



New Zealand Al-Anon General Services Conference

4th - 7th June 2015

**Empowering
Each
Other**

SUMMARY

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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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Conference Chair Welcome

Welcome to our 46th Conference

Empowering Each Other

It is with pleasure on behalf of the NZ AI-Anon General Service Board that I welcome you to the 46th New Zealand AI-Anon Service Conference.

It is my final year as a Board member and this is a poignant time for me having participated in 5 previous Conferences.

It's wonderful to reflect on the opportunity I have had to participate in the democracy of AI-Anon at Board level; and at Conference with the full participation of the membership through their Area Delegates.

The current Board has been very much involved in the transformation of the New Zealand General Service Office the thrust was to reduce costs and to continue to maintain a high level of service to our membership, which has been successful. We are grateful to the ongoing support from our members who give their time as volunteers at GSO to ensure we are able to maintain our service levels.

As part of the transformation, Arnold H was appointed as honorary General-Secretary and I would like to welcome Arnold to Conference in this role.

I can still remember my first Conference it was daunting initially for me, but when I realised at Conference that we are not alone and have the support of the other members it became much easier. If you don't know, always feel free to ask your buddy or any Board member, we are always willing to help.

We look forward to having your input during Conference, it is important for your views to be heard.

We look forward to seeing you at Conference.

Yours in service

John B

Board Chair

Voting Members:

8 Delegates and one Observer attended conference. 8 Delegates Voted.
Board members drawn by ballot for voting were.
Joan G, Melda T, Arnold H, Robyn M

Delegates' Meeting

Chair Teresa - Area 2

Report from Delegates Meeting last night.

Experience strength & hope

Reasons for service

Conference – good experience good for personal growth

Current format – good served the meeting well.

Good to swap numbers & addresses

Delegates' Meeting 2016 Chair: Tracey B

Saturday Evening

Trip to GSO: the trip to GSO was eventful. The gates to the church were locked and Conference members hoisted each other over the fence to gain access to the building. They spent time in the GSO office and had a look around and purchased literature, and then went over the fence again to leave the church grounds.

Movies: There were two movies this year, Sunshine on Leith and A Winter's tale. That way people got to see one or both movies if they were at another meeting or trip.

Al-Anon meeting: There was also an Al-Anon meeting onsite and it was well attended.

Annual Accounts

Budget & Reserve Fund

Chris H

Opinions expressed in this paper are strictly my own. Take what you like and leave the rest.



FINANCIAL YEAR

Our financial year runs from 1st April in each year until 31st March in the following year.

AUDIT



The audit of the financial accounts for the 2014 year was completed prior to the 2014 New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) and was reported to that conference.

We expect to have the audit of the financial accounts for the 2015 year completed prior to and presented to this NZASC.

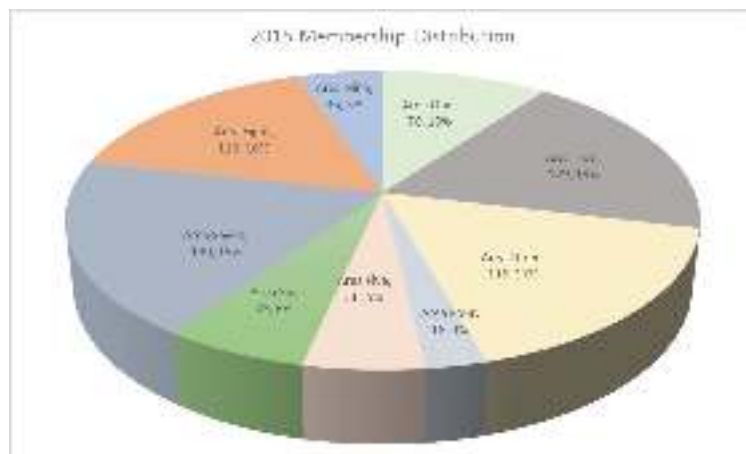
MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS



Our 2014 Treasurer reported 90 groups and 709 members in the 2014 year.

It is not "Lies, damned lies and statistics" - but for many reasons our data in this area is less than reliable. Newcomers come and go. In many groups membership numbers fluctuate from week to week. We are dependent upon groups to report numbers. Our data recording and retention has been less than perfect.

It does, however, appear to be the case that our membership is declining.



Our best information now available is that as at 31 March 2015 we appear to have 83 groups with group membership numbers which vary between 2 and 25 members.

Six groups failed to respond in any way to repeated requests for group registration information. We can only estimate how many members

those groups have. I have adopted a number equal to the average for the groups who did report from their respective Areas.

On that basis as at 31 March 2015 we appear to have a total of approximately 691 members (members who attend more than one group have been counted more than once).

Our Areas have from 2 to 15 groups and from 18 to 130 members.

INCOME



Tradition Seven tells us that we ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

That means that we are totally dependent upon contributions from our members who donate through their groups, through their personal donations directly to NZAGSO, through their fundraising efforts and through sale to them of our literature.

History shows us that many of our members are very generous when financial crisis (present or looming) threatens survival of the fellowship. The same history also shows us that apathy quickly sets in when there is any lull in reminders for the need for ongoing voluntary financial contributions.



The *Sinking Ship* Appeal in 2009, the *Rescue Helicopter* Appeal in 2012 and the *What Crisis* appeal in 2014 all produced tremendous result in terms of revival of our fellowship's financial health.

Our 2014 Treasurer reported "the fellowship needs constant reminders of the funds that the NZAGSO requires to be able to operate".



The erratic flow of donations causes considerable and inevitable stress for the trusted servants responsible to ensure that the fellowship meets its regular financial commitments.

We remain hopeful that we will be able to get the message through to our members that our expenses need to be met every week and for that purpose we need donations to come through on a regular basis.

Some of our members and groups already provide on that basis. We would encourage more to do so.

GROUP, AREA AND PERSONAL DONATIONS



At the 2012 NZASC the fellowship requested that personal donations (from members directly to NZAGSO) be attributed to the Areas concerned. That was arranged and income has since been reported on that basis but has not been included in the budget on the same basis. I propose to rectify that position in the 2016 budget.



By the end of February 2015 donations were running at a level which caused great concern for our financial position. Anecdotal evidence suggested that income was likely to be substantially less than average during the final month of the financial year and that expenses were likely to be substantially more than average - with a consequent significant reduction of net surplus or increase of net deficit.

In fact the financial performance for March 2015 was totally the opposite of those predictions in all respects.

Group, Area and personal donations (including Birthday Club donations) for March 2015 were a little more than twice the average for the previous 11 months.

Previous Treasurers have tried to get through to the members of the fellowship that, for NZAGSO to continue to operate, donations are needed at a minimal average per member per week (or per weekly meeting).

At the 2011 NZASC the Treasurer presented on the basis that a minimum average donation to NZAGSO of \$1.15 per member per week was required.

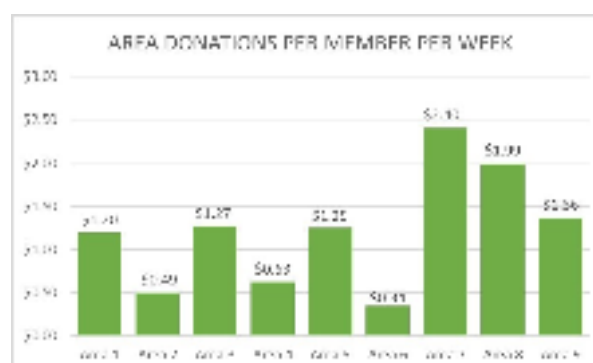
In the 2012 financial presentation the figure mentioned was \$1.19 per member per week.

No equivalent figure was mentioned in the 2013 financial presentation and no membership numbers were reported.

The figure wasn't mentioned in the 2014 financial presentation but the membership numbers were reported and the donation budget indicated a requirement for donations at the rate of \$1.39 per member per week.

This year, on a national basis the fellowship achieved a level of \$1.36 per member per week with members in some Areas achieving substantially more and in some others achieving substantially less.

Area	Number of groups	Number of members	Area, group and personal donations	Compared to budget	Donation per member per week
1	9	70	\$4,360	-\$715	\$1.20
2	14	129	\$3,307	-\$3,120	\$0.49
3	13	116	\$7,688	\$1,832	\$1.27
4	2	18	\$586	-\$195	\$0.63
5	6	36	\$2,334	-\$8	\$1.25
6	6	43	\$767	-\$2,747	\$0.34
7	12	130	\$16,249	\$9,612	\$2.40
8	15	113	\$11,674	\$5,818	\$1.99
9	6	36	\$2,545	-\$188	\$1.36





If all of our members had achieved the \$2.40 per member per week achieved by the Area Seven members then our income for the year would have been greater by \$36,202 and we would have been in a financial position to substantially increase our Step 12 endeavours to carry the message to others suffering from the effects of another's drinking.

Some of our personal donations were attributable to the donation by one member to NZAGSO of a new personal computer (to replace the old equipment which was failing) and donation by another member of the software required. A total of \$1,172 was involved in that regard.

LITERATURE PROFIT



We do not sell literature to produce income. We sell literature to provide a service to our members and for public outreach.

When we speak of literature profit we do not include in the calculation any provision for rent cost (our rent cost is greater because we need larger premises to enable us to continue to sell literature). We also do not include in the calculation any provision for the cost of the time our Office Manager spends administering literature sales or for the value of the significant time our volunteers spend assisting to provide the literature sales service. If we included a realistic "value" for those factors in our calculations then I believe that the outcome would almost certainly be that the literature sales service is a worthwhile net cost (or loss) to the fellowship.

Literature profit has previously been reported based solely on sales (including postages and handling) and purchases (including freight) - but with no reference to movements in the value of literature stock. This has been the practice in the past simply because it is (apparently) the way our software (MYOB) works. The accounting is also complicated because literature is purchased in US dollars but sold in NZ dollars.



Since stock value movement undoubtedly effects proper assessment of the real profitability of the literature trading I have elected to change the reporting to reflect those stock value movements. Clearly, if we sell no literature in any month but buy literature stock for \$1,000 we have not "lost" \$1,000 (we have simply increased the value of our literature stock by \$1,000). Equally, if we sell literature for \$1,000 in any month but do not purchase any literature stock we have not made a "profit" of \$1,000 (we have merely reduced the value of our literature stock by whatever was the purchase value of the literature sold).



The exchange rate between the US & NZ dollars was kind to us in the 2015 year. This allowed us to reduce literature prices across the board in November 2014.

The exchange rate has since been volatile and has moved against us - but not (at the time of writing this report) sufficiently to yet force an increase in our sales prices.
We continue to monitor the exchange rate carefully.

Changing the literature pricing involves a lot of work, but that work will be done if it becomes necessary.

In the 2015 year we actually achieved from literature sales a net profit of \$12,131. For the 2014 year the net profit (adjusted to take into account the reduction in literature stock) was \$8,636.

OTHER INCOME



In the 2015 year \$1,449 was received by way of interest on funds held in term deposits and in interest bearing accounts. The 2014 amount was \$1,153 and the budget amount of 2015 was \$1,500.

In the 2015 year \$5,350 was received by way of "Conference Donations". The 2014 amount was \$5,600 and the budget amount of 2015 was \$5,400. This item is commonly referred to in the fellowship as the Areas' "Conference fees". It is, in fact, the equalised contribution required from each of the Areas towards the overall cost of having all Areas represented by their Area Delegates at the NZASC. I am hopeful that less misleading labels might be adopted in the future.



In the 2015 year \$3,051 was received as "Convention Donations". \$1,760 of that amount was the donation received from Alcoholics Anonymous out of the profit from their 2015 National Convention in Wellington (divided in proportion to the number of Al-Anon and A.A. members participating in the Convention). The remaining \$1,291 was made up of the profit from Al-Anon fundraising and the voluntary Tradition Seven donations from our members at the Convention itself. \$3,329 was received as

"Convention Donations" in 2014 from the event in Dunedin. Nothing was included in the budget for 2015 (or for 2014) because in the 2013 year Convention Donations income received was only \$652 against a budget for that year of \$1,500, was adjudged "unreliable" and consequently was excluded from our budget for the following two years.

