- No reason why observers could not be considered. Write a KBD paper so it can be brought to the Board.
- Observers could be elected by the area to represent them –it's a position of trust. There is concern that someone with a personal agenda may want to disrupt the process.
- There is discomfort felt by conference members on feeling free to speak with others present.
- Someone could cause damage by taking away discussion points rather than the finished product which could be destructive.
- In order to attend they may be asked to pay a full conference fee.
- It could work but would need a bigger venue. Board will discuss it, and get a feel from all people.
- Transparency – we do not govern. As a member of AI-Anon we should be able to see how it works.
- To understand fully, observers they will need to attend for all three days.
- Encourage people curious about conference to be on the Conference committee.

2. Why does the area delegate not sit at the table with area committee and GR's at our area assembly (at least in Area Seven)?

- Area Seven and Eight run the same way.
- Autonomy is a matter for the areas
- Area meetings is the GR's meeting essentially

3. (a) Has the new Tradition Seven pamphlet SN-21 been proof read?

- It was proof read by a number of people. The wrong version was sent to the printer. 100 copies were printed. The correct version will be sent to all Groups with an apology.

(b) Was it approved by the New Zealand Conference 2011?

- Yes

(c) When was it approved by the World Service Conference to make it CAL?

- No. It is Service material. It is not CAL. WSO ask to get a copy. Only the WSO can produce CAL.

4. When did we obtain permission to alter the introduction to the General Warranties in Concept Twelve? eg, in The Messenger and the New Zealand AI-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook.

WSO reports that – “In checking with our Archives, we can find no record of permission being granted for New Zealand to change the introduction to the General Warranties.

The text found under each Concept can be adapted by the service structures. However the introduction to the General Warranties is a part of the Warranties and can't be changed. The General Warranties are a part of AI-Anon World Service Conference Charter which can only be amended by the World Service Conference.

As a solution a notation/asterisk * could be inserted. For example in all proceeding the *World Service Conference...and include a footnote indicating that *this wording applies to the New Zealand Service Conference.

The difference between the above example you cited and the Preamble to the Twelve Step is the Preamble is suggested and is a part of the Groups at Works section which is not policy.

The current Literature committee will make the necessary changes to the wording, which will be presented at Conference 2013.

5. Half my group's regular home group members (3 out of 6) are dual members I do not believe that the exclusion of dual members from positions in AI-Anon, of group rep and above, goes along with the spirit of co-operating with AA. As far as I am aware, AA does not exclude their members from service positions if they are also AI-Anon members, so why do we in AI-Anon feel the need to do this?

- Reasons they can't serve is the unique nature of both programmes, need to focus on the AI-Anon programme as it creates a conflict of interest.
 - Policy committee at WSO have a taskforce to clarify, they reviewed it a number a times over a number of years and it remains unchanged.
 - Dual members are not without Service opportunities – there are many things they can do.
 - AA's primary purpose is to stay sober – AI-Anon's primary purpose is to help family and friends of alcoholics.
 - This is an issue in small groups and is an AI-Anon problem. We are not filling our service positions because we do not have enough AI-Anon members.
 - Dual members can:
 - write articles for the Messenger
 - liaise between AA and AI-Anon
 - serve on event committees in the area, district, group, and AIS based on area/local policies
 - assist in Public Outreach service at the area, district, group, and AIS
 - support fellowship communications via service arm websites and newsletters
 - attend to the technology needs of the area, district, group, and AIS
 - become certified as an AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS)
 - submit sharing's for WSO publications
 - support strategic planning in the Area, district, group, and AIS by serving on Thought Forces/Task Forces.
 - serve as liaison to the local AA fellowship.
- And more.

Additional information

The GSO had requested a visit from the WSO to help with various problems within the fellowship. Dual members distorting the AI-Anon programme was cited as one of the main concerns. (WSC summary 2012) Sandie D.

Regarding a dual member in service – there was a Thought Force and then a Task Force focused on language to clarify the spiritual principles that support the Policy. Where are we with it now? The Policy Committee is still working on this. (WSC summary 2012)

The initial guideline, “Co-operation between Al-Anon and AA” (G-3), for group separation between AA and Al-Anon was approved at the 1967 Al-Anon World Service Conference and is periodically updated in consultation with the AA General Service Office.

In part, the guideline states that the officers of each group should be members of either AA or Al-Anon, depending upon the group’s affiliation.

The guideline emphasizes that the primary purpose of AA is to help fellow alcoholics recover. It was also emphasised that the primary purpose of Al-Anon is to help families of alcoholics.

Because of those separate purposes, dual members of AA and Al-Anon do not serve in Al-Anon policy-making positions. This ensures there is no conflict of interest between AA and Al-Anon or the appearance that we are not separate entities with separate purposes.

There has been a lot of misunderstanding and confusion regarding the policy. There are dual members who have never heard of the policy. There are also members who believe that dual members cannot hold any service positions in Al-Anon.

Note: The subject of Dual members was also discussed at Policy Committee meetings and WSC Workshops in '76, '81, '84, '86, '89, '92, '93, '98, '99; with no changes suggested.

The following documents are available from NZ Al-Anon GSO upon request.

- Dual member timeline.
- Dual members in Service Policy
- Letter 15/9/71
- Letter 16/10/1968
- G3 – Al-Anon Guideline – cooperation between Al-Anon and AA.
- AA also has a brochure called AA – Al-Anon cooperation without affiliation.

6. What’s happened to the 0800 number

- We are looking at possibilities via several providers.
- 0508 number is currently used for Public Outreach
- We can improve the service to divert calls so they go to the geographic area they come from – there are advantages in doing that
- Mobile number used – people who ring the number are paying. If diverted to mobile Al-Anon will be paying.
- GSO has asked for contact people in the Areas.
- Please give phone numbers to GSO so national calling system can work.
- Cheap mobile phones can be used for Al-Anon only. Each area has two phones. People carrying one know they can answer it and provide meeting details.
- There is \$2,000 in the budget for Public Outreach.
- Area Service – Area responsibility for cost.
- Will it be left up to the Area? Important that a person answers the phone. Not a message or answer phone.
- Work with AA and their way? Co-operate with them? Their calls divert to a region. We may not be able to link into it but we could speak to them on how their system works.
- Utilise the website numbers to contact – can be a cell phone.
- GSO has a list of calls made to the 0508 numbers which will be provided.

Recommend that Delegates work alongside Exec/Budget Chair to continue the traction and work on a report for next year.

How to grow Alateen

Rose A

1. A skit was performed showing a teenager coming home to a drunken mum and looking for help from Al-Anon. The first time there is no help. In the second scenario there is an Alateen meeting to attend where he receives help.
2. Let's bust some myths about Alateen. We looked at the different myths that we can have about why Alateen doesn't/can't work. Members shared:
 - My kids aren't affected
 - The kids are horrible
 - The kids are drinkers
 - I don't want to hear people complain
 - I don't want my kids mixing with them
 - None of the Alateen's want to go to a meeting these days
 - No Al-Anon's want to sponsor
 - We are not a babysitting service
 - I can't make them come
 - I don't want to be seen going in there
 - It's really not that bad
 - Parents need to get on with their own recovery
 - I don't know what they'll say to my kids
 - Sponsors are old fashioned
 - The Sponsors act as a counsellor
 - The alcoholic doesn't drink any more

We discussed some of the myths and what we could do differently.

3. We introduced the new PINK SHEETS which are four updated Alateen guidelines that are to be found in the NZ Service Guidelines KN17. Each Conference member was given a copy of the four. They are:

Starting an Alateen Group PGN14

Area Alateen Coordinators GN24

Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) guidelines GN35

Alateen meetings in School GN5

4. A challenge to all the areas is given to the Conference members:

"We challenge each area to establish an Alateen Coordinator and to have five members in their Area approved as AMIAS by Conference 2013."

The song "You are my sunshine, my only sunshine" was sung between each part of the workshop.

NOTE

Copies of the new Alateen Guidelines (pink sheets) are available from GSO, and will be included in new KN17 packs. These documents can also be downloaded from the Members page of the Al-Anon website **www.al-anon.alateen.org**

Planning for Abundance, moving forward with success

Joan G

Background

One of the expressions heard around Al-Anon is; “we don’t have enough”, in fact we are all experts in judging what is lacking or missing from our meetings and Areas and our lives.

The objective of this workshop is to outline what is missing or not enough, and then to go on to plan for an abundance of whatever we need in our areas.

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

In 2009 Conference did a session on Future vision planning and we could see how we would like Al-Anon to be in the year 2034. *Refer to the 2008 & 2011 Conference Summaries for further information*

We concluded

Often people are in service too long and feel they have to ‘stick it out’ and are not often supported or thanked. We need to be aware that people doing service (volunteering) have different lives and responsibilities than those people who first did service in Al-Anon many years ago.

In order to encourage them:

- We need to consider job sharing and flexibility of roles, along with:
- 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.

What’s been happening in your Area since last Conference?

What did you do?

How did you do it?

What was the outcome?

What problems did you have/solve?

What next

SUMMARY

Trial 3 – 2008 Vision Planning workshop

2008 vision plan looked to future to see how Al-Anon should or would be in 2034. There was a motion to trial this workshop material for three years. This didn’t happen for two years and last year’s planning for Abundance Workshop and this year’s sequel workshop results will finish the three year trial

A follow-up on the workshops and how far we have gone towards our 2034 plan will be presented to Conference in 2013, which completes the trial.

Planning for Abundance – Moving forward with Success

- The Board Conference started work on this in 2008 it was in the conference summary 2008. It was to encourage people into service, to look at roles etc and to see where AI-Anon overall would be in 2034.
- Out of that came the need for shared leadership.
- Clear job descriptions are needed – what the job is and for how long. We need to be enthusiastic about the role and what it has done for you.
- People will volunteer for service, not because it is good for them, or they will grow, they will be attracted into service because of your 'why' you do it.

Conference members were given two minutes to write down what they got out of doing service which is why they volunteer for service roles.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Feeling of community | • Confidence |
| • Challenges of dealing with others | • Fellowship |
| • New ideas | • Knowledge |
| • Time expands | • Being of service to area and group |
| • Receiving more than I give | • Travelling |
| • Intellectual stimulation | • Budgeting/accounting skills |
| • A husband | • More employment work skills |
| • Companionship | • Working with people I wouldn't normally meet |
| • Help | • Growth of self in programme |
| • Opportunity to practice AI-Anon legacies | • Honesty from others |
| • Opportunity to acquire new skills in a safe and supportive team environment | • Friends |
| • Confidence | • Spiritual side of programme |
| • Meeting new people in groups | • Confidence |
| • A larger heart | • Feeling of belonging |
| • Learning I have more skills than I thought | • Meeting others |
| • Recovery | • Recovery |
| • A service sponsor | • Greater knowledge and understanding of AI-Anon |
| • Sponsees | • Friends |
| • Learned new skills | • Understanding of self in service |
| • Being allowed to learn on the job | • Greater knowledge |
| • Genuine friends from Northland to Southland | • Chairmanship |
| • Break away every year for 3 years | • Personal growth |
| • Discovery of how cheap and restful buses can be | • Meeting new people |
| • Working democratically | • Feeling of achievement |
| • Using AI-Anon principles to set up other organisations | • Feeling of appreciation |
| | • Makes me feel good |

These collected sharing's show that everyone has a different reason why they take up service role and become involved in AI-Anon at another level.

What did you do in your area to increase abundance?

- Take area meetings to the people – travel
- Statistics – recovery years
- Have a budget
- Not much in the last year we were in survival mode
- Workshop on recovery
- Workshop – change in perception
- Look at obstacles to abundance
- Planning for abundance in own recovery – recovery abundance workshop using drawings and words
- Creating a vision = part of creating abundance.
- A group has worked on a budget and is donating directly to GSO
- Raising of awareness
- Board – flexibility

How did you do it?

