



New Zealand Al-Anon Conference 2013
6–9 June

SUMMARY



Al-Anon a household name

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

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference,

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Summary

Welcome from the Board Chairperson

Paula B

Over the next three days let's remember that we are here to lead the fellowship of NZ Al-Anon Family Groups as we give of ourselves and get from others. It is not about our individual agendas; it is about the group conscience as guided by our Higher Power.

A special welcome to Colleen D, Area One delegate; Teresa H, Area Two delegate; Margaret J, Area Four delegate; Esta S, Area Five delegate; Coralie N, Area Seven Observer; Sally-Ann M, National Public Outreach Co-ordinator.

We want you all to succeed in your service roles; this is the forum where all members' voices will be heard through their delegates.

Remember if you don't know or understand – reach out, ask – we will help you.

On behalf of the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board it's my honour and privilege to welcome you the 43rd NZ Al-Anon Conference. "Al-Anon a household name".

Voting at Conference 2013

8 Delegates present to vote.

The Following Board members were drawn by ballot to vote.

Sally-Ann M / Linda H / Marlene G

Transformation of GSO

Introduction

At the September 2012 meeting of the Board, concerns were expressed by the Board Members with the current financial position of GSO, particularly as the prudent reserve had reduced to \$17,000, where in the past it had been as high as \$35,000. The Board considered its options and decided it was time to review all the activities of GSO. A decision was made to set up a Task Force to investigate the Board's options.

The vision of the Task Force:

- Re-build our prudent reserve
- Increase Al-Anon's reserves by \$5000 in the first year
- We live within our financial means
- Office structure meets the current needs of the fellowship
- A communication system that meets the current needs of the fellowship.

The Task Force members: Board members: John B (Literature Committee Chair), Joan G (Conf Chair), Ruth (Exec Chair), Linda H (Treasurer) and Marlene G (SRBM), co-opted member Rana S. The thrust for the Task Force was to come up with options to address the lack of income and increase the ample reserve of GSO and possible options for consideration raised by the Board and to report back to the Board meeting on the 2 December 2012.

The Task Force's paper and recommendations are attached.

Options considered by the Board

The recommendations can be summarised as:

1. Not to close GSO
2. The GSO office remain in rented premises
3. Continue with literature sales
4. Messenger to continue.
5. Mail be sent electronically where possible
6. Transform GSO to a different employment model:
 - General Secretary to become a voluntary role
 - A more highly skilled Office Manager be employed

Matters for the further consideration by the Board:

- IAGSM representation – reduction to one Board member attending, or continue as we are.
- Decentralised Telephone system

Board's decision

On 2 December 2013 the Board considered the recommendations of the Task Force and made the following decisions:

- Not to close GSO
- The GSO office remain in rented premises
- Continue with literature sales
- Messenger to continue
- Mail be sent electronically where possible
- An more highly skilled Office Manager be employed.

Staff

Guiding principles

"It is important that all our staff be treated fairly. As in management of any business, the prime consideration is getting the job done well"... "By our sustained willingness to practice spiritual principles in all our affairs we can realise these ideals." (*Footnotes: Concept 11, Al-Anon Alateen Manual at p206*). In addition to these guiding principles, the Board also sought legal advice.

Implementation

As a result of the Board's decision to re-structure GSO, a new position of Office Manager was created. This position replaced the existing positions of General Secretary and the office assistant. As a result, the positions for the existing employees were disestablished and these employees were effected staff in terms of their employment contracts. The Board employed an HR consultant to assist with this process; the effected staff were consulted and given the opportunity to make submissions to the Board. EAP counselling also was offered to the effected staff. No formal submissions were received from the effected staff members and the Board confirmed its decision to re-structure GSO. The Board Chair managed this process with the assistance of our HR consultant.

Employment of Office Manager

The position of Office Manager was advertised online on 'Seek' and in the fellowship, there was interest from a number of very good candidates. The applicants were short-listed and interviewed by the Board Chair, Exec Chair and our HR consultant and Julie Mitchell was appointed to the position.

Summary

The Board after careful consideration made a decision to review GSO because of its concern with the financial situation that AI-Anon New Zealand was experiencing with reduction in its reserves. The Board sought input from former Board members and the options were considered by the Task Force set up by the Board. The decisions were made in the best interest of AI-Anon New Zealand, which has resulted in a reduction of staff and reduced hours in GSO. However the Board has to live within the budget and it is dependent on contributions from the membership and literature sales for its income and the Board is satisfied that this is the best option for AI-Anon New Zealand at this time. The Board will continue to actively monitor the performance of GSO and we may need to make further changes in the future to take care of the needs of AI-Anon New Zealand.

Summary

It was found that the financial situation at NZGSO was going backwards. A task force was charged with finding solutions to transforming GSO. We needed to address the lack of income, we consulted extensively with previous staff and took expert legal advice.

The Office Manager role was looked at very carefully. In order to keep up with technology, we needed someone with a greater range of skills and abilities. It was felt that this would be easier if the General Secretary and the Office Manager role were separated. Consequently, the office staff roles were made redundant and the General Secretary role was separated from the Office Manager's role and made voluntary.

The General Services office needs to meet the needs of the fellowship.

The Board take steps to be prudent with money; all incoming Board members to Board meetings in Auckland are billeted by other Board members to save money.

We need the email addresses for all the groups so we can communicate more effectively. Even if the Group Rep does not have an email, they can go to the local library to access emails.

The photocopier was replaced this year. The old one had cost over \$2,000 in repairs and was frequently breaking down. A new copier more suited to the needs of the office was purchased for \$685.00 and large runs of work are outsourced.

People found the minus sign on the accounts unsettling and appreciation is expressed for the improvement and that the Board is seen to be doing something about the situation.

Fundraising ideas from Areas

- Cooperating with AA in functions.
- AA functions in Nelson where the AI-Anons provided food, cheese rolls made quite a lot of money.
- AI-Anon cook book was suggested.
- Pot luck meals with GRs at someone's house brings people together.
- People want to feel included.

Abbreviations

ACOA	Adult Child of an Alcoholic (as a group name followed by AFG)
AIS	AI-Anon Information Service
AMIAS	AI-Anon Member in Alateen Service.
CAL	Conference Approved Literature
CPC	Co-operating with the Professional Community
DR	District Representative
GR	Group Representative
GSB	NZ AI-Anon General Service Board
GSO	NZ AI-Anon General Service Office
IAGSM	International AI-Anon General Services Meeting
ISR	Information Service Representative
NZAGS	NZ AI-Anon General Services
PO	Public Outreach
RBM	Regional Board Member
RSS	Regional Service Seminar
TEAM	Together Empowering AI-Anon Members
WSC	World Service Conference
WSO	World Service Office
WSCR	World Service Conference Representative

Visit to GSO

New Delegates were taken for a visit to GSO so they could see the office, meet volunteers and purchase literature.

Spiritual meeting

Sunday the Spiritual meeting was chaired by Chris W. The topic was courtesy based on the reading from ODAT *pg 159*.

Summary

Delegates' Meeting

Area Six Delegate Chair

1. Past Delegates were asked if they found it useful to have a buddy at Conference. There was a definite yes for two people, one shared the first year it worked and the second year not. Another shared they wanted it to happen but it didn't. The consensus was in favour of the gathering yesterday beginning the process of meeting with their buddies. Hands up all around.

2. Was it useful having a buddy or someone to phone after Conference? Again a definite yes. One person shared how empowering it was talking regularly with another Delegate. Another to their Service Sponsor, Board Members, Regional Board Members, Past Delegates. One person said she could have done better. And a new Delegate emailed another new Delegate before coming to Conference. She said that felt good putting a face to a name.

3. All endorsed receiving information from the Conference Chair on a regular basis, strengthened the journey before arrival.

4. It was suggested that Delegates gather through the year when the opportunity arose. Someone suggested that those who can meet at the Dunedin Convention do so. There was an air of anticipation and possibility. The Area Five Delegate has willingly offered to do the communication via email. Watch this space! A light bulb moment for one acknowledging the presence of being like minded. The Area Eight Delegate acknowledged our ability as leaders. Perhaps even invite some Australian Delegates to the 'Gathering' was suggested.

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

We felt that it was great! It was informal and we were free to speak openly. It was also comforting to meet the new Delegates.

6. How do we best support our Delegates' in their role and in presenting their reports?

We feel supported because of the Delegates' meeting before Conference. Becoming familiar with your buddy is calming and reassuring.

7. What out of the box/left field light bulb have we had about our Delegates' meeting?

Understanding that the buddy system went both ways was enlightening.

Being able to pass on to my Area and the new Delegate the idea of having Group Rep meetings before Area meetings. The Area Delegates that do it, do it well.

8. Is there any matter that we need to present formally to Conference tomorrow?

To create a Delegates' meeting throughout the year.

Together we can make it.

Delegates can get together before Conference, at TEAM events, Ric's visit, Serenity Weekends, AA conventions.

Billet each other or share accommodation costs.

Make a Group e-mail and keep in touch regularly.

Esta S will make the group email up and get in touch with everyone.

Vision Planning Trial Review – Planning for Abundance

Joan G

Q1 What do we know about our members' or prospective members' needs that is relevant to this discussion?

Background/History: One of the expressions heard around Al-Anon is; “we don't have enough”. We are all experts in judging what is lacking or missing from our meetings and areas and our lives. In 2009 NZ Al-Anon Conference held 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 and 2011 Conference Summaries for further information Workshops were held in 2011 and 2012 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.

We concluded what was lacking was:

People being in service too long and feeling they have to ‘stick it out’ and often not 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.

Q2 What do we know about the resources and our vision for the organisation (or fellowship) that is relevant to this discussion?

Relevance: Planning for abundance workshops were held in 2011 and then followed up in 2012. Each Conference delegate could outline an area in their lives or their location where abundance was needed. There was a planning sheet in the Conference brochure to work from along with an assessment tool to measure success.

Q3 What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion?

Context: Participants were asked to share what they did in their area to increase abundance of all kinds, depending on what they perceived as lacking in their area. They reported they had success in many ways.

What happened was, people got excited, there was lots more goodwill in the fellowship. There were longer area meetings. One group put out more chairs and got more people. Some groups gave more money to GSO. There was more love in the meetings.

Q4 What are the ethical implications of our choices?

In other words: Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles in the Legacies?

The outcomes were in keeping with our spiritual principals and legacies, the results were evident from the reports back to Conference below.

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

Q5 What do we wish we knew, but don't?

What information is missing that would be relevant to the discussion? Do we need to delay the decision until we have the extra information?

How are the Conference delegates coping with problems such as:

- Groups in survival mode
- Rigid ideas
- Doing it My way
- Timekeeping waiting for.....to arrive before we start the meeting.
- Arriving late, leaving early
- No flexibility
- Keen newcomers – not used
- Area committee in trouble

Is our original objective being met?

- 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

How embedded is our commitment to preparing for and attracting Abundance and using the tools to make our groups and areas more abundant in all ways?

Changes to thinking and behavior take time, often ideas, workshops and learning needs to be repeated over and over again before the thinking or behavior of our areas and groups have changed. Planning for abundance takes time, repetition and new skills learned or shared.

Recommendation:

Motion: That a workshop on Abundance be held at each Conference for the next five years, focusing on, attracting people into service, attracting people to meetings, attracting more money, more love and support in the fellowship. Working together towards making AI-Anon a Household name.

Summary

2008 Trial KBDM – Vision planning over three years

- Plan for abundance workshop at least once a year.
- Where will AI-Anon be in 2034?
- Original vision an outcome to keep momentum going.
- Clear roles, enthusiasm, advertising, training.
- Support and checking in.
- Recognition and reward – wherever groups think possible.
- Abundance discussed in its various forms, generally with positivity.

Motion

That a workshop on Abundance be held at each Conference for next five years focusing on attracting people into service, attracting people into meetings, attracting more money, more love and support in the fellowship. Working together towards making AI-Anon a household name.

Carried

Task Force – KBDM report on national phone system

Ruth (Exec Chair)

Panel

Area Four delegate, Area Six delegate, Executive Chair, and Central RBM.

Background

Currently all 0508 Twelfth step calls (free public outreach phone calls) go to the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office in Auckland.

No staff members at the World Service Office and our New Zealand General Service Office get paid for answering these calls (see attached 2010-2013 Al-Anon Service Manual pp31-32 *"In keeping with Tradition Eight, WSO paid staff do not do Twelfth Step work. The WSO employees who answer the WSO toll-free meeting line will give the location and time for the group's meeting, as well as the contact first name and telephone number if the caller wants more information."*

In New Zealand callers are given contact details for a local group throughout the country and some Twelfth Step help if callers are upset or want more details. This is servicing the country well but we could improve this service.

It is possible to send 0508 calls to a phone closer to the caller eg a Wellington or Christchurch caller gets a local Al-Anon member. The advantage is that the Al-Anon member knows the geography, groups and local community better.

Calls can be answered in the weekend, after hours or in a more flexible way. Calls can be redirected to mobiles or other landlines.

All mobiles would be answered with, "hello Al-Anon".

There are four options:

- 1 Buying a prepay mobile phone for every Area (9 mobile phones) about \$79 each
- 2 Option 1 and spending money to improve the service by diverting calls an extra \$5 per month (this will only give three diverts not nine)
- 3 Option 1 and using a monthly plan on mobiles rather than just pre-pay \$801 plus GST set up fee.
- 4 Option 1 and setting up a fully professional diverting system \$801 plus GST and then \$115 to \$196 per month to cover calls.

This panel didn't make any decisions. The technology options seem to increase a lot and there are a lot of technical issues that are hard understand. The costs were done by the Transforming GSO Taskforce. There may be better options available. This sheet is mainly to compare costs. Costs come from Telecom. Vodafone, World Exchange Net, Compass and 2degrees do not provide this service at this time.

Areas

Areas would need to decide who answers the mobile phone. They can continue to use their Area Public Outreach phone number or cancel the monthly fee. Areas would be responsible for any expenses on returning calls. Area Public Outreach calls could be diverted to the mobile if that suited. Some areas will do things very differently from others.

How important is it?

It is very important that callers talk to someone when they call. The idea of phoning people back or having callers wait to be contacted is not good. The 0508 number has been available for a long time and has been advertised a lot. Increasing this service links in with the Al-Anon Declaration "when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon or Alateen always be there and let it begin with me"

Other ideas

We could have mobile numbers listed on the web site eg 928 3001 for Area One and 928 3009 for Area Nine. This way we don't need to pay for a diversion.

The advantage is keeping and using our one 0508 number rather than several mobile numbers.

When 0508 calls aren't answered callers leave a message and this is responded to the next time NZ AI-Anon is open. The longest delay would be 5 days later because the office is open three days a week.

Recommendation

At a minimum I suggest each area receives a prepay mobile phone which may only be \$79 each.

*Summary***Task Force KBDM report on national phone system**

- Four possible options were given to everybody before Conference. All four options had a cost and so an option with no cost was preferred. Phone options had different features so some would cost more than others and there were a lot of unknowns. Not sure how many calls would need to be returned or how many calls would come in, whether they would be mobile calls or local calls. Hard to work out service levels as well because some Areas use their phone as a message service rather than a direct line to a member. After a lot of discussion a new option with no cost arose by adding phone numbers to the New Zealand website.
- Areas are able to buy mobile phones if they want. Some Areas will find this cheaper than paying a monthly fee to continue a monthly land line.
- Some Areas are having fewer and fewer phone calls a month. A lot of newcomers are using the website.
- Answerphone messages at GSO will be checked between Thursday night and Tuesday morning when we have a list of phone numbers from the fellowship to refer newcomers.
- Phone numbers that are currently used for public outreach were put on a white board and followed up. They will be put on the website after talking to whom the numbers belong.

Motion

That Area phone numbers be put on the New Zealand AI-Anon website and that 0508 calls be referred to the Area phone numbers on the website. **Carried**

Annual Accounts, Budget and Reserve Fund

Linda H, Treasurer

I wish the fellowship to be fully informed, so that there is no mystery as to where NZ Al-Anon money comes from, where it goes to and why. Please obtain a copy of the NZ Al-Anon Seventh Tradition Pamphlet SN-21, borrow the books listed in the references for research below, read the suggested pages and come up with some answers to the questions asked in the paper on page 2 onwards. Arrive at the Conference prepared to join in a discussion on all the ins and outs of the money -go -round.

Abbreviations used in this paper:

Al-Anon: Al-Anon and Alateen
Board: Board of Trustees
Conference: New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference
Executive/Budget Committee: Exec/Budget
GR: Group Representative
IAGSM: International Al-Anon General Services Meeting
NZ: New Zealand
NZGSO: GSO:New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office
Seventh Tradition Pamphlet: Pamphlet
USA: United States of America
WSO: World Service Office

Refer to The NZ Handbook pages 6-9, for Abbreviations and Definitions of Terms used in Al-Anon.

On page 3 of the NZ handbook there is a **Chart of the Al-Anon Structure in NZ.**

Please note that at the present time there are no Districts in NZ, nor is there an Information Service. Please disregard any information in the NZ Handbook and in the Al-Anon- Alateen Service Manual on these.

Important considerations:

Tradition Seven: Every group ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions.

Concept One: The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon World services belongs to the Al-Anon Groups.

Concept Twelve: The General Warranties:

Reference Manual page 263:

The spiritual foundation of Al-Anon's world services is contained in the General Warranties of the Conference, Article 12 of the Charter.

In order that the Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power, the General Warranties of the Conference read "In all its proceedings the World Service Conference of Al-Anon shall observe the spirit of the Traditions".

Warranty one: that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve be it's prudent financial principle: **Dictionary Definitions:**

Prudent: Acting with or showing care and thought for the future.

Ample: Enough or more than enough; plentiful.

i.e. : Al-Anon is a non- profit organization so the yearly expenditure should equal the yearly income, with some reserve in the bank to protect Al-Anon. The Reserve is to ensure that Al-Anon is able to pay the bills and to keep Al-Anon within the law, and not lead it into difficulties.

Ideally over one financial year, **the expenditure would equal the income** and the Reserve would not get touched.

However over one financial year, when **the expenditure is more than the income**, it is necessary to dip into the Reserve. (This is what happened in 2012). Then when over one financial year, **the expenditure is less than the income**, money can then be put back into the Reserve. This is what needs to happen in future.

From the NZ Al-Anon Strategic Plan:

Our purpose (What we do) is:

- Our purpose is to help friends and families of alcoholics.
We can only fulfill our purpose if we are prudent, have an ample reserve, and budget towards Public Outreach.

We can do this by:

- Having Healthy Groups, and by supporting and Strengthening our Service Structure.
Healthy Groups are those with service positions filled, and by their own donations take care of their Group's expenses and make regular donations to Area and to the NZGSO.
- Everyone Everywhere will know of Al-Anon Family Groups .
We need to budget for ample money for Public Outreach
- Envision the future and our place in it.

We want Al-Anon in NZ to be there forever, so we need ample money in the Reserve to ensure this is so.

In this Paper, I have posed questions and I have given a few answers.

The other answers are in Al-Anon Literature and some references are given below.

References for research:

NZ Seventh Tradition Pamphlet (SN-21 Oct 2011)

New Zealand Al-Anon –Alateen Service Handbook 2010 PN-27.

NZ Al-Anon General Services Finances and Financial policies pages 54-55

NZ Al-Anon Service Conference pages 68-71

The New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference Charter pages 72-75

IAGSM pages 9, 65-67

NZ Al-Anon General Services Board (Board of Trustees) pages 7, 56 -65

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual (P- 24/27)

Note: This manual has an amended section for The Concepts at the end of the manual.

Please disregard any references in the index to pages 171-217 and refer to pages 221 onwards instead.

Tradition Seven: Passing the Basket page 9

Group Finances/Budget pages 53-55

Administration of Al-Anon's Funds and services page 63

Appeal Letters page 92

Contributions to WSO page 92

Reserve pages 93-94

Use of group funds page 96

Finance Committees page 201

Warranty one 265-268--- in amended section – ref in index is to old pages

IAGSM pages 69,202

The Budget Committee pages 252-253

Concept Twelve, Warranty One: pages 263-268

How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics (B-32)

Concept Twelve pages 139-140

Tradition Seven Appeal pages 115-117

Al-Anon's History pages 141-149

Paths to Recovery - Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions and Concepts (B-24)

Lois W co-founder of Al-Anon said' *Purse Strings can be ropes that choke us*'(page197)

Tradition Seven pages 193-2003

Appeals page196

Concept Twelve, Warranty One: pages 324-325, 329, 331, 335-336.

World Service Conference Summary 2012 page 14

NZ Al-Anon Conference Summary 2012 page 17

Paper for the Conference Session on Annual Accounts, Budget and Reserve Fund.

Who controls the financial decisions for the NZ AI-Anon fellowship?

The Groups! The AI-Anon structure is represented by an upside down triangle with the Groups at the top.

Who manages the finances of the GSO on behalf of the Groups?

The Executive/Budget Committee of the NZ AI-Anon General Services Board.