I believe that a budget is a goal rather than an expectation and that income from Convention Donations is no less "reliable" than any from any other donation source. I have included income from Convention Donations in the 2016 draft budget.

Messenger donations of \$1,939 were received - but little of that is really "profit". The cost of printing and postage of the printed copies of the Messenger is not separately recorded – let alone any provision for the cost of our Office Manager's administrative time and the value of our volunteers' time.

EXPENSES

Our biggest expenses are, in turn:

- a) the cost of maintaining our NZAGSO - to continue to provide services to our groups;
- b) the cost of holding our annual NZASC;



- c) the costs incurred by our trusted servants in meeting the functions of our NZAGSB and
- d) the costs of having the voice of our NZ groups heard on the International context at the IAGSM.

Both the NZAGSB and the Executive Budget Committee work hard to keep all expenditure for the fellowship to a minimum. The necessity to keep a tight rein on expenditure has inevitable, and unfortunate, consequences in the resulting reduction of the levels of service provided to our fellowship and the reduction of our Step 12 efforts to carry our fellowship's recovery message to those in need.

As a country we have again made no donation to WSO. Despite the constraints of Tradition Seven, for several consecutive past years we have considered our financial resources to be too precarious to be able to afford to do so.

NZAGSO EXPENSES



Renewal of the lease of the NZAGSO premises was negotiated for another two years to 30 June 2016 at significantly less than the market rent and less even than the 2015 budget amount.

Our rent (before GST) of \$958.33 per month is only \$41.66 per month more than the \$916.67 paid for the two years to 30 June 2014 and \$83.34 less than the \$1,041.67 included in the 2015 budget on the basis of market rentals.

Our rent includes rates and electricity.

The “downside” of our current rent level is that we may face a substantial “catch up” increase from 1 July 2016.



Should we move NZAGSO?

As part of the review of the NZAGSO in 2013/2014 the task force carefully considered whether relocation of the NZAGSO would be in the interests of the fellowship. For many significant reasons it was decided that the current position is the best available alternative by a substantial margin.

In addition to \$11,375 for rent our NZAGSO expenses included \$20,000 for office administration, \$1,917 for telephone and internet costs, \$383 for volunteers travel fund and various less significant expenses to a total for the year of \$44,624.

If it were not for the huge amounts of work contributed by our volunteers, our NZAGSO expenses would undoubtedly be much higher.

INSURANCES

The 2015 accounts include no expenditure for insurance. The 2014 accounts included expenditure of \$831.27 for insurance and the 2015 budget included an amount of \$1,000. As Treasurer, I have withheld payment of insurance premiums pending investigation and informed decision by the Executive Committee and NZAGSB.

An insurance premium of \$519.04 will provide insurance protection against fire and burglary for the 2016 year of our literature stock (average value of approximately \$3,600) and our office furniture and equipment (real value less than \$2,000). None of the assets are of any real value to a burglar. The fire risk is small. An annual insurance premium of approximately 10% of the insured value is, in my opinion, hugely disproportionate to the risk involved. I suggest that the fellowship is better uninsured.

A further insurance premium of \$437.41 provides insurance protection for a year for public liability cover. We have been unable to identify any real public liability risk to the fellowship.

Advice from two separate sources is that cheaper cover is not available.

NZASC EXPENSES

Our NZASC, is the forum where the groups, through their respective Area Delegates as their elected representatives, are given voice and have the opportunity to exercise the ultimate authority and responsibility which belongs to them in terms of Concept One.

Our NZASC is Concept One in action. This is the forum where the NZAGSB and the Executive Budget Committee get to be directly responsible to the groups they serve - in terms of Tradition Nine. This is the forum where the trusted servants are accountable to the groups.



There is no denying that NZASC is expensive. It is frequently suggested that NZASC should in some way be curtailed or abbreviated in the interests of saving costs. Such cost saving efforts must, however and unfortunately and inevitably, also operate to reduce the voice and ultimate authority and responsibility of the groups.

Total NZASC expenses for the 2015 year amounted to \$9,620 made up of \$7,643 for the NZASC venue and materials (listed as "Conference payments") and \$1,977 representing the travel costs of the Area Delegates. The 2015 budget amounts were \$10,000 and the 2014 amounts were \$9,515.

NZAGSB EXPENSES

\$4,226 was spent in the 2015 year for Board Members expenses. The 2015 budget amount was \$3,500. The 2014 amount was \$3,054 against a 2014 budget of \$4,300.

Board Members expenses include the travel cost of getting four NZAGSB members from out of Auckland to the four quarterly meetings (including the meeting around NZASC), the costs of the three Regional Board Members to travel around the Areas within their



respective Regions and the cost of provision of lunch to NZAGSB during the three quarterly meetings away from NZASC.

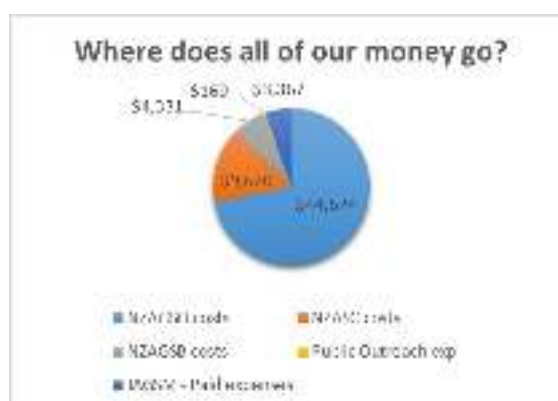
The three NZAGSB quarterly meetings apart from the one around NZASC run for a full day on Saturday and a half day on Sunday. The NZAGSB members from out of Auckland are billeted by the Auckland NZAGSB members to avoid incurring accommodation costs.

Despite the significant cost of getting NZAGSB members together for meetings it is vital to maintain balanced and democratic representation from throughout the country at NZAGSB level.

The NZAGSB expenses also include TEAM expenses of \$105 for the costs of the last TEAM event.

IAGSM EXPENSES

\$3,367 was spent in 2015 towards the costs of sending our IAGSM Delegates to the bi-annual IAGSM. This is the sole opportunity for our NZ groups to have a voice on an international basis through our representatives. The cost is spread over two years with a budget of \$3,000 each year. For the 2014 and 2015 years the amount spent was \$5,389.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

The only public outreach expenditure for the year was \$169 for the national pull up banner.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

The anticipated “blowout” of expenses in the last month of the 2015 financial year did not, in fact, arise. Our monthly expenses for March 2015 amounted to \$4,635.02 and less than the \$4,895.34 monthly average for the year.

SURPLUS/DEFICIT

The \$15,211 surplus for the year was a truly pleasing result. Both the surge of donations in the final month of the financial year and the absence of a flood of major end of year expenses were unexpected, surprising and pleasing.

Many factors were undoubtedly at play to lead to a result which was, with the benefit of hindsight, delightful.

ASSETS

At the 2013 NZASC it was resolved “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.” I believe that aim to have been achieved.

On 31 March 2015 we had cash in the bank of \$57,925 in total.

Before we get too self-satisfied we do need to recognise that the figure will almost certainly reduce over the winter months. The significant cost of Conference is about to be incurred and the level of donations over the winter months has historically tended to

drop away. I would be delighted if the level of donations were to remain steady but I have no unrealistic expectations in that regard.

Even taking that into account we do now seem to hold an ample reserve consistent with General Warranty 1 and the aim 2013 NZASC resolution.

I believe that the fellowship can now look to Tradition Seven and make a donation to WSO.

TERM DEPOSITS



I recently looked to reinvest funds which had been held on term deposit. It became clear that funds had to be locked away on term deposit for a considerable period before a greater interest rate could be achieved than by holding those funds in an ANZ Serious Saver account (we bank with ANZ). The announced policy change as to breaking of any term deposit also persuaded us to move to the Serious Saver concept.

OTHER ASSETS

Our NZAGSO computer is now new and we hold a healthy level of literature stock.

DEBTS

We have no significant debt.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

As at 31 March 2015 the fellowship is in financial good health. We do, however, need to keep working to maintain that position and to ensure that complacency does not set in to destroy the progress achieved.

We hope that the many members who make little real contribution to NZAGSO can be encouraged to change their position in that regard.

As our resources increase we will become better able to provide services to our existing members and better resourced to carry the AI-Anon message of recovery to the wider community.

BUDGET 2016

The proposed budget for the 2016 is presented with the financial statements. Several matters deserve comment.

As in the last few years the budget for member donations has been allocated between the Areas in proportion to the total membership spread. Although hugely different from the historic performance of those of the Areas who have not been performing well in terms of being fully self-supporting, the budget represents both an encouragement and a challenge for those Areas to “lift their game” in that regard. For those of the Areas who have been performing well the budget represents faith and hope that they will continue to do so.

Across the board personal donations represent approximately 20% of total membership donations. Although that relationship did not appear universally across the Areas I have divided the budget amount for each Area approximately as reflected overall.

I have included what I believe to be a conservative budget amount of \$2,000 for Convention donations.

I have included an increased budget amount for Interest/Dividend Received in recognition of the increased amounts held and earning interest.

For budget purposes I have acknowledged that the exchange rate will undoubtedly not treat us so kindly this year and have reduced the budget literature profit to \$11,000. Pending any decision by the Executive Committee and NZAGSB I have included a budget amount of \$500 for WSO donation.

Although Public Outreach expenditure for the 2015 year was minimal I have maintained a budget amount of \$2,000 in recognition of the vital nature of Public Outreach and the financial position achieved.

I have included a relatively small budget increase for postage recognising both that an increase in postage cost has been signalled and NZGSO has stocked up on postage in anticipation of, and to reduce the effect of the signalled increase.

The budget includes provision for TEAM event expenses to provide for the possibility that the Areas may seek to bid for TEAM events.

Overall I have sought to include in the draft budget a conservative increase across the board for expenses generally.

New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups Income and expenditure report for year ending 31 March 2015 (pending audit) With 2014 report, 2015 budget and draft 2016 budget				
	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Budget 2015	Draft budget 2016
Income				
Donations Income				
Donations Area One	\$4,108	\$4,533	\$5,075	\$4,080
Donations Personal Area One	\$252	\$162		\$1,020
Donations Area Two	\$3,307	\$2,215	\$6,427	\$7,440
Donations Personal Area Two				\$1,860
Donations Area Three	\$5,874	\$6,537	\$5,856	\$6,720
Donations Personal Area Three	\$1,794	\$2,389		\$1,680
Donations Area Four	\$550	\$500	\$781	\$2,100
Donations Personal Area Four	\$36	\$40		\$528
Donations Area Five	\$1,805	\$1,217	\$2,342	\$1,044
Donations Personal Area Five	\$529	\$240		\$264
Donations Area Six	\$557	\$400	\$3,514	\$2,520
Donations Personal Area Six	\$210	\$210		\$624
Donations Area Seven	\$12,013	\$11,812	\$6,637	\$7,560
Donations Personal Area Seven	\$4,237	\$3,431		\$1,920
Donations Area Eight	\$9,137	\$10,028	\$5,856	\$6,540
Donations Personal Area Eight	\$2,537	\$1,847		\$1,632
Donations Area Nine	\$2,320	\$2,906	\$2,733	\$2,088
Donations Personal Area Nine	\$225	\$150		\$516
Donations - Birthday Club	\$545	\$341	11829	\$600
Total Donations	\$50,035	\$48,958	\$51,050	\$50,736
Conference Donations	\$5,350	\$5,600	\$5,400	\$5,400
Convention Donation	\$3,051	\$3,329		\$2,000
Messenger Donations	\$1,939	\$1,746	\$1,750	\$2,000
Total other donations income	\$10,340	\$10,675	\$7,150	\$9,400
Other Income				
Interest/Dividend Received	\$1,449	\$1,153	\$1,500	\$1,680
Profit from Literature Sales	\$12,131	\$8,636	\$7,000	\$11,000
Total other income	\$13,580	\$9,789	\$8,500	\$12,680
Total all income	\$73,955	\$69,422	\$66,700	\$72,816
Expenses				
ACC Levy	\$155		\$120	\$160
Audit/Accounting Fees	\$200	\$174	\$174	\$200
Archives	\$16		\$100	\$30
Assets < \$500		\$45	\$100	
Bank Charges	\$5	\$12	\$14	\$15
Board Members Expenses	\$4,226	\$3,054	\$3,500	\$4,300
Computer/Office Equip		\$94	\$1,500	
Donations WSO			\$500	\$500
Accumulated Depreciation	\$670	\$355	\$500	\$650
Conference Payments	\$7,643	\$7,235	\$8,000	\$8,000
Conference Travel Delegates	\$1,977	\$2,280	\$2,000	\$2,100
Convention Expenses		\$640		
IAGSM - Paid expenses	\$3,367	\$2,022	\$3,000	\$3,000
Insurance		\$832	\$1,000	
Postage	\$1,988	\$2,407	\$1,000	\$2,120
Charities Commission Fee	\$51	\$102	\$61	\$55
Printing & Stationery	\$3,586	\$3,871	\$4,000	\$3,750
Public Outreach expense	\$169		\$2,000	\$2,000
Rent & Rates	\$11,375	\$11,000	\$12,500	\$11,410
Repairs & Maintenance	\$295	\$157	\$300	\$300
TEAM expenses	\$105	\$572	\$800	\$800
Staff Amenities	\$22	\$19	\$50	\$60
Telephone/Internet	\$1,917	\$1,840	\$2,000	\$2,100
Volunteer Travel Fund	\$383	\$440	\$1,000	\$950
Office Administration	\$20,594	\$21,384	\$22,000	\$23,000
Total Expenses	\$58,744	\$58,536	\$66,219	\$65,500
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$15,211	\$10,887	\$481	\$7,316