- Assembly workshops
- More flexibility in roles on Board – the responsibilities of the Board
- Picnics, regular, coffee gatherings, soup gatherings – workshops, Fourth Step inventory as a group is a possible future topic
- Bread competition – AA/Al-Anon bread
- Team events without the Board
- Area meetings.

Outcomes

- People got excited
- Lots more goodwill in the fellowship
- Longer area meetings
- More chairs out = more people came
- \$\$ to GSO
- Love

Problems you have had

- Group in survival mode
- Rigid ideas
- Doing it my way
- Timekeeping waiting for...to arrive
- Arriving late, leaving early
- No flexibility
- Keen newcomers – not used, take them in your car to meetings etc
- Area committee in trouble

How did you solve them

- Committed to pay the conference fee
- Organised more workshops
- Non-board roles developed for the board
- Hidden talents survey written.

What next?

- Keeping the momentum going with small changes – your commitment for the next year.
- Workshop on p.27 of the Brochure – The importance of having a budget, 24 members present.
- Take area meetings to people – humble beginnings can become a thriving area.
- Planning part of planning for abundance – Being on the board for six years, gives living experience of planning for abundance.
- There is a strategic plan and part of that is planning for abundance.
- Start with an inventory – you do that for personal growth.
- What is the purpose of the Board? This helps you focus. Are we achieving our purpose? Identify problems and then address them. The Board has its functioning right. Things are happening, eg, Alateen. There is a National Alateen coordinator and National guidelines. The next thing is to get is Area coordinators, have a plan and work at achieving it.
- Hidden talents, taskforce, one-offs taskforces.
- Let it begin with me – why a 6pm meeting was needed in Auckland. So we did it, and didn't feel like someone else should be doing it. Others had been thinking about it too and they helped.
- Keeping the stuff going. Look at the obstacles – overcome them.
- God is in the details. Stick to your knitting, milk the cows – stick to the basics.
- Copy success.
- Try ONE idea. Quality not quantity.
- Tagging – Looking out for another group – visiting the small groups in areas boosts numbers and morale.
- Compound interest – good deeds build on themselves.
- Board members will come to you to deliver information, have TEAMS events where the board members can visit areas and deliver new or go over old information/ideas.
- Ask for help.
- Persistence and commitment – each small increment makes a difference.
- Part of bigger picture, legacy from what has been before and what is going forward. Look at the Big picture, long term. Long term vision and working not alone, a worldwide fellowship.
- Get a sense of bigger picture through doing service, work with others.
- Al-Anon to become a household name.
- We deserve abundance, part of the Al-Anon disease, is not working our own programme; feeling like we are not entitled to that. It is about me doing it for myself, and being attractive to others. We are working and practicing. It's not an event, it is a process.
- Seeing some of the problems and deciding – I could work on that myself.
- Opportunities, enthusiasm, attract others into service.

Speak from the heart, from your passion of WHY you are in service and what it does for you, the abundance will follow.

Public Outreach & website

Helen A & Ruth

Picture on home page – a great picture of a New Zealand landscape.

Click on meetings, then demonstrated locating meetings in Central Auckland. The list shows the written address of all the meetings.

Check that your own meeting has the correct location and details.

Click on a meeting then the small blue, map. Then click on the Al-Anon triangle, this shows the photo of the location on Google maps.

Demonstrated finding a meeting in Motueka.

By sending details of AA Assemblies(including Al-Anon participation), Al-Anon Area Assemblies, Team Events, Serenity or Recovery Weekends to GSO, these can be entered in the calendar of What's On, and can be kept updated making it available to everyone.

The Literature order form is also available on our web site and can be printed out and ordered in the usual way by posting with a cheque or by paying online. When you pay on line email GSO to say you have paid, your name and how much you paid.

Demonstrated ordering on line: Book and Pamphlets or anything on the order form – can be added to shopping cart. We do not have credit card facilities, for payment, so you need to make payment direct to our bank account including your name. These bank details are shown. This then automatically sends a notification to GSO, that there is an order waiting.

You need a password to look at member's page to access last year's Conference summary and general guidelines.

GSO wants to know what people want on the web page.



Al-Anon reaches out to community groups

Evelyn D & Marlene G

How do we know we need to reach out to Community Groups?

- Low numbers of new members coming into groups
- Weekly advertising in Community papers not always affective
- Twelfth Step calls dropped right off
- Lack of hard copy advertising in magazines or television

Other:

Community Groups identified as first contact points:

- Police
- Doctors
- District Nurses
- Midwives
- Lifeline
- Victim Support
- Schools
- Family Service Centre
- Information Centre
- Clergy

Other:

How do we reach out?

- Propose sending invitation to identified community groups inviting representatives to an open Al-Anon meeting
- Include a beginner type sleeve pack with relevant information for Professionals – suggest 5 or 6 pamphlets
- Speak to Community Group leaders when the opportunity arises
- Sad House posters placed in appropriate places in community
- Window displays

Other:

We have had a positive response to our invitation:

- What Meeting Format would we use?
- How important is it that we have healthy members share at open meetings?
- Have we informed our members that they have a choice whether or not they attend an open meeting?
- Have we invited other Al-Anon Groups to support us?
- Do we know of other groups who have already reached out and had open meetings with Community Groups? Can we learn from their experiences? How?

How do we know if our meeting has been informative/successful?

- By getting an Evaluation Form filled in
- By speaking to the professionals after the meeting

Other:

Getting into Community Groups

Pack – factsheets

Area Delegate spoke about Reefton group's meeting with community groups.

In Reefton, there is an Al-Anon group with two consistent members. They sent an invitation out to community to attend a meeting and received feedback from people.

In the workshop, people were divided into four groups – city and country mixed up.

Pack that was used includes:

1. Invitation – date, time, “information evening for professionals”, light supper, free literature and resources
2. Referral notice – who were you referred by and a name
3. Fact sheet for professionals *S-37ES*
4. Sad house bookmark *M-76*
5. Al-Anon welcomes adult children of alcoholics *S-69*
6. When you don't know where to turn bookmark
7. Alcoholism, the Family Disease *p4*
8. Al-Anon Is *M44*
9. Alcoholics, their families and the Judicial System *S65*

How do we know we need to reach out to community groups?

- They are our partners
- We get referrals from community groups (eg, AA)
- AA is known but Al-Anon is not
- Requests from professionals
- Social and family problems
- Alcohol is a big problem in our community

Community groups identified as first contact points

- AA, NA, OA, GA etc
- Mental Health Line
- Health Line
- WINZ
- Depression website (ask to have a link to their website)

How do we reach out?

- Ring and go and visit face to face
- Also ask to attend their in-house training
- “In reach” – go and tell about AFG and ask if it could work for them
- Use the USA website outreach ideas as a link on our website
- Make sure we participate in community group forums
- Sharing my involvement in Al-Anon (being open)
- May have profile speaker from professional community as guest speaker at public meeting.

We have a positive response to our invitation

- Give them an information pack/meeting list
- It is important to have good speakers and clear guidelines.

How do we know if our meeting has been successful?

- In-reach – can we do anything further for your organisation? eg, can we speak to your staff?
- Referral
- Enquiries
- Body language
- Asking newcomer the source of their attendance in Al-Anon
- Success can be measured by the fellowship of Al-Anon members makes healthy groups.

A resource – www.Al-Anon.org *The Best of Public Outreach*

Area Seven – group has prepared a pack – *Al-Anon faces Alcoholism* – is in it.

Outgoing sharing

Peter A

As I am coming to my last conference and ending my time on the board it is hard to summarise what I have learned in a few short words. I have gained so much, and particularly in service. Thank you so much for the opportunities I have had. I have been able to truly be around the winners as I have served here at Conference and been able to represent NZ Al-Anon overseas.

One of the keys I have found was to not neglect my personal recovery because of my service. I try to continue my study of the Steps most days, and to practice taking inventory and prayer and meditation. I view my service as a gift to my recovery and an opportunity to learn about and practice letting go of more of my defects. I think it is so important not to forget to bring our spirituality into our business meetings.

I am aware that as my time in Al-Anon has become longer I have become less sure of the answers. I look back with embarrassment at my early days where, driven to Al-Anon by my misery, I sat in meetings and told you why the things in the reading were wrong and what you should be doing instead.

It didn't occur to me that if you did what I said you would probably get what I had – and honestly, it wasn't worth having.

I always thought I could be happy by satisfying my needs. It seemed reasonable at the time, and sometimes for short moments, things did seem to make me happy. But I found I couldn't get happy by eating more chocolate. At the time it seemed like a perverse cruelty that something so sweet and delicious would tempt

me in such a dishonest way with the promise of happiness. So too with relationships. I came to Al-Anon mostly because of the pain and failure of my relationships with others. I found most of you were even worse than chocolate. I thought you would make me happy but most of you were not even sweet but too salty or spicy or bitter. Even those of you that were sweet on the outside had a horribly sour centre.

In Al-Anon I learned of my mistake. I found the answer to my happiness was not in trying to meet my needs. That was why it never worked; I didn't understand the problem, so my attempt at a solution couldn't work. I am learning the needs I had couldn't be met by you but can be by my Higher Power. I am learning that my happiness doesn't lie in getting but lies elsewhere. I like the theme of the WSC this year "Our Spiritual Journey – we get as we give". That is the answer I have found. I feel good by doing good. I also like what I heard at a recent Australian Conference from the Treasurer – "Get over yourself and give!"

You are still sour and spicy, but guess what, so am I and it is OK. It was my expectation that you should be different that is the problem and I am starting to like the variety of tastes. And the miracle is happening for me as my upsets and fear of others become more and more happy times. My welfare is in the common welfare, and I find meaning and purpose with friends and family and realise this is where I want to be. So you people are the new chocolate. Thank you for being so delicious.

Outgoing sharing

Rose A

What first brought me to Al-Anon Family Groups was getting help living with my dad's drinking. I attended Alateen for a short period of time on two separate occasions where I began to learn about the family disease of alcoholism. I learned that I had been affected along with the rest of my family and yes I did need help to learn to live a better way. Understanding the problem was a revolution to my mind, the craziness in my home environment finally had a name and reason for being – alcoholism. It was a new beginning.

Al-Anon has showered me with an abundance of gifts – hope, contentedness, companionship, optimism, healing, a husband, love, responsibility, myself, my kids, intellectual stimulation, emotional intelligence, and many many tools to deal with life. I am full to the brim with things to be grateful for.

Al-Anon Family Groups has an abundance of gifts and resources for me to work with to carry out our primary purpose – to help the friends and families of alcoholics. We have members, we have members with talents, we have specialised literature, we have a General Service Office, we have guidelines, we have a webpage, we have international connections, we have finances, we have 90 meetings including two Alateen groups, we have a guiding Board, we have an annual national Conference, we are a not for profit organisation and fellowship that is self supporting through its own voluntary contributions, we are a community group that offers help and hope to people affected by someone's drinking, we offer a programme and set of tools that work to help people recover and heal to become useful members of society, and most importantly we have each other. The list is finite, but it is long.

How can I let it begin with me to culture an attitude and behavior of abundance? Well, a good place to start is to do the opposite of what alcoholism would have me do: complain, compare, and control. So that would lead me to praise, work together with others and let go and let God.

Where can I do this? Firstly with myself, no complaining, comparing and controlling but instead praising, working together with others and letting go and letting God. How about in my family, I think the same applies: praising, working together with others and letting go and letting God. How about in my group and at the Conference and at the Board meetings? Same same: Praise, work together with others and let go and let God.