Reference: Service Manual page 63:

“ The Board of Trustees which meets quarterly, is the legal entity responsible for the administration of AI-Anon’s funds and services. Its service arm, the Executive Committee, which meets monthly, is delegated by the Board to make administrative decisions required in the interim between Board Meetings.”

A Group sends a Group Representative to the Area Assembly, the Area Assembly sends a Delegate to Conference to vote on behalf of the Groups in the Area, on matters they want raised or on other matters that are raised at Conference.

In reverse, the Delegate reports back to the Group Representatives at the Area Assembly and the Groups Representatives report back to their Groups on decisions made at the Conference.

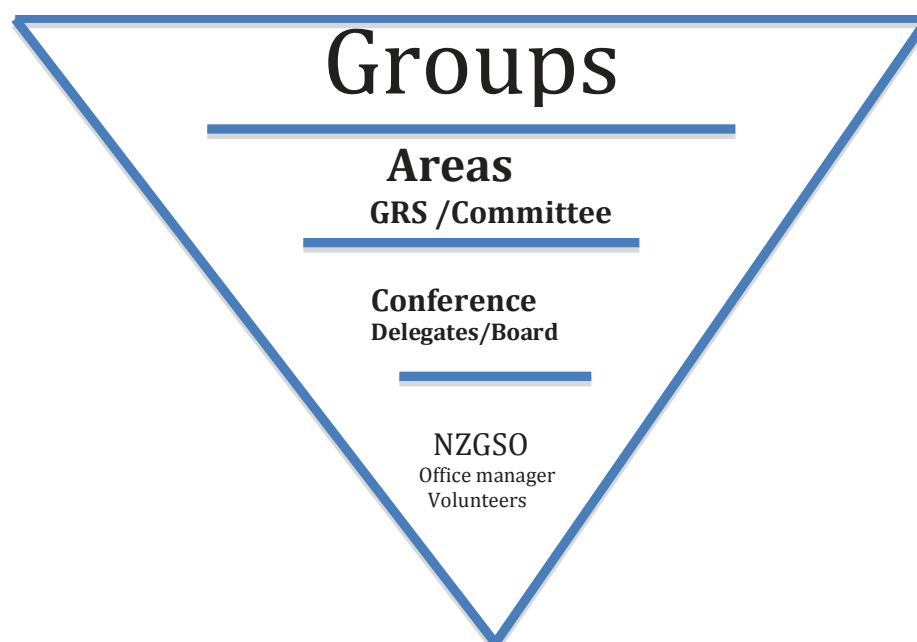
At Conference all Delegates have a voice and a vote, and have 2/3 of the total votes.

The Board members all have a voice but only some have a vote, and so have 1/3 of the total votes.

This way the Delegates hold the balance of power on any decisions made at Conference.

The rights of the Conference are Traditional (based on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts- the conscience of the fellowship) and the Board has legal rights, and can veto any suggestion voted by Conference that proves to be totally impractical.

The Board carries out the actions that have been decided by the Conference.



The Area Committees and the NZ General Service Office are services set up by the Groups to provide Group services, and a share of expenses for these services is part of Group financial responsibility.

The Groups own the General Service Office and take responsibility for the services they wish the GSO to provide. **GSO is not a worthy cause but part of the expenses of a Group.**

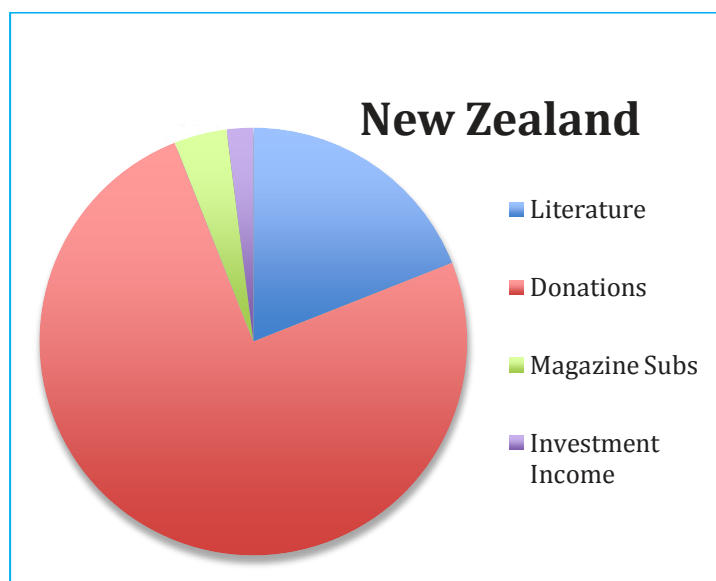
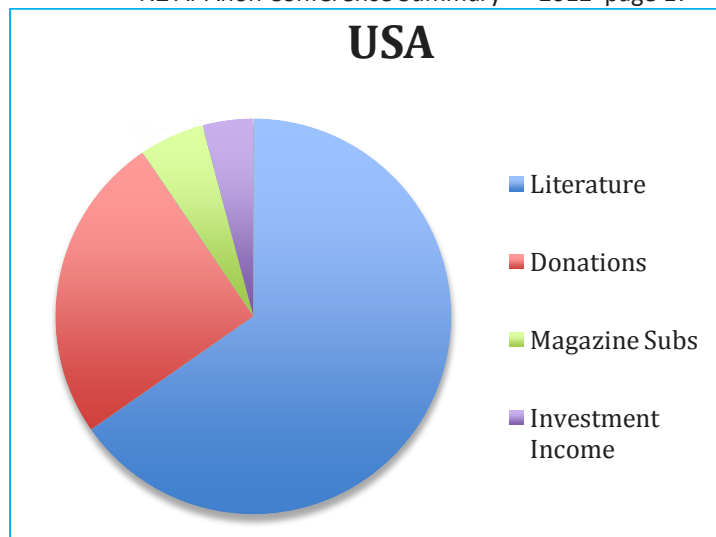
Where does NZ AI-Anon income come from?

Why does AI-Anon not apply for grants and does not accept outside contributions?

What sources of income does the NZ AI-Anon GSO have?

**How does GSO income in NZ, compare with WSO Income in the USA?
For year 1 April 2011- 31 March 2012**

References: World Service Conference Summary 2012 page 14
NZ AI-Anon Conference Summary 2012 page 17



The USA has a greater membership & a much greater total income than NZ. When the incomes have been broken down into percentages of their totals, they can be compared.

The USA WSO gets the **bulk** of its' income from LITERATURE SALES. Literature = the largest slice of the pie. The WSO prints it's own literature very cheaply and can put enough markup on it to gain a large income.

NZGSO gets the **bulk** of its' income from DONATIONS (personal, group, conference equalized expenses plus other income from Areas). Donations = the largest slice of the pie.

The Literature Income is the PROFIT after Literature expenses have been deducted. Literature in NZ is approx 3 x the price equivalent in the USA, as we import from the USA and the freight charge is 50% of the value of the literature ordered.

Magazine Subs are for *The Messenger* in NZ and for *The Forum* in the USA. It is the income only and not the profit, as printing and postage is paid out of general expenses.

NOTE: (The USA has slightly more income here than NZ).

Investment Income is interest on Term Deposits and money in the bank. (The Reserve)

NOTE: (The USA has slightly more income here than NZ).

Why does AI-Anon literature say that "members' contributions are voluntary" when we are always being asked for money?

AI-Anon has no dues or fees for its members. All contributions are voluntary, and we give whatever and whenever we are able. You can choose not to make a donation.

However AI-Anon does have financial responsibilities. Reference: Handbook - Pass the Basket page 9.

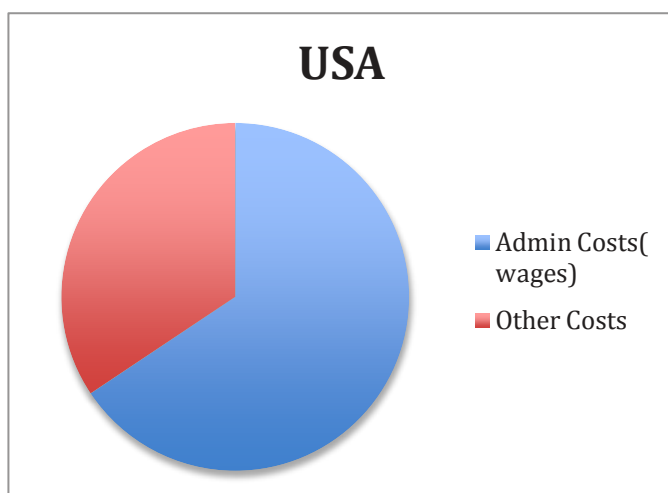
What exactly are the yearly expenses of the NZ AI-Anon GSO and how do they compare with the yearly expenses of the WSO?

For year 1 April 2011- 31 March 2012

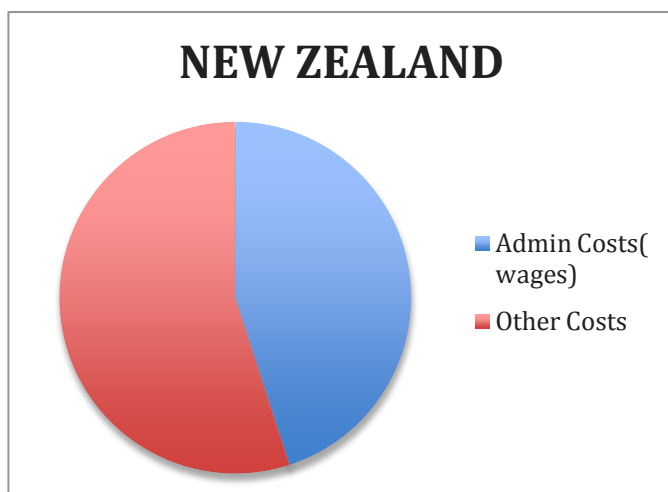
References: World Service Conference Summary 2012 page 14

NZ AI-Anon Conference Summary 2012 page 17

NB: percentages are rounded to the nearest unit.



The WSO has many staff members and the biggest slice (66% of the WSO income) was paid out in wages for 2011-2012.

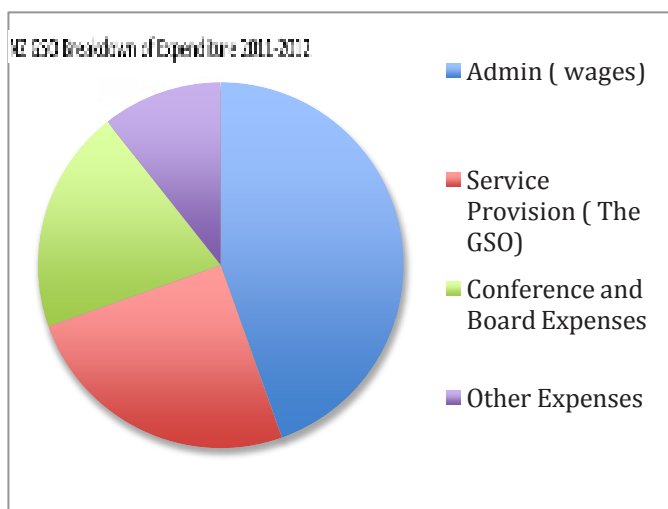


NZ has one staff member and less than 45% of the GSO income was paid out in wages for 2011-2012.

The ADMIN percentage will be much less for the 2013-2014 financial year, as the GSO has been restructured to make a saving on costs.

For NZ AI-Anon, the other main costs are:

- Having a GSO
25% of the income
- Conference and Board expenses. 20% of the income
- Other expenses: printing (including The Messenger), postage, IAGSM expenses, Public Outreach, telephone, internet, insurance, purchasing literature
Equipment repairs and more.
10% of the income



NB: Literature costs are not shown here. Literature costs are deducted from Literature Income and the resulting profit is shown on the NZ income pie chart on the previous page.

What happened in 2012?

Thank you to members of Groups and Areas for raising your concerns on the state of the NZ AI-Anon Finances last year. Thank you very much for holding meetings to brainstorm ways to fundraise, and for then sending extra funds to the GSO.

At Conference 2012 there was \$20,000 on Term Deposit. Today there is \$10,000 on Term Deposit. The conference Summary each year contains financial pages and the Reserve Funds in the Bank are stated there including the Term Deposits.

How the BOARD took action: Once Board members were aware in September 2012 that there was a severe shortfall in income and expenditure, and that money had been taken out of the Reserve Fund to cover this, they acted immediately and did the following:

- Sent out The Helicopter appeal to the fellowship with the request for funds **to build up the Reserve Fund again.**
- **Appointed a** Taskforce to review all aspects of GSO office procedures and practices, including the accounts to find out how this situation occurred. The Task Force came up with eleven options that could help our financial situation. As a result it was decided to restructure the NZ AI-Anon GSO, by keeping it open only 3 days a week with an office manager. As well as this the General Secretary role was made voluntary (as are the rest of the Board member positions). The renting of the office in the Auckland CBD was also examined and found to be good value at present. When the lease runs out in mid 2014 this will be reviewed again. The Task Force consulted previous Board members including a past Treasurer of the GSO for their knowledge and experience
- The Executive/Budget Committee raised the cost of Literature twice due to increased freight costs from the USA and increases in NZ postage.
- NZ literature packs such as Alateen, Newcomers, and the KN- 17 were repriced as we running at a loss on those.
- The Messenger subscription was increased, as costs were not being covered .The Messenger is now emailed to overseas AI-Anon GSOs and to Lone Members to save on printing and postage costs.
- The Conference Delegate's equalized expense was raised from \$500 in 2012 to \$600 for 2013, because of increased travel and accommodation costs.
- Conference Summary is now available on the website, and it is listed on the Literature order form so that Groups can purchase their own copy. This saves on Admin, paper, printing and postage costs.
- The NZ AI-Anon Service Board and the Executive/Budget Committee will continue to keep a careful eye on every financial aspect and make *costs savings* wherever possible throughout each year. At present the Board is looking into Electronic mail outs and the printing of our own Literature.
- The Board is committed to finding methods to put in place, to see that this situation does not happen again. If there is a problem in future then the membership will be quickly informed.

Why have a GSO (a clearing House) for NZ AI-Anon?

Reference: Handbook page 55

With the GSO office only open 3 days a week what is happening to 12 step calls?

The Board is looking into a new system where 12 step calls will be diverted back from the GSO number, to a contact in the area of NZ the call originates from. There is an answer phone at GSO and messages can be left on that. People are increasingly turning to the Internet for information, and many newcomers find out Group meeting information on the NZ AI-Anon website.

Why pay rent in Auckland City – surely it would be cheaper elsewhere?

The Task Force working on restructuring of the GSO looked into this and felt that the deal we have is very good value for money. Electricity is included in the rent.

The lease runs out in 2014, and the Board will carefully consider the options available again then.

Note: The GSO is used on evenings and weekends for Board and other meetings e.g. (Al-Anon Committee for AA Convention, Conference Committee, Task Force and Executive/Budget monthly meetings), which is a saving on rent needed if using other venues.

The GSO has an office, a meeting room and is used for storage of literature and has a packing area.

There is a kitchen/lounge room also available shared with other tenants.

There is free parking in the church grounds for the staff member and for visitors to GSO.

Why does GSO have a paid staff member?

To manage the Office and to do accurate and up to date data entry, as this information is required for the Executive/ Budget Committee to manage the finances.

A paid person is accountable for keeping the office open and getting the work done.

NOTE: No one else in NZ Al-Anon is paid. All are volunteers in service positions, including members of the Board.

Each volunteer is an Al-Anon member, and belongs to an Al-Anon Group somewhere in NZ.

Group, Area and GSO Budgets all need to allow money for Volunteer Travel expenses for those doing service.

Volunteers at GSO are used to pack and post literature and to do stock takes. Volunteers do the monthly mail out of The Messenger and The NZ Al-Anon News and other flyers. They also clean the GSO and make up NZ literature packs such as Alateen, Newcomers, KN- 17, and Handbooks.

Who does the GSO support?

The GSO provides services to the Groups in the fellowship, as this is the purpose of the service structure.

Who decides what activities the GSO will get involved in and what the money will be spent on?

The Groups have the ultimate authority through their Area Delegates who represent them at Conference.

Concept One: The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon World services belongs to the Al-Anon Groups.

The Board is the trusted servant of Conference, and the Board's service arm (the Executive/Budget Committee) carries out the decisions made at Conference.

Why when we paid for a delegate to go to Conference, did each group not get sent a Conference Summary last year, but had to purchase one if they wanted a copy?

Each Area sends in the donation towards equalized expenses for their Delegate to go to the Conference, and the Delegate receives a copy of the Conference Summary for the Area.

Costs were cut by not sending a copy to each group last year. (One of the cut backs that the Exec/Budget Committee decided on because of shortage of funds). The conference summary is available on-line and can be purchased through mail order.

How are costs kept to a minimum for Board Meetings?

- The GSO is used for the meetings held over two days three times a year so there is no extra payment for rent/hire of a room.
- A light Lunch is provided at the GSO on Meeting days. On Saturday nights Members eat out and pay for their own Dinner
- The Majority of the Board Members live in Auckland so only some travel and early bird fares are encouraged.
- Board members from out of Auckland are billeted with Board members in Auckland so there are no accommodation costs
- Agendas and minutes and reports are all sent by email to cut back on paper, printing and postage.
- The Board is examining the practicalities of having a Travel Co-coordinator who will organize the air bookings for members coming to Board meetings and to Conference so that full use of discount fares is made.

LITERATURE

Why do we order literature from the USA?

Because we do not print our own. This has been examined in the past and it was decided not to go

ahead. There is a new Task force appointed by the Board this year, whose members are looking into all the options.

If we print our own, it would save on the huge freight charges. However we would need an even larger Reserve to cover the liabilities.

The IAGSM (The International Al-Anon General Services Meeting).

Who attends?

Why does NZ send delegates to it?

What do they get out of it? Can they inspire Al-Anon?

What new information do they bring back?

What do we get out of it?

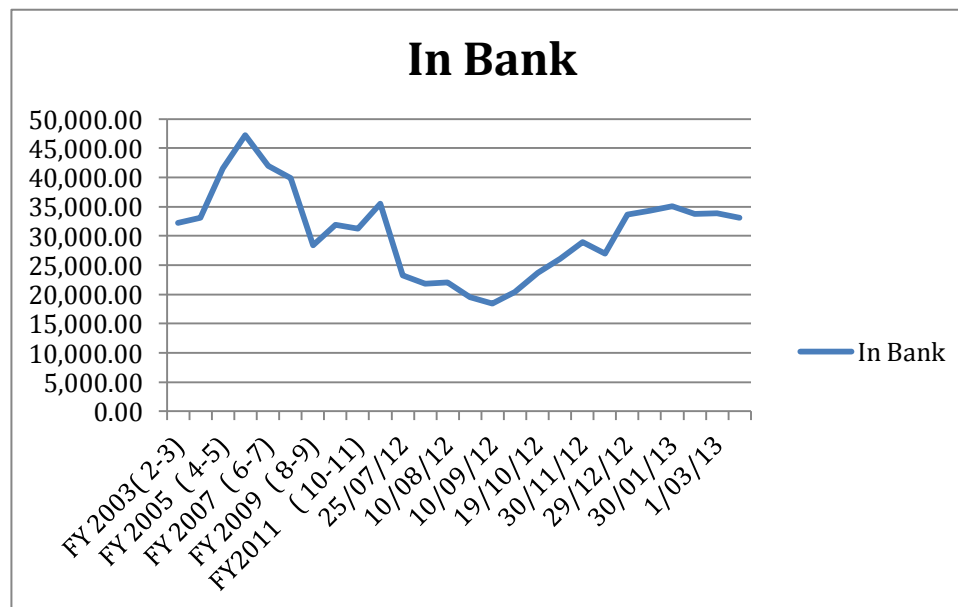
AMPLE RESERVE

What should the Ample Reserve be for the NZ Al-Anon GSO?

At Conference 2012 there was \$20,000 on Term Deposit (plus other money in Bank Accounts for the day to day running of the GSO, and in the IAGSM Account). Today there is \$10,000 on Term Deposit plus other money in the Bank as above.

The Conference Summary each year contains financial pages and the Reserve Funds in the Bank are stated there.

The chart below shows the totals in the Bank at the 31st March each year, as listed in the Conference summaries, plus some random tracking of the account totals up until 31/03/2013.



I understand that between 2003-2005, the then Board Treasurer and other members made a concerted effort, to encourage the fellowship to build up the Reserve Fund.

In 2006 it was over \$45,000.

For year ending 31 March 2011 the total was \$31,292.90 and that was when the decision to purchase the projector and screens was made at Conference but they were not purchased and paid for until the following financial year.

For year ending 31 March 2012 the total was \$35,520.19 and this was reported at Conference 2012. However, budgeted expenses of approximately \$19,500 were due to be paid as reported below.

What has happened since?