New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups Statement of Assets & liabilities (pending audit)		
	31/03/2015	31/03/2014
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank		
ANZ - 00 Cheque Account	\$4,985	\$7,545
ANZ Term Deposits	\$23,750	\$10,321
ANZ - 01 Online On Call	\$2,453	\$22,565
ANZ eSaver Ample Reserve Account	\$25,987	
ANZ eSaver IAGSM Account	\$750	\$4,970
Total cash at Bank	\$57,925	\$45,401
Sundry Debtors	-\$90	-\$40
Literature on Hand	\$4,083	\$3,110
Total Current Assets	\$61,918	\$48,470
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment over \$500	\$1,616	\$1,185
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,616	\$1,185
Total Assets	\$63,533	\$49,655
Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	\$315	\$871
GST		
GST On sales		
GST on purchases	-\$403	-\$599
GST to/from IRD		
Total GST	-\$403	-\$599
Total Liabilities	-\$88	\$272
Net Assets	\$63,622	\$49,383

Financial Presentation

- The 2014/15 accounts have been audited and copies sent out to all Conference members.
- We continue to do well financially. The improvement in March has continued into the April and May months.
- The total in our bank accounts at the end of May 2015 was \$61,000 but the cost of Conference needs to come off that figure.
- The 30/100 challenge is already doing really well. It means that we have more money available to enable us to carry the message.
- The proposal to cancel insurance covers was agreed by the Executive Committee and the General Service Board.
- The Budget has been prepared by allocating the income needed between the Areas in proportion to their respective members. The approach is similar to that adopted last year. The policy adopted in preparing the budget was to work out the anticipated expenses and divide them between the Areas.
- The Areas who have not been contributing well are encouraged to improve their contribution and the Areas who have been contributing well are asked to keep up the good work.
- We have budgeted for an Increase in expenses by 5%. The only way to decrease expenses is to reduce services.

Questions:

Historically we have put a figure per head in an effort to make the budget work. Is there any better way to encourage the fellowship?

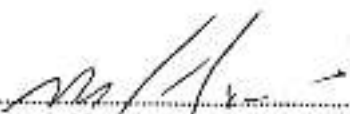
- The 100 x \$30.00 challenge encourages a team approach.
- Novelty is what piques interest and keeps people contributing.
- Would we like to run the 100 x \$30.00 challenge as an Annual event? Have open and close dates? Have variations on the challenge amounts? Say 500 people to do a \$10 challenge. We need on-going things consistently.
- A Project that is goal based succeeds – “Sinking Ship”, “Rescue Helicopter”, and “What Crisis?” These were new and people responded. We need to come up with ideas that will pique the members’ interest.
- There are Groups and Areas who accumulate money. Delegates are requested to take this back to the Groups. In February it looked like there was to be a disastrous result for the year and we then found plenty of money coming in in March. We need a regular supply of money. We have regular obligations and when funds are being accumulated we cannot be sure that we can meet our commitments.
- Advertising on Toilet Doors was another example where money was found as required.
- We need an average \$1.37 from each member each week in order to keep the NZAGSO running. Is my meeting worth more than a cup of coffee?
- The budget is not an “expectation” it is a goal.
- If there is a service that the fellowship wants but is not getting and which could be considered as part of the Budget then we need to be told.

- Feedback from and through Delegates would be welcomed. For example, are the hours that the NZAGSO is open meeting the service needs of the fellowship?
- It is good that Areas that did not meet budget were not highlighted in a damning way. For the Areas not reaching budget: is there something we can do to help them?
- E-Saver account – where are the term deposit funds? Please explain the On-line account. The IAGSM account held more than was needed. It was held in an account where we get a good interest rate per month if we make no withdrawals during the month. The interest rate was better than the rate available for term deposits of a year or less and we would be penalised for breaking a term deposit. As term deposits matured we put the proceeds into e-saver accounts. The Online Call Account is where we hold cash flow funds to gain some interest.
- How much will the increase in rent in July 2016? We don't know. Our rent is less than the amount budgeted last year and less than commercial "market rent". In twelve months the landlord church might decide that they need market rental from us. There might be an increase to "catch up" to current market and then move to the market rate in 2016.
- \$1.37 is the average amount required from each member to run the General Service Office. The cost to run your Group and your Area is additional. Our Treasurer stated 2 years ago that \$5.00 per member was probably already not enough. An average of \$7.50 per person is probably now reasonable. Personally I give \$10.00 per week at my home group and \$5.00 to every other Group I attend.
- Concern was expressed that our organisation is not increasing in numbers. We haven't spent a lot on Public Outreach. We need more members because the numbers are decreasing and the costs are going up.
- The 100 x 30 challenge will be picked up by some groups as a Group. Area 9 are happy to contribute to a Public Outreach campaign. We have no supermarkets but need to look beyond shopping centres. Framed posters look more professional. Area 9 would contribute to a national outreach programme. Develop a calendar – order from GSO.
- Cost of Public Outreach – \$2,000 was budgeted for the 2014/15 year but only \$167 spent for the pull up banner. We need to get out there. Public Outreach is really important.
- Mail drop approach to drop something in the mail box for smaller areas was suggested as an alternative to supermarket advertising.
- Area 8 have an active public outreach co-ordinator who is allocated \$1000 per year and spends every penny. The Area Public Outreach person can make a decision up to \$200.00 and encouraged Groups and lets them know money that is available.
- Information is not getting to Groups
- Service part of Public Outreach is critical.
- There are Groups who do not have a bank account. How do they get money to GSO if they do not have a bank account? In one group the treasurer gives the cash to another member and that member makes a donation electronically from her own bank account for the group.

- Poor levels of donations arise from an attitude of lack. Many members still do not understand why we have GSO and what that provides to the fellowship. Asked how other delegates find this in their area?
- Having two bags – fundraising and GSO - works well for some small groups.
- Some Groups accumulate cash. The message from GSO to members as to why the money is needed isn't getting through. We need to get that information through to the Groups. We are reliant on our Delegates to let the Groups know why we need the money and what we do with it. We need the money to carry the message outside the fellowship. When members get into service it becomes clearer. Otherwise do members see the value?
- An afterthought relating to money – many members have a “loose change” attitude. Do we value our recovery? Why aren't we putting more in the basket? Tradition Seven contribution? What is a Group expense? The responsibility goes back to the Groups. Empowering each other. Where is the responsibility? How do we get that message to the Groups?
- Groups should consider the Group's needs, GSO, building a prudent reserve and the Group's goals for the year and then calculate how much is needed to make that happen. Common aims, sense of responsibility at Group level. Budget for both Group and Area.
- At Conference two years ago delegates were asked to go back to the Groups to encourage them all to have budgets. In one group the treasurer gives a report each week including “last week we collected \$__, we need \$__ to break even”. Groups should be informed each week about what the group needs to be self-supporting.
- Has your group been included in “Under the Spotlight” in the NZAGSO News? What did they do to raise the money?
- We need to talk about money
- On a weekly basis group members should be kept informed, bills to be paid.
- There has been grumblings from an Area about AI-Anon asking for money. Sick Groups. Dominance. Sponsoring and sponsorship is necessary. More education on chairing is useful. Plea to get Groups healthy in the Area.
- What is missing? What is it? Workshops, skills lacking. Useful for Areas?
- TEAM Events - \$800.00 budgeted each year to take TEAM events to Areas. Go on line for forms or ask the Regional Board members. Last year only \$105.00 was spent. The assistance is there to be used.
- Budgets very important. Some groups have an AP that goes through. This encourages members to reach that. Encourage members. Gives the opportunity to ask

Auditors Report to the Members of the Al-Anon Family Groups Fellowship

I hereby report that I have examined the Books, Accounts and Vouchers of the Fellowship of the NZ Al-Anon General Services. In my opinion the Income and Expenditure Account presents a correct record of the year's transaction and the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to show a true and fair view of the affairs of NZ Al-Anon General Services as at 31st March 2015 as far as verification is available in a society of this type


Auditor - Murray Hunter FCPA FCIS

20/5/15.
Date

NZ Al-Anon Family Groups
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2015

Current Assets		
Cash at Bank		
ANZ - 00 Cheque Account	\$4,985	
ANZ Term Deposits	\$23,750	
ANZ - 01 Online On Call	\$2,453	
ANZ eSaver Ample Reserve Account	\$25,987	
ANZ eSaver IAGSM Account	\$750	
Total cash at Bank	\$57,925	\$57,925
Sundry Debtors		(\$90)
Literature on Hand		\$4,083
Total Current Assets		\$61,918
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment over \$500	\$1,616	
Total Fixed Assets		\$1,616
Total Assets		\$63,533
Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	\$315.22	
GST		
GST on purchases	(\$403)	
Total Liabilities		(\$88)
Net Assets		\$63,622

**NZ Al-Anon Family Groups
Profit & Loss Statement
1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

Income		
Sales		
Literature Sales	\$22,751	
Postage & Handling Collected	\$1,420	
Total Sales		\$24,171
Cost Of Sales		
Opening Literature Stock	\$3,110	
Plus Literature Purchases	\$8,098	
Plus Freight Inwards (Overseas)	\$3,961	
Plus/minus Stock Adjustments	-\$67	
Less closing stock	<u>-\$4,063</u>	
Total Cost Of Sales		<u>\$12,039</u>
Gross Trading Profit		<u>\$12,131</u>
Donations Income		
Donations Area One	\$4,108	
Donations Personal Area One	\$252	
Donations Area Two	\$3,307	
Donations Area Three	\$5,674	
Donations Personal Area Three	\$1,761	
Donations Area Five	\$1,806	
Donations Personal Area Five	\$629	
Donations Area Four	\$650	
Donations Personal Area Four	\$36	
Donations Area Six	\$557	
Donations Personal Area Six	\$210	
Donations Area Seven	\$12,013	
Donations Personal Area Seven	\$4,237	
Donations Area Eight	\$9,137	
Donations Personal Area Eight	\$2,537	
Donations Area Nine	\$2,320	
Donations Personal Area Nine	\$225	
Donations - Birthday Club	<u>\$545</u>	
Total Area Donations		<u>\$60,035</u>
Other Income		
Interest/Dividend Received	\$521	
Received interest-Term Deposit	\$829	
Conference Donations	\$5,350	
Convention Donation	\$3,051	
Messenger Donations	<u>\$1,839</u>	
Total Other Income		<u>\$11,789</u>
Total All Income		<u>\$73,955</u>
Expenses		
AOC Levy	\$155	
Audit/Accounting Fees	\$200	
Archives	\$16	
Assets < \$500		
Bank Charges	\$5	
Board Members Expenses	\$4,226	
Computer/Office Equip		
Accum Depreciation	\$670	
Conference Payments	\$7,643	
Conference Travel Delegates	\$1,977	
Convention Expenses		
IAGSM - Paid expenses	\$3,367	
Insurance		
Postage	\$1,986	
Charities Commission Fee	\$51	
Printing & Stationery	\$3,586	
Public Outreach exp	\$169	
Rent & Rates	\$11,375	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$295	
TEAM expenses	\$105	
Staff Amenities	\$22	
Telephone/Internet	\$1,917	
Volunteer Travel Fund	\$383	
Office Administration	<u>\$20,694</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$58,744</u>
Net Profit/Loss		<u>\$15,211</u>

Ask-It-Basket

Questions 2015

Sam & Tracey

1. Why do some Board Members have two or three positions? Doesn't this stop other members from the privilege of serving?

Answer:

Service in Al-Anon occurs at all levels – group, area, region and national or board level so there are many opportunities for Al-Anon members to do service.