I am grateful to be one among many here at the Conference equal with you all. I finish my service on the General Service Board as I finished my service as a Group Representative and as an Area Delegate, passionate to continue to work together with others in our organisation and fellowship. You may ask what I will do with my spare time, one is to learn to use my smart phone, and I would love to be asked to be part of TEAM events anywhere around the country, and I'm seriously considering going to the 2013 International Al-Anon Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, hopefully with Peter.

By working the Twelve Steps in an ongoing way I have discovered I am someone who loves to learn about things. I'm not so busy being scared of things so I have this extra room to be passionate about life and living. My childlike wonder and curiosity of life has been recovered thanks to Al-Anon. This is a most priceless gift – it means waking up breathing another day, to eat my favourite breakfast and pat the dog and say good morning to the canary and go feed the chickens and feel good to be part of a family – life has become sweet. Lois did say "...stagnation is retrogression. There is no standing still..." and I know what she means. I don't want to gather moss – I will have plenty of time for that when I die. I am proud of our organisation and fellowship. I think one of our greatest strengths is the manageable size of our country – we can easily transmit knowledge and understanding and goodwill around New Zealand. We can make the difference we dream of that guides us and with persistence, together we can make it.

Thank you for working with me and helping me.

Outgoing sharing

Kirsten W, Area Seven

I am not sure if I will put myself forward for a term as delegate, as I have finished the previous delegate's term for 18 months including two conferences.

I was nervous about my first conference, not sure I even wanted to be there and consequently turned up late. I made a few mistakes which I learned from, particularly about Traditional Approval, that we do not need to re-do the informed decision making of the Board unless there are strong and compelling reasons to do so.

I was also personally changed by the way business was conducted and that the Conference was chaired quietly and without drama or fuss. I thought at times that was boring but grew to see the wisdom of the way it was done. I was impressed by another delegate who said this meant not having to be responsible for other people's feelings, not

having to respond to or be pushed by someone louder or more forceful.

I have been very moved by the Conference goals, and would like to see them used in our own assembly.

I thank the people who have brought a new tone and conduct into the Conference, with the Conference goals and the use of knowledge based decision making, so that there is good behavior at all times, along with respect and spiritual awareness of the reasons why we come together. I thank those people in particular who are here today.

I have also grown in understanding of the huge benefits of our attendance at international meetings, and thanks those who have gone on behalf of NZ AI-Anon, sometimes at their own expense.

Stephanie G, Area Two

The delegate from Area Two spoke about her three years as delegate. She was inspired by people in recovery who were making choices and getting what they want because of the choices they make. They now have an alt delegate and a delegate ready to start service in her area and she has been part of that.

Conference – she finds it hard to get her head around those and won't necessarily be able to articulate it. She can get the feel of something but not necessarily the details. She accepts that now. Appreciative and privileged to be here.

Hot Topics

Hot Topic #1

Is it appropriate or traditional to observe the death of any AFG Members?

Main points to be considered:

Autonomy, humility, putting people on pedestals, anonymity, Paths to Recovery pp237-238, formed a workgroup KBDM paper aim for 2013 conference, thinking outside the square, need to consider the implications of exclusion and the principle of loving interchange.

Outcome:

Formed workgroups no official guidelines at moment but we can be guided by Traditions.

KBDM

Hot Topic #2

Financial Plan & Budget Tradition 7 – self supporting

Main Points:

- \$1.19 per meeting minimum to GSO to break even, set on a percentage of members attending AI-Anon
- Donations up 5.5 percent – 2012
- We are self supporting through our donations.

Outcome:

- Continue to encourage groups/areas to develop and implement a budget
 - Step Eleven/Twelve – conscious contact, in giving we receive, spiritual practice
 - NZ AI-Anon is a group service
 - Tax rebates/payroll giving benefits
 - Planning for abundance – like having paid PO officer.
-

Hot Topic #3

How to grow Alateen

Outline:

New guidelines

- Alateen AMIAS need to be taken care of by the area
- Challenges for next conference.

Main points:

- Inform the area about new guidelines
- Get forms completed
- Areas need to consider AMIAS and Alateen processes
- Alateen coordinators need to be introduced regularly to Alateen – separation – safety.

Outcome:

- Alateen regularly on area agenda.
-

Hot Topic #4

Planning for Abundance

Outline

Reviewed our abundance. Envisioned our abundance A-BUN-DANCE.

Main points:

Changing perspective – seeing abundance when we let go of our rigid perspectives/ methods

Outcome:

- Long-term goal
- Small steps
- Inventory and create a plan and act on it
- Copying success
- Persistence and commitment ie, compound interest
- It's your heart space that brings people/ attracts people into service.

Delegates Reports

Area One

Colleen D

Area One covers the entire South Island from Oamaru South.

Groups:

Most meetings are holding their numbers at last count and a new group has started in Maitua, just south of Gore, with a membership of 5–6 on Friday mornings. It is now registered with GSO.

We currently have 11 groups. The Balclutha group is very small with two core members but are very big in heart and are holding workshops every six months on subjects close to the Al-Anon principles. I have attended one workshop which was very powerful. The meetings are in the Salvation Army rooms weekly on Thursday mornings.

Assemblies

The AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation was held in Gore on 2–3 March 2012 with a good turnout of Al-Anon members from Wanaka, Dunedin and Invercargill. People don't mind travelling to meet up with Al-Anon friends. Al-Anon is always invited to AA Assemblies in the South because, I believe AA sees us as the other side of this family disease.

Public Outreach

Our previous Area Delegate has taken up the Public Outreach position for the area. She is very passionate about spreading the word and we wish her well. The Area One committee will support her in any way they can.

Concerns

The position of Treasurer and Secretary are becoming vacant for Area One. The right people will put their hand up.

Area Two

Stephanie G

This past year has seen some changes and movement in meetings in Area Two. A few meetings have closed and some have flourished healthily. The men's meeting in Christchurch decided to open its doors to women for reasons sensible to them. The ebb and flow of meeting numbers have been prey to, in no small part, Christchurch residents sometimes having to move premises depending on the states of their respective houses. This is understandable and we all make room for members from other meetings and hope to see departing ones at a later date. Regardless, the Steps, Traditions and Slogans are the core topics at meetings for all who wish to recover.

Christchurch has had the added change of no longer having our information centre. This went with the advent of the quakes. Since then our area committee has slowly grown, shaped itself, grown up and we are now having area committee meetings. The fresh energy of a new chairperson and secretary has given us a kick-start towards the horizon we want to be going in, namely a fully functioning area. The next area delegate was nominated and welcomed on board at our latest area assembly. Our public outreach has two members who are motivated and enthusiastic to get out in the community. At our area assembly in late May some of their ideas were shared for the future. The Rolleston group hosted this and it was awesome to have a change of venue. Groups are volunteering their services for hosting assemblies regularly, which is a healthy sign of meetings functioning well. Group rep turnouts to assemblies are high.

There is a serenity weekend being planned for later this winter as well. Overall the feeling of Al-Anon is one of recovery and growth given our circumstances and changes we have faced in the last year. It's in a spirit of optimism that I write this final report as my last year in the role of Area Two Delegate. I believe this feeling is not just felt by me alone but shared by all of us here.

SUMMARY

Update: There has been a lot of upheaval as a result of the earthquakes.

- Loses included the 18 years old the info service centre. A lot of dislocation of group meeting places.
- Gains are new growth as a result of having to change and be more adaptable. New people in group positions.
- There is a major change in spirit and a feeling of progress. There is an enthusiasm for service, great GR turnouts for full day assemblies (not just business sharing but workshops as well). There is development in taking responsibilities and stepping up to the many challenges. Meeting turn outs are good. Meetings tend to stick to the topics Steps & Traditions

Changes have included the Men's meeting deciding to be open to women

Summary

How had they justified having the men's' meeting closed before this? No Al-Anon meeting are closed to any Al-Anon member. The Delegate was of the opinion that the men's' meeting was an attempt to have it neutral not doilies and flowers but perhaps a few rugby balls and jerseys.

Page 38 in NZ Al-Anon Alateen Handbook defines closed meetings. Closed meetings are open to Al-Anon members only – any Al-Anon member can go to any Al-Anon meeting. Men's meeting are special needs meetings in that they address special needs some members may have, or identify with as, in meetings of adult children.

An Open meeting is a meeting where any member of the public may attend.

Commendation given for how the area has restructured and regrouped in a healthy way with the work still being done but in a new invigorated way".

Area Three

Lynne C

Area Three is part of the Central Region and comprises groups from Wairarapa (Masterton), Wellington (three groups), Lower Hutt (two groups), Upper Hutt, Porirua, Plimmerton, Kapiti (two groups) and Otaki.

Highlights

Wellington region was host to the AA National Convention with Al-Anon participation in January 2012. The Al-Anon committee worked hard to create a varied programme of meetings, basing it on "Many Lives, One Journey", which attracted good numbers with many from AA joining in. There was positive feedback on the inter fellowship communication that this created.

Area Assemblies/Workshops

Area Assemblies have been well attended this year with on average around 25 members. Many people take the opportunity to car pool and make excursions to parts of the area that they don't normally get to. We start with a shared lunch, have the business meeting which usually includes a good turnout of GR's or Alternates and then after afternoon tea, have a workshop or speaker meeting.

Alateen

We are grateful that one group has been enthusiastic in touring the area groups informing them of the AMIAS process and seeking support so that we will be prepared when the occasion to run an Alateen group presents itself again.

Concerns

Whilst the previous Area Delegate was touring the region attending different meetings he noticed a lack of signage outside meetings, clearly for Newcomers this can present a challenge to attending. Masterton which has reformed recently in new premises, has the triangle and circle with the simple word, 'Meeting' clearly displayed outside the meeting place.

Conclusion

The Area Delegate has, with deep regret and sadness, made the decision to step down. His health took a decided downturn late last year severely challenging his mobility. He would like to offer his gratitude for the time he has been Area Delegate;

"I will always have last year's experience to hold close, it was totally awesome. Love and Fellowship indeed".

So I have only recently taken over as Area Delegate and I look forward to the opportunity to grow in service.

SUMMARY

Update: AMIAS is gaining momentum we will be ready for the Alateens when they come

Summary

Identifiers for meetings were discussed

The need is for adequate identifiers for those seeking the Al-Anon meeting place.

- A meeting where there was on a sandwich board stating "Al-Anon meeting 7pm" left visible outside on the street for any passerby to see was seen as questionable anonymity. The sandwich board was relocated to foyer inside the building so that it was obvious to those looking for an Al-Anon meeting but not for just anyone to find out by walking past in the street.
- An apparent newcomer arrived during a meeting and then asking at the end "Where do I go for the job?" Obviously not enough signage for that person.
- A Wellington meeting has a sign outside at street level as the meeting room is particularly difficult to find. Is a second sign outside the meeting room door with the words "Al-anon meeting here".

Area Four

Gordon P

Area Four extends down the East coast of the North Island between the ranges running up the Island from the Tararua to East Cape to the West and the Pacific Ocean to the East, and from somewhere north of Gisborne where we meet with Area Six to somewhere south of Woodville where we meet with Area Three. The major cities are Napier, Hastings and Gisborne. The towns are Wairoa, Waipukurau and Dannevirke.

A couple of conferences ago, when we asked for the splitting up of Areas Four and Five, there was discussion about our boundary with Area Six because it is more logical for the East Coast up to Hicks Bay to be included with Gisborne, rather than with Whakatane and Opotiki in the Western Bay of Plenty.

This issue is still to be discussed and resolved.

Area Four membership has not grown over the last year and in fact the Hastings Friday night meeting has closed.