NZ Al-Anon expenditure has been greater than income each successive year, and **the reserve has been gradually eaten into.**

In 2009, it was realized that funds were dropping rapidly towards the \$30,000 mark (after Conference expenses and IAGSM expenses were paid out), and the Sinking Ship Appeal was launched. The Fellowship

responded and there was a turn around so that by 31st March 2012 things **appeared** to looking up! However, after 31st March 2012, large expenses were paid out: The approximate amounts were: \$12,000 for the Conference, \$6,000 for the IAGSM delegates (held every two years) and a Projector and screens (\$1,500) (Figures have been rounded to the nearest dollar).

These were all budgeted expenses and money was in the bank ready. There is a separate IAGSM account into which \$250 is put in monthly, so after 2 years of saving the \$6,000 was there.

At the same time, expenditure had been steadily rising (including power, telephone and Conference expenses) and less income (than was expected based on the previous year's figures)was coming in from Donations , Messenger subscriptions and literature sales.

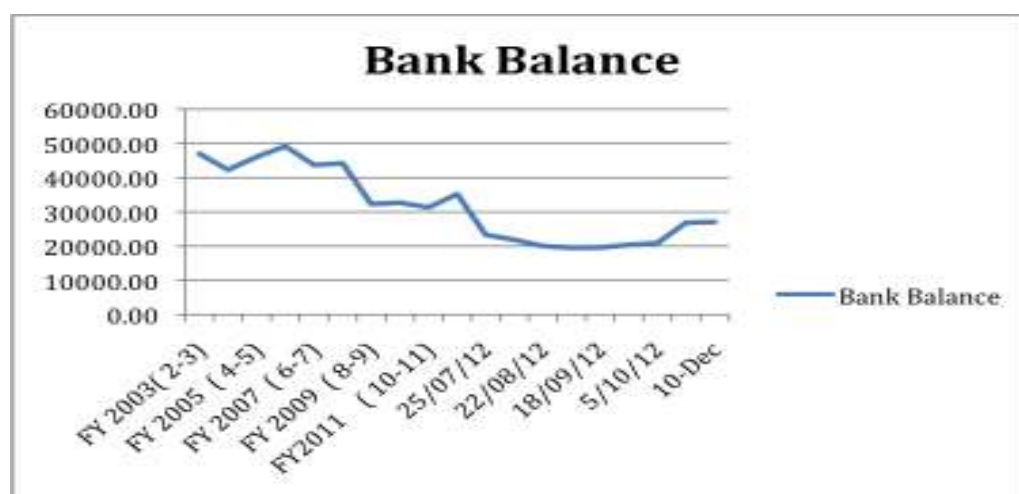
The Helicopter appeal was launched in September 2012 as one again funds were dropping rapidly this time below the \$20,000 mark .The fellowship responded to The Helicopter appeal and to the biannual appeal, and larger donations came in. The money in the bank stopped falling after a low of \$18,468.54 in September, leveled out and was consistent at around \$20,000 for a few months before starting to rise again. This was because money came in from Areas for Conference Delegates' expenses in December.

NB: This year the delegates' equalized expenses for Conference have been raised from \$500 per Area to \$600 to cover an increase in accommodation and travel costs.

Fluctuations in income and expenditure do happen throughout the year, and after Conference this year there will be a dip in funds again when the Conference expenses are paid out. There will be a bigger dip in 2015 when both Conference and IAGSM expenses are paid.

We need to keep up the awareness of just what is needed for GSO expenses. The Ship and Helicopter did this, we increase our donations and make a special effort and then we become complacent and go back to our old level of giving and it is just not enough!

Note: The Sinking Ship and Rescue Helicopter were catchy titles to get the Fellowship's attention to the extra appeals needed to build up the RESERVE again.



July 2009 (a low of \$30,000)

September 2012(a low of \$18,468.54)



Below are some of the queries and concerns on financial matters that have been received at the GSO over the last few months from Groups and Areas in NZ.

Please bring to Conference, any other concerns and questions that you have.

Why was the deficit of funds was so large?

Who is serving the deficit?

Has a bank loan been obtained or were funds taken out of the reserve account?.

I am very concerned that, according to NZ Al-Anon News for May 2012, the financial report for the year ending 31 March 2012 indicates a profit of \$4,002.67 while for the Groups and period 1 April to 25 September 2012, there is a loss of -\$14,324.86 - a difference of -\$18,327.53 in just the last 6 months.

Why was it allowed to happen?

What happened to make such a large difference in the financial position of NZ Al-Anon GSO?

Has this situation re deficit been mentioned to groups before? (As people thought this information to be "sudden")

It was a sudden shock to Board members too, as funds looked healthy at Conference 2012.

For the year ending 31 March 2012, the total in the bank was \$35,520.19 and this was reported at Conference 2012.

However, looking at money in the bank does not give a true picture of how the finances are.

Budgeted expenses of approximately \$19,500 were due to be paid out.

A bank loan did not have to be taken out, as the extra money needed, came out of our Reserve in the Bank.

Finances as reported in the NZ Al-Anon news, would have looked slightly better if the projector and screens and one of the delegate's expenses for the IAGSM, had come out of the 2011-2012 year.

2011-2012 How it was	2011-2012 financial year If like this	2012-2013 financial year
	\$35,520.19	
	Less \$1,500 Projector & screens	Less \$12,000 Conference 2012
	Less \$3,000 one IAGSM Expense	Less \$3,000 the other IAGSM Expense
Bank Funds 31/3/2013 \$35,520.19	Bank Funds would have stated: \$31,2019	On the Profit and Loss for 1 April- 25 Sept 2012 it would have stated a loss of approx -\$9,824.86

In future, members will be informed at Conference the projections with regard to finances for the coming year.

Fluctuations do happen throughout the year, as we do not have a steady regular income.

Donations increase in February/March and in September/October after the Biannual appeals and again in December/January when the Delegate's equalized expenses come in from Areas for Conference.

The expenses are large after conference yearly, and even larger every second year, when we send two delegates to the IAGSM.

Reference: Page 253 of the Manual under The Budget Committee.

"Real prudence is neither hoarding nor recklessness. We may occasionally be compelled to risk temporary deficits, but uncontrolled spending could result in the severe curtailment or collapse of our vital services, and should be guarded against with great care."

Why were the projector and screens bought- who okayed them? Who can use them?

The decision to purchase them was approved at Conference 2011. Funds in the bank on 31 March 2011 were \$31,292.90, as stated in the financial pages presented at Conference 2011.

The projector and screens can be used at Conference and at Area Assemblies and workshops. User pays for the freight.

Why are we always being asked for more donations in Al-Anon?

The donations that come in regularly throughout the year to GSO, cover the basic expenses. The approximate annual expenditure is \$70,000 .A budget is worked out around this total and is approved at Conference each year.

Anything extra which the Fellowship decides to do at Conference, needs extra money and hence the requests for money for specific things.

There is a problem in that members and Groups may still give the same donation as they usually do, but split it up to give a portion of money to each appeal, so that the GSO donation is much less.

This does not help the GSO financial situation.

Why have a biannual appeal?

This is designed to be a personal appeal (rather than an appeal to the Groups) for members to give an extra gratitude donation to GSO, over and above what they give at their Group. The income from the appeals has enabled the GSO to keep functioning, as normal donations are usually not enough to cover the yearly budgeted expenses.

NB: The WSO has three /four appeals yearly.

Why was extra money asked for (over and above the normal donations to the GSO),for Ric Buchanan's visit later this year? Ric Buchanan is the CEO (paid) of the WSO.

He is visiting Australia along with a WSO Trustee, and it is a marvelous opportunity to have him visit NZ to inspire the membership, as we are part of the World Wide I-Anon Fellowship. Donations to the GSO are needed for the normal running expenses of running NZ Al-Anon, and anything extra needs extra money raised in order for it to be able to take place.

The Groups (via some of the the Area Committees) are paying for his airfare from Australia to NZ (Australia is paying for his return from NZ to the USA). The Groups are also paying for his accommodation and travel within NZ. The Trustee's (a volunteer in service) expenses will be paid by the WSO.

Who arranged the visit and why?

It was agreed by a show of hands at Conference 2012, that the Board should look into having Ric visit NZ as an add-on to his Australian visit. Communications were sent out to Delegates to gauge the interest, which confirmed we should request him to visit. Four Areas have agreed to meet the costs.

Why is extra money sometimes requested from the membership for National Public Outreach?

It is vital for Al-Anon to do public outreach, to achieve its primary purpose and follow the NZ Al-Anon Strategic Plan.

For the 2012-2013 year there is \$200 in the Budget for PO for a small amount of public outreach.

For a major PO campaign extra money would need to be raised.

Our Area and the groups in it, work on the basis of no money in = no money out, if there are insufficient funds to hand.

For a Group a one-month Reserve is safe to cover outgoings.

For an Area a six -month Reserve is safe to cover outgoings.

The GSO has liabilities. A one- two year Reserve is needed to cover these.

GSO is locked into a 2 year lease, there are Admin wages to pay and Insurance, Telephone, Internet, literature orders and freight, postage, printing and repair bills owing for services out of Al-Anon.

If donations suddenly dry up then GSO needs enough in Reserve to cover these liabilities

Suggested Budget Breakdown-Donations are needed to meet these Expenses.

Group Reserve- 1 months expenses	Area Reserve-6 months expenses	GSO Reserve 1-2 years expenses
Rent	Rent	Rent
Supper	-	Admin
-	Printing and postage	Overheads
-	Conference	Conference
Group Rep Expenses	Area Delegate Expenses	Board Expenses
Literature	Literature	Literature
Public Outreach	Public Outreach	Public Outreach
Area Donation		
GSO Donation	GSO Donation	WSO Donation

Reference : Manual page 96 under Use of Group Funds.

It is suggested that group expenses should be met first and "Remaining funds may be used to support local and Area structures and the World Service office."

I do not like the statement about the remaining funds, as it makes it seem that Area and WSO(GSO in NZ) get the leftover funds if there are any. I believe strongly because of all the reasons I have listed throughout this paper that Groups own GSO and their Areas and thus they need to budget to support them otherwise the service structure will collapse.

We are not a charity or a Government Department and money does not come out of thin air

A Proposal re Ample Reserve Fund:

From G-41 -The WSO Reserve Financial Guidelines:

Under History of the WSO Reserve Fund; the guidelines state in the very last sentence that

" In keeping with the accepted norm of not-for-profit organizations, the goal was to have one years operating expense be the ample reserve of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters inc"

New Zealand Al-Anon's GSO expenses are usually around \$70,000 ,which would be a very big ask to raise that amount of money to have on Term Deposit.

At The Board meeting on 2/3 March 2013 the Board voted and approved, the proposal to aim for \$35,000 as an Ample Reserve in the Bank on Term Deposit, so that it is immediately available in an emergency.

This would cover Admin for 4 months, Rent for 2 years(as we are locked into a 2 year lease) and office costs- enough to pay one month's bills i.e.: telephone, internet, literature orders and freight, postage, printing and repair bills owing for services out of Al-Anon.

The Board agreed that these items were the liabilities in the budget ,and therefore were the important items to be covered.

Anything else in the budget could be put on hold as no income means no other expenditure would take place.

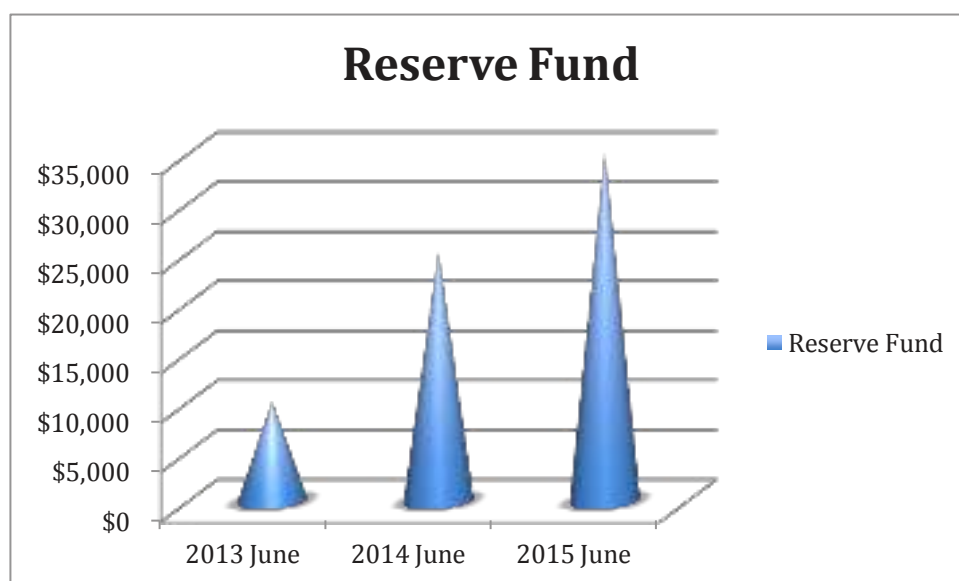
When the previous treasurer did the last survey there were 89 Groups and 708 members.

There is a problem in the reasoning here, in that the survey of members did not differentiate between those who attend only one meeting a week and those who attend more. If a member attended three meetings a week then in the survey, then that member was counted three times.

In 12 months if we wish to aim for another \$15,000 on Term Deposit (over and above current donations, literature sales and Conference Fees), Al-Anon would need a huge fundraising drive and there are some ideas on the Sinking Ship and Rescue Helicopter Appeal flyers. The ideas are listed on the following page under: How can members help to support Al-Anon and Alateen.

Proposal: That NZ Al-Anon members aim to increase the NZ Al-Anon GSO Reserve to \$25,000 by June 2014 and then to \$35,000 by June 2015.

NOTE: A total of \$1,250 per month (an extra \$1.77 donation per member per month) would achieve this.



Current \$10,000
June 2013

Aim for \$25,000
by June 2014

AIM for \$35,000
by June 2015

Thoughts on Tradition Seven to take back to your Areas.

Let it Begin with me!

How about using your Conference notes on the GSO finances, to give a presentation(or run a workshop) at your Area Assembly ?

You could pose questions such as:

How can members help to support Al-Anon and Alateen? How much do you value Al-Anon?

Do you still keep up your donations if you are away from your meeting for a week, as everything else still carries on as usual and Al-Anon accounts still have to be paid?

Do you read up as much as you can and gain the knowledge to pass on to other members the facts ?

Do you do Service?

Do you Purchase literature?

See ways as listed on the SN-21 pamphlet

See ideas listed on Sinking Ship and the Rescue Helicopter Appeal pages:

Sinking Ship

- If your Group has extra funds stashed away, please send them in a.s.a.p.
- If those of us, who are able, can increase their weekly donation by \$2 with 500 members participating this would give an increase of \$1000 a week. It so simple but it does need to be sent in regularly (expenses are regular).
- Group and GSO expenses are weekly or monthly- some of us believe this and put our money in even if we have been unable to attend.
- A monthly Automatic Payment or Direct Debit of say \$20 to the GSO comes to \$240 a year and is tax deductible.
- Recycle your gold coins. Have a container and each week put a gold coin in it. Make a pile of gold at Group or Area meetings at Appeal time.
- Each group to have a repository for small change as extra to the weekly donations.

Rescue Helicopter.

- Payroll giving- *you'll get a Tax Rebate this way.*
- Individual donations to the Al-Anon Bank Account- *you will get a receipt to claim your tax return.*

- Bequests- *include us in your estate planning*
- Increase personal donations to your Group Weekly
- Hold Book sales
- Have sales tables at Group and Area level
- Raffle items in your group
- Dinner and Dance
- Movie nite
- Family picnic/barbeque

Members are known to donate more if they are enjoying fellowship activities, and if they get something for their money.

Why Not?

Ask your Area to provide a Tradition Seven pamphlet for each GR and suggest to them that they run a Group meeting on it .

They can make the meeting interesting with readings from CAL and personal sharing EG: personal ones on money worries living with an alcoholic or having had lived with an alcoholic.

Al-Anon survives and grows because of the involvement and commitment of its members.

Al-Anon is self-supporting by it's own Members Contributions doing service and by financial donations and without these contributions Al-Anon would cease to exist.

Why are Al-Anon members afraid of service positions?

Why do Al-Anon members have hang-ups about money?

Why does talking about a group budget get some members upset?

*One Area had a sudden loss of members after the last campaign for abundance was lodged. The \$5 dollar per member per week, plus the constant call for more funds. New members in particular don't come to Al-Anon to hear our problems especially money! They have enough of their own. Putting an amount on what they give has caused embarrassment and stress. It is also a contradiction to our preamble, which states: **Al-Anon has no dues or fees for its members. All contributions are voluntary, and we give whatever and whenever we are able.***

Do stress the voluntary as no one has to contribute or should be made to feel uncomfortable or feel guilty if they do not .*You can choose not to make a donation. No one will ever be turned away because they do not contribute. Al-Anon is there for Families and friends of Alcoholics.*

We have to approach the subject carefully but honestly and with the facts.

Ease newcomers in gradually with no musts and let them get on with their own recovery first.

If they keep coming back they will hear the wisdom of the group come across in a calm discussion of finances and what they are for, and it will gradually rub off on them

Those who can support Al-Anon by doing service, those who can contribute financially can (via the group, area and GSO) help support those in service with expenses.

Summary

Annual Accounts, Budget and Reserve Fund

Valuable discussion brought forward by the Treasurer's PowerPoint presentation.

Motion

That the draft Profit and Loss for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2013 and the Balance Sheet for the same period be approved. **Carried**

Conference – Discussed the draft Budget for the 2013-2014 year and how Areas wanted their donations apportioned.

Options:

1. The Budget for each Area to be what the Area had donated in the previous year.
2. As it has been last year and this year, the total donations income from the year, before it is divided up per member. Each Area is given their budget depending on the number of members in the Area.
3. Decide what income is needed for NZ AI-Anon and divide that up per member, so that each member pays the same amount.
4. Do the same as last year plus 5%.

Option 2 was chosen.

Motion

That the draft budget for the year 2013 to 2014 be accepted. **Carried**

The Treasurer explained that we are concerned about building up the Reserve Fund. Groups are encouraged to do extra things to make an effort to increase funds.