(See pp40 -50 of NZ Al-Anon – Alateen Manual 2014) These pages set out the structure of the NZAGSB – New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board, the structure and composition, duties and various officers on the Board and selected committees. Also see page 3 which shows diagram of the structure.

The Board may be made up of: chairperson, treasurer, general secretary, chairpersons of selected committees, regional board members (3), IAGSM delegates (2) and WSCR. The Board has important legal and financial responsibilities for managing NZAGS. It needs to be able to maintain itself with enough well qualified people to meet these responsibilities. When considering composition and length of service the Board will balance the principles of rotation of service and meeting its responsibilities.

As a first preference the Board will try to find suitable Al-Anon members to hold NZAGSB positions. The term is three years and Board members may be appointed for two terms, which may be consecutive.

The Board has authority to fill vacancies occurring because of any resignation, illness or other causes. If Al-Anon members are not available or to meet other needs, the Board has full authority to fill vacancies or reorganise itself to be able to continue to meet its responsibilities.

Options might be:

Appointing members who have served more than six years (two terms) which may be especially appropriate when filling positions requiring experience, such as NZAGSB Chairperson and IAGSM delegate. Generally there should be a stand down period of one year before a reappointment is made.

The Board might need to appoint an Al-Anon member whose experience qualifies them for position of General Secretary or Board Treasurer but not as a board member. The Al-Anon member can serve a three year term or until a Board member is available, whichever is the shorter. In this case the Al-Anon member has voice and no vote.

Appointing selected committee chairpersons who are not members of the Board.

Varying the composition of and number on the Board.

Appointing non-Al-Anon members to the Board.

The Boards acts as custodian of the Traditions and a guarantor of prudent management of NZAGS and is responsible for reviewing all operations of NZAGS. Members appointed to the Board have attained a sound knowledge and understanding of the programme and Al-Anon structure, good judgment and sometimes have special qualifications or profession. Some members of the Board are ex officio members of selected committees. The Board Officers are Chairperson and Treasurer who are elected for a year at each Board annual meeting. Each officer holds office for a period of a year and may stand for re-election during a term as a member of the Board. The Chairperson of the Board may serve for a maximum of 3 years. The chairperson is ex officio a member of each selected committee. The treasurer is ex-officio chairperson of the Budget committee and a member of the Executive committee.

The structure of the Board and selected committees means that some people on the Board are required to take on more than one role and serve on other committees. The General Secretary role requires ideally a minimum of 10 years active membership in Al-Anon, so that limits who may apply. There is always more service to be done in Al-Anon. No member can volunteer for a seat on the Board. However, interested

members are encouraged to fill out a profile form for consideration by the Board.

Summary

- Some service roles overlap
 - Some roles are add-ons
 - Some roles are not stand-alone. They come from people who are already serving the Board in another role .e.g. IAGSM Delegate
 - Board positions need filling and often there are no candidates. Just started the process of observers.
 - Information needs to reach the Groups. Keep reminding people these roles need filling.
 - We have Board members throughout the country. Increase board member numbers will increase our expenses. We do not have the funds to support a wider Board – flights for three monthly meetings.
 - The Conference Chair was advertised for 1 year –no takers.
2. How does the General Secretary role operate when the current member is geographically removed from the GSO (in Auckland) and is ex officio of all selected committees and the Budget/Executive committee? Doesn't the position require someone to have hands on experience of the workings of the GSO (e.g. the Executive Director of WSO actually works in the building)? As we have an Office Manager, what is the purpose of a voluntary General Secretary?

Answer:

Service Handbook pg. 41.

"Members appointed to NZAGSB are those who have attained a knowledgeable understanding of our programme and AI-Anon structure, has good judgement, and sometimes has special qualifications or profession."

Service Handbook pg. 43- General Secretary Role: "The appointee should ideally have a minimum of 10 years active membership in AI-Anon with extensive experience in service both at Area and NZAGSB levels.

Service Handbook pg. 39 – Office Manager Role: "An Office Manager may be appointed who will attend to the accounting and administrative requirements of GSO and will report to the Chair of the Executive Committee."

This is a developing role, with a set of indicated guidelines and a trial period. Within the Guidelines, this position is General Secretary to the Board and part of the Board. Chairs of respective committees run and are responsible for their area of responsibility to avoid double headed management.

Equally the General Secretary is not just about NZAGSO - but about providing extensive experience, knowledge and guidance across the whole of the fellowship, irrespective of geographical location.

Communication is via telephone, email, Dropbox (computer/internet). There are no geographical boundaries with current digital and mobility avenues available to use.

Summary

- Referred to the Handbook.
- Resource for the New Zealand wide fellowship. The role is still developing.
- It is a Cultural advisor role. Extensive knowledge of AI-Anon at all levels is necessary.
- No necessity for a General Secretary to be based in Auckland. Participate at Executive Budget meeting.
- Review – not a full time position. Reduce our services and employ a person in the office. Done to save money.
- Trial no General Secretary –need person to assist and we cannot afford to pay that person. 10 years' AI-Anon service is needed. The role is developing.
- With a Conference phone participation happens by that means.
- The General Secretary has a job description being developed. The person in that role should be accessible to the membership and present themselves to the media in an articulate fashion.

3. Our group enjoys reading the GSO News and we always like to see how much our Area has contributed to GSO each month. We notice that another Area has dropped way behind in their donations, and we were wondering if the Board knew about this and what they planned to do about it. Surely someone should speak to this Area and get them to up their donations.

Answer:

How much another group gives in Al-Anon is not any other group's business is the short answer. There are a number of spiritual principles to support this. "Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not Govern." See Tradition 5, Concept 1, General Warranty 2, General Warranty 4 and General Warranty 5. The Board is to encourage every group to be fully self-supporting. Group problems go to Area Delegates or Area Assembly and groups accept the Area response. See page 57 World Service Manual. Also NZ Manual.

Member's willingness to be obedient to the unenforceable.

Summary

- None of our business.
- Tradition Two – trusted servants.
- Tradition Four
- Tradition Five
- Concept One
- General Warranty Two
- General Warranty Five
- General Warranty Four
- Tradition Seven-our role is to encourage members not to speak to them and tell them what they should be doing
- This could be asked at Area.
- Accept the area response.
- P57 WSO office manual.
- 60% support the 100%-this happened in Lois's time too.

4. Is the Lord's Prayer CAL? Is it appropriate to be used at meetings?

I personally find this prayer used in meetings off putting.

Al-Anon is a Spiritual Program **NOT** a religious program.

This Prayer was used in the my early days of Al-Anon and was voted out at group conscience because of its religious connotations.

It was replaced with the Serenity Prayer or Al-Anon Declaration. It has now been reintroduced within some groups. Is this for the good of Al-Anon as a whole?

Answer:

The Lord's Prayer is not Conference Approved Literature (CAL). Because groups are autonomous, a group may choose to use it. However, the preamble states that Al-Anon is not allied with any sect, denomination or ...

The use of the Lord's Prayer which is from the Christian religion may be confusing to newcomers who may get the impression that Al-Anon is a religious programme, rather than spiritual.

This is an issue suitable for discussion and vote in a group inventory and the group conscience will decide. Tradition 3, Tradition 4, Tradition 6, Tradition 10, Concept 5, Concept 12 Warranty 5 see page 281 of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014 -17

5 Why can't Al-Anon participate at AA events that aren't sanctioned by their Area?

Answer:

- Areas don't sanction events
- Invitation from national AA office - not camps, not NCCYPAA. Of course Al-Anon members can attend as individuals.
- Notification of events from AA to GSO, from GSO to Regional Board Member to Area.
- Guidelines for Al-Anon participation in KN17
- Tradition 6 is about co-operation with AA, not with alcoholics or AA group members.

Summary

- It has to go through the correct process.
- Areas do not sanction events. Comes from AA meeting sanctioned by National Office. If not going through GSO.
- No official invitation. Central Region Assembly example of how it happens.
- Individual OK- fellowship no. We do not cooperate with Alcoholics. Guidelines are clear. Co-operate with AA not members of AA.
- Read Conference Report. What they did they ask? No other service would be done inside the GSO.
- The GSO is a clearinghouse. Previously it has been an information centre. Restructuring meant it was no longer an information centre.
- Monthly newsletter, website, summary, area delegates can answer most questions.
-

6 Why do Alateen AMIAS have to be approved in each other's areas to participate in Alateen events such as conventions, Public Outreach workshops, picnics etc.

Answer:

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017 pg. 87

"An Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) is an Al-Anon member who is currently certified through their Area's Alateen process and is therefore eligible to be directly responsible for Alateen while being of service to "Alateen. AMIAS may be certified by more than one Area: however, they must first be certified by the Area in which they reside".

This is part of the Area Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements as outlined in the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual.

Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017 pg. 88 – Area Alateen Process.

"Each Area has its own process to implement and maintain its Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements, including the paperwork required for certification of AMIAS, registration of Alateen groups, and events with Alateen participation."

Summary

- Check on safety
- Policy page 87
- Certification
- New Zealand minimum standard for Alateen requirements
- Ensure children and AMIAS were safe.
- Each area is autonomous- Areas could have other requirements. Be passed in both places.
- Australia there is state law which makes a difference.

Comment

One reason is the Area has a responsibility for AMIAS in that Area – approved by the local area committee. Making sure level of supervision is there.

- 7 Why is there resistance to GSO providing basic information to the groups.
I get told to read the Conference report.

Answer:

If Conference answered every question, no other work would get done at GSO. What is acceptable and what is not? GSO is a clearing house.

Monthly newsletter, website, Conference summary, Board and Area delegates can answer most questions.

- 8 Why can't there be observers at Conference with no voice and no vote.

Answer:

There are two types of observers, and to answer the question, it is necessary to distinguish between the two. There can be observers at Conference, those that are attending conference with the approval of the Board in accordance with p.52 of NZ Handbook. This happened several years ago when Area Seven did not have a delegate. An observer from Area Seven attended conference and had voice but no vote,

The question clearly does not relate to these observers but to AI-Anon members being able to attend Conference to observe the proceedings. This question has come up before and a number of suggestions have been put forward in the past as to why not or, if this were allowed, how it might work.

Positives:

- No reason why observers couldn't be considered. Write a KDB paper so it can be brought to the Board
- Observers could be elected by the area to represent them – it's a position of trust. There is concern that someone with a personal agenda may want to disrupt the process.
- Transparency – we do not govern. As a member of AI-Anon we should be able to see how it works.

Negatives:

- There may be some discomfort felt by conference members on feeling free to speak with others present.
- Someone could inadvertently cause harm by taking away discussion points rather than the final version. This could be destructive.
- There is a need for Conference to be encapsulated in order to concentrate and carry out business of NZAG

Other Considerations:

- In order to attend members may be asked to pay full conference fee.
- It could work but would need a bigger venue.
- To understand fully, observers would need to attend for all three days.
- Encourage people curious about conference to be on Conference committee.

For reference to the structure and composition of the World Service Conference, see page 141 and 142 of the AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual pp141 – 142.

Summary

- Confusing question.
- There can be observers at conference with a voice and no vote.
- You can be a Scribe-and that is not disruptive.
- An expense for the fellowship.
- Purpose of this question?