That leaves us with two meetings, Napier at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening and Wairoa at 6pm on Friday evening. Napier has six to eight regular members and Wairoa, four. One of our members has moved to Palmerston North but we are still happy to be a small, close knit, vibrant and available to those who need us.

A long time member has a serious illness and is now in a hospice in Havelock North. Several members visit her quite frequently.

The area has had its assemblies in Napier in July and November 2011 and March 2012. This has worked well and we have had well attended assemblies. We have an area Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Outreach officer. Gordon P is being our Area Delegate for another year. Hopefully there will be a new Delegate elected for conference 2013.

We have been letting people with drinking problems in their families know about Al-Anon but most have yet to still take that biggest step, by coming to their first meeting. Most people still think the problem can be fixed somehow else.

SUMMARY

Napier has a core of old timers doing good service in the area. Wairoa group has a core group of four members. A decision was made that no matter how small in numbers the groups of Area Four's, their biggest priority was to send the \$500 to keep coming to conference. Area Four has a big physical area.

The delegate brought up the deferred decision on whether or not Tolaga Bay and Tokamaru Bay be included in Area Six or Area ?. Still to be decided.

Summary

Questions about how far along the boundary change issue had progressed. The process of changing boundaries is that both areas discuss the matter at their assemblies and agree on what's needed and then bring to Conference for final approval.

Area's Four and Six are planning to have a TEAM event March 2013 so will have the opportunity to come to an agreement then.

We welcome any ideas to help the membership grow.

Wairoa group has committed to \$20 every four weeks for GSO.

Area Five

Justine M

Area Five is Palmerston North, Whanganui and New Plymouth. I haven't had a chance to go round the groups as I have been an area delegate for two months. This report is done to the best of my knowledge at the time.

Groups

There are five groups altogether. Two in Palmerston North, one in Whanganui and two in New Plymouth. Palmerston North Tuesday decided to close early in the year – however has since re-opened with new members coming along and is going well. Palmerston North Thursday has had new members come and go, although a couple have become regular and inspirational members.

Assemblies

Our area assembly was held at a member's house on Saturday 31 March 2012. A turnout of seven members. This was decided between members in Palmerston North and New Plymouth as one

member from New Plymouth was going to attend at Waverley. This was where our Area Delegate was decided and at the next area assembly, treasurer will be open to other members, otherwise another member has put their hand up if no takers.

Public Outreach

Palmerston North groups are communicating about letters and pamphlets that are handed out to doctors, medical centres so each group is contributing and not the same thing.

Palmerston North Thursday Night had a journalist come and visit. This was decided over three meetings and all agreed. The article in the local paper turned out an success, it was soon after the episode of the All Black which was of public interest.

New Plymouth Friday lunchtime AFG have put a free community announcement at the local radio station.

Concerns

Whanganui group has not been receiving information on area meetings or anything relating to Al-Anon. This has caused concern to the other groups and we would love to see them at the meetings. A couple of members from Palmerston North Thursday went to the meeting and was met with a positive response. We hope to get a few members to the meeting in the near future.

Palmerston North Thursday Night has a concern with a member who has accused another member of being unsafe and has spoken out in a meeting before closing where there were three new members. This has been taken to the Board.

SUMMARY

Having been delegate for two months, I feel a definite newbie. Aim to reach all five groups in area. Outreach going to libraries and communicating with other groups to do different flyer and letter drop-offs.

- Issue of one member accusing another member.
- Issue of members feeling safe in Al-Anon meetings.

One member accused another member of inappropriate behaviour. Member accused felt unsafe at being accused. This issue is delicate and was addressed at group level conscience meeting and then brought up with Central Regional Board member – not whole board.

This issue is multi-faceted. There may be aspects outside Al-Anon's control ie, personality and health issues. Professional help may be needed (mental health services or professional counselling). The group was wanting to stop this member attending this particular night when the member accused attends and going to the previous night meeting. This has all been discussed with regard to the health of the group.

Page 51 of the manual had good guidance. Group inventory topics on gossip, personal problems.

Discussion over the distances rural members have to travel to business meetings. Some meetings are a three-hour drive away...six-hour return! Suggestion to get groups in the area to host the meeting. Normally Waverley, Palmerston North, Wanganui, is a three-hour drive. Decision made that groups would meet in the middle at Waverley. The groups are small.

Skype worked really well with the Board meeting and the question was raised as to whether this would work for committee meetings or area assemblies. To be discussed.

Area Six

Suzanne F

Area Six stretches from Thames to Whakatane, Te Awamutu to Hamilton.

There are nine groups; Thames, two in Waihi, Tauranga, Rotorua, Whakatane (closed), Tokoroa, three in Hamilton. Cambridge has closed.

Picnics have taken place, coffee gatherings, workshop around being nimble, flexible, and dynamic. The topic though was not of "service." I think there were about 18 people that participated. Attendance of AI-Anon at AA weekend camps and an invitation to AA Assemblies with AI-Anon participation.

Community radio station advertising, local community service directory, pamphlets in resource centres, mail drops with the sad bookmarks, taking leaflets and pamphlets to surgeries, CAB, womens refuge, libraries, sad posters placed on windows, writing articles in a free magazine all come under the umbrella of Public Outreach.

Concerns of control issues in a group; talking to the Regional Board Member and putting a suggestion in place. The outcome is running its course, recognising we can only be the message with the Conference Approved Literature.

My only thought with the Conference was the fluorescent lighting and lack of oxygen in the room. {That is a personal thought.}

For me the year has had its challenges. Communication has been vital and where I don't know it all, others can assist.

The highlight for me has been to mentor the alternate Area Delegate along the way and her assistance to share the load willingly is invaluable. To be encouraged with Tauranga now having a Group Rep after none for quite a few years and others who have willingly become new group Reps. Being able to visit the groups reveals the flavour of each and its autonomy. Doing a one year roll over Area Delegate, then six month alternate Area Delegate, then now a two year role again as Area Delegate for me feels hard at this time and it has not felt cohesive. I certainly know by being stretched in this way I will be gaining many skills

SUMMARY

The power of the three spiritual goals is asked to be adopted at assemblies; still in progress.

Some groups are sending in regular donations to NZ AI-Anon. One area meeting was cancelled due to the weather. The delegate would like another delegate to speak too, as she feels alone in her role and to share decisions that may need to be made.

Lone members – the Delegate's encourage lone members to contact each other.

Some AI-Anon members attend AA camps with AI-Anon participation. Ohope camp had a good structure of meetings. A lot of people come to AI-Anon through AA.

Tokoroa do not have a group rep. They have a committed dual member. They don't attend assemblies but have been very good at hosting the assemblies to stay in the loop. Thames has not had an area meeting in six years and is excited that the delegate from Area Four and the Area Six delegate will endeavour to host a TEAM event next March in Hamilton. After seeking approval from Area Six, Area Four are very keen to travel and will hopefully be billeted overnight.

Summary

NZ AI-Anon registers lone members and informs the areas so they can be invited to any relevant meetings. They get sent a newsletter and the Messenger. Some drop off when they join a group or start a group.

Area Seven

Kirsten W

Area Seven continues strongly in AI-Anon. The area gives healthy donations, with constant discussion of planning for abundance. Three out of 11 groups have a budget which factors in donations to area and GSO as well as monthly amounts for public outreach.

These three groups are among the city groups which have combined to pay for a 7cm x 10cm **display advertisement** in the local paper once every few months at the cost of about \$190.

This was started when the area did not have a public outreach coordinator and was not spending the money at area level. It was also to see if a paid advertisement got better response than the free community notices in newspapers. These are only appearing sporadically but are being regularly sent in to our various community newspapers around Auckland.

The **billboards** continue to circulate around the free city council sites and give good exposure.

We ask for feedback from the groups as to where newcomers are being referred from, and I think they are still mostly coming via Alcoholics Anonymous and through the various alcohol and drug services.

We now have a Public Outreach Coordinator. Our next effort will go into designing a poster for buses.

We are building up the email data base for professionals who receive our up-dated **monthly meetings lists**. This is free public outreach and reaches a wide range of government departments, public services and the A and D field.

We continue to send speakers and provide literature to treatment centres in Auckland.

Each group has now been provided with a lightweight public outreach board with a display of literature and posters, and room to attach pockets to hold giveaways and meetings lists. These circulate through public places such as libraries, schools and universities and hospitals.

After discussion we have been working on a **re-design** of our Area Seven and Area Eight **combined meetings** list so it looks modern, professional, interesting and folds into three, as does the AA meetings list. We have also printed **AI-Anon business cards** which were free for the first printing, an idea brought back from overseas.

Area Seven organised the AI-Anon participation in the National Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous, 30 March–1 April held at the University of Auckland marae. We were treated with courtesy and respect and every effort was made to include AI-Anon. Our shared and public meetings were inspirational and the AI-Anon programme offered sharing at depth and the opportunity for intimacy as attendance was small – eight to 25 per meeting. It was noticeable how hard it was to get participation and service commitment beyond group level. Although attendance could have been higher, and the chair persons had difficulty finding speakers, those members who attended for the whole weekend had the unusual experience of being able to build on their sharing, which was a real gift. Several new AI-Anon members attended who loved the experience, and at least one AA member has continued with AI-Anon meetings.

Intergroup continues on the third Wednesday of the month to bring the area together, with usually two AI-Anon speakers and one from another fellowship such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous and Debtors Anonymous. Attendance is usually about 30 but can be more, and donations go to the General Service Office.

Area Seven Alternate Delegate and I continue to visit the groups in our area. There is a new meeting in Pukekohe which is held every two weeks.

SUMMARY

- Finding support for AMAIS. Groups have been asked to go through the process of getting AMAIS...Area Seven had one Alateen meeting but numbers dropped off. Those sponsors have not put themselves forward again. The aim is to have a pool of people AMAIS vetted, area endorsed and ready to go for future Alateen meetings.
- Proposed update of area meetings list to include all Auckland meetings in a Monday to Sunday format including Area Seven and Area Eight, not as currently, which lists the two areas separately. The list will say if meetings are north, east, west or south. It is currently in draft format. Meetings lists within Area Seven and Area Eight have group contact names and numbers for members use only.
- Standardising public image or branding – we use the same font so it looks cohesive, minimal printing costs, using Al-Anon colours. We developed a business card which can be used for public outreach and easily sized for wallets. A member brought the idea of a business card from Al-Anon overseas. Business cards can be dropped on counters left in public places. Cost \$50 for 750 . Other areas can request a jpg of the business card from Area Seven.
- A meetings list is sent monthly to a email database of about 200 professionals – treatment centres, doctors. Any personal Al-Anon contact names and numbers are removed for this outreach list. The email data base is managed, maintained and updated by a member. We will add any professional or anyone in the addiction field or anyone potentially dealing with our people. We know they go round one government department. From email contact we have received requests for Al-Anon speakers to speak to those organisations dealing with family violence and addictions. Computer lists are relatively easy and no cost, using a free email address. Keeping it growing can be an issue.
- The alt delegate came up with new public outreach display boards. The previous display board was heavy to carry.
- Each group now has one made from light core flute plastic, to be used in libraries, shopping centres, doctors' surgeries, rehab places etc.
- An Al-Anon billboard is regularly placed in different public areas. Auckland City Council has free sites – our billboard is displayed for three weeks then rotated to the next site. We use the Sad House poster. Two billboards each costing about \$100 have been in use for about four years. Areas are able to develop their own posters and display material.
- A new initiative is free advertising inside buses. We are designing and providing 200 laminated A3 posters for that purpose.
- Intergroup meeting once a month is the responsibility of the area committee. This is a structured open speaker-style meeting. There are usually two Al-Anon members and one from another fellowship invited to speak for about 15 minutes each. The groups have a turn at hosting throughout the year. Guidelines are sent to a different chair each month who organises the speakers, the host group sets up and does supper. Good for newcomers. A good way to cooperate with AA. Donations from this meeting go straight to GSO. It is explained that only Al-Anon members donated and visitors do not have to do so. Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013, pp 59-61 uses the term Intergroup, for information service. This is a different use of the term. Service manual p 42-43 an occasional guest speaker can give insights into alcoholism and this is OK. We can even invite other professionals to share. However to invite too often may divert us from our own recovery programme. Boundaries p25.