Decision

That NZ AI-Anon members aim to increase the NZ AI-Anon Reserve to \$25,000 by June 2014 and then to \$35,000 by June 2015. **Carried**

NZ Al-Anon General Services Office Annual Accounts
for the year ended March 2013

Balance Sheet

FY 2012		Assets	FY 2013	
\$	7,822	Cash at Bank		
\$	6,418	ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$	2,780
\$	20,106	ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver Account	\$	3,804
\$	1,026	ANZ Term Deposits	\$	10,000
		ANZ -01 Online Call account	\$	16,577
		ANZ Recharge	\$	1,009
	<u>\$ 35,372</u>	Total Cash at Bank		<u>\$ 34,170</u>
		Other Assets		
-\$	24	Sundry Debtors	-\$	49
\$	3,993	Literature On hand	\$	3,871
	<u>\$ 3,969</u>	Total Other Assets		<u>\$ 3,823</u>
		Total Current Assets		<u>\$ 37,993</u>
		Fixed Assets		
		Office Equipment over \$500	\$	941
	<u>\$ 39,341</u>	Total Fixed Assets		<u>\$ 38,934</u>
		Total Assets		<u>\$ 38,934</u>
		Liabilities		
		Sundry Creditors	\$	1,366
		GST		
\$	30	GST to/From IRD	-\$	167
	<u>\$ 30</u>	Total GST		<u>-\$ 167</u>
	<u>\$ 30</u>	Total Liabilities		<u>\$ 1,199</u>
	<u>\$ 39,311</u>	Net Assets		<u>\$ 37,735</u>

NZ Al-Anon General Services Office Annual Accounts
for the year ended March 2013

Audited Financial Position

FY2012 Actuals	Profit and Loss	FY2013 Actuals
	Income	
	Donations	
\$ 2,434	Donations Area One	\$ 2,313
\$ 1,828	Donations Area Two	\$ 2,644
\$ 6,931	Donations Area Three	\$ 7,154
\$ 973	Donations Area Four	\$ 455
\$ 512	Donations Area Five	\$ 470
\$ 753	Donations Area Six	\$ 675
\$ 8,944	Donations Area Seven	\$ 13,433
\$ 7,107	Donations Area Eight	\$ 9,341
\$ 2,914	Donations Area Nine	\$ 2,557
\$ 11,020	Donations - Personal/Birthday	\$ 11,829
<u>\$ 43,416</u>	Total Area/Personal Donations	<u>\$ 50,870</u>
	Other Donation Income	
\$ 5,000	Conference Donations	\$ 5,370
\$ 1,487	Convention Donations	\$ 652
\$ 2,411	Messenger Donations	\$ 2,147
<u>\$ 8,898</u>	Total Other Donation Income	<u>\$ 8,168</u>
	Other Income	\$ 140
<u>\$ 52,313</u>	Total Donations	<u>\$ 59,178</u>
	Other Income	
\$ 11,052	Literature Profit	\$ 9,527
\$ 214	Interest/Dividend Received	\$ 685
\$ 1,052	Received Interest - Term Deposit	
<u>\$ 12,318</u>	Total Other Income	<u>\$ 10,212</u>
<u>\$ 64,632</u>	Total Income	<u>\$ 69,391</u>
	Expenses	
\$ -	ACC Levy	\$ 240
\$ 632	Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 174
	Assets<\$500	\$ 580
\$ 8	Bank Charges	\$ 14
\$ 5,008	Board Member Expenses	\$ 3,781
\$ -	Computer/Office Equipment	\$ 872
	Accum Depreciation	\$ 187
\$ 6,163	Charities Commission Fee	\$ 51
\$ 1,087	Conference Payments	\$ 6,358
\$ -	Conference Travel Delegates	\$ 698
\$ -	IAGSM Paid Expenses	\$ 5,772
\$ 832	General Expenses	\$ 472
\$ 1,259	Insurance	\$ 832
\$ 3,178	Postage (less recovered)	\$ 1,809
\$ 10,368	Printing & Stationery	\$ 2,920
\$ 1,001	Rent & Rates	\$ 10,842
\$ 128	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,127
\$ 2,593	Petty Cash	\$ 140
\$ 697	Telephone/Internet	\$ 2,282
\$ 27,614	Volunteer Travel Fun	\$ 461
\$ 39	Office Administration	\$ 29,659
\$ 15	Stock Adjustments	\$ 3
<u>\$ 60,543</u>	Raw Material Expenses	
	Total Expenses	<u>\$ 69,271</u>
<u>\$ 4,089</u>	Net Profit/(Loss)	<u>\$ 119</u>

Literature Income Account

FY2012 is in USD		FY 2013	
\$ 26,360	Literature Sales	\$ 20,611	
<u>\$ 3,920</u>	Opening Stock	<u>\$ 3,993</u>	
\$ 11,937	Purchases	\$ 8,045	
<u>\$ 3,444</u>	Freight	<u>\$ 2,917</u>	<u>\$ 14,955</u>
<u>\$ 3,993</u>	Closing Stock	<u>\$ 3,871</u>	
<u>\$ 15,308</u>	Cost of Sales	<u>\$ 11,084</u>	
<u>\$ 11,052</u>	Profit on Sales	<u>\$ 9,527</u>	
41.9%		46.2%	

NZ Al-Anon General Services Office Annual Accounts
for the year ended March 2013

Monthly Donation Breakdown

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Income							
Donations							
Area/Personal Donations							
Donations Area One	\$26	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$355	\$350
Donations Area Two	\$100	\$223	\$74	\$60	\$91	\$733	\$132
Donations Area Three	\$740	\$1,321	\$168	\$894	\$475	\$450	\$2,337
Donations Area Five	\$120	\$100	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50
Donation Area Four	\$0	\$55	\$20	\$40	\$20	\$20	\$20
Donations Area Six	\$45	\$80	\$155	\$0	\$55	\$50	\$50
Donations Area Seven	\$843	\$448	\$1,108	\$576	\$1,856	\$966	\$1,742
Donations Area Eight	\$1,082	\$470	\$507	\$550	\$480	\$803	\$943
Donations Area Nine	\$560	\$60	\$148	\$225	\$120	\$150	\$521
Donations - personal/birthday	\$539	\$545	\$680	\$415	\$456	\$1,035	\$1,953
Total Area/Personal Donations	\$4,055	\$3,602	\$2,910	\$2,760	\$3,553	\$4,561	\$8,098
Other Donation Income							
Conference Donations	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$120	\$500	\$0	\$0
Convention Donation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Messenger Donations	\$112	\$190	\$60	\$60	\$136	\$188	\$265
Total Other Donation Income	\$362	\$190	\$60	\$180	\$636	\$188	\$265
Other Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Donations	\$4,417	\$3,792	\$2,970	\$2,940	\$4,189	\$4,749	\$8,362

	November	December	January	February	March	Total
Income						
Donations						
Area/Personal Donations						
Donations Area One	\$125	\$100	\$170	\$738	\$149	\$2,313
Donations Area Two	\$69	\$575	\$266	\$200	\$120	\$2,644
Donations Area Three	\$320	\$257	\$94	\$0	\$98	\$7,154
Donations Area Five	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$470
Donation Area Four	\$20	\$170	\$20	\$20	\$50	\$455
Donations Area Six	\$50	\$50	\$40	\$0	\$100	\$675
Donations Area Seven	\$2,181	\$987	\$867	\$1,089	\$770	\$13,433
Donations Area Eight	\$1,670	\$762	\$777	\$895	\$403	\$9,341
Donations Area Nine	\$314	\$129	\$90	\$90	\$150	\$2,557
Donations - personal/birthday	\$1,327	\$2,313	\$490	\$1,510	\$567	\$11,829
Total Area/Personal Donations	\$6,076	\$5,343	\$2,814	\$4,692	\$2,406	\$50,870
Other Donation Income						
Conference Donations	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,370
Convention Donation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$652	\$652
Messenger Donations	\$240	\$304	\$192	\$148	\$252	\$2,147
Total Other Donation Income	\$1,740	\$3,304	\$192	\$148	\$904	\$8,168
Other Income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$140	\$140
Total Donations	\$7,816	\$8,647	\$3,006	\$4,840	\$3,450	\$59,178

NZ Al-Anon General Services Office Annual Accounts

Budget Calculations

for Financial Year 1 April 2013–31 March 2014

Rounded	ACTUAL		Budget 2013	Draft Budget 2014	Percentage of Members
	2013	2012			
Income- Donations					
Donations Area One	2,313	2,434	3,539	4,295	11
Donations Area Two	2,644	1,828	6,435	7,808	20
Donations Area Three	7,154	6,931	5,791	7,027	18
Donations Area Four	470	973	1,609	1,171	3
Donations Area Five	455	512	965	1,952	5
Donations Area Six	675	753	2,574	3,123	8
Donations Area Seven	13,433	8,944	4,826	5,586	15
Donations Area Eight	9,341	7,107	4,826	5,586	15
Donations Area Nine	2,557	2,914	1,609	1,952	5
Donations - personal/birthday	11,829	11,020	11,020	11,829	
Total Donations	50,871	43,416	43,193	50,870	100
Conference Donations	5,370	5,000	5,000	5,400	9 areas @ \$600
Convention Donations	652	1,487	1,500	0	Cannot rely on a donation from the AA convention
RSS Donations (TEAM event)	0	0	500	0	Amy donation from fundraising at an event would come from the Area
Messenger Donations	2,147	2,411	2,400	2,400	
Total Other Donation Income	8,169	8,898	9,400	7,800	
Other Income	140				
Literature Profit	9,646	11,052	10,500	7,500	Profit only (Sales minus costs and freight)
Interest/Dividend Received	685	1,266	800	560	Low as less on Term Deposit
Total Other Income	10,471	12,318	11,300	8,060	
Gross Profit	69,511	64,632	63,893	66,730	
Expenses					
ACC Levy	240	0	135	240	
Archives	0	0	96	100	
Assets < \$500	580	0	0	100	Asset purchases under \$500 which do not need depreciating
Assets (New purchases)	0	0	1,600	0	
Audit/Accounting Fees	174	632	250	200	
Bank Charges	14	8	50	12	
Board Members Expenses*	3,781	5,008	4,000	3,000	Travel to 3 Board meetings for 4 members out of Akld
Computer/Office Equip(projecto	872	0	500	643	For newphotocopier/scanner
Accumulated Depreciation(proje	187	0	0	0	
Charities Commission Fee	51	0	0	60	Has now been seperated out from other expenses
Conference Payments	6,358	6,163	5,500	8,000	Put aside \$5,400 - Areas for Delegates' Equalized Expenses.
Conference Travel Delegates	698	1,087	1,600	1,700	Put aside \$500 a month for Conference Expenses for the Board
Conference Travel Board*	*incl above	*incl above	*incl above	1,300	Travel for 4 Board membes from out of Auckland
Convention Expenses	0	0	100	0	A float gets repaid out of fundraising so no expense expected
IAGSM - Paid expenses	5,772	0	4,500	3,000	Plus another \$3,000 is needed in the 2014-2015 year
General Expenses	472	0	250	250	
Insurance	832	832	840	840	
Postage(less recoverd)	1,809	1,259	1,300	1,800	Total postage less postage included with Literature sales
Printing & Stationery	2,920	3,193	3,200	3,000	The Messenger, NZ Al-Anon News, Handbook, KN-17 ++
Public Outreach Expenses	0	0	2,000	2,000	A large Public Outreach Activity would need to be fundraised for
Rent & Rates& Electricity	10,842	10,368	10,400	11,000	The GSO lease will be up at the end of June 2014
Repairs & Maintenance	0	1,001	500	300	Service on the old phocopier in this financial year
RSS / TEAM event expenses	1,127	0	400	600	Rotorua this year \$200 plus Budget for another one
Staff Amenities	0	0	200	0	Now Included in petty csah
Petty Cash	140	128	200	200	
Telephone/Internet	2,282	2,593	2,600	2,400	
Volunteer Travel Fund	461	697	700	3,000	Tradition Seven--has been Increased by Exec/Budget Comittee
Office Administration	29,659	27,614	27,600	21,000	Wages have decreased .
WSO donation	0	0	500	500	The WSO don't see our buying literature as a donation
Stock adjusments	0	-39	0	0	
Total Expenses	69,270	60,543	69,021	65,245	
Net Profit/(Loss)	241	4,089	-5,128	1,485	

Task Force report – Acknowledging the death of a member

Marlene G

What do we want to know?

With Al-Anon we have the privilege of autonomy. Each area is different, yet the same. Meaning that some have no problem acknowledging the death of a member and others are confused as to what is acceptable within our guidelines. Our guidelines clearly state that we do not break the anonymity of another member. Therefore we do not send cards to the deceased family members, with Al-Anon on it. Nor can we attend a funeral as representatives of Al-Anon.

- a. The deceased member's family may not know they have attended Al-Anon.
- b. Someone from that family's outer circle may pick the card up and ask questions.
- c. While the immediate family may be happy to accept us as friends, it doesn't give us the right to break anonymity.

What do we want to do about it?

For me, if I have a friend and want to go to their funeral, then I go. If I want to post a card then I do that.

At group level

As a group what can we do? Once again, it is up to the group whether they wish to acknowledge the death.

- A card could be sent with members signing it, from "Your friends" to the family.
- The Group may like to have a moments silence at the beginning of their next meeting.
- A candle could be lit.

There are numerous different ways that we can acknowledge the passing, depending on how well we knew that member. How long they have been attending, whether they have done service, at what level they have served.

The deceased member may like to have Al-Anon as part of their service (that would be known prior to their death) or at the family's request. If this is the case, it is the living members who need to think about their anonymity.

We must also be aware that there may be a new member who didn't know Jane Doe that well. So it is important not to use the whole meeting time on that member.

At area:

As an area what can we do? I would say it would be much the same as at Group level.

At national level

Much the same as previous. Perhaps a role call and a moments silence could be slotted into Conference for those deceased during the year.

How do we go about it?

I believe this paper was bought about as a couple of our old timers who had served at all levels throughout New Zealand Al-Anon during their lifetimes were mentioned in the Messenger.

If we acknowledge a few should we not then acknowledge all?

The national level of communication is our Messenger and the GSO monthly news.

Which of these would best serve our fellowship? My opinion is the GSO news...it goes to every group whether they receive the Messenger or not. Messenger's are left in public places...do we want a list of Jane Doe's being passed on to the public?

Who would take responsibility for letting the GSO know? My feeling is that the Area secretary would be our logical person.

The GR would give notice to the secretary who in turn would pass this information onto the GSO. Perhaps something in the line of:

- Area Nine wishes to acknowledge the passing of Jane Doe.
- A valued member of the Motueka AFG.
- Length of time in AI-Anon... a short service record if any.

I personally am happy to have these members acknowledged for their contributions to AI-Anon. Also as we are a wide and varied group of people it isn't always easy to stay in close contact with a member you may have served with. Therefore having an avenue that can keep the fellowship at large informed and allows those how wish to act on this information to do so in a reasonable time.

In closing

It is important to allow members to share their memories, but it is also important to remember that not every member is going to be effected to the same degree.

Remember that Deceased member wouldn't want to be sat on a pedestal nor is it anywhere in our literature that we set people apart. We are all equals, those lucky enough to have been chosen to do Service do so as part of their growth. We are but trusted servants. We acknowledge the work of a member standing down from service, and give thanks to that person. It is a closure of their term of service. It is not a case of setting that member above any other member it is a case of good manners. WHY wouldn't we wish to do something similar in the case of a valued member who has passed?

There are readings in our literature on this subject. "Many Voices One Journey" is the latest and talks of our founders and others who have made significant contribution's to AI-Anon as a whole. I believe it is important to know our back ground and acknowledge those few who have left us this great legacy, however I wouldn't want to see that kind of acknowledgement given to those of us who have had the privilege to follow on the legacy and the work of the AI-Anon programme to be given that kind of status.

I wish to acknowledge the support given by the above members.

Please come to Conference with your questions so that they can be discussed and dealt with during this session.

Summary

The death of AI-Anon members

Members discussed the following points:

- The issue is important to members and affects them strongly.
- What to record to identify members (when more than one have a similar name or do a similar service role) and levels of service.
- Where to acknowledge the death, noting the Messenger is read by the public.
- Wide variation in current practices within groups.
- Responsibility for accuracy and completeness rests on those remaining.
- NZ AI-Anon committee guidelines Editorial CN-14 considered.
- Benefits the living, showing gratitude, aiding the grieving process.
- Print options include NZ AI-Anon News "in memoriam", Messenger, an archive book is yet to be created.

Decision:

Ask that the Literature Committee review and update CN-14 and report back to Conference in the future.

Public Outreach

Sally-ann M (with excerpts from *The Best of Public Outreach: p90*)

Why do we need public outreach?

Public Outreach informs the general public about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateen through:

- the media
- professionals (counsellors, etc)
- facilities, such as treatment centres
- organisations, e.g. the Alcohol & Drug Association of New Zealand (ADANZ).

Public Outreach includes:

- Area Public Outreach Co-ordinators (PO)
- Group Public Outreach
- Institutions Co-ordinators

Our Goal

The Public Outreach goal is to attract all families and friends of alcoholics to Al-Anon Family Groups, so that everyone who needs our programme can find help and hope in every community. In Public Outreach, we strive for name recognition and credibility for Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateen as viable resources for local, regional, and national communities.

Your Area Public Outreach Co-ordinator

- Serves as a communication link between the GSO and your area.
- Distributes key information and resources by way of email distribution lists.
- Continually educates the fellowship about the need to attract those who are still suffering.
- Works with national PO Co-ordinator and local Public Outreach committees.
- Makes presentations or holds workshops at area assemblies and groups
- Communicates and works cooperatively in a team effort with other area Co-ordinators, your area chairperson, and your delegate.
- Reports Public Outreach activities to the assembly

The purpose of Public Outreach is Step Twelve

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

This Step encourages us to work and practice the Twelve Steps of Al-Anon ourselves and to share the Al-Anon message of recovery with others.

From Lois Remembers... *"If... Al-Anon groups do not let the public know of our presence, perhaps by announcing the time and place of meetings in local newspapers or by some other means, we block ourselves off from those in need."* (p194)

The guide for Public Outreach is Tradition Eleven

"Our public relations policy is based on *attraction* rather than *promotion*; we need always maintain personAl-Anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members."

It is Al-Anon/Alateen policy to interpret Tradition Eleven to include the internet, as well as all forms of evolving public media. Tradition Eleven states that our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion. So, what is the difference?

Attraction

Al-Anon Family Group members attract others by sharing why we came to Al-Anon or Alateen, what our lives were like before, and what our lives are like today. When we describe what works for us, others can envision how it might work for them.

Al-Anon Family Group members attract others to Al-Anon by:

- Sharing information
- Generating goodwill
- Cooperating with professionals and the media
- Explaining how Al-Anon/Alateen works in our lives

Examples of attraction include distributing copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) magazines and making Al-Anon's radio and TV public service announcements (PSAs) available to local TV and radio stations.

Promotion

Al-Anon Family Group members promote when they go beyond sharing information and modeling their own healthy behavior and start telling people what they should do. They make promises about what Al-Anon will do for alcoholics and themselves. They adopt a selling mode that may lead the audience to resist the message, rather than allowing them to make up their own minds.

Promotion means:

- Using pressure tactics
- Making promises
- Making comparisons to or criticizing self-help or professional programs for families
- Exaggerating or misrepresenting Al-Anon's purpose—that we can help everyone

For more information about Tradition Eleven and Al-Anon's approach to Public Outreach, see the relevant pages in the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual, also available on-line at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members.

Cooperation

"The relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend."

Tradition Three expresses our need to avoid affiliation with any outside entity. We don't affiliate, but we do cooperate. Al-Anon is cooperating when it works with professionals, the media, and others in the general public to educate organisations and communities about Al-Anon and Alateen. We need to make sure that the general public can find Al-Anon easily through phone book and community calendar listings, the internet, and other local directories.

For more information on the difference between cooperation and affiliation, see the relevant pages in the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual, also available on-line at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members.

Anonymity

Anonymity is broken when a member chooses to be identified in the public media as a spokesperson for Al-Anon, or to self-identify as an Al-Anon member while using full name in a newspaper, on the radio, TV, or the internet – or by appearing full face in a published, broadcast, or posted picture, video, or film.

It is okay to use your full name in meeting privately with editors, writers, and broadcasters to prepare for something that will be published. In those instances, a full name helps people know where and how to contact an Al-Anon resource. Of course, we always ask that our full name not be printed, broadcasted, or posted on the internet.

General public

When we share information with the general public, we need to know that some people in the audience are families and friends of alcoholics, and others are not.

Al-Anon's primary purpose is reaching out to those who are affected by alcoholics.

However, even those not affected may know someone who needs our programme.

The greater the awareness in the general public, the more likely those who need us will find us.

Recommendations:

Discussion: What do we want to do for PO in New Zealand?

Do we want to set up a national PO committee to lead, support and action the *p90* in New Zealand?

How do we plan ahead for the 60th anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups in New Zealand?

More?

Do we need more information?

What now?

Double check KBDM.....

1. What do we know about our members' wants, needs and preferences?

Please bring your thoughts and your experience, strength and hope (ESH) to Conference.
(Plus we have the 2006 membership surveys, and WSC summaries to look to for input).

2. What are our resources?

Service tools and resources

These tools and resources are recommended in the P90:

- Area Public Outreach Co-ordinator guideline (G-38)
 - Members Interested in Speaking guideline (G-1)
 - Attracting and Cooperating (S-40)
 - Local meeting schedules
 - Public Outreach calendar of ideas
 - Service Guidelines *KN17*, *Media Kit KN- 19*, *Public outreach Kit P-90*
 - GSO Web site
 - Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies section on Public Relations
 - Outreach to Professionals guideline (G-29)
 - Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazine – eg: in 2010 Al-Anon members distributed nearly 350,000 copies of AFAM. This is the largest fellowship wide member participation public outreach project) (source: pg 91 2010 Annual operation report)
 - WSO website: www.al-anon.alateen.org
 - WSO members' site: www.al-anon.org/members
 - Public Outreach Posters
 - WSO news releases (see media page)
3. What are we doing right now? What are others doing right now that is relevant? (Sally-ann to bring WSO examples or you can view the P90 online)
4. How do these choices relate to our 3 legacies?

Summary

Workshop One, National Public Outreach Plan

- P90 thorough & worth studying/following.
- Groups don't seem to be following the NZ P O Calendar.
- There is a lot we can do without having to re-invent the wheel as it's all in P90.
- Per Step 12 everyone is responsible for Public Outreach.

Members discussed the following ideas:

- The P90 needs NZ flavour, NZ 2006 Survey shows 60% of Newcomers come from AA
- Lets look into simply re-voicing the WSO resources with NZ actors.
- Facilitating use of Public Outreach Calendar by focus on shorter time periods.
- Public Outreach training needed but not previously well attended.
- Public meetings with use of electronic media and impact on members.
- Using free community advertising.
- "Inreach" paper not yet actioned.
- Using KN-17 folders, DVDs, podcasts and referral pads.
- Enthusiasm for WSO resources and their uptake after rights checked.

Conclusion:

Contact WSO to see what we can adopt/adapt with NZ/localised content and follow their example (their Experience, Strength & Hope) as outlined in "The Best of Public Outreach" e.g. contacting media for editorial/public service announcement placements in TV/Press/Radio with Area POs.

Decision:

That the Public Outreach P90 be used along with other applicable material from the WSO website. **Carried.**

Ask-it-Basket Questions 2013

Question 1: CAL

We had our meeting yesterday and the chair used some material that had been printed from the AI-Anon blog. This ruffled some feathers. Some of it had the AI-Anon logo etc. The question the group asked ... Is this CAL or not? And could it be considered CAL, the Messenger was given as an example of non-CAL that is used in meetings."

THE FORUM?

The AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010 – 2013 page 42. "The Forum is a Conference approved publication for use in meetings, presenting meeting topics and personal stories for group discussions."

The AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010 – 2013 pages 101, 102. "The Forum staff at the WSO, with the assistance from a volunteer committee, edits the letters and articles sent from all over the world.

The Forum can be used, and is encouraged to be used by all members and groups for meetings. The Forum as a concept is Conference Approved, but it is not possible for each issue to follow the full procedure for Conference Approved Literature. Sharings received for The Forum are reviewed for their fidelity to the AI-Anon program and principles by a volunteer committee and/or The Forum staff."

Sharings in the Forum undoubtedly can be used in meetings as Conference Approved literature. In fact we are encouraged to use the Forum as using it increases awareness and use of the publication. That said, occasional articles in the Forum (mainly on AI-Anon issues as opposed to personal stories) have included an editorial note saying they are individual views and do not necessarily reflect the views of AI-Anon as a whole.

THE NZ MESSENGER?

Sharings included in the NZ Messenger are subjected to editorial checking and control along similar lines to the process for The Forum. We have been encouraged to use sharings from the NZ Messenger in meetings and there is some anecdotal evidence suggesting that the practice may have been approved by the WSO. I have not had time since the suggestion was made to me to research its accuracy or otherwise.

Neither the AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010 – 2013 nor the NZ Service Handbook contain any suggestion that the NZ Messenger might in any way be considered to be a Conference Approved "concept" suitable for use in AI-Anon meetings.

To my mind the question remains open as to whether the use of NZ Messenger as a meeting resource is a departure from the guidelines around CAL – and if so whether it is such a departure as to constitute a matter "affecting another group or AI Anon or AA as a whole" in terms of Tradition 4 and thus restricting the autonomy of the group involved.


BLOG SITE(S)?

The WSO site <http://al-anonfamilygroups.org> hosts a blog site accessible through the members section as <http://al-anonfamilygroups.org/TheSteps/introduction>. There is NO suggestion anywhere on that site (or on any other "AI-Anon" blog site) that there is any WSO editorial control (let alone considered WSO editorial control).

The significance of CAL HAS NOT has not been "overlooked" on the site itself. The introduction page of the site includes an express request "Blog writers are asked not to quote from specific pieces of literature, whether AI-Anon Conference Approved Literature or not". The provision of

a link to enable “Questions about the appropriateness of a comment or potential abuse of the essential guidelines” to be forwarded tends to confirm that there is no editorial control but at best some retrospective consideration.

Nowhere on the WSO’s <http://al-anonfamilygroups.org/TheSteps> site was I able to find “the Al-Anon logo”. That seems to suggest that the material referred to in the question asked originated from a site other than the WSO’s blog site.

The reference to the apparent authority of “the Al-Anon logo” highlights a significant ongoing common misunderstanding. The Al-Anon logo  does NOT denote CAL. Paths to Recovery – page 163. “CAL is identified by the Al-Anon logo, with the letter AFG in the circle and the words World Service Conference within the triangle”.

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010 – 2013 page 100.

“The original seal, with the letters “AFG” in the circle and the words “World Service Conference” within the triangle, appears on, and is reserved for, all Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature and materials with the words “Approved by World Service Conference” Service tools carry the Al-Anon logo and indicate production by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.”



There are many “Al-Anon blog sites” which are clearly not in any way connected to WSO or the World Service Conference. By way of example only the <http://fine-anon.blogspot.com/>, <http://www.alanonjournal.com/>, <http://lettinggo-al-anonrecovery.blogspot.com/> and <http://al-anonfilter.blogspot.com> sites all appear to be personal blog sites with no reference to the Al-Anon logo and clearly no relationship to the WSO.

One site <http://the-twelve-steps.com> includes a page <http://the-twelve-steps.com/al-anon-alanon-12-steps.html> which displays the Al-Anon logo but is clearly unrelated to the WSO. There are pages on the same site for A.A. for N.A. and for other material in no way related to Al-Anon.

Summary

- The Forum is CAL & can be used in meetings.
- Encouraged to use the NZ Messenger in meetings.
- The Al-Anon logo does NOT denote CAL. It needs logo & AFG & World Service Conference all within the triangle.
- There are many Al-Anon Blogs which are in no way related to Al-Anon Family Groups.

Members discussed the following:

- WSO has a patent on the logo & will pursue breeches. WSO follows up misuses of our name.
- Placing this information on our website for any group to easily access.
- Checking we have the logo on when appropriate. There is a section on logos in the manual.

Summary Footnote: (International feedback received since Conference)

- In Italy – “in our structure we use our national magazine in control in our meeting because it is Conference approved publication as stated in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2010- 2013 page 42 English version.”
- In Australia – “as in the WSO structure, we consider our national magazine to be suitable to use in meetings as the concept of the magazine is Conference (Australian Conference) approved. The articles in the magazine have undergone an approval process by the Editorial Committee.”
- In South Africa – “As regards our local magazine called “Unitas” it is not CAL and we do not distribute it beyond the membership. We were often asked if the publication could be distributed as an Outreach tool, and the Conference agreed that was never its intention, and it is not CAL.”
- In Argentina – “our ‘Boletin Amistad’, the national magazine, is informative; it isn’t CAL; only the literature that came from the WSO is CAL; we have the permission to edit. Members in their groups reads “Boletin Amistad”, it has a spiritual section and other informative.”

Question 2: FUNDRAISING AT AA EVENTS

“Is it consistent with Tradition Seven, for us to seek to sell fundraising items to AA members outside of the area allocated for Al-Anon participation when we cooperate/participate with AA at their events (conventions or area assemblies). Ref Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2012-2013 pp. 94 (Fund Raising) & 96 (Selling Products at AA meetings).”

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010 – 2013 page 94. “Many ... gatherings of Al-Anon/Alateen members often raise funds to provide services. Fund-raising activities such as potluck suppers, dances, or other social events are conducted only within the fellowship and in agreement with the groups directly involved. If, however, such events are open to the public, use of the Al-Anon name would violate the spirit of our Traditions. ... Al-Anon and Alateen groups do not accept contributions of money, goods or services from outside the Al-Anon membership in order to adhere to the Seventh Tradition of full support”

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010 – 2013 page 95. “In keeping with Tradition Seven, Al-Anon and Alateen members should refrain from soliciting or selling any products at A.A. meetings.”

Are we really able to argue that our cooperation/participation with A.A. at A.A. conventions and assemblies means that they are not “A.A. meetings” and nor are they “open to the public”?

Summary

- P94 of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual says we can only accept donations from within the AFG membership

Members discussed the following:

- Allowing AA to buy from us (given that AA Assemblies & Conventions are all “open” so funds are coming from outside AFG) and the spirit of co-operation with AA
- Who is an AFG member? Some-one who has attended 1 meeting? How many meetings? What about on-selling? Identifying members is an issue of anonymity.
- “Refrain from” is not prohibitive but manual reminds us not to use the public area.

Question 3: FUNDRAISING WITHIN AL-ANON

“Is it consistent with Tradition Seven for us to seek to sell fundraising items exclusively within the fellowship? Ref Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2012-2013 pp. 94; Paths to Recovery p. 186-187”

The Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2010–2013 page 94. “Raffling various articles at meetings or other gatherings is a matter of autonomy (see “Selling Products/Chances”, but to avoid commercialism in the fellowship it is suggested that these items relate in some way to our spiritual principles.”

Paths to Recovery p. 186-187. “Keeping Al-Anon a safe place where we can come for comfort and solutions means it must not be a place where we feel pressured or obligated to buy anything. Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature (CAL) is sold at meetings only to recoup the group’s out-of-pocket expenses to purchase it. ... Sale of trinkets and outside materials would create diversion from our primary purpose. ”

Is it appropriate for a group to pass raffle tickets around with the Tradition 7 basket/bag?

Are trading table fundraisers acceptable? Cake auctions?

Summary

- P94 in Al-Anon Alateen service manual gives autonomy
- Refer to p94-95 Al-Anon Alateen Service manual 2010-2013 for further information.

Members discussed the following:

- passing raffle tickets around with Tradition 7 basket
- Paths to Recovery says not to sell “trinkets”
- The appropriateness of cakes, pot plants, raffles tickets, trading table
- The importance of there being no pressure

Report on Area's Four and Five separation trials

Gordon P (previous Area Four Delegate)

In 2010 the issue of the size of groups and members in Area's Four and Five was brought before Conference and it was decided to let the areas divide into Area Four and Area Five, which had been the case for some 10 years.

At the time of the split Area Four only had three groups, Napier, Hastings and Wairoa, and since then the Hastings meeting has closed. We have an active area committee and after the 2012 Conference our alternate delegate has stepped up to being our area delegate and will be attending Conference 2013.

We have held our area assemblies regularly in July, November and March, and this year two of our members went through to the Area Six assembly in Rotorua to participate in a TEAM event.

This year we have decided that our next assembly immediately after Conference, will be held in Napier and in November we will go to Wairoa for our assembly. We hope to arrange a TEAM event at that assembly and will be making the necessary arrangements with GSO.

We have not had much contact with our counterparts in Area Five, so do not know how they feel about us being separate Areas. For our part we are happy to stay as a small but vibrant area.

From a personal point of view, I agree that Area Four is more than coping with it's Area status. However it might be a point of discussion about the far flung isolated groups. While groups in the same cities can get together conveniently, may be we need to be considering how isolated groups relate to the organisation. But that is where we have the protection that each group and by extension, each Area is able to make these decisions for themselves. What works in areas of the South Island might be completely different to what works say in the central North Island.

My recommendation is that Area Four continues to be Area Four until such time as there is a complete overhaul of the areas for the whole of New Zealand. Opportunities can be taken to visit other areas groups meetings and assemblies, as we did going to Rotorua in March to appreciate how wide AI-Anon spreads.

Thank you for the opportunity to share as Area Four/Five delegate and then Area Four delegate.

Area Five – Ester S

At the last assembly on 2nd March the splitting of areas Four and Five was discussed. A vote was taken and agreed unanimously on to keep the area as Area Five at this point, if agreed on by Conference.

Summary

KBDM on the separation of Areas Four & Five

Members discussed the following:

- Both Areas are happy to stay separate.
- Both are self-supporting.
- Democracy is being achieved.

MOTION: Proposed that Area Four and Area Five remain separate until such time as there is a review of all Areas for the whole of New Zealand.

AMENDED MOTION: That Area Four and Area Five remain separate. **CARRIED**

Redefining the role of General Secretary

1 Why are we discussing this matter, what is the point of bringing it to this Conference, what is the history of the subject?

- We have had General Secretary as a paid employee and servant of the Board until February 2013.
- The General Service Board (GSB) in line with its obligations to look after Al-Anon New Zealand was concerned at the continuing operating costs, it cost the New Zealand fellowship to keep Al-Anon New Zealand running.
- As a result of this the task force came up with eleven options for the GSB to consider as a way forward.
- The GSB decided on the option to restructure the General Services Office (GSO) and move toward electronic mail outs where practicable.
- In doing this both office employees, one being the General Secretary was made redundant.
- We as a Board bring this matter to Conference in the interests of transparency and being held to account to the wider New Zealand fellowship through their trusted servants, you delegates present today.
- The question that we need an answer for “do we still need the position of General Secretary”?

2 How does this subject under discussion already operate in our fellowship? Who is involved ie, wider Al-Anon fellowship?

- Until February 2013 we had a General Secretary.
- The role of General Secretary can be found in the *New Zealand Handbook 2010*, p59.
- We as a Board have employed an Office Manager for 15 hours a week which means our GSO will be open for 3 days a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 am till 3.30pm – 30 minutes for lunch.
- Up till February 2013 the General Secretary was the voice most fellowship members dealt with, met with at assemblies or may have been helped to find answers to particular queries.
- The General Secretary was an ex-officio member on all selected committees ie, literature, editorial, executive – budget and public outreach.

3 What are good and bad things about how this thing is already working.

- The General Secretary was the voice on the end of the phone line, email and visitors to the GSO for the wider New Zealand fellowship.
- The General Secretary was the “face” of NZ Al-Anon in dealings with outside organisations and the public generally.
- The way GSO was running was a concern, so therefore the restructure.
- Our new Office Manager has only been with us for three months.
- The Office Manager has more skills in MYOB the GSO's financial operating system which should allow the fellowship to be kept up-to-date with the current NZ Al-Anon's financial position in real time.
- The Chair of the Executive-Budget committee may be able to update us at Conference as to how it's all working today.

4 Will any decision we make be within the Traditions, Concepts of Service, law of the land, work place guidelines.

- In carrying out the restructure the GSB has worked with in current New Zealand employment laws.
- The GSB has the delegated authority to look after NZ AI-Anon's best interests.
- The GSB has authority to fill vacancies occurring because of any members resignation, illness or other causes. (*NZ Handbook 2010, p57*)

5 After everything we've discussed do we still need more information, are there questions unanswered.

- Should the term be fixed ie, three years in line with other Board appointments or in AI-Anon generally?
- Do we need a General Secretary today?
- Delegates after reading this paper do you have any further questions or need further clarification of the subject matter, if so bring them to the Conference and we will answer as best we can.

*Summary***Redefining the role of General Secretary**

-
- The Board trial of not having a General Secretary is for 12 months (March 2014) or less.
 - In this time the Board hopes to find out what we need to change.
 - In the past the General Secretary had a voice on every committee.
 - Now that we do not have a General Secretary does the Board look at length of service if the position is reinstated with another job description.
 - Currently we have been able to answer any questions asked of GSO.
 - Previously the GS organised lunches for Board meetings, members of the Board now rotate this task.
 - It was suggested from the Conference floor to involve other members for catering for Board members.
 - The Office Manager is not a cheque signatory, and has read only access to NZGSO bank accounts.
 - Volunteers are continuing to work well in the office .
 - Previously we have had an Office Manager only, New Zealand AI-Anon continued to function.
 - The Budget Executive Chair is monitoring the GSO environment to assist the Board making a decision about a GS in the future.
 - The Board is authorised to appoint people if they see the need and then when the next Conference comes along the fellowship through the Delegates can vote to support, or not the decision of the Board.
 - Excellent communication would need to occur between a General Secretary and Office Manager, if the position is reinstated, although we don't know what the new position description might be at this time.
 - GSB has the authority to appoint a General Secretary p 59 NZ AI-Anon/Alateen Handbook 2010. The paragraph that deals with Secretary of the GSO is confusing and is to be re-written in the updated Handbook.
 - The Office Manager is the person who is the voice of New Zealand AI-Anon by virtue of the fact he/she answers the calls to GSO.

- Special skills were and are required in that area of the MYOB accounting package we use.
- Guidelines would be worked on and brought to Conference if the position is reinstated.
- Is the GS position to be a voluntary position?
- Would we consider trialling a voluntary position of General Secretary?
- Job description at a future date will come from the Board working closely with the Executive/Budget Committee Chair.
- The Exec, Office Manager and Board would need to closely communicate so that we don't flog a willing horse (volunteers) or staff. We need to be mindful of that.
- If time taken to complete tasks is longer than time Office Manager has in paid hours this may be a problem.
- Leave this issue with the next Board to continue trial until March 2014.
- The Fellowship needs to be informed definitively of what is happening.

Decision:

That the Board continue to have no General Secretary for a trial period. **Carried**

16th International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM)

Arnold H

Cape Town, South Africa 3–6 October, 2012

I will say that this continuing journey in Al-Anon service has provided opportunities I never thought possible nor imagined when many years ago I was given one of my first jobs, turning the heater on in the cold Central Otago town of Alexandra where I first entered the doors of Al-Anon Family Groups.

This is the second time I have represented the New Zealand fellowship at this meeting and again I was humbled and honoured to do so.

I think the fact the South African members communicated early with all participants made their visit to the South Africa a little less of a mystery and it was an opportunity for me to meet other 2nd time attendees making the event a pleasurable experience.

I believe the opportunity taken by a majority of delegates, partners and the ICC (International Coordinating committee) to take part in a scenic tour on the Tuesday before the meeting allowed us to reacquaint and make new friends before the meeting started. This set the tone for the days to come.

The format of the meeting was the same as I experienced at Virginia Beach. On Wednesday 3rd of October we all met for an evening meal and then all those present introduced themselves. We had to move to another room for this as our meals were in the restaurant shared by all hotel guests. Partners were welcome and also had an opportunity to speak.

Day One: Lois A from Australia opened with her story which was well received. As with all Al-Anon Conferences the rules for voting were laid out. On this occasion we had some different thinking. Some automatically wanted closed ballots but after discussion agreement was reached decisions would be by a show of hands unless one member objected then we would revert to a closed ballot. This was the method agreed upon at previous IAGSM's. I carried our flag and Paula put the pin on the world map.

There was then a discussion on the current situation of IAGSM's becoming self-supporting. Currently we are 80% contribution with the WSO picking up the other 20%. A previous motion many years ago had the IAGSM to become fully self-supporting and from that time each IAGSM has moved up at 5%. So in two years' time all participating countries will pay 85% of the cost of attending the IAGSM. It was apparent not all participants were aware of this and some time was spent clarifying the topic. No different I believe to our own Conference when we have new members attending.

There was an offer by the WSO prior to the IAGSM to assist countries financially to attend should they require this. I think several countries present took this opportunity. From an English speaking point of view our South American members had difficulty hearing the English language and understanding it so there was a constant side discussion going on behind and to the left of the New Zealand table. This is not new and will continue to be an issue. Later in the meeting an inventory of the IAGSM was started and this was an issue raised.

The general sessions for today were:

- Overcoming Tension in the Service Structure – Federica S; Italy
- Understanding the Balance between Concepts Six and Seven – Kira S; Finland
- Public Outreach (ways to communicate at the public level within the community)
– Gillian G; South Africa

I found the issues raised in the first two presentations came down to people not having clarity of their roles, personalities and issues of how laws in some countries don't seem to allow the Traditions and Concepts to be used in a legal "incorporation" for want of a better word.

The presentation on Outreach was inspiring showing how a determined group of members can achieve what appears to be a great outreach tool with help from a Higher Power. Gillian from South Africa had been involved in the 50th celebration of Al-Anon in S.A. and as they prepared to celebrate their 60th she was asked to assist. She wrote to outside advertising agencies indicating what Al-Anon was about and that S.A. wanted to celebrate this occasion. She also mentioned they had limited funds. It seems the letter did the rounds of an agency and landed on the desk of someone who had knowledge of this fellowship and another. In the end a discussion took place and I believe the particular person gave of their time freely. A banner or statue six metres in length made entirely of bottles was designed. It spells HOPE and each letter is separate from the others. It can be uplifted and placed with the banners they also produced at any venue. The fellowship of S.A. wrote personal notes of their experience of Al-Anon and each bottle had an individual message placed in them. There of course is a cost to produce the items and one fund raiser was to have film evenings, buying out a theatre at a bulk price then on selling to members at normal price.

I also heard that we're old and that the "speak" of Al-Anon to a young person can just be too wordy. That unless its 21st century speak, we are unlikely to grab their time or attention. Certainly they prepared banners that grabbed my attention, but of course I'm interested in the fellowship. I think they would get heads turning though whatever age the person might be. They of course were designed to go with the bottle theme. Other PO ideas mentioned – breakfast meetings with professionals – feed them – they don't leave when eating so talk to them then. Apparently Google (USA anyway) allows or has to have free advertising space/content – what does Google New Zealand allow? WSO website has a range of poster/designs we can grab and use putting our own words onto them

We had a break out workshop on three subjects, Staff and members (Track 1), Paid staff and members (Track 2) and Conflict Resolution.

I was at the 1st mentioned group. Essentially it came down to a discussion of how to get relevant information out to the fellowship, from the GSO's and then once at group level what happens to it. We identified the GR as a weak link in this process. Some ideas that GR's may not know their role, be unsupported by group members, not allowing time for information to be shared.

Summaries of the other break out groups was handed to us.

That evening we met in groups with the ICC members rotating between groups answering any questions put to them. In this session Argentina had a lot of information so not much else was discussed.

Day Two, the general sessions for this day were:

- Inventory (part one) of IAGSM – Karen R; USA and Canada
- Building Bridges – between different Communities within the Al-Anon Structure – Ann C; USA and Canada
- Anonymity – Arnold H; New Zealand
- Inventory (part two) of IAGSM – lead by Patricia D; Belgium (French speaking)

The inventory is ongoing. Prior to the IAGSM all GSO's received a questionnaire which was then filled out by delegates from those countries either individually or by discussion at say a Board meeting. We can still fill one out as New Zealand hasn't to date. Essentially the IAGSM is seen as worthwhile but since 2006 attendance has dramatically reduced. As mentioned earlier some countries took up the financial offer by WSO and were in attendance in South Africa. Everyone present felt it worthwhile, finances seemed to be the biggest barrier. Young structures (or their representatives) found being present and their learning experience most worthwhile. The ICC commented those countries present today were the only ones whom responded to queries from

the WSO generally! We then had more of the inventory in the evening but everyone was tired so it was abandoned. The inventory is continuing on the WSO IAGSM e-community at this moment. Language is a barrier to attendance and the cost of translation would make the IAGSM prohibitive.