- 9 "I often hear through meetings and newsletters of the requests for more support for GSO. I currently support my group through cash donations and I also donate money to GSO through the bi-annual collections. On top of this, I also make donations to other charities and from the receipts I receive from them all, will be able to claim back a third of my donations when I file a tax claim at the end of the tax year.

It is quite normal for me to receive a request to donate the tax I claim back to the charity and they do this by providing a request for further support and by enclosing a pre-filled out tax form (IR526) with their bank details on it, ready for me to sign and send off.

Is this something that could be sent to all members, who may only support their local groups and possibly other charities. Also others who support GSO? Would this be considered a way of being self-supporting?"

Answer:

Al-Anon Family groups have no dues or fees. **Voluntary contributions** are made by members in the spirit of Tradition Seven "Every group should be self-supporting, declining outside contributions". These can be done in the form of:

- Passing the basket in a group environment:
- Al-Anon Service Arms
- AA Conference/Conventions
- Fundraising
- Donations by individual members can be made by:
- Direct Contributions to GSO.
- Combined Giving Campaigns.
- Birthday Plan
- Quarterly Appeal
- One Time Bequests

General Secretary's Update

Arnold H

This is a new role and personally I'm finding it a bit evasive for want of a better word, when I was the Editor or the SRBM I had a predetermined role with guidelines so it seemed easier to achieve outcomes or head to a result with help from others. Certainly the Board meeting in March allowed us as a group to focus on what had been happening and out of this some tasks were given to me.

So looking to the responsibilities:

Support effective functioning of the Executive/Budget Committee and Board, working with each in preparing the meeting agenda.

Currently the respective Chairs of each group do their own agendas. In respect to the Executive/Budget Committee, Chair Rana S. and I had a brief discussion about me trying to prepare a report for each meeting. Previously the GS worked in the office and was present at meetings so had direct role in this area. This has changed so as I have no direct input into the office from a distance this report has been discontinued. At this time the committee works effectively and efficiently and I have now been able to join meetings via our telephone technology.

At the Board John B. prepares the agenda and historically this has been the way. I think I may work closer with John in the preparation of these agendas in the future. I do the minutes and any correspondence that comes from a Board meeting, to date I've only been at 3 Board meetings December 2014 and March and June 2015.

Work with the selected committees' chairs in helping see their roles and functions and act as a guiding force.

I have communicated with the Editor of the Messenger.

The Convention committee is chaired by the respective Regional Board members, depending on its location. The Chair and committee act autonomously in the preparation of the AI-Anon agenda.

I act as a conduit for some requests. In respect of the Wellington 2015 Convention I assisted by communicating with WSO (World Service Office) and the Australian GSO in getting media files to enable the new banner to be completed. Conference, we are all here and working as a TEAM to deliver the agenda. As mentioned I can now be present at the Budget/Executive meetings.

Continuing communication between the Executive Budget Chair, the New Zealand AI-Anon office manager and myself will enable us to develop this role of General Secretary in its newer format.

A member of the executive and budget committees and is an ex officio member of selected committees.

As above.

Attends NZ AI-Anon Service Conference with an annual report for inclusion in the Conference Brochure (report presented to the Board before Conference)

This is the report.

Serves as the initial contact between WSO and the GSO in all matter affecting both fellowships.

WSO will always send any information, requests or IAGSM matters to the NZGSO. This is the normal way they communicate with other structures throughout the world. So that information will be forwarded by the GSO Office Manager Julie.

Co-operates with the Office Manager regarding all correspondence received at GSO which relates to the fellowship (excludes administrative functions of GSO).

We are communicating as necessary. To date this has worked well. I am working through all the correspondence that has come my way to make sure I've attended to any matters I should. These matters are then reported on at Board meetings.

Ensures confidentiality of the fellowship records within the General Secretary's control.

I haven't encountered any of this documentation yet. Police checks for AMIAS applicants come to the office but I have no need to be part of this process.

Will be responsible for the taking of the Board minutes and the keeping of the official record.

As mentioned I've attended three Board meetings. I am in the process of going over the last few years' minutes to update any decisions and motions.

I think the role of General Secretary will grow and responsibilities will be better managed as the Office Manager, Executive/Budget Chair, Board Chair and myself work together over the next year or so.

General Secretary's Update –

Further to the report on the General Secretary's Update, I hope to have a face to face meeting with the Exec Chair and the office manager at GSO – which will assist with pathways going forward. Face to face contact is important for the future.

SUMMARY

Having a General Secretary is good, we are grateful for his service and contribution.

To not have someone in this position, which has been trialled in the past, I think would be like a Delegate not having an Alternate.

Question: Is there anyway which the delegates could do to assist you in your role?

Answer: Keeping phone list and contact details up to date is helpful, so the General Secretary can stay in touch with others and in turn send out forms to Delegates to give to Group Representatives.

NZ Public Outreach 2015



Recovery



National PO

The PSA's (Public Service announcements) have been re-voiced in kiwi accents and are available online on you-tube and on our website.

The AA Convention was held in Wellington in 2015 – this was a big opportunity for National PO. We secured an article in a Wellington community paper that was then picked up nationally on the national news website: 'Stuff'.

I have been busy behind the scenes creating more Public Outreach tools for you to use in your Area.

Thinking about what resources we now have in New Zealand for PO use, please think about what else you'd like to better enable you and your groups to perform Public Outreach in your Area.

HOMEWORK: Delegates please read The Best of Public Outreach (P90) and bring a list of your three favourite PO ideas or initiatives to the Conference for us all to share/learn from. (The P90 is available to read/download free from the WSO website)

Remember:

Together we can do
x Sally-ann



The NZAGSO pull-up banner (national version) has been made and is available for use. Contact NZAGSO.



This PO article was also used on the national news website Stuff. It featured an interview with a member and an anonymous photo.

Public Outreach – Summary

Who can do public outreach when you don't have a public outreach co-ordinator in your area?

Ideas - All members, Alternate Delegate, ourselves, those who are educated or informed, Sponsee's and Group Representatives can also initiate Public Outreach (PO) in the community.

A reminder that Public Outreach coordinators don't need to work alone. Who has read the P90 pamphlet? This encourages creation of PO committees, so one person doesn't feel responsible for everything.

By making the message relevant for NZ, we enable clarity of communication and unity within Al-Anon in NZ while giving the responsibility of Public Outreach back to groups which is where it belongs, we are all responsible.

My own experience when I came into Al-anon was that I did not want other people to know and now as the National Public Outreach, when people ask, I say that I do PR for a non-profit group. I've learnt a new understanding, I don't need to say I'm a member or I belong, people can find that out if they come to a meeting.

PO has generated an Annual Press Release, which follows what the WSO do. This is available to all areas and groups to use and can be adjusted as needed. This has been tied into 'Dry July', which is a great hook that can help generate interest in the news and public arena while taking advantage of the timing.

WSO have also created Public Service announcements, three of which we have been re-produced in NZ accents for use in Public Outreach. We were able to get these for free, with scripts already written and could be used online on our website, or for advertising within retailers who carry TV screens.

Samples of signage and posters:

Public Outreach - Keep It Simple Service (KISS)

Tear off Poster – Using common branding, file that can be sent to you

Group Meeting Venue Sign – Sign co-ordinates to tear off poster

Meeting Arrow – To use to help new comers find meetings

Door Hangers – To hang on handles

General Poster – Less details, but could be used with the tear off poster

Ideas from Conference members

Past success

Future Ideas/Inspiration

What works?

What do you want/need next?

Budget of \$2k

Wanted:

Requested - Sample newspaper articles

Send press release into newspapers, local newspaper, and tailor with local contact details. Articles need to be in between anything from 2 days,

Send to university papers

- something identified as being needed, consistent branding,
- In area Eight we have used the pull up banner, kiosk at the Big Gay Out Day, what we realised was from far away you couldn't read all the writing. Used the road sign, then people came stood and read the information, questions is, is it possible to get the road sign made up for the banner,

How else can we spend our money?

How do I go about putting up something on a community notice board and which types of boards should I target?

- P90 will be good for CABS, Libraries, community centres, church, and notice board of venue meetings are held. Digital TV promos available for advertising on TVs in bank.

How could we use money piggy backing AA's awareness month?

- By trying to tack onto what AA is doing and we are trying to get in touch with their PO person to see if we can work with them in a print campaign.

Name badges fabulous idea to identify Al-Anon members, with pull up banners, when at other meetings.

In terms of PO and press releases are we doing anything around Alateen?

- The Banner attracts them and if you would like to make an Alateen specific one. The focus right now is Family Groups, nationally that makes sense.

We have a certain amount of money, do we take that money and make a banner for everyone?

- If we went back to areas and let the fellowship know what we need the money for and they can fund-raise and then have a glow when they see it being used.

On the website the numbers visiting the website go down each December and May/June we have peaks, what are we doing in April/May that is getting more people to our website? How can we increase that? There is anomaly in the reporting time due to the statistics being run earlier.

We have a lot of issues around anonymity with public outreach. Al-Anon is not Al-Anon family groups anonymous or a secret society, there seems to be a mental block in the fellowship and could focus on education around the fellowship not needing to be anonymous. How can membership grow when others aren't aware?

The P90 has very simply explains difference between attraction and promotion and what anonymity is and what it is not. Protection is for Al-anon family groups. Do a workshop at your next area assembly, do a skit about public outreach.

The Board Chair wanted to thank Sally-Ann for what she has done and brought us into the 21st century. In the past I take 80 year old lady home and speaks fondly of PO, examples slips pamphlets into books at the library, walking through shopping centre talked to another, health professionals. Could give details to health officers and doctors, lots of things we can do as individuals.

- How would we send press release to morning TV, or current event shows. Can we send to TV shows? Suggestion to send in details to TV shows and radio stations.

Best of public outreach have little scripts you can follow and use if you're unsure on what to say.

The P90 can be downloaded from WSO website for free, along with ideas on how to put together a committee.

Banner is good to use for Area, Groups can also use it. One is available to use from GSO, but must be sent back to GSO. It attracts good attention. It makes us look professional with cohesive look.

Basic pull up banner costs \$200, stronger base \$300.

Contact PO or GSO and if purchased through GSO, will come out 15% cheaper. \$170.

They Used banner in Area One and it was well received and graphics/brand message was good. The bag it comes in is a bit flimsy; a stronger bag would be good to keep resource stored well.

We have choices and can buy a stronger bag or more sturdy/expensive banner.

Meetings are a really good place to learn how to practise Public speaking, trust your Higher Power; your worst is good enough. To grow in service, up skilling. If you want to seek help outside it's a good idea.

Al-Anon's a good training ground, harness those people, the General Secretary can help you, as can the Area Chair, look within the groups also.

Abundant Resources in Al-Anon

Robyn M & Melda T

Purpose:

1. To have us uncover Abundant Resources in our lives.
2. To have us uncover Abundant Resources in our Al-Anon Family Groups.
3. To have our Group Representatives uncover Abundant Resources in their own lives & in Al-Anon service.
4. To encourage members into service.
5. To create a workshop 'Abundant Resources in Al-Anon' for Delegates & their GRs to use in their Areas & Groups.

Preparation prior to Conference:

1. Write down some areas in your life where you feel there is scarcity, e.g.
"I love going to the movies but I don't have time".
2. Write down some areas in your Al-Anon group where you feel there is scarcity, e.g.
"We would like to donate to GSO but we don't have enough money".
3. Choose an area in your life where there is scarcity. Imagine there is Abundance. What would that look like? What would need to have happened? What would stop you?
4. Choose an area in Al-Anon where there is scarcity. Imagine there is Abundance. What would that look like? What would need to have happened? What would stop you?

Please bring these ideas to Conference to work with.

Abundant Resources in AI-Anon-Cont.

00.00 Intro -Why this topic? Read purposes. (Play with, stretch Elastic) Do we know what our resources are? If we don't know what we've got, we're probably living in scarcity. Not enough- can have a trip or a new car.....but I always want both –I want the trip & the new car. Scarcity is either /or. Abundance is and/and.

00.08 (Elastic) Ask "What does Scarcity mean to you?" Ask "What does Abundance mean to you?" Take answers from the audience.