Area Eight

Chris H

Area Eight comprises all of Auckland west of Dominion Road and north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Our 16 groups include two Alateen groups and one Adult Children group.

Alateen

- We have two Alateen groups, nine qualified AMIAS and four regular committed Alateen members.
- Alateens attending the Pt Chevalier Alateen Group continue to be rare but committed AMIAS continue to hold the meeting available “in case”.
- One group (so far) has taken up our challenge to groups to have at least two members qualify as AMIAS to be available if any Alateens can be attracted. That group currently has two members going through the AMIAS approval process.
- Seven AMIAS share the sponsorship service for the Browns Bay Alateen Group on a rotating roster. The Alateens have recently attracted two newcomers who appear keen to stay. Committed parents (two of them from AA) transport our regular Alateens each week through rush hour Auckland traffic for distances of 25 kilometres each way from Orewa in the North, 27 kilometres each way from Mt Albert in the South and 30 kilometres each way from Henderson in the West. One AA couple transported their two children all 82 kilometres each way from Waiuku for several weeks – but they dropped away because the travelling to the only available Alateen meeting was simply too much.
- In our public outreach to carry the Alateen message, we have found the most (and the only identifiable) success from speaking at AA events and at Higher Ground.

Highlights

- Our monthly Sunday afternoon speaker style Intergroup meeting remains small but self supporting.
- The new Step Study group at Red Beach on Saturday mornings is up and running and going well.
- The Recovery Day in July and the Serenity Weekend in October were both huge successes.
- A daytime group has turned two of its meetings during school holiday periods into “Alateen Friendly” meetings and the publication of that approach was successful in attracting several Alateens.
- Members from our area have participated at the National AA Convention in Wellington in January and at each of the AA Northern Area Assemblies in Coromandel in July, in Rotorua in November, in Tauranga in March and the NCYPAA in Auckland in March.
- Our relationship and cooperation with our Area Seven immediate neighbours across Dominion Road continues to work well and is a real delight.

Public Outreach

- We have been without an Area Public Outreach Coordinator this year and still seek to fill that role.
- We continue to provide three speakers every four weeks to the Higher Ground Drug and Rehabilitation Centre to speak to the residents. We have agreed to give them a public outreach notice board which they say will be particularly useful to them for their three family support group meetings each week.
- Our groups have been active providing literature to branches of CADS and many of the schools and libraries in our area and a group has provided speakers for a gathering of their local police and victim support staff.

Area Assemblies

We hold four Area Assemblies each year. We came to expect the high level of engagement and enthusiasm of our GRs to continue but that was perceived as having dropped away at the February assembly. We decided that the cause was the several new GRS who were clearly confused about their roles and the processes. We have decided to try to provide them with support by “buddying up” new GRs with more experienced GRs.

Concerns / Solutions

Our service stalwarts continue to age and our younger members continue to find their lives too busy to allow them to commit to service. We will continue to encourage them to seek the recovery benefits of service commitment.

SUMMARY

I have enjoyed working with a great committee. We were reminded at our last meeting that the committee sets the tone for the area. Most of our GRs are engaged and committed.

We are excited over our relationship with Area Seven. We are lucky that our area committees work well together, it makes the job easier.

We have recently had an area assembly where we reintroduced having a workshop after the assembly.

Our AMIAS programme is working well. We now have two more groups going through the process of having AMIASs approved so they can offer an Alateen meeting at short notice if Alateens turn up.

In order to encourage donations to GSO we have pointed out to the GRs all that GSO provides.

Some of our members prefer to make donations directly to GSO through the internet.

The possibility of pooling of our AMAISs with other areas is to be investigated.

Area Eight had traditionally run a Recovery day as an annual series of workshops around a theme. It had faded out for lack of support but the novelty of it attracted 3x attendance before they had faded away – so will continue.

Area Nine

Evelyn D

Area Nine encompasses Marlborough, Nelson, Tasman, Golden Bay, Buller and Westland. We have active groups in Blenheim, Nelson, Richmond, Motueka, Reefton, Greymouth and Hokitika. Groups in recess are Golden Bay and Westport. Loners in Dobson, Westport and Golden Bay.

We have no Alateen groups.

The March Assembly was held in Motueka on the weekend of 31 March 2012.

A workshop and sharing based meeting on ‘Abundance’ was held on 31 March 2012. (Workshop information will be collated and sent separately to this report)

All service positions at area level are now full.

I have been Area Delegate since November 2011. This is my second time in this position, the previous being approximately 12 years ago.

Area Nine and its members continue to grow and participation at Assemblies is consistent.

The first TEAM event for New Zealand was held in Greymouth in November 2011. It was a great success and very worthwhile with members meeting some of the Board and learning from presentations and by asking questions. This was followed by our Area Assembly.

When Area Nine was approached to host the first TEAM event, our understanding was that our area was chosen because of our consistently successful assemblies.

We were disappointed that two of the three Board members present, did not attend our FUN evening. Learning to have fun again is an important part of our personal growth and contributes to the success of our assemblies.

We also understood that this TEAM event was open to other areas to join us. A venue large enough to host the event based on this information was hired. This incurred extra expense that was unnecessary owing to other areas not participating.

These two issues are mentioned for consideration should another TEAM event be held in the future.

I have visited one group prior to writing and intend to visit several more before conference.

SUMMARY

I have visited all groups in area. A concern was raised with regard to newcomers asking questions in the meeting not being answered at the time.

Formal format of meetings could be adjusted to accommodate the needs of the newcomer.

Reefton meeting already had a great budget lots of items covered by it.

Discussion on the newcomers welcome referred to. 'Feel free to ask questions' phrase.

Use the small red book welcome or develop your own. Important to get the Chair to welcome the newcomer and say we will talk to you after the meeting if you don't want interruptions you need to address this issue and not confuse newcomers.

Loving interchange meetings has been a highlight. The experience was uplifting for the Delegate.

TEAM event. They can be held alongside an assembly. There may be a blurring of boundaries, time also may be a constraint.

Reason for being chosen was because Area Nine had held successful assemblies over two days.

They found it bridged gap between the them and us – the board became real to ordinary AI-Anon members.

The Delegate said she found that the TEAM were knowledgeable and shared ideas and explained what happens in the bigger picture.

The principle of anonymity is the acceptance that each one of us has the same spiritual potential.

We all have the best for AI-Anon in mind.

Board Reports

Board Chairman

Arnold H

This last year has again cemented the idea “Together WE can do it”. We continue to work in harmony with a common theme of “helping friends and families of alcoholics” and work hard at being available and transparent to all the fellowship.

After each Board meeting we continue to send out a summary of our discussions to delegates so you are informed of our activities as they arise. You at that time have an opportunity to discuss this with your Board buddy. We welcome comment.

We have worked on many ideas and brought to completion some that have been an ongoing process. I mention a few below and the others you could read in the various reports in the brochure.

It can be said things don't happen overnight in Al-Anon and several conferences ago there was a motion that we should translate a number of Al-Anon pamphlets into Māori. This process was started but currently we're exploring the idea of In Reach and wonder if our best intentions at the time were wanted by the Māori community? As we explore In Reach as a new way of connecting with other groups in New Zealand including Māori, we may find our best intentions were misguided. In Reach has us asking groups of our community – “this is who we are” – what can we do for you? We'll then work in partnership with those groups rather than imposing our will on them.

The updated website is out there in cyberspace. We continue to refine it as mistakes are identified or new ideas given. We have created a members site within the web page. Information posted here will be scrutinised by a moderator – hopefully a Board member – prior to being posted. This is an ongoing work-in-progress so to speak.

As a result of a request from a Conference several years ago we have purchased a digital projector and screen for Al-Anon New Zealand. It will be available to the fellowship to be used in fellowship service.

Area Nine hosted the first TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) event in November 2011 and it was a success. I attended and believe it better meets the fellowship's needs in that it is part of (or can be) a normal planned assembly.

I would like to say thank you to both the Board Treasurer and NZ Alateen Coordinator who leave the Board this year. Through their attendance at the World Service Conferences over the last three years we in New Zealand Al-Anon have benefited from the knowledge brought back and the sharing of their personal experience at being at our senior conference.

Our Public Outreach and website Board member chose to resign from the Board during the year. I thank you for your service and hope to see you back.

It is time for me to change hats and a new Chair will be appointed at our AGM. It is in service I have continued to grow as an individual and skills learned in the roles I've had are transferable into life outside the doors of Al-Anon.

General Secretary

Helen A

The number of regular volunteers able to come into the office is down this year and it does let us see what a great contribution they make to the running of the office. Do come in and see us if you are visiting Auckland to see what a lovely and efficient place it is with all of our books on display. We also have visits from AA members also who drop in when they are visiting the AA office across the hall, and purchase some of our literature.

Book room

We have not had to increase the price of the literature this year, as the value of the \$US is in our favour.

NZ Post is increasing again the postage on mail and parcels from July 2012. We will keep track of this.

The "Getting Started" pamphlet which is in the Newcomers Pack is still working well, as a number of orders are coming in on these forms and are obvious newcomers.

We are maintaining having a book special at a reduced price each month for those that want to build their own library or for the groups and areas. This is in the NZ AI-Anon News which groups receive each month, even if they do not have a subscription to the Messenger.

The increase of literature orders made by email is continuing plus an increase of orders that are made via the web page.

We did have, for a short time, copies of the soft covered version of How AI-Anon Works. It as very popular as it was only \$15 and contained all of our programme (our big book). But this is not available internationally. The hard back cover version is, and an essential for all members.

Top Book Sales from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012

Courage to Change	136
One Journey Many Voices	98
Hope for Today	86
One Day at a Time	64
How AI-Anon Works	54
Paths to Recovery	39
Dilemma of Alcoholic Marriage	22
Newcomers Packs	813

Web page

We are keeping this updated more regularly now. It is still important that you let us know if there are any changes with your group details. If you are going to be closed for a week or two or you are planning to move. We still have some newcomers going to groups that have not been open or they cannot find you. Do you need a sign outside to show the way?

More members now are ordering their literature directly from the web shopping basket. This does need the money to be direct credited to our bank account but the web page takes you to the bank account details. Others are emailing the office, listing their order and direct crediting our bank account. The Literature Order Form is also available to be printed out and used to send with a cheque, or money direct credited to our bank account.

The Calendar of Events is updated each month with dates of your assemblies. We can only do this if you have sent us your details, and any weekends you are planning which are open to any members. We have been able to put a link on our web to the Area Three Serenity Weekend where they have set up their own web page. This is a great step and use of our web page. This is very helpful for visitors and our members who may be travelling around New Zealand.

Birthday Club

Still a popular way of making a donation and there is a new volunteer taking charge of creating the lovely cards that members receive on their Recovery birthday. The details of address and dates have been put onto our data base in the office

Alateen

The revised Profile Forms and Police Check Forms have been sent out to all groups for use this year after much tweaking of details. They have the procedure on the back to help clarify what is required. All sponsors need to go through this procedure as it is necessary to send an updated profile form in to GSO each year after going through the area procedure.