Building Bridges shared of problems in the Canadian area of how groups of differing languages and the isolation due to distance fragmented AI-Anon. Other things raised was communication throughout the structure/s, education of fellowship, shorter punchier pamphlets describing AI-Anon, a programme of hope, age creates issues, we oldies think differently to our younger members, age could be a barrier to young people – at the moment they see older people when going to meetings – their question might be is this for my age group? As older persons are we condescending to younger members? Maybe we need to change our meeting formats? Do we ask people what is it you want from us when they first come? We need to welcome new people. Maybe we can have an interactive platform on our websites so we (AI-Anon) can have question and answer type interaction going in real time?

So lots of questions and thought provoking ideas!

The anonymity presentation using the Bear AI-Anon meeting in full costume and then using the data projector to view the WSO presentation on this subject was well received.

The breakout workshop session covered: conflict resolution – attracting members into service, Finance and Self-support (reprinting – financially feasible).

I attended the conflict resolution session. We came up with all the things we have been trying to do here in New Zealand, one fellowship, transparency of decision making, identify future leaders, role model good behaviour/enthusiasm in service.

Day three, sessions on:

- Alateen sponsorship – Silvina C; Argentina
- Adult children and other specialised groups – Silke S; Germany

Alateen – make our groups ready to meet the need of younger persons if no Alateen. Issues of becoming an AMIAS were discussed. Brenda A. from South Africa shared of spending 5 hours at a local Police Station in Cape Town trying to get the necessary papers completed as required by their law, the Policeman had a computer but no mouse so she went home and got hers to make it happen. Easier in New Zealand! Do we have a process in place if sexual abuse is revealed to AMIAS running meetings? In the USA and Canada it is a requirement for board members to be AMIAS certified. There was discussion about the chat rooms now available for setting up. Italy had an Alateen member attend Conference with voice and no vote.

There wasn't a lot of discussion on the next issue. Naming of groups was discussed those with a special affinity can incorporate it into the meeting name ie, Monday night ACOA AI-Anon Family Group. Ric B. spoke here that the WSO Conference is looking at (as Peter A has shared previously) listing the spiritual principles of the Traditions and Concepts, they should be in the next reprint of the manual. That AI-Anon is /has a trademark/copyright and when people use it inappropriately the WSO is following up and warning people when they breach the use of our name.

We had two brief reports about the Central American and European Zonal meetings. There was no discussion.

The Conference wound down with any unanswered questions and a session where individuals reflected on this Conference and attendance at IAGSM's generally. As usual time ran out.

The meeting formally closed and all were invited to attend Virginia Beach in 2014. Maureen McA. from Ireland shared her journey and our partners joined us for this session.

That night the farewell dinner was at a restaurant on a hillside overlooking the city in the distance. We started in the hotel foyer and a singing duo welcomed us by singing a few songs. We then travelled to the venue where they had a drumming session outside of the restaurant. We all played and beat the drums creating a unique piece of music that will never be replicated again! The meal

was superb. All IAGSM delegates that had represented South Africa over many years were guests. We were all given a small drum as a gift. We knew New Zealand customs wouldn't let us in so I left mine with my daughter in Singapore.

The next day most delegates who chose to stay on another day were taken by South African members or their spouses in private cars for a trip to Simons Town. This has a naval base and a colony of penguins. We had a meal together and meandered back to Cape Town stopping at points our respective drivers felt we should look at. And so my 2nd experience representing the New Zealand AI-Anon family came to a close.

I believe if possible we should continue to attend, I believe there is merit in two representatives going following that in AI-Anon we don't do things alone. As always the experience of being present, being part of this forum will stay with me forever.

16th International AI-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM)

Paula B

No Structure is Ever Alone
Cape Town, South Africa
3–6 October, 2012

Two years ago when my nomination was successful to be an IAGSM delegate I was extremely excited. How time goes by when you are in recovery. What an honor to represent the New Zealand AI-Anon Family Groups at an International Meeting.

I was fortunate to have the experience. Arnold H, the 2nd year IAGSM delegate encouraged me to get up and share our structure with the other 24 delegates, five ICC delegates from the WSO.

Over the Conference there were a series of workshops. We sent our preference prior to arriving at the meeting.

Staff and Members – Arnold H

Paid Staff and members Track 2 – Paula P

Conflict Resolution attracting members in service. Track 2 Arnold H

Finance – Paula B

The first workshop I facilitated and we had a Reporter (scribe) it was my role to make sure that everyone had a voice and that there was time for all who attended to share. This can be difficult due to members that didn't always understand the language. I enjoyed the process the questions were given to the group by the ICC delegates I suppose chairing a workshop is different where the chair does the research.

My second workshop was Finance (I wanted conflict resolution) and wondered why I had been allocated something I was not interested in. All I can say is that I enjoyed the session immensely we had great discussion and Ric Buchanan was part of the group and he has great skills in this area.

I learned that most countries that buy their literature from US or other countries have similar problems to the one we are experiencing now.

The WSO gets 30% of their money from donations the other 70% is from Literature that they print. We were encouraged to look into other options. The WSO don't see our buying literature as a donation. Our goal could be that New Zealand AI-Anon Family Groups in the future work towards printing our books. It was explained that a Reserve Fund would be important if we chose to go down that track.

We were able to share on the state of our financial situation in each structure.

There was talk of staff downsizing, off site book keeping (MYOB), reducing the time that the delegates are at Conference to two nights.

AI-Anon to collect the tax on online money donations rather than the depositor.

Paid volunteers ie: for time spent and travel costs instead of full paid workers.

Arnold's session Anonymity was enjoyed by all members. He used a data projector for the visuals and they were extremely good for the delegates with English as a second language.

To check out:

Does NZ AI-Anon... have at Alateen meetings a blurb that if they share about any abuse in a meeting the Amias will report this to the authorities.

Items of Interest

- All Board Exec and staff are required to be AMIAS at the WSO.
- No special groups. All groups are open and the only way to identify is in the name of the group.
- Members who are affected by drugs can attend AI-Anon but they must focus on Alcohol/AI-Anon.
- Presentations on Members website ie: Conflict Resolution.
- In the US Areas have their own Alateen Chat Rooms – they currently have over 1000 Alateen meetings.

Gratitude – Giving – Growth

A delegate reported that their GSO requests an Area to do a fundraiser for the GSO.

In Conclusion

Attending the IASGM is as important as a Group Representative attending an assembly and reporting back to the group. We can't afford to cut costs in this area

Arnold has mentioned Zonal Meetings the other European delegates have zonal meetings every two years and the delegates get together and discuss AI-Anon in a smaller forum. Legally we could team up with Australia, Asia, and Japan. Two New Zealand delegates attended the Australian Conference last year and the Australian delegates are keen to attend the New Zealand Conference in the future.

Summary

IAGSM

A video of the South African experience was shown by Arnold H.

Paula B

Highlights

- Getting nominated from Conference.
- It's not a holiday – work hard before you go, then be on the right page when you're at different sessions. Being there with someone who has been there before was helpful in AI-Anon we don't do things alone.
- Made great friends.
- It is another meeting but that other level of service. What is brought back is useful to the AI-Anon Groups in NZ. There is a real place for the IAGSM, we are part of the world stage in AI-Anon.
- It's like a GR not going to an assembly – we are not represented.
- Lacking – what to do – there is no document that tells you what to do when you book.
- The experience is valuable and great fun with great people.
- Humbling – the second time it is even better. Our experience, strength and hope can be shared. The meetings outside the meetings are also relevant.

Questions:

- Some countries only had one Delegate. Paula said most had two people. Sweden was on her own. It is an advantage to have two people. They got the most out of it by doing it that way. Currently there is an inventory about the value of IAGSM by attending countries and those that have previously been have also been invited to offer their thoughts. WSO continuing the inventory as countries are not as well represented now compared with 2006.
- Two Delegates can represent NZ AI-Anon in a wider sense at the Conference as several workshops are run at the same time.
- Paula had the Finance workshop which was very helpful with the current restructure of NZGSO.
- Another workshop was on Conflict and trying to be transparent in our transactions. Our weakest links are GR's as they are not confident in a number of ways. How can we get the news down? This may be just AI-Anon.
- We were definitely warmly received and we didn't get it all right. We were loved the way we were. How does anybody learn? By being kind and encouraging. GR's are the vital link. We need to let them know that.
- English as a second language is an issue, so using electronic media assists those who find it difficult to hear the English being spoken.

Feedback to IAGSM Delegates

- Much was received from your reports and presentations.
- Borrowing ideas from 50th celebration.
- Bottles were inspiring.
- Poster designs at WSO websites were very useful.
- Wisdom and knowledge brought back from IAGSM.
- IAGSM should we reduce to one Delegate attending?
- If the Board decides we can't afford to go then either we won't go or we consider one Delegate. This has happened previously.
- Zonal meetings are a good proposition e.g. Asian or Australasian.
- The IAGSM voted many years ago to be self-supporting so each IAGSM since that time means attending countries pay 5% more at each IAGSM. Currently we paid 80% of the cost to attend, next time it will be 85% so at the 2020 meeting we will be 100% self-supporting.
- We need to look long and hard and get over the shame and ego involved. If you can't afford to go you don't go.
- Countries where AI-Anon Family Groups are present and who have a GSO are the countries who attend the IAGSM.

Main Points

- 60 year birthday celebrations in South Africa 60 Years of HOPE.
- Bottles with a message – great advertising.
- Participation by facilitating their sessions. New Zealand did a session on Anonymity. Paula B. lead a workshop on Finance.
- Wisdom and learning.
- Quote from Ric Buchanan– “try it and then let me know how you get on”. Try things.
- Financial hardship in other countries.
- Cements the idea that we are a part of a worldwide fellowship and face the same issues.
- Common problems and common solutions.
- We are not a law unto ourselves – accountability is necessary to the NZ Fellowship.

Outgoing sharing

Suzanne F

Lois W, our co-founder said, 'do not let the seriousness of your task stand in the way of your enjoying each other'.

I am away as you know, three years of sitting in this room with people of loyalty and integrity.

From now on it's a balanced life for me.

The future of Al-Anon is in good hands, our Higher Power says so.

You welcomed, supported, guided, and we talked, you and me. I listened and we ate. A balanced life for me it must be!

Presuming good will stands tall and the three legacies strong; so you and I will carry on to break the cycle of this family disease. This well oiled machine, 'The Conference' is the guiding word that says to me I can get on with my recovery – a balanced life for me! Adieu Adieu!

Arnold

I have been procrastinating for a while thinking about what to say today as I rotate off from my current time in service as a trusted servant on the Board. I've been feeling sad, wondering what lies ahead for me, it's that wanting to know and plan for very event in my life that makes it a little scary.

But of course that's just my hard wiring needing to have things in place so I know what's around the corner for me. The good thing is that as people have rotated off the Board while I've been here, it seems the replacements are people with skills and new thought patterns that are needed at the time they arrive, funny how the Higher Power seems to sort things out without my interference.

Many years ago my sponsor said to me when you're asked to do something in Al-Anon, consider it, but your answer should be yes! Well I know that if I don't attend meetings my best thinking gets me into some fairly tricky places in my relationships with others, I can easily start to obsess about things that I really have no interest in, nor is it my place to even offer any thoughts .

Service has certainly given me sufficient tasks to work on between Board meetings, as part of a task force or work group, attending other Al-Anon events in New Zealand, presenting at TEAM events preparing knowledge based papers for presentation on various matters. In doing all of these I have gained many skills that also assist me to deal with issues in the world outside of Al-Anon and for that I'm grateful.

From turning the heater on at my first meeting in Alexandra to representing New Zealand at the International Al-Anon General Services

Meetings has been life changing. Every step of my journey in Al-Anon has had many highs and the odd low.

The lows really are life events, a death of a family member, an acquaintance or friends that I've made within the Al-Anon fellowship.

The highs have been exaggerated by being in service within our fellowship, the people I've met, the Al-Anon events attended have brought me into contact with a large number of members who all bring a different perspective to the Al-Anon experience I've enjoyed so far.

My turn on the General Service Board has been enjoyable as we have trialled new ideas that we take from the World Service Conference. Having others whom made the commitment to attend this event has New Zealand Al-Anon looking at ways we can better share the message of recovery with those who have yet to move beyond their respective groups as new ideas and methods of delivering our programme are found. Our challenge is to adapt new ideas so that they fit our New Zealand fellowship.

I have always said that to get out of my head I go to meetings, to get out of the comfort of my home meeting I go to service related events which in my case has lead me to national and international events. After my first IAGSM meeting I made a commitment to attend the World Al-Anon Convention in Vancouver in July this year, when I registered I said yes I would be happy to be involved in service, if a kiwi was required or was acceptable.

I've been asked to speak at the International Meeting on the opening night, I get goose bumps thinking about it, but it will be me who is better off for doing this.

Conference Feedback from Delegates – Sunday

Area Two Delegate

New Delegates got together last night and discussed what they had experienced from Conference. Some of the comments were:

- Nervous, warm welcome, having a buddy was good
- Formal and fun
- Loads of inspiration
- Variety
- PO finance and AI-Anon structure
- All listened to each other
- See a wider picture
- Mutual respect
- No put downs or cross talk
- A gift
- Service is fun
- Helped people grow in confidence
- Need to inform GRs
- Exciting
- Trusted servants
- Ultimate Authority is God
- There were different opinions.

Delegates Reports

Area One

Colleen D

Area One covers a large area from Oamaru south. We have 11 meetings: Invercargill [3] Gore [1] Maitaia [1] Dunedin [2] Alexandra [1] Cromwell [1] Wanaka [1] Queenstown [1]

Area Assembly

Our area assembly is in Bluff this month on 16th March at the invitation of the AA Assembly Committee.

I have enjoyed the meetings that have been held at an AA member's home to pull the assembly together, the banter from the "other side" towards me and "my Al-Anon" is a real blessing.

The seafood at Bluff is always a drawcard. I'm so looking forward to a good turnout.

Highlights

The Serenity Weekend at Pounawea, run by the Gore group in October was a great time to catch up with members from Dunedin, Balclutha and Germany.

Our lone member from Te Anau always attends these popular weekends to strengthen his ties with Al-Anon.

The weekend starts with general sharing on Friday night and then topics for the next two days. A blind raffle is held and leftover food is sold off for a gold coin, with the money going to GSO. As much as \$300 sometimes. Only 14 people can sleepover because of bed space, but others can come for the daytime meetings.

Another fundraiser from the small Maitaia group is the famous Southland cheese rolls. Three of us went on a road trip to Alexandra with 24 dozen rolls and that was only a small portion of the total amount processed. They have sent an amazing amount of money to GSO for such a small dedicated group.

The previous area delegate is the driving force behind this scheme.

Public Outreach

The Southern Institute of Technology nurse graduates held an Health Expo, open to the public. A team of 4 were studying alcoholism so AA and Al-Anon was part of their brief. They were given some of our pamphlets to hand out and I offered a guest speaker anytime and also told them of our open meetings.

A Mental Health Community worker was at the Maitaia meeting and become an excellent contact. She went away more enlightened so we hope we will see some feedback.

I hope to start up a meeting in Central Southland in the near future. There seems to be a gap in the map in that region for families who may need Al-Anon.

Concerns

We are losing our wonderful treasurer and I hope someone will come forward at the next meeting.

Also I would like an alternative area delegate to travel to Central Otago or someone who lives there would be even better to keep in touch with those meetings.

Summary

- They participated at an AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation.
- The Area Treasurer position is filled.
- Serenity Weekend has 14 beds and we self cater.
- We have a Southern delicacy cheese and onion rolls we sell a lot of them with soup

Area Two

Teresa H

Area Two covers Kaikoura to South Canterbury. The groups within our area are reasonably healthy. We have 11 groups in Christchurch, one in Kaikoura and one in Ashburton. Timaru group is in recess at this time.

Assemblies

AI-Anon participates regularly in AA assemblies within our region.

Public Outreach

Area Two is starting to pick up the reins in this area. Three groups have a public outreach position. Our public outreach Co-ordinator has been visiting Christchurch groups to encourage them to contribute and so far there has been quite a few new initiatives. Flyers on buses, literature in libraries and a few people are visiting other recovery groups and community groups to stock up meetings lists and literature. One group is looking at putting up posters in all local doctors centres.

Public Speaking

In our area we have a lively group who once a month speaking to groups e.g. Medical students, the Pillars group who support family members of prisoners and the Anglican Women drop in centre.

Our area is also looking at speakers going into high schools. We have received some requests for this service.

Highlights

Last year our area held a Serenity Weekend which hasn't been held in our area for many years. The weekend was well supported and the members really enjoyed the whole experience. There was the option for members to come for the day as well. The overwhelming feedback from the members was to make this an annual event. Other years we have had a Serenity Day which had also been well attended.

Summary

Our area feels more settled after the upheaval of the last few years i.e. earthquakes and the closure of our information office. We seem to have come together. There is good positive energy and a feeling we are going from strength to strength. All our area positions are filled and we are financially able to put more money into our public outreach. We also offer assistance to groups outside of Christchurch to come to our area meetings i.e. Kaikoura and Ashburton.

As delegate I have been trying to keep in contact by forwarding any news to all our GR's about our area or from GSO.

Summary.

- Serenity weekend being organised.
- Flyers for AI-Anon displayed in buses.
- Leaflets for Bridge programme and Pillars Group.
- Kaikoura and Ashburton we always offer to pay for them to come to business meetings.

Area Three

Lynne C

Area Three is part of the Central Region and covers the Wellington region, Kapiti and Wairarapa. There have been some changes in the area, one group in Kapiti has closed but there are now two new groups in Wellington, one on a Thursday evening and one on Monday lunchtime.

Highlights

The Serenity Weekend held in May was a wonderful opportunity for sharing, recovery, fellowship and relaxation. It welcomed people from all over the lower North Island.

Area Assemblies/Workshops

We have had area assemblies in Upper Hutt, Porirua and Masterton all of which have been well attended with on average around 25 members.

AA Conventions with AI-Anon participation

The area arranged a full day of AI-Anon meetings at the Central AA assembly in November last year. There was much fellowship and laughter; especially over the cloak-room we were allocated. There is a desire on the part of both delegates to see the fellowships work closer in the future.

Area committee

Our Chairperson recently took over the role of Secretary following a resignation which means we are looking to fill that role. We are also advertising for Public Outreach and Institutions Co-ordinator. The role of Institutions Co-ordinator is particularly challenging since the local prison changed the hours available for meetings to only daytime.

We have set up a sub-committee to organise and fundraise for the visit of the WSO CEO in September.

Public Outreach

The large banner we had made two years ago is continuing its travels, stopping at council and private owned fences around the area. As always it is frustrating that we don't get much feedback on how 'successful' it is but it is certainly helping to get the message out.

Alateen

We now have an Alateen Co-ordinator who is going around the groups recruiting people to apply to be AMIAS, so far only two groups have people accepted as AMIAS.

Concerns

There was concern expressed recently by some of the area committee members about the challenges of contacting some groups and the extra work that resulted for some committee members. Our solution was firstly to go back to basics and have the committee read their job descriptions, which was well received by all. Then secondly to do the same at GR level stressing the importance of having and working with a Service Sponsor. Early days but hopefully these approaches will improve communication.

Conclusion

Overall with two new groups opening it has so far been a successful year in the Area Three.

Summary

- Have reintroduced Birthday meetings – hopefully to have some fun and frivolity.
- New Groups, Monday Lunch time meeting and 7am Thursday morning meditation meeting.
- We have an institution Co-ordinator and this is an area committee role that has rotation.
- Banner – photos were passed around and can be emailed to groups. These are 1/3 page flyers.
- We commend the Alateen Co-ordinator and the fact they are proactive.
- When people hold on to a position too long it looks too hard for the fellowship. Do I have to do it for that long is what worries people. There are some guidelines around these matters with service positions.

Area Four

Margaret J

Area Four stretches from north of Gisborne to south of Woodville up to the east coast of the North Island. Cities are Hastings, Napier, and Gisborne. The biggest towns are Wairoa, Waipukurau and Dannevirke. The area at this point has two group meetings. Napier at 7.30pm on Tuesday with numbers between eight to fourteen. And Wairoa 6.00pm on Fridays. Wairoa has started having a shared tea meeting on the first Friday of each month which is pretty casual to help newcomers to feel comfortable.

We do not have any Alateen meetings but we have had some teens come to the occasional meeting and brought literature.

Our Area is self supporting in that only having two groups we have managed to pay GSO the \$600 for Conference fees. The Napier Group has raffled some Al-Anon books. Some purchased from GSO on special and some donated by members as well as donations.

Public outreach is done by Members bookmarks in returned library books, keeping literature placed around eg. Addiction centre. Citizens Advice Bureau etc.

The last three area assemblies all have been well attended. The last one had seven members and the previous two 10 and 11 members. We have run workshops. They have proved very popular. Topics being 'Back to Basics' (sharing), questions from the leaflet *Did you grow up with a problem drinker*, and *Keep Coming Back*.