Section 3. (From the prep sheet) Look at the areas in your life where there is scarcity. Now imagine there is Abundance. What would that look like? Each share with the person on your right next to you for 2 mins & then switch for the other for 2 mins. What did you see out of that? Take couple of shares from audience.

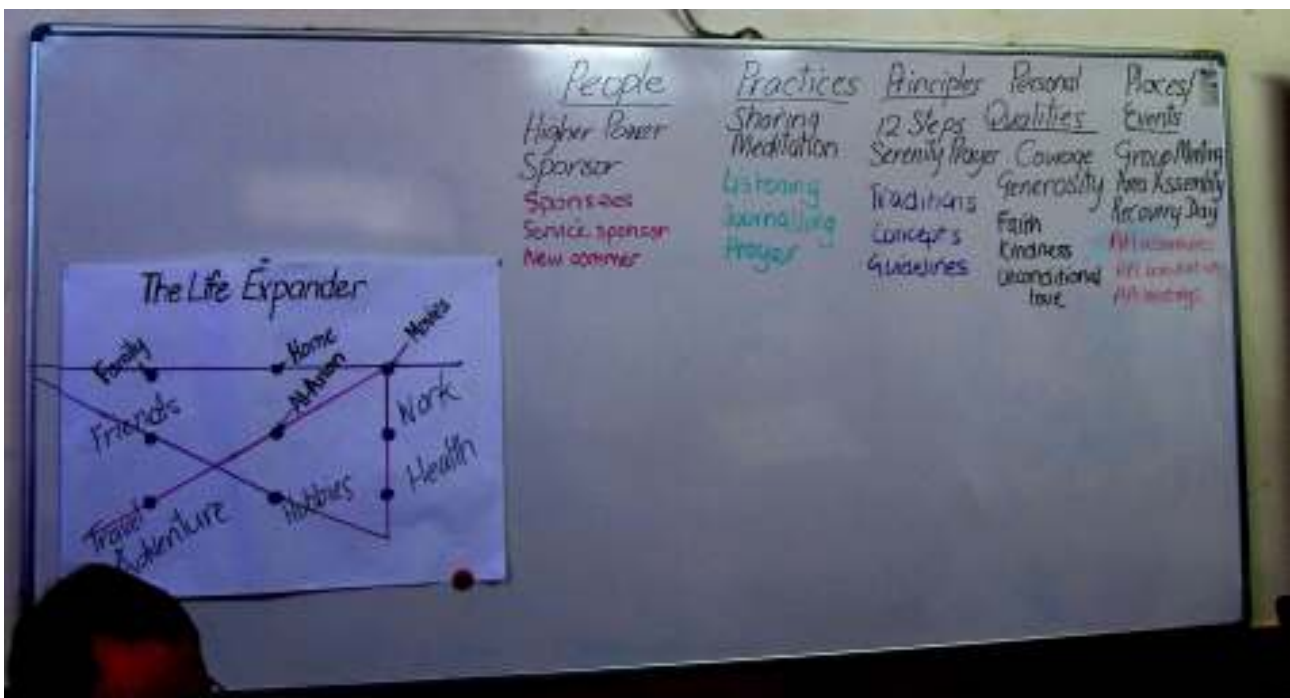
Ask "I suppose you are wondering what we're doing with these elastics? (Stretch)

Ask "What if there was a way of expanding your life?

"Have you ever had the experience of wanting to do or have something new in your life but don't feel there's enough time to fit that in?

Show - THE LIFE EXPANDER (Elastic) (see pic) Display: 3x3 dots - 9 dots in 3 rows of 3.

Label 4 of the dots, e.g. Work, Home, Friends, Movies. Take 3 examples from au-



dience's lives & write labels on display .Then "What if I want to do a new thing – like travelling? Write that in – leaving one dot unlabelled. Use your own share if you wish.

So how can we fit another thing in? We need to join all the dots – using only 4 straight lines. Try it. Show by extending the 4 lines past the dots. (Refer diagram)

The idea is that we extend our lives by making them larger, including more things.

00.20 AI-Anon Resources

Abundant Resources in Al-Anon-Cont.

Section 4 from prep sheet: Look at the areas in AFG where there is scarcity. Imagine there is Abundance. What would that look like? What would need to have happened? Paired share as before. - 2 mins each way. Ask "What if there were abundant resources in AFG? Take couple shares from audience.

00.30 Uncovering Al-Anon Resources. We are going to find resources in 5 different groups (see display right side). On the display you will see 5 lists with examples of each resource.

People: Higher Power, Sponsor, Group member.

Practises: Sharing, Meditation, Detachment.

Principles: 12 Steps, Serenity Prayer, Detachment.

Personal Qualities: Courage, Willingness, Generosity.

Places/ Events: Group Meeting, Recovery Day, Archives.

Count into groups (4 or 5 is good) & give each group sheets of card & felts to list resources.

Suggestion: Each group of resources on a different sheet.

00.45 Groups back - Each group has 2 mins to present & comment on their finds, what they noticed.

00.53 Collating resources-

What did you notice- in Scarcity? In Abundance?

What kinds of results do you now see are possible – in Abundance- in Al-Anon Groups?

- In our Areas? - In New Zealand?

00.00 Finish

Notes: The preparation sheet was designed to be done prior, but could be done first, with extra time.

This was done in 1 hour but can be done (more easily) over 1 ½ hours for this workshop.

Materials:

Elastic- 2cm wide x 1m long, knotted to make a circle for flexing randomly leading in to the Life Expander section. Felt pens, ruler.

3 -5 sheets of card & 2 felt pens for each group

Page 4: Display 1. – see the pic of Life Expander included.

Display 2. – see the right of the same pic for the layout of the 5 Resource

Groups.

These can be pre drawn on whiteboard or on card sheets

References

-Replacing Spiritual Poverty With Abundance: <http://al-anon.org/members/2009>

-Congruence & Alignment - Louise Thompson: NZ Herald: Bite Magazine

-Budget Report 2015: Chris H –pg. 16.Scarcity “appears that our membership is declining”..

- The Life Expander: Anonymous

Summary

Why this topic? We thought about 'What are we doing with what we've got? It occurred to me that if we are unaware of what we actually already have, both in our lives & in Al-Anon, these resources are of no use. Being affected by growing up in & living with the disease of alcoholism, it seemed important to look at how we see resources in our lives as well as in Al-Anon. We need to have the message before we can carry the message.

Exercise 3-

Sharing between two members for 2 minutes each, choose an area in your life where there is Scarcity. Imagine there is Abundance –what would that look like?, what would need to have happened and what would stop you ?

Feedback on Exercise Three-

Two Delegates shared that the results between them were similar (Time/Money). Two others found that they both had feedback and solutions for each other which they weren't able to see for themselves in their own situations. Together they found solutions and it was so simple. They found that being grateful for what they have and also imaging what abundance would look like in everyday life was helpful. What was important to them was being grateful, trusting and thankful to their Higher Power. The next two came up with solutions for each other and said that 12 stepping the problem and asking for what was needed could help.

Discussion – Life Expander

Exercise on what you can use to expand what you want in your life and how you can find time and prioritise. The idea is that by including more of the things we love, we expand our lives and so expand our resources - time, money, energy, health. Thinking outside the square to create more space for the things you want in your life.

Exercise 4-

Sharing between two members for 2mins each. Choose Areas where there is Scarcity in Al-Anon. Imagine there is Abundance. What would that look like, what would need to have happened and what would stop that?

Feedback Exercise 4:

One Delegate perceives scarcity of members in groups, of groups in the area, of people in service, of fellowship, of money, of diversity of members, of area meetings.

Another Delegate saw increased enthusiasm through having healthy sponsors, workshops in area and business meetings, having sponsee's involved to have overall a healthier fellowship.

Exercise on uncovering resources:

Resources available to us within Al-Anon under five headings:

People - Higher Power, Sponsors, Sponsees, Service Sponsor, Newcomers, Members, Alateen, GR's, Group members, group service roles, Delegate, Regional Board Members, Board members.

Outside Al-Anon: Family, Friends, AA members, Alcoholics Doctors, Counsellors, Judges, Commercial Alcohol Services, Hospitals, Police, health professionals, spiritual advisors, media, speakers.

Practices – Sharing, Meditation, Listening, Journaling, Prayer, Gratitude, Good Will, Fellowship, Budgeting, Service, Public Outreach, In Reach, attending meetings, Sponsorship, Punctuality, welcoming newcomers, following routines, participation, practising principles, giving hugs, belonging, welcoming, harmony, reaching out, reading CAL, web podcasts.

Principles – 12 Steps, Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Guidelines, Slogans, Sponsorship, Slogans, Warranties, Conference Approved Literature, Websites, Anonymity, Archives, structure.

Personal Qualities – Courage, Generosity, Faith, Kindness, Showing Unconditional Love, Communication, Compassion, leadership, Reliability, Curious, Accepting, Tolerant, Connectedness, Empowering, Trusting, Faithful, Hopeful, Caring, Willingness, Openness, Sharing, Empathic, Knowledgeable, Understanding.

Places & Events –Group Meetings, Area Assemblies, Recovery Days, AA Assemblies, AA Conventions, AA Meetings, NZ Service Conferences, Alateen Meetings, Intergroup, Recovery/Serenity weekends, socialising between meetings, international events, phone calls, Skype calls.

Outside Al-Anon: Hospitals, Prisons, Courts, Treatments Centres, health expos, university open days, home.

Conclusion: When I change my attitude from scarcity to abundance all of sudden I can see abundance. Fundamental of the program- that changed attitudes aid recovery.

Team Trial Evaluation

Paula B & Robyn M

Background:

During 2007 – 2008, the WSO was asked to determine the reasons for the fall of attendance and decline in enthusiasm for Regional Service Seminars (RSS) in 2010 – 2011 a Team – ‘Together Empowering Al-Anon Members’ – taskforce was formed and the outcome was the birth of what we know now as TEAM Events.

The Board did a presentation at the 2010 Conference. See the 2010 Conference summary pages 49 – 50.

Discussion

Reality is, that attendance has dwindled which is a problem. The new ideas give the areas more freedom to choose what suits them. In the past we have not had the one day option, which has restricted some members from attending.

The overall consensus was for a Task Force to be set up to look at the WSO suggested changes which would allow the areas to initiate an RSS based on their needs, which may lead to attracting a better attendance. 2011 conference summary pages 41 – 42

Proposal

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

Recommendations will be made to the 2015 Conference.

What do we know about our members’ wants, needs, and preferences? The regional service seminar’s as we knew them have not been taken up by the area’s. It has become difficult to get an area to bid for the seminars which are held every two years. The TEAM Events have been trialled and attended by the membership, who agreed that these events were worthwhile.

a) What are our resources? The GSB has a budget of \$800 per year for Team Events; we have very enthusiastic board members willing to share their ESH. We have a power point on Finance, A walk through GSO, KBDM, and Skit on Anonymity. We have two IAGSM Delegates that could share their ESH from the International Meeting.

b) What are we doing right now? We have had three TEAM Events within the trial at Greymouth, Rotorua and Christchurch. All were a success the members attending had a great time of fellowship.

What are others doing right now that is relevant? WSO have adopted TEAM Events see WSO Members website.

c) How do these choices relate to our legacies, Steps, Traditions and Concepts? We have learned that the responsibility for New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups belongs to the groups; therefore the groups should be given encouragement to stay healthy. And to enhance our own recovery by studying the 36 principles and carrying the message to families who still suffer.

I had the pleasure of attending two of the TEAM Events one held in Rotorua. Areas Six & Four hosted the event which was held in conjunction with the Area Six Assembly. We stayed in a cabin in a holiday park. The weekend was great and a group of members finished off the weekend by having a sharing meeting at a barbeque table, it was a stunning day.

The Christchurch TEAM Event, was also a great weekend, we were billeted at a board members home which was really great warm and homely, the host group did two workshops, finance, and A walk through GSO. We also had a public meeting in the evening with a celebration 60years Al-Anon in New Zealand.

Recommendations:

Motion:

That New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups adopt TEAM EVENTS as their preferred form of service related events. And that the GSB work on the guidelines to suit New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups in an ongoing way.