The police check only needs to be done once for each sponsor and we have a much quicker response from them now to our requests. This procedure is attached to help with this. We currently only have two Alateen groups which are both in Auckland and a larger number of sponsors and AMIAS approved members available.

Groups

In March this year we sent out an Update Registration Form to the current 86 which is a drop in the number of groups we have since the last year. We do need each group to return the information to GSO and have passed on to the Delegates the names of the 50 groups across the country that we need to hear from. In June we will need to remove those groups from the Web Page, if we cannot be sure that they are still going, or sending correspondence to the correct address.

We have had to see the closure of the only Al-Anon Information Service Centre in New Zealand, which was in the red zone after the Earthquake. Area Two made the decision to not to find another building, so now the groups have to send their literature orders and other queries to GSO.

There have been seven Al-Anon groups opened and 10 closed down.

Groups listed below are changes since last Conference, and will be update in June 2012

New groups

Pukekohe First Steps AFG
Masterton weekly AFG
Red Beach Step Study AFG
Whangarei Friday AFG
Saturday Serenity second group
Invercargill second group
Mataura Future Hope

Disbanded groups

Whakatane
Hastings
Cambridge
Whanganui Friday
Khyber Pass Thursday
South Wairapa
Invercargill Thursday
Golden Bay
Palmerston North Tuesday
Waimate
Kapiti Friday Lunchtime Steps

	2010	2011	2012
Al-Anon Groups	90	86	85
Al-Anon Adult Children	3	3	3
Alateen	2	2	2
AIS	1	1	0
Loners	10	11	10
Institution	0	0	0

Regional Service Seminars

These are no longer being held in the way we previously did every two years. The new approach had its first trial in September 2011 in Greymouth. Area Nine requested through GSO to come to their area, and named some items they were interested in having presented. It proved to be very popular. It was Nimble, Flexible & Dynamic.

Archives

Our previous archivist has done an amazing job of seriously sorting and filing our records especially with the move to a smaller site. Everything is safely arranged in a professional manner. Unfortunately we have not had a replacement so we would welcome any interest in this position as some items are starting to accumulate.

Treasurer

Peter A

The year in GSB finances

Some highlights for the year have been: work on the financial plan, providing input to the Literature committee on the new Seventh Tradition pamphlet, the Board adopting a Strategic Plan, and finding that there were enough funds to do something extra (purchase a projector).

With the financial administration, there are still some skills and operational areas which the Board and Executive committee are working to improve, but overall most of the problems with the day to day administration of the finances have been resolved. This has made the job of the Treasurer much easier and enabled the production of accurate financial reports straight away after the end of the financial year. I am grateful for the work everyone has contributed to make this happen.

The Financial Statements and Budget

The financial statements and draft budget are being prepared separately from this report. I am very pleased to report a continuing positive trend in financial support through donations for the GSO.

The Financial Plan

There is a separate report on the Financial Plan. There are some exciting new developments in the Financial Plan which I am looking forward to discussing at Conference.

Personal notes

My time on the Board is coming to an end after this Conference. I have very much enjoyed the last year of work on the Board. It is such a pleasure to be working with this team. I would like to say how grateful I am for having been given the opportunity to serve, and for all the learning and support I have had.

Northern Regional Board Member Report

Paula B

I am happy to be part of the Al-Anon Family Groups. I have had an exciting and enjoyable start to the year. Travelling to the AA Assemblies (with Al-Anon participation), AA Convention in Wellington and Al-Anon Assemblies. I have observed in the three regions Six, Seven, and Eight all preparing for Abundance.

There have been struggles in some areas – I am happy to say that the committee's have worked through the problems while staying in the role which I feel is recovery working.

We have had two successful AA Assemblies this year the region. The committees have been able to follow the guidelines and make a great day of sharing, fun and fellowship.

I am currently taking part in the committee for the AA Assembly 14 July in Auckland then I will gladly hand on to the delegate.

I am currently forming a committee for the up and coming 50th AA Convention being held in Auckland 18–20 January 2013. I have been warmly welcomed by the AA Committee and look forward to preparing for Abundance while following the guidelines.

Central Regional Board Member Report

John B

The central area includes Areas' Three (Wellington region), Area Four (Hawkes Bay and Gisborne Region) and Area Five (Taranaki and Manawatu).

Formerly one area, Areas Four and Five were returned to individual representation on a trial basis to be reviewed at Conference 2013, a decision made at the 2010 Conference. Both areas have now successfully returned to managing their own affairs and will have representation at this Conference. I have been in contact with both areas throughout the last year and have attended a number of meetings in Area Four. I support this continuing self-representation as both areas are now well established separately, although group numbers are low in Area Four.

Area Three has gone from strength to strength and I have attended a number of meetings throughout the year. They have a very active talented membership, which has made a valuable contribution to Al-Anon's participation in this year's AA National Convention at Silverstream. The number of groups has not changed with Masterton re-opening and Kapiti Friday closing. They continue to support the Forest Lakes Serenity Weekend, which again this year has attracted good numbers. The Area Chairperson unfortunately recently had to stand-down because of ill health and has been replaced by the alternate Area Delegate.

I am pleased to have brought an overall viewpoint from these areas on the Board over the last three years and I have appreciated this opportunity.

Southern Regional Board Member Report

Marlene G

The Southern Region takes in all of the South Island. There are three areas. One, Two and Nine. Nine having once been part of Area Three, which became unviable due to travel across the ditch making it expensive and time consuming. Hence we have Area Nine sitting at the top of the South Island.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the areas for their confidence in my service.

I will endeavour to give service to all areas should they need me to be there. I have found that things have changed since my last term of service and I am no longer your sole port of call should you need clarification on any issues.

I haven't made any personal contact with Area's One and Two. I did email secretaries that I was unavailable for their last assemblies due to dates clashing with the Board Meeting. I'm looking forward to a Face to Face meeting with the areas at their next assemblies. With the changes in the wording of the RBM's role I now feel that travelling to meetings is no longer as important as the Area Delegates are getting feed back from their buddies or other board members. I would welcome feedback from the Delegates as to whether they would like my presence at area meetings.

Area Nine continues to thrive. There is a really good relationship between all groups. This has been built on over the years as they share together over Assembly weekends.

Australian General Service Conference Representatives Report

Peter A & Arnold H

The Board decided to endorse the Board Chair and Treasurer making a self funded visit to the Australian General Service Conference (GSC). Their Conference is held 3–6 May 2012 at the Jica International Conference Centre in Melbourne. Sending representatives is a new initiative from our Board. It is a follow-up from contact made with Australia at recent International Al-Anon General Service Meetings (IAGSM).

We are looking forward to seeing how they work, sharing our experience and finding out about areas of common interest which may lead to collaboration on common issues. Already there has been an exchange about working together on a visit from the Executive Director of the World Service Office, and we have sent them copies of our Strategic Plan.

We have received a warm welcome, and will have voice and no vote at their Conference.

There may be time at our Conference in June to give a brief report about the highlights of the visit.

SUMMARY

Australian General Service Conference 3-6 May 2012

We were honoured by being welcomed as participants. Our views were requested on topics, we were asked to participate in the skit, and we were requested to do a sharing on the conference theme.

- Friday was mostly filled with meet and greet activities. The next days were filled with going over reports, and not as many topics for discussion or workshops.
- Conference workshops were on Leadership (Helping Delegates be successful in their Areas), KBDM; presentations and topic discussions were on the Membership Survey, 60th anniversary celebrations, How to encourage enthusiasm, Strategies for dealing with dilution of Al-Anon program, and maintaining the balance between the spiritual and business at all levels.
- The conference host was seated with no voice and no vote. This was because it was likely she was going to go on to serve on the Board in the near future.
- They carried out the Traditional Approval of new Board members as a single vote for all the nominees.
- Conference decisions were all formulated into motions, and the wording for the motions was worked out on the spot. I saw benefit in the process that we use, of the Conference being happy to give an indication of how it felt as a guide for the Board. Also the WSC approach of not formulating or voting on motions on the spot but leaving them to an allocated time at the end of the day to give time to consider the wording without pressure.
- Topics for discussion tended to arise out of the discussion of reports, and they did not generally use knowledge based decision making papers to frame topics.
- The agenda went on into the night until about 9pm!
- The cost for visitors was A\$365 for a shared room and A\$585 for a single room (plus the cost of the airfares).

Service structure

- Has nine areas and about 400 groups and 12 Alateen meetings.
- They decided to make the Australink editor a second sustaining trustee.
- Their GSO has five paid workers – most part-time (General Secretary, assistant to Gen Sec, Australink editor, Literature officer, Assistant General Secretary-new), and a nice large office in central Melbourne.

- The Board has no Regional Trustees, and only one out-of-town member. They say they would have more but have a lack of applicants.
- They have limited flexibility in the wording in their service manual (Australian Service Handbook – ASH) around the composition of the Board, and to allow the change they wanted had to spend quite a lot of time at the Conference in discussing the change in wording.
- Their GSO is also incorporated and there was quite a lot of administrative time in changing their incorporation documents. I felt grateful that we did not have to worry about those things in New Zealand.
- They are tending to call guidelines for service positions Purposes and Duties (P&D) documents.

Favourite quotes

- From the Treasurer – Get over yourself and give
- About members ending their term – We have to part now but we will always be friends.

World Service Conference 2012

Peter A – New Zealand WSC representative

The 52nd WSC was held from 15–19 April 2012 at the Stamford Marriott Hotel and Spa in Stamford, Connecticut, just outside New York. They have been holding the conference near New York once every three years to give each group of delegates a chance to visit Stepping Stones once in their three-year term. The theme of the Conference was ***Our Spiritual Journey – we get as we give.***

Interesting aspects of this Conference

- **Emphasis on orientation** – about two hours of first morning. Included was role call with full name, role, home group, conference goals, and conference rules (no side conversations, turn off cell phones, two min at mic etc), voting procedures. The conference rules were reviewed each morning in a humorous way.
- **Motions** – no motions were voted on at this conference except procedural motions (approving reports).
- There was an **AI-Anon meeting** each morning at 6am.
- **Outgoing Delegates sharings** were scattered through the conference.
- Seating was assigned, with **International Representatives** at the back. The only Int Reps were from New Zealand and Mexico. Mexico regularly sends a representative. International Representatives were invited to give a 5–10min talk about themselves and AI-Anon in their country.
- **Electronic voting** was used for the first time and was successful.
- **Skits** were popular and they were part of many of the presentations.
- At the end of each day time was given for voting on any motions and for an **Unanswered Questions/Reflections session**.
- **Conference Goals** – had a slight rewording. There was a presentation/workshop on the Goals as part of the orientation at the start of Conference.

GOAL 1: The spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct as its members presume goodwill.

GOAL 2: Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference and the relationships within the structure

GOAL 3: Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will be able to support and communicate Conference decisions.
- They had a speaker and icebreaker at the opening dinner and two spiritual speakers, plus awarding of certificates to outgoing delegates at the closing dinner.

Conference Agenda

The day before the conference started was filled with a three-hour orientation for new members, meetings of task and thought forces, and Delegates meeting for the Area Highlights session. The Conference formally starts with the opening dinner.

The topics of the presentations, workshops and discussion topics were:

- Electronic literature discussion (three sessions on three different days) – Impact on AISs and LDCs, Impact on WSO, and Impact on structures outside the WSC structures.
- Skill building / shared Leadership workshops – see highlights below.
- Presentation on the difference between AI-Anon the organisation and AI-Anon the fellowship.
- Task force presentation – Reach out to Minority Groups
- Empowering the average AI-Anon member to speak up at meetings when someone else's sharing is not AI-Anon.
- Task force on Conference Structure
- Policy discussion – “Do not refer”
- Thought force on how to utilise the Service Manual
- Open Policy Committee meeting
- Presentation on visits to overseas structure (this year Europe and South America)
- Thought force presentation on Members involved in service work who are unable to effectively fulfil the responsibility of the position.
- Chosen agenda item – Why is AI-Anon not growing?
- Thought force presentation – How changes to the environment outside of AI-Anon may affect our meetings and the fellowship as a whole.