At the last assembly on 2nd March the splitting of areas Four and Five was discussed. A vote was taken and agreed unanimously on to keep the area as Area Four at this point, if agreed on by Conference.

Our area has had a successful year with lots of recovery, fellowship and love. We also have a small Step Study Group going.

Summary

- There are two groups in Area Four so there are only a few members.
- Eight members came along to a Steps study group on a Saturday afternoon at a personal home. Paths to Recovery was CAL used.
- To fund-raise at the Area Assembly there are raffles and donations made. The Conference fee is a priority so NZGSO will miss out until then.

Area Five

Esta S

Area Five stretches from Palmerston North to New Plymouth

1. Palmerston North Thursday Evening
2. Palmerston North Tuesday Evening
3. Whanganui Tuesday Evening
4. New Plymouth Wednesday Evening
5. New Plymouth Friday Lunchtime.

Alateen Melva from Palmerston North is being approved as a Sponsor to begin a new group at the Palmerston North Girl's High School.

Highlights during the year...

Numbers were down at assemblies which were held at Waverly, a half-way point for our groups, but only five or six persons from Palmerston North and New Plymouth attended.

With expenses of hall hire, petrol and time preparing the agenda and business meeting, we all felt disappointed. We have tried very hard as a committee to get our five groups together again. After a lot of discussion at the September 2012 assembly, it was decided to just inform the group elected that they would be responsible for the next assembly but we would assist them as much as they wanted us to. It was a success with 11 members present, and all five groups sent in reports, which is a real breakthrough.

Public Outreach

New Plymouth Friday Lunchtime bookmarks were left at two libraries, Bell Block and Inglewood. A further 124 were letterbox dropped.

Three members met up with Sue, Advisor for FADS (Family Alcohol and Drug Support) at a very exciting coffee meeting, we handed over 19 CAL pamphlets which we thought would be appropriate, seven bookmarks and a Referral Pad for Professionals (M-77) Sue also suggested we get in touch with the "Salvation Army Bridge" which has been going for two years, as they help alcoholics.

Advertise in the weekly paper

Palmerston North Thursday Night advertise in the weekly paper, and also three local radio stations. Al-Anon literature is regularly taken to Foxton, Fielding, Levin and Palmerston North Libraries.

Concerns with New Plymouth Monday Night

Really floundering with only a core membership of three. They have changed their meeting day, meeting place, and time. Also printed some flyers advertising "new" meetings, they will give it two months to improve otherwise it will fold after 13 years. The group is paying off their rent at their previous rooms.

Summary

- The Area Five Committee is responsible for Alateen and needs feedback on what is happening.
- Numbers are growing at St Andrews meeting but are generally down in the Area.
- Local community radio stations mention Al-Anon each day in the community group announcements.
- It is not an easy task contacting GRs to get information to the Groups.

Area Six

Suzanne F

This area covers eight groups; Thames, Waihi, Tauranga, Rotorua, and four in Hamilton.

Numbers are down at this time.

Service positions in most groups are filled but I am concerned that at the last two assemblies Tokoroa was sent the information, and yet seem to be uninformed.

I am aware that some groups choose not to have a cuppa and fellowship after the meeting.

Public Outreach is evident in some and they are doing it well.

I have continued to stay in contact with the groups by phone, however I found the whole process messy and disconcerting at Christmas time asking for feedback from the groups whether they would like to see Ric in New Zealand this year considering our finances. I would not recommend it – phoning at such an untimely part of the year. I am sure an executive decision could have been made even though the area delegates had voted at Conference for it to happen. I am not visiting the groups very much at this time.

Also to bring to the area, the Team Event took time and dedication of which I was more than happy to fill. This being hosted by the Rotorua group was a credit to them and shone through on

the day; their enthusiasm, commitment, the many raffles, and all the wonderful food that each person contributed from near and far. So here we had in the willingness of the team presenters, a simple concise programme to inform us of some of the different arms of Al-Anon. And the spirit of the afternoon was present. It was wonderful to see the powerpoint of the NZ Al-Anon building; thank you to the people who put it together. And the sharing about the finances, and then lastly Knowledge Based Decision Making and the five questions that were asked. Thank you Team People!

For myself, staying in contact with the Area Four delegate since last Conference has been vital and even though his term finished last November, to formulate the Team Event with the two areas – we can say we did a good job.

The forms to fill out were a headache to get them signed and then someone did not do it; too complicated!

My own thoughts; I would not run this event the same day as an area business meeting. There was a distinct exodus for whatever reason after afternoon tea. Information about this day went out and what it was all about, recommended a place to stay long, before 16th of March.

Summary

I am pleased my time is ending in November this year.

Area Six has two AMIAS Sponsors both from Hamilton. This was after the challenge to the areas from the Area Eight delegate at Conference last year.

We do not have an Alateen Co-ordinator at this time.

I will not be taking a service position for a while. Their persistence is tiring and I chose to get off The Merry Go Round many years ago. I certainly don't need it in the fellowship of Al-Anon.

I feel the role of area delegate from our structure is to be seen in a democratic way and yet I ponder its effect; from Conference back to the groups; this takes on its own shape.

For me I would like to see Conference happen every two years.

Not so many new initiatives that mostly go on deaf ears.

The power of the tone of the Conference is invaluable, adopting the three Spiritual Goals is essential and the food wonderful.

Lastly I would like to see a part time Public Outreach Co-ordinator employed who is savvy for the times we live in. "Al-Anon, A Household Name".

Summary

- The TEAM event was a great event. The Board has a great attitude and provided good information to empower the Groups and encourage Knowledge Based Decision Making.
- The Groups are very few in number... Linking and having a connection with Auckland may benefit Area Six and that way they would not miss out altogether.
- The Groups are not having a cuppa and fellowship. This could be raised in the Group Inventory or the Business meeting.

Area Seven

Area Seven sent an observer to Conference. They did not provide a delegate report.

Summary

- A3 sized posters were installed in buses and some laminated posters were left over.
- Suggestion made to contact your local bus company to enquire whether they would prepared to display these posters.

Area Eight

Chris H

Area Eight comprises all of Auckland west of Dominion Road and all of the country north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. We have 14 groups including two Alateen groups and one adult children group.

Alateen

- Our two Alateen groups are served by 10 approved AMIAS actively involved in sponsoring the Alateen groups. We have an additional four approved AMIAS available if required within their respective groups and another two currently progressing through the approval process. We have an Area Alateen Co-ordinator who works busily to roster group co-sponsors.
- The Pt Chevalier Alateen Group continues to have only occasional Alateen attendees but committed AMIAS continue to hold the meeting available “in case”.
- The Browns Bay Alateen Group is flourishing despite the older established members tending to drift away. I recently co-sponsored a meeting attended by eight Alateens.
- Our Alateens have themselves carried the Alateen message by way of public outreach by speaking to guidance counsellors at schools and speaking to victim support groups and another community group working with deprived families. We continue to find that we get most success from speaking at AA events and at the Higher Ground treatment centre.

Highlights

- In July we held a KBDM workshop including an IAGSM report.
- For the 50th National AA Convention in January at Auckland (within Area Seven), three of our members joined the organising committee, we provided experienced AMIAS to enable Alateen meetings to be held and we were delighted at the number of Area Eight members who attended.
- Our monthly Sunday afternoon speaker style Intergroup meeting continues to be small but usually self supporting.
- A daytime group continues to hold occasional “Alateen Friendly” meetings during school holiday periods.
- Area Eight members participated in the AA Northern Area Assembly in Area Seven in July and we successfully hosted Al-Anon participation in the AA Northern Area Assemblies in Dargaville in November and Orewa in March. In the latter case I am grateful to my alternate area delegate who led the event for me and did a fabulous job.
- We work to maintain a close relationship with Area Seven as our immediate neighbours.

Public Outreach

- We finally have an Area Public Outreach Co-ordinator. She is working hard to inspire the groups.
- A schedule has been arranged to display our large sad house billboard throughout the area and public outreach notice boards have been provided to each group.
- We continue to provide three speakers every four weeks to the Higher Ground Drug and Rehabilitation Centre to speak to the residents. We gave Higher Ground a public outreach notice board for their use for their three family support group meetings each week.
- Groups have been active providing literature to branches of CADS and to schools and libraries and a group continues to provide speakers for a gathering of their local police and victim support staff.
- Thanks to organisation from within Area Seven we are cooperating with them to have outreach posters displayed on buses throughout the region.
- Thanks to organisation from within Area Seven we were recently able to speak to the judge, court staff and legal representatives involved in the trial for the Alcohol and Other Drug Court in Henderson. We were delighted to be asked if we would agree to come back in about six monthly cycles.

Area Assemblies

We hold four area assemblies each year. Most of our GRs are engaged and enthusiastic. We find that buddying new GRs with experienced GRs assists to maintain that atmosphere. We believe that the committee sets the tone for the area and our committee works hard to make our assemblies both fun and interesting. We ran a successful workshop on sponsorship as part of our February assembly and have committed to run a second workshop as part of our May assembly.

Concerns / Solutions

Some of our smaller groups are really struggling to survive. We have lost one group and have been unable to make any contact with our most remote group so are unsure whether it still exists.

We continue to have trouble persuading our younger members that they are not too busy to give themselves the gift of the recovery available from commitment to service,

We continue to encourage the many reluctant members to lift their donation level and some of our members prefer to make donations directly to GSO through the internet.

This year there was no recovery day and no serenity weekend held because there were no members prepared to undertake the service. The events were missed by the members and the committees have stepped forward committed to run the events this year.

Summary

- The Alateen enthusiasm grows. There are now 16 AMIAS in Area Eight which is impressive, There are 14 Alateens. It is a snowball.
- These kids come from homes that are chaotic.
- Alateen get-together is only one fully fundraising.
- Alateens are dependent on parents to transport them. Alateens find others that understand each other a lot like it is in Al-Anon
- Area Eight have offered support to Area Seven who has launched a new Alateen Group. Area Eight visited an Area Seven Al-Anon meeting to speak about Alateen. Area Seven have AMIAS members.
- The Sad House Area sign is lost and we are looking to replace it with a new one.
- The Drug Courts were appreciative of our visit. Twenty staff including a Judge wanted to hear what Al-Anon and Alateen is about. AA is aware of the family's need.
- Our Area Assemblies are fun. They have been tough and tiring at times in the past. If they are not fun people don't want to come.

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 Westport and Golden Bay.

Loners in Westport and Golden Bay.

Area Nine assemblies are held three times a year, once in the Nelson/Tasman area, once in Westland, and once in Marlborough. We have a two day format starting on Saturday at 3pm with area committee meeting, followed by either a sharing meeting or workshop. We break for dinner at 6pm. The evening concludes with a fun night. Sunday starts at 9am with Group Reps meeting followed by Area business meeting and a sharing meeting for those who wish to attend.

This two day format has been very successful for many years and encourages host group members to become involved as many do not travel to the other districts.

I visited the West Coast groups last week and intend to visit the other groups prior to Conference.

All groups have steady membership. One group is without a group rep owing to most of the members being dual members. This group did consider going into recess, however, has decided to keep going in the hope of new members coming along. I met up with a loner when in Golden Bay. She is doing great and expressed willingness to be active should there be enough interest in the future to start the Golden Bay group up again.

We have been invited to join with AA at this years assembly to be held in June in Nelson. This follows a very successful assembly in October last year. It was very heartening to be part of the two fellowships working in so well together. There was very positive feedback from many who attended the weekend.

Area Nine Serenity weekend will be held in Hanmer Springs on 3rd to 5th of May. Commitment to the weekend and payment of deposit was required by the end of January. This requirement avoids disappointment and the need to cancel if numbers fall short.

Area Nine has a vacancy for Public Relations Outreach. Our next area assembly is on 23rd and 24th March in Richmond.

Summary

- I tried to get to all areas. I could not get to Blenheim. A new Adult Children group has opened.
- We are having a "blind auction" fundraiser at the next Area Assembly.
- Although the new Group is called Adult Children membership is open to everyone affected by someone else's drinking.

Board Reports

Board Chair

Paula B

Greetings to you all. As a board we have had a very busy year.

At the September board meeting we welcomed Linda H to the board as National Treasurer. At this point there were concerns about Al-Anon New Zealand's ample reserve – identified that costs continue to rise and our donations are not meeting them. Board decided to form a task force to look at our financial position – areas we can improve on – targets to aim for – look at the organisation as a whole. A task force of six was asked to look at a way to move forward. Due to this report, a message to the fellowship in the form of the Helicopter was sent out. The board, with the help of a Human Resource person, also moved to restructure the GSO. The outcome, was that we changed the office hours and employed an Office Manager. This was done in March. This process was an education to us all.

At the December board meeting we welcomed Sally-Anne M as CRBM (pending Conference approval in 2013). Sally has since been nominated as the National Public Outreach Co-ordinator. She has media and business skills.

Ric B and a WSO representative proposed visit around September 2013. Arnold H is coordinating this event with Area's One, Three, Seven and Nine. These areas will fund the visit.

As I compile this report, I wish you all well in your continuing service to the Al-Anon Family Groups and look forward to meeting with you at Conference.

New Zealand General Services Office Report

Our financial situation became difficult after Conference and so a taskforce was appointed to Transform the NZGSO. Following this, job descriptions were changed and positions were made redundant. This reduced the opening days from five days to three days.

From March 2013 the New Zealand General Service Board employed an Office Manger who works three days per week; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am until 3.30 pm. Regular volunteers come into the office and make a valued contribution; assisting with the literature, making up Newcomers Packs and KN17s and assisting with dispatch of literature orders. The Office Manager is responsible for the co-ordination of the volunteers and the office could not function well without them. The NZGSO is a busy office. We experience a number of people calling in to to purchase literature. The feedback from visitors to NZGSO has been positive.

The following new equipment has been purchased: a new printer, photocopier and guillotine. Having this up-to-date equipment has enabled a higher level of efficiency and professionalism. It has also stopped high maintenance costs on old equipment that wasn't working very well.

Book room

We are continuing with a book special every month included in the NZGSO News. We also advise the Groups when new literature is available from WSO.

Top Book Sales

Code	Title	Amount Sold
B16	Courage To Change	92
B22	How Al-Anon Works	58
B27	Hope For Today	52
B06	One Day At A Time	50
B24	Paths To Recovery	30
B10	Alateen A Day At A Time	24
B30	Discovering Choices	24
B04	Dilemma Of Alcoholic Marriage	20
B29	Opening our Hearts	20

Birthday Club

There are currently 19 members. Cards are sent to members on their Al-Anon birthday or another date of their choosing.

Electronic mail outs

The Transforming the NZGSO Taskforce suggested making mailouts electronic to save money. The Exec/Budget Committee have been working towards making this a reality. Postage is continually going up and it is an expense we can cut down. Making all manual processes electronic takes a lot of preparation work and the new copier has a scanner which will be useful. We are currently drafting a letter to be sent out with the Group Registration forms to all groups. We will ask Groups to provide an email contact address so the correspondence can be sent via email. The letter and form will be sent out soon.

Groups listed below have changed since Conference 2012.

New Groups

Mens Meeting, Auckland
Let it Begin with Me, Wellington
Step Eleven Meditation, Wellington
Al-Anon Adult Children, Blenheim
Many Voices One Journey, Wellington

Disbanded Groups

Waihi Tuesday Evening
South Auckland Evening
Timaru
Whangarei Friday AFG
Wellington Courage, Friday
Masterton AFG

	2011	2012	2013
Al-Anon Groups	86	85	83
Al-Anon Adult Children	3	3	3
Alateen	2	2	2
AIS	1	0	0
Loners	11	10	8
Institutions	0	0	0

Archives

The position of archivist is still vacant and any interest is welcome.

Feedback and Supplies

The Exec/Budget Committee are happy to listen to your comments or ideas for improvement. If you are able to purchase goods at reduced prices or have other useful information please email the GSO. If we need to create a new pack or you have an idea for a book special let us know.

Treasurer

Linda H

Since being appointed as Treasurer in June 2012, I have become increasingly aware of just how important it is to have a competent data entry person working at the GSO, who can keep the MYOB records up to date.

Thanks to the Transformation of the GSO this has now been taken care of. Our MYOB accounts are the hub of everything financial for NZ AI-Anon.

Monthly, up to date reconciled accounts tell us that everything is okay financially.

Correct MYOB accounts mean that from now on we will be able to have a yearly audit in April, so that accurate reporting on finances can be done at Conference.

An audit was carried out on 22/11/2012 on the accounts from 01/04/2011 up to 31/3/2012. The previous audit had been done in 2009.

Since June 2012, I have attended Exec/Budget Committee meetings and Board meetings.

I have been on the AI-Anon committee for the AA Convention (with AI-Anon/Alateen participation).

I have been a volunteer helping with the GSO mail out each month.

I have been on the TASK force for the transformation of GSO and I have been involved with the committee in the employment of the new office person.

I have helped along with other volunteers, to keep the GSO open five days a week, for the three weeks we have been without staff.

My involvement in all of the above has been very valuable to me, as I continue to learn about all the twists and turns of NZ AI-Anon's income and expenditure.

As Treasurer, I have had the invaluable help of an AI-Anon volunteer, who has dedicated her time to getting the MYOB entries and all of the accounts corrected and up to date.

On the Profit and Loss reports in the NZGSO News (NZ General Service Office News) each month (especially from July onwards in 2012), it looks as if we are in the red and owing money.

However the Profit and Loss just reports what has happened in the financial year to date, and if expenditure has exceeded income we have a loss. In October 2012 the loss was approx \$14,000 and in February 2013 the loss was approx \$5,000 so finances are improving but we cannot be complacent.

In June and July there were big payouts for Conference 2012, airfares to send two delegates to the IAGSM 2012 (International AI-Anon General Service Meeting) and the data projector and screens (which had been approved by delegates at an earlier Conference). These were all budgeted expenses for which the money was in the bank, but because income from donations and the sale of literature was unexpectedly low for the first half of 2012, money had to be taken out of the Reserve Fund to pay the usual monthly accounts. The reserve is there to protect AI-Anon, to make sure we are able to pay our bills and keep AI-Anon above the law and not lead it into difficulties. We needed to top it up again for it to be immediately available in an emergency. Hence the Helicopter Appeal to the fellowship.

We have an AI-Anon member who has been appointed as NZ AI-Anon's lawyer (voluntary) who checks out legal documents such as the Lease for GSO and the Employee contracts.

Over the past seven months the Exec/Budget Committee has examined the following items to see if they have been covering costs, and whether in the case of the Messenger and the literature, they were making a profit.

The Messenger

The subscription was increased, as it was not covering the costs of printing and postage of the Messenger. The Messenger makes a very small profit.

In future the Messenger will be sent electronically to overseas Al-Anon General Service Offices and to NZ lone members, to save on printing and postage.

Literature

The order form was altered twice last year.

Once because NZ Post had put up their costs, and the second time to pass on the extra costs when the WSO increased their freight charges. We check on these things monthly so that we can act as soon as there are any changes.

We have cut back on orders, as there was a lot of stock sitting on the shelves.

We have put specials on some of the books in the NZGSO news so that we can get stock moving. We only make a small profit on them, but we have gained some cash flow.

We will watch the ordering very carefully in future, and we are aiming to send in smaller orders twice a month (instead of once) so that we can avoid back orders if possible.

We examined the packs that we make up in New Zealand, for example the Newcomer's Pack and repriced these, as the costs were not being covered.

New groups have historically been sent some free Literature to start them off. Exec/Budget has reduced this by 50% in value and send just the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual and the New Zealand Handbook to help start them off.

NZ Al-Anon's two biggest expenses are the NZ Al-Anon Conference and the cost of having a General Service Office (Rent and Admin).

NZ Al-Anon Conference

Travel: There are nine delegates (seven are from out of Auckland) and there are eight Board members (four are from out of Auckland). Those travelling to and from Auckland are encouraged to get early bird or similar fares.

Paper Work: Brochures and summaries are now sent electronically where possible, to save on printing and postage.

Accommodation Costs: These are monitored carefully and The Friary is still one of the most reasonable places to hold the Conference.

Equalised Expenses: These are for an area to send a delegate to Conference and have increased by \$100 this year. Income from areas is expected to be \$5,400 and a further \$6,000 will be paid out of GSO funds. \$500 needs to be put aside each month to cover this.

The admin budget for 2012–2013 has been fully used, along with an additional payment of Annual Leave that had been accrued. This was for the two staff members who had been made redundant due to the restructuring of the General Service Office.

There are other expenses in the restructuring of the GSO.

The Admin Budget for 2013-2014

Will be approximately \$20,000. The 2012–2013 Budget was \$27,600. The saving is due to the employment of one person for 3 days a week (instead of two people covering five days), and the fact that the General Secretary position is now voluntary.

The GSO office lease expires on 30 June 2014. Until then we are paying annual rent, (rates and electricity included) of \$11,000 plus GST. This went up last July from \$10,368 plus GST, per annum.