Summary

Questions & Feedback:

Greymouth, was excited to be involved in the TEAM event due to the size of their group; the Southern Regional Board member was enthusiastic. Information is on the NZ Website, for Delegates. Speak to the three Regional Board Members they then bring that back to the Board. To get started there are things that you need to be doing. Area Six, Four and Five, found it was good because we took the Board to them. Conference summaries are also available online and history around TEAM events over past three years is good. Interest not dwindling, just needs to be driven from the Areas.

The General Secretary was involved in two TEAM events, it was well received and encouraged learning, and the concept needs to be a mutual thing. It needs to be more balanced in Area and Board.

We wondered if the fellowship understood what a TEAM event is, as it's been changed more recently, which may be a reason why we are not getting requests from others groups or Areas. Do we want to move forward with TEAM events or RSS?

It might be good to have combined Areas participation for TEAM events. Area committees could get together, write a proposal and submit it to the board. Or a Host committee could do that.

TEAM events were mentioned as part of Conference, but it got lost in the overall message of bringing it back in isolation to everything else. This opportunity for the fellowship to talk to the board about what they want.

Question: Who decides the topics of a TEAM event, can the area decide?

Answer It's a joint decision between Board and Area and can be dependent on time available.

The minimum should be 6 hours, it's about making the right decisions for the amount of time.

Area One are excited about the TEAM event, and find it a bit overwhelming and need a bit of help. They are excited to take it back to the area and use the tools which I think will have a huge impact on the members.

The last TEAM event.

The Delegate was excited, but that wasn't filtered through. It should have been held separate from the Area assembly to make a day of it.

If you want to get more info or a pack go to the member's website. For people that need help, you could ask or delegate a person to assist you.

MOTION: Carried

IAGSM Report

“Living our spiritual principles.”

Joan G

Travel – Paula and I, arrived in Norfolk Virginia 4 days before the Conference started. We did this in order to be over our jetlag, and be refreshed and ready to work at the IAGSM Conference. The IAGSM delegates are permitted to claim for accommodation two days before and two days after the Conference. We claimed four days before Conference instead. This was a really good move on our part as we were alert and refreshed when Conference started unlike a lot of the Delegates who had been on holiday the three weeks before and arrived exhausted.

We took time to do some sightseeing, and each of us took turns to inadvertently get us both lost. Thankfully we didn't both do it on the same day. We did have fun, and we enjoyed the sights of Norfolk.

The opening of Conference was moving, and humbling. Being part of a worldwide group of people is exciting and daunting all at the same time.

Here are some notes from the sessions.

Service roles – a suggestion

Germany invites 3rd year Delegates to the Board meeting at Conference. (KBDM for NZ).- Concept v4

Poland – all Board meetings are open to Delegates to attend with voice and no vote.

The talent will follow if I do it. Take the mystery out of service.

Concept 10 reminds us to take personal responsibility to attract newcomers.

Financial

Australia received a bequest. They told people what they would be doing with the money and donations increased 40%. Australia passes this information on in a regular appeal letter where they tell people what they will do with the money.

The money was held in trust and is managed by Trustees.

Italy promotes tithing of 5%. NZ could do this as it's tax deductible.

Money is a tool not an end; we need money to reach out to others.

Forum Nov 14 page 12 – talk about money in a different way.

Warranty one p217-219 it's about how we use what we have in order to have more.

Structures should pay for their Delegates to attend.

Self-Funding does not qualify people to attend the IAGSM, or WSO and they have been told of this on their arrival.

IAGSM equalised expenses are capped at 65% on a 4 year trial basis to encourage more countries to attend.

Finance accountability and oversight.

See p96 Al-Anon, Alateen Service Manual (2014 – 2017) on contributions.

South Africa was given a bequest. This money was managed by a group of Trustees.

The interest on the investment was used for special projects.

South Africa GSO is a registered Charity.

They purchased property and the rest of the money was held in trust.

The Trustee at large was a qualified accountant who oversees the management of the property.

They provided a special public outreach event.

This has proved to be a sound idea, provided sound business practices are adhered to. WSO talks with the WSC Conference about “how can we use what we have to have more”.

Send appeal letters telling people what you plan to do with the money.

Talk about money in a different way – an Abundant outlook takes away fear and money no longer controls us.



Public outreach

Facebook. You can ‘unlike’ a page if you don’t want other people to know you are looking at it.

Liking a page on Facebook does not make you a member or supporter.

Investigate QR codes for a meeting list.

QR codes on the bottom of an advertisement when read by your phone

will take you straight through to the appropriate web page.

Google has adverts that are free for not-for-profits.

Websites – think of the newcomer first.

Use symbols for Facebook, Twitter as a disclaimer is on the website.

Anonymity in Technology – Finland

You can purchase e-books and audio books online without revealing who you are.

Media people in Finland are unsure of the results of technology.

There is very little media or public outreach of any kind in Finland.

Finland GSO has a website. There is a member intranet available on the website.

They are investigating buying a QR code that can be scanned with a smartphone to make a list of meetings available.

They are preparing a book on Al-Anon for their 60th Anniversary but are concerned regarding anonymity issues in the book.

WSO manual page 94, 109 and 116 for more information.

Literature

Audio books are coming

Al-Anon/Alateen name and symbol.

Paula spoke to Ric about our findings on trademarking the name and symbol here in NZ. He needed to take advice from his legal team and will get back to us regarding the outcome.

He has offered to do what he can to help. Al-Anon WSO has already taken several people to

Court for using the Al-Anon symbol and name. One organisation had a web page called Al-Anon group and had people’s names on it. This is a violation of the traditions and the Al-Anon name.

Legal issues – Incorporation

It’s a legal shield for protecting the name, and the logo.

Stops people using the name and logo for personal gain e.g. Girltalk

Prevents the breaking of anonymity as an incorporated body is not a person.

Groups do not incorporate. Areas can incorporate if they wish.

Legal services can be expensive.

WSO will provide and assist with feedback and advice on incorporation.

We need to be a legal body to register the trademark (American representative)

Some structures have formed incorporated societies; some have become limited liability companies. Legal parts of AI-Anon need to be handled legally according to NZ Law. We have to abide by the law.

Incorporation protects individuals as well; an employee is hired by the Incorporated Society rather than a group of people.

South Africa has a trust deed with names titles and positions and not people's names. If the Telephone is in a person's name it is not able to be changed.

Canada – For their convention they had to sign a legal contract with the hotel they used for the convention or any other large events. They got snowed out on the first event and it cost them a large sum of money. Another time a member fell down and broke her leg – who do you sue? People or an organisation?

Poland – covers all their trustees with incorporation like document.

Australia incorporated as a company Proprietary Company Ltd (PTY) they have 8 Board and none \$1 shares. It makes it easier to get rent sorted out and other issues. The incoming Board member pays the outgoing Board member \$1 and buys their share in the company. Four Areas have incorporated. A template will be made for the remaining areas to use if they wish it.

Incorporation assures the continuation of the entity.

Electronic voting

Electronic voting was used on a trial basis this year.

<http://www.replysystems.com/reply-products/replymini-worldwide.shtml>



For the first time electronic voting was used at the IAGSM.

The motion was shown on a power point slide on the movie screen.

This was generated by software on a laptop at the front of the room.

People then voted yes (a) no (b) abstain (c) and the total number of votes was shown.

At the bottom of the screen, when everyone had voted, then a bar chart was shown on the screen, so everyone could see the results clearly.

With the numbers voting, for, against and abstaining clearly shown. This meant that the two third majority votes were easily recognised, as was the result.

Attracting volunteers

Refer Concepts 4 & 10 and use the principles.

Often there is missing knowledge – what's involved in the role

People feel not good enough

Invite people to participate (put out the chairs, make the tea, speak to newcomers).

Provide/encourage service sponsorship

People are often unwilling to give time and effort

ONLY give praise

Allow people to attend and observe at Conference

Say 'thank you' often.

Rotation of service, - tell people they will be good at the task.

Have an appreciative interview – what they did that you value

SWOT analysis – used to demystify the topic (Finland).

Take the mystery out of service roles.

Give a sense of belonging.
Change the meeting day or time to a Saturday or weekend.
Feed people, talk to them.

Using spiritual principles to deal with conflict

36 principles follow each other in order.

In service don't nag!

We are supposed to demonstrate the principles in our service work.

The conflict card and booklet are useful tools.

Spiritual principle – I'm going to carry the message.

Legal principle – no authority to use this content to carry the message.

Finland had conflict with their Board of trustees. One person was ALWAYS right. The person eventually resigned after a lot of discussion.

Something I learned, is that they use two chair people for this conference and it works well. Nothing was too much trouble for the organising committee.

They took us to WSO in the evening as I was still in recovery mode.

Two things to take into service is Cooperate and Communicate.

Other countries had the same or similar issues. Paula and I were able to offer our ESH and also gained some insights into our own organisation.

Everyone had a role to play, saying the serenity prayer, giving a spiritual talk, helping other delegates etc.

The ResentMints were a great success, with Ric sampling several packets to make sure they were okay.

Neat stuff

Hearing the Serenity prayer spoken in different languages.

Electronic voting

Hearing a turtle does not move forward unless it sticks its neck out.

Intranet for Board members rather than ordinary email.

Shared leadership = 2 people alternating at Conference Chair

Q.T.I.P = quit taking it personally. (QTIP is an American Cotton Bud).

Culture of Trust – 2005 WSC Summary –

What would it be for people to be able to accept change

Assure people that their core values will not change

Change is perceived as inevitable.

Means to make the change are available.

Change can be integrated into activities.

Change has back up resources. (e.g. trials).

Hot topic sheets – people loved our ones and we gave lots of samples away.

Further information and a copy of the I.A.G.S.M. Conference summary is available on the WSO website as a free download.

IASGM Report

“Living our spiritual principles.”

Paula B

Statement of purpose

The purpose of the IAGSM is to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through their delegates. It will attempt to encourage the growth of a sound service structure while maintaining worldwide unity through the application of Al-Anon Traditions. It can also represent an expression of a worldwide group conscience. Ultimately, this leads to the primary purpose of Al-Anon as a whole, to seek the best way to carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences.

Specific Service Role

My role as an International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) Delegate in relation to my structure. Qualifications of an IAGSM Delegate are described as:

Have a working knowledge of the English language.

Have first-hand knowledge of the service structure.

Be knowledgeable of the GSO's current activities. (from the Admissions Committee Guideline for the IAGSM):

Be an Al-Anon member for at least two years and not a member of A.A.

Be actively involved* at the GSO. (*Actively involved" could mean a member of the Board, paid or volunteer staff, or a member of a Committee. "Actively involved" is defined within structural autonomy)

“Living our spiritual principles”

The opening Key Note speaker Ros Australia this was a great start to the IAGSM

The Welcome

With housekeeping from Connie and Debbie be on time etc.:

Gwen was the Scribe for the entire Meeting she was the only attendee that could use a laptop.

The general sessions were:

Communication in the links of service and Concepts One, Two, and Three

Attracting volunteers as it ties to the spiritual principles in Concepts Four and Ten

How do we use our spiritual principles to deal with conflict?

How do we maintain the spiritual principle of anonymity when using technology?

The IAGSM is trialling using I Pads and laptops at the IAGSM in Italy they don't want internet access.

Finance: accountability and oversight

Reported by Joan

Inventory (this is a continuation of the 2012 discussion)

The delegates felt that the reason that countries were unable to send delegates was due to money. However Ric brought to our attention that his body (IAGSM) made the motion to become self supporting not the ICC.

That we adopt an Equalized Expense formula with World Service Office underwriting 75% of the sending Delegates to the 1982 meeting and each National Service Structure absorbing the remaining 25%

(see World Service Handbook, page 15).

There was quite a lot of discussion around the equalization payments the delegates voted on keeping it stat at present the ICC would give us more information.

Using our principles expressed in Concepts Six, Seven, Ten, and Eleven, what is the relationship of the Board with the Conference and Committees?