There was a formal closing dinner with spiritual speakers, and the Conference finished on Friday morning with breakfast.

Conference Highlights

Skill building / shared Leadership workshops

The Conference divided into three groups for workshops on:

- Communication – How to deal with difficult situations
- Communication – How to engage audiences using multiple strategies and techniques
- Communication – How to overcome fear and build self-confidence empowering oneself to be a success as a leader / trusted servant.

I particularly enjoyed the last one which was done as a gallery walk, with questions on the wall in the four corners of the room.

Area Highlights

Each delegate has just one minute (timed with a hooter) to talk on their area highlights (successes and concerns). Other conference members are invited to sit in and listen. There is a light-hearted atmosphere during the presentations.

A few points I noted: in Alaska where they have geographical challenges they have a successful teleconference meeting with 20 to 30 attending. There are going to be about 13 TEAM events this year. Many Areas report success from using KBDM tools. One area is using computer-based virtual training for Alateen sponsors. Many delegates report problems with participation in service from group to area level.

Thought and Task forces

I attended the new task force: Tool Kit on Service and Personal Growth. The task force is made up mostly of delegates, and only gets to meet together twice, once at this conference when it is formed, and once at next year's conference prior to presenting their report to the conference. In between they do their work by email and teleconference.

Electronic Literature

There were three sessions to discuss this in the Conference on separate days. The main issues with electronic literature are the possible loss of income, the protection of copyright, and finding an effective distribution method. The reality for the WSO and most AISs and GSOs around the

world is that they make most of their income from literature sales and the advent of electronic literature could result in a substantial loss of income. Ideally the services should be self-supporting by member contributions. Although there were some expressions of fears and protecting the literature income, it was good to see that overall there was a commitment to the primary purpose of helping families, and to move forward with making electronic literature available. Doing it right is important. AA has had an unsuccessful venture into eLiterature.

The whole discussion was interesting as it brought up the issues of money and of the fellowship needing to step up to its responsibility to be self-supporting.

New literature on abuse

The literature committee received a request from a member for a new piece of literature on abuse, especially hidden (emotional and verbal) abuse. The member felt that this was addressed in current literature and there was a deficiency leading to it often taking a long time for members to identify the abuse in their lives. The committee wanted to find the view of the Conference about producing a literature piece on abuse.

The discussion was very interesting and continued over three days.

Many members agreed expressing that they had suffered abuse and had been slow to identify it because it was not adequately addressed in the literature and strongly supported the proposal. Some talked about having to find help in outside literature.

There were also concerns expressed, such as that we already have too much literature, and that focus on the abuse could distract us from our primary purpose which is to recover from the effects. Another concern was that we were not given the proposal in the form of a KBDM paper although it was also pointed out that the presentation was just following the form of literature proposals in past Conferences.

The Conference struggled to find unanimity around this issue. In the end it was decided to bring it back to Conference next year with a knowledge based paper to support the discussion.

Trial of new plan for representation at the WSC

This was a surprise announcement from the WSO. For years the Conference has been discussing participation, with issues like some Areas wishing to divide and some groups wishing to join Areas across state boundaries. The WSO has decided to start a trial which will last at least 6 years to allow each Area to make any changes that work for them that do not affect policy (as in the policy section of the Service Manual). So for example they can divide into as many smaller Areas as they like and send as many Delegates to Conference as they like. But any extra Delegates during the trial period must be paid for by the Area and will attend Conference with no voice and no vote. The Conference discussion on the plan was on clarifying the “rules” of the trial, and on members coming up with some ideas that they might consider. I think many were in shock from the surprise and it will take a while for the implications to sink in.

Visit to Stepping Stones

We boarded five buses (two got lost on the way) for the about one hour drive to Stepping Stones. There is a trust (not part of AA or Al-Anon) that looks after the place. We were asked not to pick up anything, not even a pebble as a souvenir. No photographs are allowed inside the house except in the kitchen. In the kitchen they have the table from the old house that Bill sat at with Ebby, when Ebby first explained the solution. On the hill above the house is Bill’s studio and it is popular to take a picture sitting in his chair at his desk.

Diversity presentation

- The average Al-Anon is a 57 year old white female.
- “Hidden diversity” – when someone looks like us but are not like us eg, different religious or political beliefs or sexual orientation.
- Barriers to embracing diversity – unwillingness to be uncomfortable
- Suggested approach – treat others as just one of us – don’t ignore them or overwhelm them.

Literature and public outreach

- New poster design competition. See WSO web site.
- Newly revised “Best of Public Outreach” is on the members website and members are encouraged to use these resources for public outreach. It contains Word documents and sample scripts to use in various PO activities.
- *How Al-Anon Works* soft cover book for \$5 trial has been extended for another year. The purpose of the trial is to see if groups will support giving it to newcomers like a Big Book. At present it is not being made available in other languages or to other GSOs.
- A new look to all pamphlet design was demonstrated (see photo).
- The *Al-Anon faces Alcoholism* magazine is the biggest membership-based PO activity.
- There are two new books underway. *Using the Traditions in our Relationships* will be released in time for the 2013 International Convention in Vancouver. *Legacies workbook* based on the Legacies blogs is also under development.

Bullet points

- There are about 15,700 Al-Anon meetings in the USA/Canada, and about 8,000 in the rest of the world.
- The Policy Committee currently has a Task Force to clarify policy wording for the spiritual principles behind restrictions to dual member service. I am pleased about this because I know that I have trouble explaining why there are these restrictions.
- The Board of Trustees is working on finding a clear and concise description of what Al-Anon recovery is. They are working with professionals at present before passing it on to the fellowship.
- Redesigned contributions envelopes – see samples I brought back.
- The WSO is starting to send Group newsletters by email, and Areas are able to update the WSO group information online.
- The 2013 International Convention in Vancouver will be preceded by a day of service-related events.
- The open policy committee meeting discussed ways a Delegate or the membership can bring topics to the Conference. They listed the ways this can be done, but agreed that the processes are not clearly described in one area, and will look to do this.
- The decision to not let other countries create their own literature was made by the IAGSM.
- One of the Delegates reported they have a whole day to present the Conference report to their assembly.

Visit to GSO

The new Delegates were taken to GSO for a visit, to see the office, the literature and meet the volunteers.

Spiritual meeting Sunday morning

The spiritual meeting was chaired by John B.

Favourite Quotes from 2012 WSC

The spiritual principle of anonymity is the acceptance that each one of us has the same spiritual potential

We all have the best for Al-Anon in mind but don't always have the same idea about how to get there

Introduce myself as "I am a member of Al-Anon Family Groups"

Part of existence in a culture of trust is trusting that if I have a concern then someone has had it before me and it has been fully discussed in a decision I was not part of

KBDM is a tool for helping us reach an informed group conscience

Do Al-Anons really have birthdays? After all you slip every day!

I can never give Al-Anon as much as I have gotten – because I got me

It is easy to distinguish God's will from mine – my will hurts, God's doesn't

Just when I think things are good – they get better

I keep depositing in the spiritual bank account

I don't know what is coming next but I am sure it will be exciting

Let him drink in peace – about the alcoholic in our life

Service in Al-Anon has prepared me for life.

Every happening in life is spiritual. I only have to look for God in every situation

There is good and bad news in Al-Anon. The good news is we get to have all our feelings, and the bad news is we get to have all our feelings.

There is no difference between good business practice and good business practice – they are the same – Lois

I learned that I have opinions – they are not always right and they are not always wrong

I looked great on the outside and was dying on the inside

I found when I gave others what I wanted for myself I became a better wife and mother

In giving up myself I found myself

Committee Reports

Conference Report

Joan G, Conference Chair

Welcome to Conference 2012

We hope you enjoy the new-look conference folder and look forward to your comments on the evaluation sheet about it. We also have put a larger questionnaire in to the Evaluation sheet and thank you in advance for filling it out for us. This helps us plan better for next year.

This year it is my pleasure to be working with an excellent team of willing helpers again this year. It has made conference so much more enjoyable to plan and deliver knowing I've got a wonderful group of people helping out. This is the second conference for our host and he will be doing his usual valuable job in the background. We have a new scribe coordinator who will make sure that everything we say and do will be recorded accurately for the Conference Summary. Our transport organiser, who will have brought you here from the airport or bus station and will make sure you get to the right place to get home again on Sunday. We must not forget the scribes, the drivers and the staff at GSO, all who have worked hard to make Conference happen.

All these people have worked hard to make your stay enjoyable and comfortable, and along with the Board we have worked to present a programme that covers the requests made from the previous year. Welcome to Abundance – Let it begin with me.

Editorial Committee Report

Esta S

Working outside the Board has its good and bad points. Good points: less cost for AI-Anon, work at my own pace. Bad points: You don't get to meet Board Members.

I've had great support from GSO and the Editorial Committee, Helen, Melda, Robin and my home group, Friday Lunchtime AFG with good suggestions and proof reading each month.

Sharings from New Zealand are not as abundant as last year, although there are a few faithful's who regularly help out. We will continue to try the month by area number for the time being, but it is slow going. It was suggested the editor contact areas two months before their suggested sharings (by sending a flyer through the messenger)

Revamping the Messenger was in October 2010, with the Fantail and updated cover, it's up with the times and I don't think we need another upgrade yet.

It now has the Step, Tradition and Concept in each issue and I have found columns at last, so that could make it more interesting. Messengers posted out each month are approx. 150 plus 13 emails, not the lowest or highest. The Forum is so popular, possibly because it is in colour, plus 33 pages compared to our 12, with experiences, strength and hope in their sharings. Cost wise we couldn't afford this, but perhaps by following their format it would be a good idea.

Not having had a Board Member die before, I was not ready for the death of two such members, and didn't read the CN-14 guidelines quickly enough. I upset a few people by not following the correct procedure, for this I apologise. A lesson well learned, as I know it will not happen again. This is something I can pass on to future Editors.

I'm grateful to have had the chance to grow in service, as I now apply the Steps, Traditions and Concepts to my everyday life, and ask my HP to guide me each day. My three year term is up in August, I would encourage anyone with computer skills and the time to put into the Messenger to go for it.

If no-one applies for the position I would be happy and willing to continue..

TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) Event Report

Marlene G

Greymouth

12-13 November 2011

Area Nine accepted an invitation to host the first TEAM event in New Zealand. This was run in conjunction with their weekend Assembly. An invitation was forwarded to other areas. A hall big enough to cater for extras was hired. This event in fact could have easily fitted into their normal Assembly meeting place. Making the cost of the event much cheaper. The area didn't have any difficulties catering for the needs of the TEAM presenters. Area Nine allotted five hours for the presentation. Members found this event to be informative and would consider hosting another Team Event should they have the opportunity. The area is extremely proud of their successful area Meetings and expressed disappointed that not all Board members attended the evening of fun. The Fun time is considered the glue that has brought and bound the area together as a solid unit and an important part of our recovery.

Arnold H

Following on from Conference 2011 where approval was given to trial the new format TEAM for a three year period, instead of having the RSS (Regional Service Seminars) the first event was held alongside Area Nine's normal assembly. This is a key idea of TEAM to hold it when the area is meeting rather than having separate events.

One key idea of TEAM events is that the hosting area decides what they would like to hear from the Board or any subject matter and together those on the Board who are to attend and members from the respective area get together to plan the programme. This is another key idea behind this format so for those that are considering hosting a TEAM event consider what you want to hear or have delivered by canvassing your members.