IAGSM in 2014

To send two delegates, \$200 is put aside each month in an IAGSM Bank Account.

The Ample Reserve Fund

This is there to protect Al-Anon to make sure we are able to pay our bills, to keep Al-Anon above the law and not lead it into difficulties.

The Board is in the process of setting a target for the amount we should have as an Ample Reserve ie, the amount we should keep in the bank on Term Deposit to cover liabilities.

A quote from p201 of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual

"This Committee may be compelled to risk temporary deficits. However uncontrolled spending could result in the collapse of vital services. On the other hand fearful hoarding could result in the severe curtailment of such services. Both should be guarded against with extreme care. When appropriate, the finance committee recommends that the Board of Trustees sets aside sums in our Reserve (Warranty One) with the assurance of the immediate availability of those funds."

NZ Al-Anon /Alateen Income

NZ Al-Anon/Alateen income is supported by members "voluntary contributions and from the sale of our Conference Approved Literature." (Tradition Seven). The Messenger subscriptions also bring in a small income.

Income and Expenditure

Income and expenditure vary throughout the year. Area and personal donations are greater every year, after the bi-annual appeals in February and September. Also, after the Helicopter Appeal last year in September, extra donations flowed in.

Equalised Conference Fees from areas come in during December and January and the Bank Balance is very healthy then.

Expenses per month: These are approx \$4,000 (not including literature purchases, as this money is redeemed when the literature is sold).

Every June, payments are due for Conference (approx \$12,000) and expenses rise dramatically.

Every two years, IAGSM travel payments (approx \$6,000) are due, causing expenses to rise at the time.

Looking ahead, we will be budgeting (along with all the other usual items) to cover our biggest expenses (which are the running of the NZGSO and the New Zealand Conference), to make a donation to the WSO, to carry out Public Outreach and to replace necessary office equipment.

In future, a very careful eye will be kept on all financial aspects and the aim is to inform the fellowship when extra money may be needed for a special project. e.g. for Public Outreach or new equipment, so that hopefully we may never have the shock of a sinking ship or a rescue helicopter again. Ideally income should equal expenditure (no fearful hoarding- but we must have ample reserve). We are non-profit but this does not mean we cannot make a profit to sustain Al-Anon/Alateen in New Zealand.

In Conclusion

From the NZ Al-Anon Strategic Plan:

Our purpose (What we do) is:

- Our purpose is to help friends and families of alcoholics.

Our goals (How we, the General Service Board, do this) are:

- Having Healthy Groups, and Support and Strengthen our Service Structure
- Everyone Everywhere will know of Al-Anon Family Groups
- Envision the future and our place in it

My Comments

- We can only fulfill our purpose if we are prudent, have an ample reserve and budget funds towards Public Outreach.
- Having Healthy Groups, and Support and Strengthen our Service Structure.
- Healthy Groups are those with service positions filled, their own donations take care of their Group's expenses and make regular donations to area and to the NZGSO.
- Everyone Everywhere will know of Al-Anon Family Groups.
- We need to budget for ample money for Public Outreach.
- Envision the future and our place in it.
- We want Al-Anon in New Zealand to be there forever, so we need ample money in Reserve to ensure this is so.

Northern Regional Board Member Report

Paula B

This is my last report as the NRBM as I will rotate off in June 2013. I have informed Area's Six, Seven and Eight that they will need to nominate their representative.

Area Six

Area Six are preparing for a TEAM Event with Area Four held in Rotorua, March 16 – in conjunction with their assembly.

The area is healthy with an energetic committee. They have had their fair share of problems over the years and have used the Al-Anon principles to overcome them.

Area Seven

Area Seven have had their problems and are coming together slowly with a new Chair and Secretary. They are looking for a delegate and alternate delegate.

They have a very active Public Outreach Co-ordinator. The groups have stepped up and are working with the area.

I see that their problems will be solved as they are on the right track.

Area Eight

Area Eight has a great committee and their assembly is well attended. This has not always been the case and they have struggled.

They are participating in the Northern Area Assembly with Al-Anon participation to be held March 9, 2013 in Orewa.

Their strengths are the Committee travel to other events to collect wisdom from other areas.

Central Regional Board Member Report

Sally-ann M

Area Three

The area delegate has updated me on the most recent assembly, as I was unable to go. There is no area chair. The current chair stood down to take on the role of secretary. She had not been chair very long. I know HP has a plan. They don't have a PO person right now.

Area Four

A new delegate has just been voted in and she has updated me that she is also PO for her group (there is no area PO). Area Four are beginning to make progress in the area of Alateen and have been in touch with the past National Alateen Co-ordinator to get her ESH. This area also wrote sharing's for the Messenger in order to see it continue.

Area Five

The new delegate and I have been in contact, which is great. She has let me know that all is well in her area and is very much looking forward to Conference. She said all of their positions are full so I have asked that her area PO person get in touch with me.

Personally

I wish there were more hours in the day and that these deadlines did not sneak up on me so fast.

I am making progress and am happy to now be in direct contact with each delegate in the central region! PROGRESS!!

I also wrote my enthusiastic sharing for the Messenger. Three pages of 'My Journey in Al-Anon' – at five years per page it will fill the whole Messenger! It was a great experience to see the journey written down. I had forgotten so much about my own journey; it was great to look back over it. I feel very blessed by this programme of recovery.

Public Outreach

I am working on a presentation for Conference re: this document
http://sd.al-anon.alateen.org/public_outreach.pdf

I am in the midst of updating it so that it is relevant to New Zealand, so that it becomes:

- a valuable resource for nationwide PO and
- a helpful starting point for the next national PO and
- a great working document for each area PO officer.

Southern Regional Board Member Report

Marlene G

Not a lot has happened over the past few months.

Area Two has been trying to schedule an area meeting around my dates but we haven't had any luck yet. I'm going to Area One on the 14th March. The SAA and the Area One assembly is on that weekend. Area Nine is 23rd and 24th March.

Both Area Two and Area Nine were distressed at how we managed to get ourselves into debt. Both areas voted against having a speaker come to New Zealand. I have had no contact with Area One regarding AI-Anon as a whole...just an invite to their meeting.

I'm looking forward to meeting the fellowship. Area Two is trying to arrange a meeting for June. It clashed with Conference, so they will set another date.

A big thank you for all the work, energy and co-operation of those involved in transforming our GSO. Not an easy task. Thank you to the General Secretary for bringing this matter to the attention of the Board.

May the fellowship of AI-Anon always be our first priority.

Committee Reports

Conference Report

Joan G, Conference Chair

Thank you for your support and feedback from last year. We have made changes as requested and we also have put a larger questionnaire into the Evaluation sheet. 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. It has made Conference so much more enjoyable to plan and deliver knowing I've got a wonderful group of people helping out. Chris H our Conference Host, this is his third Conference and he will be doing his usual efficient job in the background. Julie M as the scribe Co-ordinator will make sure that everything we say and do will be recorded accurately for the Conference Summary, Doug A, 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.

The Conference also acknowledges the Friary staff for their support and the wonderful meals.

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 Al-Anon, a household name.

Next year is our 60th anniversary, and our 44th Conference. It will be a special time with a special theme. Enjoy this year and watch this space for things to come.

Editorial Committee Report

Esta S

Being Editor has been a wonderful spiritual journey for me, and I would be disappointed if I'm not replaced. If you are considering closing down the Messenger, I suggest you wait until after JULY 2013 as we now have enough New Zealand content to keep going till then.

As I mentioned in my previous report, there are some very interesting service-related sharings and reporting that would be worthwhile to include in the Messenger as it has the potential to be a valuable service tool, not just a sharing tool.

- Perhaps more area highlights.
- Comments taken from our NZ Al-Anon Conference.
- Board Newsletter highlights.

TEAM Event Report

Paula B

This was held in Rotorua on March 13 with the support of Area's Four and Six.

My experience in the lead up to the event was concerning. The board did not have the documents early enough and decided that because it was a first, we could go along with the requests of the areas. Initially, two board members were going, with a possible third, however due to illness, only one board member attended and two willing Auckland members to helped out on the day.

Thoughts from Area Six and Four delegates

The presentation of the day was very good...essential information and we both emphasised the simplicity to forward the topics to the people. In future however, we would not combine an assembly and TEAM event on the same day.

Pamphlets on where to stay etc, had gone out to the groups in plenty of time. There was a great exodus of people after afternoon tea and at about the same time an assembly would finish in Area Six. I know many people were informed in a way that they would not have been had they not attended and we recommend these events for the future in AI-Anon New Zealand.

We appreciated the hosting for the day from the Rotorua Group and are very grateful. And for you all who came so willingly and hosted the event. And for myself and Gordon, we are glad we pursued the day, even though we had to jump some hurdles.

Feedback from a member on the style of presentation

The photo gallery of the GSO seemed really pointless. How does this further our understanding of AI-Anon principles? It was a real pity, as it came first up, in the first 'TEAM Event' Area Six has ever had and a lot of people were not sure what to expect. I felt this made a really poor first impression.

Financial quiz gave us some great knowledge. I liked how we were encouraged to connect to our own spiritual journey, particularly around dealing with money in the family disease. However I felt the tone veered a little too often into scorekeeping. 'More than, less than' with too much "who got that question WRONG?" "What was your score?" Also I felt the lengthy speech at the end about giving GSO lots of money at the end was a little too much pressure.

KBDM was such an important topic for us – I wish it had come first! The slides were not very good though – terribly wordy. And so just reading them out was a bad idea. (It's always not a good idea just to read out your slides when giving a presentation, but particularly not when they're so wordy) The exercise where we got to put the ideas into practice was good, but I would have liked more discussion and integration of what was learned after.

In conclusion I would like to thank Area's Six and Four for their enthusiasm and for turning up. I am so grateful for the process of how we can do things differently as a fellowship and learn.

Literature Committee Report

John B

Since the last Board meeting there has been little progress. We are at present investigating another possible source for the printing of our own literature. Again it will be dependent on cost. As you recall we investigated this previously and the cost of printing was not competitive with our imported literature.

The New Zealand AI-Anon-Alateen Service Handbook also needs to be updated. The following are amendments I am aware of: Introduction to the Twelve Concepts needs to follow the same form as in the AI-Anon Alateen Handbook. In addition Page 67 requires amendment – “If at any time the New Zealand Conference considers that it would be advantageous to our development to send a representative; it would elect a WSC representative from nominations put forward by the area with approval from the GSB – to if at any time the New Zealand Conference considers that it would be advantageous to our development to send a representative; it would elect a WSC elected by Conference with approval from the GSB from those who are currently serving or have served three consecutive years at Board level.

Area Eight delegate has been reviewing the existing handbook, so no doubt there will be amendments once this is completed.

As there is likely to be a further amendment required of the Handbook following Conference to reflect the transformation of GSO – I would propose that the next re-print be done after this. In the meantime there could be short runs of the existing handbook which is in the main still current.

Summary

Members discussed the following:

- The position of chat room supervisor.
- Review of GN34 and GN35 in progress.
- Gradual drop in NZ literature sales over the previous three years.
- Including the latest Alateen guidelines from the KN17 on the NZ website.
- There is a trend towards electronic literature. WSO hold the licence for all AI-Anon literature. We can publish literature (paper format) but if NZ GSO sell electronic literature we would require a licence from WSO and that could be US\$15,000. The terms and conditions have not been advised.
- Books with the highest sales figures could be published in NZ e.g. How AI-Anon Works and our latest daily reader, Hope for Today. Prices and number of copies needed before making a decision.
- May need to increase our Prudent Reserve to cover any shortfall when publishing in NZ.
- Publishing books would help NZ AI-Anon be self-supporting.
- Few revisions work best. Many revisions may lead to financial losses when books don't sell quickly.
- NZ Handbook currently under review.
- AFG needs complete list of all acronyms to stop confusion.

Convention Report

Paula B

50th Convention of AA with Al-Anon and Alateen participation January 18–22, 2013 held at Kings College Otahuhu Auckland

Al-Anon Committee of eight

The weekend was well attended with over 600 attending 93 of these registered as Al-Anon members three Alateens and many dual members that are counted as AA members. All meetings were considered large and well attended, the Chair people followed the guidelines and conducted the meetings as planned.

As a committee we used KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) this made the meetings just one hour each this was embraced by the committee. We had two fellowship dinners which creates unity and having fun on a committee is paramount.

The event started with the Powhiri on the Friday afternoon this was well attended Bill and Bob were taken on to the Powhiri also two Al-Anon members took our ancestors Lois and Anne there was a great feeling of unity.

We used members from Area's Six, Seven and Eight to chair the session this gave the committee a chance to enjoy the weekend and to delegate the work needed to be done, this also attracts members from the three areas we had one chair txt that she had misjudged the traffic and one of the committee just stepped in and chaired the session almost like she had prepared it herself.

We had Alateen meetings available and there were three Alateens present, we had a member to Coordinate the A.M.I.A.S. (Al-Anon members in Alateen Service) this went extremely well.

The hospitality, literature, fundraising had the most to do on the actual day they had willing members to man the tables and the fundraising and literature table were kept open all weekend there were over \$967.50 worth of books sold around \$400.00 profit from the fundraising we still have some items left to sell. We are awaiting money that usually comes from the Al-Anon registrations. The tea towels (slogan) were a hit again. We have some 24 ODAT key rings still for sale.

As a committee we had mini meetings over the weekend to make sure that committee members felt supported.

The experience with the AA committee was memorable they were very inclusive and we were made to feel very welcome.

Result of experience this Committee would like to pass on to next Committee

Expect the unexpected...we are working with AA...Always have a Plan B

This committee has now disbanded and are richer for the experience and have made new friends.

National Alateen Co-ordinator Report

John B

At the Board meeting in June 2012 with the National Alateen Co-ordinator standing down, Alateen became the responsibility of the Literature Committee.

A sub-committee of the Literature Committee was set-up which currently has five members, including two members with IT skills.

The members of the Alateen sub-committee have completed Alateen Safety Guidelines *GN 34* and Al-Anon Guidelines for Al-Anon members *GN 35*.

The committee has been working on the information required by WSO to set-up an Alateen chat room for New Zealand on the WSO site. The documentation is almost complete and ready for submitting to WSO.

The Alateen chat room <https://chat.alateen> is already live with 10 chat rooms hosted by one of the 67 areas in the U.S and Canada. There has to be two Area-certified AMIAS present (which equates to AMIAS scheme in New Zealand). The chat is moderated meaning that the AMIAS screen the Alateen sharing's are screened to ensure that nothing inappropriate is sent into the chat room. The only time that teens can chat in the chat room is when an AMIAS is present. As in all Alateen meetings the teen chair the meeting, select the topic and read the opening and closing.

More information on the chat room can be found in the April 2013 Forum.

Public Outreach

Sally-ann M

I have had a good catch-up with the previous national PO person about her strategies and the progress that her and the committee made. She is emailing me her newsletters as a reference and a starting point as they catalogue her progress well.

I have found an internationally prepared paper on 'The best of Public Outreach' which is here in this link for you all to view. I intend to study and follow this where applicable as it is essentially 'Global ES&H' that we can tap into. To save us reinventing the wheel.

http://sd.al-anon.alateen.org/public_outreach.pdf

I propose that I task myself with adopting and updating this document to be relevant to New Zealand. It will

- create a valuable resource for nationwide PO and
- be a helpful starting point for the next national PO and
- be a great working document for each area PO officer.

I have also spoken with a graphic designer about creating a concept for use in 2013 (our 60th) and our single-minded-proposition of moving towards AFG being 'a household name'. I would like some time at Conference to talk with the delegates about how best to approach this – seeing as it needs to be nationwide – led by me and a committee but actioned by the fellowship everywhere.

I propose that we form a PO Committee to provide knowledge and to generate public goodwill towards Al-Anon Family Groups.

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 2013’ 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	John B
2014 AA Convention Committee Chairperson	Marlene G with Colleen D as co-chair
Archivist (non Board)	Vacant
National Public Outreach Co-ordinator	Sally-Ann M
National Alateen Co-ordinator	John B
Editorial Chairperson (non Board)	TBA
General Secretary	Vacant
Literature Chairperson	John B
Treasurer	Linda H
Executive/Budget Chairperson	Ruth
Northern Regional Board member	Vacant
Central Regional Board member	Sally-Ann M
Southern Regional Board member	Marlene G
International AI-Anon GSM Delegate	Paula B
Conference Chair	Joan G
Website Oversight	Sally-Ann M
IAGSM Delegates	Paula B & Joan G

Conference 2013 Goal

We pass along understanding

Conference 2014

Theme: 60 years of hope

Venue: The Friary, 50 Hillsborough Drive, Hillsborough, Auckland

AA-AI-Anon Convention 2014

Theme: Hope for today

Motions, Trials and Panels from NZ AI-Anon Conference 2013

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Motion: That the Area Seven Observer be seated at Conference with voice and no vote. | Carried |
| 2. Motion: That a workshop on abundance be held at each Conference for the next five years focusing on encouraging people into service, attracting people into meetings, attracting more money, more love and support in the fellowship. Working together towards making AI-Anon a household name. | Carried |
| 3. Motion: That Area phone numbers be put on the NZ AI-Anon website and that 0508 calls be referred to the Area phone numbers on the website. | Carried |
| 4. Motion: That the draft profit and loss for the financial year ended 31 March 2013 and that the Balance sheet for the same period be approved. | Carried |
| 5. Motion: That the draft budget for 2013–2014 be accepted. | Carried |
| 6. Decision: That NZ AI-Anon members aim to increase the NZ AI-Anon reserve to \$25,000 by June 2014 and to \$35,000 by June 2015. | Carried |
| 7. Decision: That the literature committee to review the CN14 regarding the death of AI-Anon members. | Carried |
| 8. Decision: that the Public Outreach P90 be used along with other applicable material from the WSO website. | Carried |
| 9. Motion: That Area Four and Area Five remain separate. | Carried |
| 10. Decision: That the Board continue to have no General Secretary for a trial period. | Carried |
| 11. Decision: That the AI-Anon GSB appoint a person to form a committee to coordinate events for the 60th Anniversary of AI-Anon Family Groups in 2014. | Carried |

Trials

Conference	Trial	Review Date
2011	Panels Trial for one year Area Delegates volunteering on to selected committees and other work groups of interest. Trial to choosing their selected panel/committee to continue for two more years.	2014
2011	Team event instead of RSS for a trial period of three years.	2015
2013	That a workshop on abundance be held at each Conference for the next five years focusing on encouraging people into service, attracting people into meetings, attracting more money, more love and support in the fellowship. Working together towards making AI-Anon a household name.	2018
2013	That the Board continue to have no General Secretary for a trial period.	2014
2013	Area phone numbers be put on the NZ AI-Anon website and that 0508 calls be referred to the Area phone numbers on the website.	2014

Panels

Public Outreach	Conference	The Messenger	Literature
Sally-ann M – Chair Esta S – Area Five Delegate Margaret J – Area Four Delegate	Joan G – Chair Chris W Julie M Doug A	To be appointed Esta S – assisting	John B – Chair Chris H – Area Eight Delegate Chris W

Conference Members 2013

Board Members

General Secretary	Position vacant	Term(s) completed
Northern Regional Board Member IAGSM Delegate Board Chair	Paula B	3rd Year 2nd Term 2nd Year 1st Term 1st Year
Literature Committee Chair National Alateen Co-ordinator Alternate Board Chair	John B	2nd Year 1st Term 1st Year <i>Commencing 1st Year</i>
Treasurer	Linda H	2nd Year 2nd Term
Alternate Board Chair	Arnold H	<i>Outgoing 2nd Year 2nd Term</i>
Southern Regional Board Member	Marlene G	2nd Year 1st Term
Conference Chairperson Board Member IAGSM Delegate	Joan G	2nd Year 2nd Term 1st Year 2nd Term <i>Commencing 1st Year 1st Term</i>
Executive/Budget Committee Chairperson (<i>voice no vote</i>)	Ruth	2nd Year 1st Term
National Public Outreach Central Regional Board Member	Sally-Ann M	1st Year 1st Term <i>Commencing 1st Year 1st Term</i>
General Secretary WSC Representative Archivist Editorial Committee (non Board)	Position vacant Position vacant Position vacant Position vacant	<i>Pending review</i>

Area Delegates

Area One	Colleen D	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Two	Teresa H	1st Year 1st Term
Area Three	Lynne C	3rd Year 1st Term
Area Four	Margaret J	2nd Year 2nd Term
Area Five	Esta S	2nd Year 1st Term
Area Six	Suzanne F	3rd Year 1st Term
Area Seven (<i>Observer, voice & no vote</i>)	Coralie N	1st Year 1st Term
Area Eight	Chris H	3rd Year 1st Term
Area Nine	Evelyn D	2nd Year 1st Term

2013 Panels

Panel 35 Editorial 3rd Year (2011)	Panel 36 (Literature) 2nd Year (2012)	Panel 37 1st Year 2013
Area Three	Area One	Area Seven
Area Six	Area Four	Area Two
Area Eight	Area Nine	Area Five

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.