The Treasurer and national Alateen coordinator and I attended this event in Greymouth. From some general themes put out by Area Nine we developed a presentation to fit a six hour window of time. Essentially we had from 9.00am to 3.00 pm to deliver the material requested, with normal tea and lunch breaks.

We showed slideshows of our office in Auckland, IAGSM Conference 2010 and the World Service Office in Virginia Beach. We had sessions on Spiritual Giving and the Traditions and Concepts. As usual we ran out of time.

An evaluation was filled out by all participants. From this we can say the day was a success. Each TEAM event will change as the Board representatives are likely to change depending where in New Zealand the events are held. As it is a new concept we three felt it might be appropriate to maybe offer subject matter for areas to get ideas from as well as meeting their respective wishes.

We as members of the General Services Board look forward to the next TEAM event, it is up to you at area level to request one.

Literature Committee Report

John B

The Literature Committee's major achievement this year has been the re-writing and updating of the Tradition Seven pamphlet to reflect the requirements of Al-Anon New Zealand. This was a larger project than first realised, but with the help of five others, the Tradition Seven pamphlet was re-written, with new artwork and is now available from NZGSO.

This demonstrated to me the value of the Literature Committee in working together, and the talents that we have in Al-Anon that can be tapped to enhance what we are able to do for Al-Anon

Currently a co-opted member of the Literature Committee is working with Rose A on updating the Alateen Guidelines.

We are at present waiting for a response from WSO over the possibility of Al-Anon New Zealand publishing its own literature. If we have a positive response there will be more work to do on the cost of publication and demand.

Convention Report

Al-Anon Convention Committee

49th AA Convention with Al-Anon participation

Silverstream Retreat

19–21 January 2012

In general the Convention was very successful and we received a lot of positive feedback from the members who attended.

There was a good working relationship with the AA Convention Committee and the Chair attended all but two meetings and a member of the committee attended one.

The AA committee experienced some initial difficulties and at the second meeting there was only the Chair and the Al-Anon Committee Chair; after that the Committee was boosted with more members. Before the Committee met a decision had already been made to use the Silverstream Retreat. This decision caused some initial dissension. The venue however proved to be successful and at the final meeting of the AA Convention Committee general satisfaction was expressed with the venue, good feedback having been received from its own members and overseas visitors.

Al-Anon was initially allocated a room within the main venue, but this was considered not to be satisfactory. A further seminar room was allocated to us, close to the main venue and this proved to be satisfactory. We were once again backed onto the kitchen, but generally this caused limited problems. The seminar room had 65 chairs, it was often full and on a number of occasions there were members standing.

The Al-Anon Programme was based on our latest book, "Many Voices One Journey", which provided abundant material for our programme. Attached is a copy of the programme.

Liz a member of our committee, and an experienced member spoke at the shared meeting on the Saturday night and was well received.

The AA programme on the Sunday did not make provision for a shared AA and Al-Anon meeting. The AA Committee were requested to continue having a shared meeting, which has happened at least in the last five conventions and in Wellington the previous two. The AA Committee were not prepared to move on this, though we made submissions to have this included in the programme, based on history and were advised it was not in the AA Convention Guidelines. It was suggested by

the AA Board member that we could have our own shared meeting with AA participation. We went ahead with this meeting with Paula chairing. It was remarkably successful and a moving experience for both the AI-Anon and AA members, we had a full room. A number of very experienced members of AA expressed the sentiment to the AA Committee that such a meeting should be included in future conventions. This was also brought up with AA Convention Committee at their final meeting, but again it was made clear that the AA Convention Guidelines did not allow this to happen. The Convention broke even; any donation from AA is likely to be minimal.

The AI-Anon Convention Committee were chaired by the Central Regional Board member, a secretary, treasurer, public outreach officer, and literature people on the day and provision of rosettes. In addition, a member did the artwork and the design for the programme. The Committee met regularly prior to the Convention, sharing a meal, followed by a meeting. I would make the following observations from my experience with this convention:

It would be good to have a shared meeting with AA, to continue the practise of previous conventions. If this is not possible AI-Anon arranges a shared meeting.

It was decided after the first meeting to record all the AI-Anon meetings as allowed in GN3 Guidelines for AI-Anon, Alateen participation in AA Conventions. Each meeting was briefed beforehand that the entire meeting was to be recorded, with supporting notices placed around the room. As well members who wished to share could ask for their sharing to be removed from the final recording. One person asked for this done. The recordings consist of 6 CDs, which could possibly be edited at a later date, down to say one or two CD's.

It was noticeable at all the AI-Anon meetings there was good attendance of AA members, a number identified as dual members. There were also a number of Australian AI-Anon members attending.

We possibly had too much literature; perhaps we could simplify the number of books for sale. A member of our Committee has also suggested that there only be one copy of each item be made available for "display only" and orders be taken (delivery costs to be paid by the purchaser). Four boxes of literature, plus the pamphlet stand, cost of return postage \$96.00. Book sales were \$454.60. There were difficulties with the location of the literature table but this was rectified by Helen, but the sales were disappointing.

National Alateen Coordinator Report

Rose A

After 2011 Conference approved the changes to Alateen, work has and is being carried out to update Alateen guidelines. The approved changes included adopting the term Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) and I can see this information has made its way to the areas via the Area Delegate which is wonderful. Some people are still a little unclear about the use of this new term, so it may be that we spend a little time in our area explaining it. Everyone who works with Alateen needs to be approved by their home group and their area using the Minimum Behaviour and Safety Requirements, we then become AMIAS. And as AMIAS we can do many different services for Alateen including being an Alateen Group Sponsor. The Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual Alateen Policy section is important to know and also the NZ Service Guidelines KN17 pink Alateen section has been updated, it has excellent resources for Al-Anon and Alateen members. I highly recommend reading these 'pinks', there are five of them.

There is currently one Alateen group, it is in Auckland. Last year I was lucky and privileged to attend their meeting. My thanks to the group for letting me come along and share. I felt yes, Alateen is Al-Anon. My experience was like visiting any group where the format and literature and sharing of experience, strength and hope gave me a sense of belonging and hope.

We have heard from the World Service Office that we can begin the process of setting up an online Alateen chat meeting. This will take a bit of time to get going and I know some of us are keen to get a move on with it, but if we can be patient and be helpful by supporting the initiative by volunteering our services. We need group sponsors who are approved AMIAS.

I will discuss the thinking behind growing Alateen. The focus has been on updating terminology and guidelines. We are focussing on the foundations; structures that last and can bear the load have sound foundations. This is almost completed. We are growing accustomed to the guideline and terminology change which takes time. A good focus now would be on personnel. We the Al-Anon members are Alateens' most abundant resource. We are encouraged to "carry this message to others" and we can do this in service. Committing and becoming an AMIAS is an important development to grow Alateen. And we need area Alateen Coordinators to foster Alateen.

Why do we want to grow Alateen? Alateen is Al-Anon, the young people of our country are owed the opportunity to have recovery as much as we are. When anyone anywhere reaches out for help let the hand of Alateen always be there and let it begin with me.

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 2012’ 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.

Board appointments

Board Chairperson	Paula B
Alternate Board Chair	Marlene G
2013 AA Convention Committee Chairperson	Paula B
Archivist (non Board)	Vacant
National Public Outreach Coordinator	Vacant
National Alateen Coordinator	John B
Editorial Chairperson (non Board)	Esta S
General Secretary	Helen A
Literature Chairperson	John B
Treasurer	Linda H
Executive/Budget Chairperson	Ruth
Northern Regional Board member	Paula B
Central Regional Board member	Vacant
Southern Regional Board member	Marlene G
International Al-Anon GSM Delegate's	Arnold H & Paula B
Conference Chair	Joan G
Website Oversight	Arnold H

Conference 2013

6,7,8,9 June 2013

The Friary, 50 Hillsborough Drive, Hillsborough, Auckland

Conference Theme 2013

Al-Anon a Household name.

AA–Al-Anon Convention 2013

18–20 January 2013

Kings College, Golf Road, Otahuhu, Auckland

Theme – Conscious Contact

Conference Goal for 2012-2013

There is no standing still.

Motions, decisions and trials from Conference 2012

Motions:

1. That the Chairperson of the Executive/Budget committee be seated at the New Zealand Al-Anon Conference permanently with voice and no vote. **Carried**
2. That the draft financial reports for 2012 be accepted. **Carried**
3. That the draft annual budget for 2013 be accepted. **Carried**

Decisions:

Decision: That the trial of delegates choosing their preferred panel/committee to assist on be carried on for another two years.

Decision: That a taskforce be formed to investigate the 0508 number being diverted from GSO to phones in the Area that the call came from.

Decision: Research and present a paper to next conference with regard to appropriate acknowledgement of the death of Al-Anon members and personal acknowledgements. Area Seven Delegate, Area Eight Delegate, General Secretary, Central RBM, Southern RBM.

Trials:

<i>Taskforce</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>Literature</i>	<i>Alateen</i>
Telephone access	Exec Budget Chair	Area Eight Delegate	Area Five Delegate
Exec/Budget Chair			Area Eight Delegate
Area Four Delegate			Area Three Delegate
Area Six Delegate			Area Six Delegate

Conference	Trial	Review Date
2008	2008 Vision planning over next three years	2013
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. The trial of delegates choosing their preferred panel/committee to assist on be carried on for another two years.	2014
2011	TEAM Events instead of RSS for three years	2015
2012	Task force to investigate the 0508 and 12 step calls to GSO being forwarded to the region the call it originates from. The calls to go to a cell phone in that area to be answered on a roster basis. Investigate. Quotes, costs, options/feasibility of the project. Report back to Conference 2013. Task Force members. Panel – Exec Budget Chair, Area Four Delegate, Area Six Delegate	2013

Conference Members 2012

Board Members

Alateen Coordinator Board Member	Rose A (outgoing)	3rd Year 3rd Year 2nd Term
Board Member Treasurer WSC Representative	Peter A (outgoing)	3rd Year 2nd Term 1st Year 2nd Term
General Secretary	Helen A	
Northern Regional Board Member IAGSM Delegate	Paula B	2nd Year 2nd Term 1st Year 1st Term
Central Regional Board Member Literature Committee Chair	John B	3rd Year 1st Term 1st Year 1st Term
Board Chairperson IAGSM Delegate Board Member	Arnold H	2nd Year 2nd Year 2nd Term 3rd Year 2nd Term
Southern Regional Board Member	Marlene G	1st Year 1st Term
Conference Chairperson Board Member	Joan G	1st Year 2nd Term 3rd Year 1st Term
Executive/Budget Committee Chairperson (voice no vote)	Ruth	1st Year 1st Term Ongoing
National Public Outreach	Position Vacant	
Editorial Committee (non Board)	Esta S	3rd Year 1st Term

Area Delegates

Area One	Colleen D	1st Year 1st Term
Area Two	Stephanie G (outgoing)	3rd Year 1st Term
Area Three	Lynne C	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Four	Gordon P	1st Year 2nd Term
Area Five	Justine M	1st Year 1st Term
Area Six	Suzanne F	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Seven	Kirsten W (outgoing)	3rd Year 1st Term
Area Eight	Chris H	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Nine	Evelyn D	1st Year 1st Term

2011 Panels

Panel 34 (?) 3rd Year (2010)?	Panel 35 (Editorial) 2nd Year (2011)	Panel 36 (Literature) 1st Year 2012
Area Seven	Area Three	Area One
Area Two	Area Eight	Area Four
Area Five	Area Six	Area Nine

Al-Anon Declaration

Let it begin with me.

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