Reported Joan

Incorporation

Reported Joan

Closing Serenity sharing

I was asked to do this presentation and I felt humbled and fearful when doing this service. My problem being I'm not too good with the grammar the HP is amazing and I had support. It still needed tweaking on the day and that will be done for me this is the Higher Power working in my life on a daily basis all I have to be is willing not perfect.

2016 IAGSM Bids



Italy won, see below we used electronic voting for the first time. Italy did a power point presentation. Poland did a verbal it was exciting however not as capturing as ITALY

It would be great if New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups look at hosting and IAGSM in lovely NZ I get the inspiration from past Board members who made the most recent Ric visit to NZ

The Workshops

We went to two workshops each

I chaired the General Warranties what do they mean, and attended The Balance between Tradition Four and Tradition Six: cooperation between Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.). Joan attended Clarity of the General Service Office (GSO)'s purpose and mission, and scribed what is the service structure best suited for us, and what do we do as it grows? What committees do we need? I found them very informative they used things to think about rather than questions to encourage discussion.

1. My role as an International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) Delegate in relation to my structure

1. The election process in your structure to become an IAGSM Delegate:

- Selected among the Board of Trustees, no big process, a short moment during Board meeting, no need for the candidate to present him or herself.
- In the absence of candidates, invitation by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of one long-time servant, with the commitment to help her/him with her/his current service position.
- The Chairman of the Board of Trustees is one Delegate and another Trustee from the other country (within that service structure) is invited to be the other one. (Response from a Delegate who's structure serves two countries)
- Board of Trustees and Executive Committee members are eligible. Considering previous service of some of them as Delegates, the possible candidates are narrowed to three. The Chairman of the Board did not run as candidate. The Executive Committee member in charge of Finance was elected at a Board meeting together with one Trustee. The latter was then represented by her substitute/alternate.
- One has to apply – no need to be a Trustee; experience in service, length of time in the fellowship and personal recovery matter most. The invitation and election by the Board of Trustees.
- Service Conference motion to invite candidates for participation in the next IAGSM. Then the invitation appears in a monthly newsletter that is sent to each group, with the

qualifications required. The qualified candidates (members) make themselves known to their Group Representatives and are invited to present themselves to the Area assembly, which holds a proper vote regarding their election. Area Delegates inform Board of Trustees, which invites the elected candidates to present themselves to the Service Conference, which holds a proper vote regarding their election. If time lacks, Board elects the Delegate without waiting for the next conference to be held. In short, it is not a requirement to be a Trustee or a General Service Office (GSO) member to become an International Delegate for this structure.

- The Board selects a candidate among the Trustees. For earlier IAGSMs there were two Delegates, but no longer, for financial reasons. A long experience in service at an “upper” level in the structure is a desired qualification.

2. Opportunities given by the structure for you to report back about the 2014 IAGSM:

- Detailed report (~10 pages) goes to the GSO, which sends it well in advance to the Board for their next Board meeting. Then it is communicated to the wider fellowship at the next Conference in the form of a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation, along with handouts.

- Before end of November 2014, an article is sent to the GSO/Board for publication in the December 2014 monthly newsletter, which goes to all groups. On 27th November, Delegate to present a verbal report and hand over a written report to the Board of Trustees during their meeting. Early April 2015, Delegate to participate in the Annual Conference and report back about the IAGSM.

- Write a long/or short article in their magazine, which is sent to every group, hence there is a direct feedback to the fellowship. Write articles/messages on the Internet blog. Report to the Board at their next Board meeting in February 2015. Report to the Conference at about the same time.

- Delegates to write a report for the 1st Board Meeting in February 2015. Both Delegates to attend conference in June 2015 and submit dossier. The two Delegates to report back to all three areas at their General Service Seminars (1 Delegate at each seminar). As long as there are two Delegates.

- Brief article for publication in the Forum magazine. Then complete summary of 50/60 pages to be drafted and reviewed before posting on the Members' Web site in PFD format before end of December. In parallel International Coordination Committee (ICC) Chairperson will prepare a different summary for submission to the Board of Trustees, of which ICC is a sub-committee. The ICC will do an IAGSM presentation at the World Service Conference (WSC).

- Report to the Board of Trustees scheduled for 13 December 2014, only verbal. In April 2015, PowerPoint presentation to the Conference so that the delegates are fully informed.

3. Why your structure believes participation in the IAGSM is important:

- It is important for the structure to learn from others all over the world through the shared experience of their service structure. The best way for a member to recover and grow is to serve. It is important for the structure to give an opportunity for a Delegate to get new inputs for both the structure and his/her personal life.

- The previous Delegate brought so much knowledge, something that was so important, that the structure realized that it would not be what it is today without participation in the past IAGSMs. Personal close links to the World Service Office (WSO) are very important and helpful.

- Everything is available if we share. We may be ahead of other structures in the journey. We may be behind and need not “reinvent the wheel.” We have a sense of belonging, feel we are “part of” rather than “apart from.” Our spirituality invites us to focus on our similarities rather than our differences.

- We need and are willing to “absorb” everything of interest and help from others. This has been the case in our individual lives and can be applied to the growth of our structure as well.
- It is the responsibility of the WSO, as the oldest group conscience and service arm respectively, to be open to the whole world. Also the Board of Trustees for the US & Canada Board are working on a Strategic Plan. There is a tendency to think North America only rather than the whole world: legal, cultural, spiritual...For US & Canada, the IAGSM broadens our mind. It helps keep reminding us that we are a world-wide fellowship and we have to be an inspiration for all fellow members and all fellow structures. This inspiration fuels our participation.
- It comes more from the intuition and group conscience of our Conference than from the knowledge of our Trustees of what the IAGSM is. Our spiritual program taught us that our personal recovery was largely the result of the experience that others have shared with us. Our structure similarly is a living body, which can recover and grow thanks to the experience of other structures. It also comes from the recognition of the efforts of some members who cared, in recent years, to re-establish relationships with the WSO and other structures and to go deep into the reports from the WSC, the IAGSMs, and the European Zonal Meetings (EZMs).
- When we were newcomers, we felt lost, different, and isolated. We began to grow and feel a sense of belonging as individual members. The same path is offered to us as a structure through the IAGSM.

2. General Warranties, what do they mean?

1. Warranty One:

- A discussion at Conference began as on-going conversation on group funds, reserve funds, etc. If GSO was short of funds, it may no longer exist and provide services. There was a review of (G-41) Reserve Fund Guidelines. There was a suggestion for areas to have a 6 month reserve.
- One GSO advised they have less than one year reserve due to legal restrictions. It is approximately 6 months. They use funds for public outreach projects such as providing literature for nursing schools. The discussion on a reserve is limited at ½ a year even though there are additional funds for the projects. The Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening the group because a strong group practices Tradition Seven.
- Many groups hold funds and are having conversations about what is needed. It is based on fear by both those with and without money. Clarification that this Warranty One is about an ample reserve and not prudence. This is where we understand abundance as a spiritual principle. Structure can earmark funds to fund projects – ex. purchase property, fund travel to zonal meetings, and special projects.
- Have bank accounts for 10-12 months’ time if it is necessary. The GSO determines if the flow of money is sufficient. Areas (in this structure) do not save money for multiple projects—they are mainly for conventions and events.

2. Warranty Two:

- * Conference member’s perception is that there are some with more authority and there are discussions about whether Board members should have a vote at the conference. It is a perception of unequal balance. This was resolved when there was a reference on “what is good for Al-Anon as a whole.” There can be different opinions but members have equal vote.
- Received money that can be used for services. Need to have a discussion in meeting about Warranties. Members had to find answers to questions.
- There are Board members that are knowledgeable and try to influence other Board members. It would be helpful to discuss this Warranty so that they can see the equality of all voices.

- Warranties are the protection against excess. When we study them, we find the spiritual side. We learn limits are important. We deal with issues maturely, without aggression or personal holdings.

- Warranty is tied to Concept Four regarding the Rights of participation—that some will try to limit the participation of others. This is usually based on fear. If multiple people agree with one person then they see that person as having too much authority. No one can have your power unless you give it to them.

People give authority to those based on their position and then become fearful and want to limit power. Whether one agrees with the decision, they are responsible to implement. This is a culture of trust and not everyone needs to be at the table for this discussion.

3. Warranty Three:

- * It is important to be heard. Delegates write ideas on topic and then answer questions. Members decide how to group. Then they spend \$1 on ideas you like based on values and gives them voice.

- What do we give our Delegates that would involve them in the decision. It was helpful to change workshops that can take back to groups. Currently the Board is making most decisions and these are retrieved by Conference members. Discussion is important and answering questions.

- It is important that all are involved in discussion and decision. Use of Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM)—some read more/talk with service sponsors. Now all people have equal information and hear and discuss information. Come prepared, be kind, and presume goodwill at Conference. We have a two-day Board meeting with a template on topics/meeting/strategic plan, succession/planning. The Board assigns projects based on Conference discussion.

- So much discussion at Conference/Board meeting. This may be because everyone thinks differently and sometimes discussions are tabled to be discussed at another time.

- Divergent emergent thinking on ideas for strategic plan. This information was considered and key ideas were identified and then grouped by commonality and narrowed down to three. This helped achieve unanimity while hearing all voices. Have Delegates prepare this information discussion for the Conference. Then Delegates are prepared for the discussion.

- Not a lot of discussion at Board, but some at Conference. The Conference gives more direction to the Board. The Board is beginning to develop a Strategic plan.

4. Warranty Four:

- Controversy on Board in which a Board member forgot to lock up meeting room. They were no longer to ever have a key for not locking the meeting.

- Controversy related to funds that a member took from treasury. Members are not above the law. The same standard must be used for all members based on principle and not personality. It is the behaviour that is the problem—not the person. Notify authorities if it is a legal issue. Then the legal authority takes the action. If not abiding by Al-Anon principles, don't call group Al-Anon.

- Rejected Charter of Conference voted to dismiss President of the Board and was not passed, but the motion came from members of the Board. Was this the right of the Board or the Conference?

- Succession planning from Vice Chair->Chair. It was resolved by having one to one discussion when it was determined that the Vice Chair would not move up.

5. Warranty Five:

- Confusion in this Warranty because it allows decisions to be made. If a legally binding decision is needed this is made by the Board. This Warranty is about balance – respect and love and not taken in anger or haste. These are the principles about prudence.

· Board and Conference are there to serve. Normally the Conference gives Board 2-3 items per year to achieve. This is serving, directing, and supporting.

3. What is the service structure best suited for us, and what do we do as it grows? What committees do we need?

Delegates in this workshop started out by describing what they currently have:

Finland

Board – 11 people

- Executive Committee – 5 people
- 1 member – learning about Executive Committee
- 1 alternate member

Executive Committee needs experienced people

* 4 standing Committees – Alateen, Literature, Public Outreach, Monthly Magazine

* 2 Internal Coordinators

Our structure was formed in 1980s. Sometimes it's hard for Public Outreach ideas to fit in meetings.

* We are developing a Strategic Plan

* There is no Alateen but we are working on a chatroom

* Public Outreach position is vacant

* 114 Districts – with regional members. We want to restructure Public Outreach goal to smaller ones so it's easier to fill.

To do – KBDM to capture the voice of the members.

2. US and Canada:

ICC WSO Member Board

- * Finance Committee
- * Audit
- * Compensation
- * Policy
- * Public Outreach
- * ICC
- * Literature Committee
- * Liaison
- * Forum
- * Alateen wide groups
- * WSO Conference
- * Strategic Planning

WSO

- Surveys on WSO web site, 12 Steps, Newcomers
- Feedback from the fellowship also Districts and Areas
- Area Delegates go to WSC
- Use KBDM to make decisions based on integration
- Task force has information to make motions/recommendations from
- Used a task force to develop KBDM around e-mail use
- For communication between meetings a Task Force may use conference calls/e-mail and Go to Meetings. They also meet face- to-face at Conference
- The next year (after the charge was given) present information to Conference for review or referral to Executive Committee
- The charge must be clear to the people working with it

3. Australia Follows WSO structure

· Committees – Alateen, Budget, Literature, Public Outreach, AustrLink, Technology Committee being developed· Other service structures IAGSM/RSS

- Feedback from the members survey was given to the Area Assembly
- KBDM informs people before taking action
- Thought forces report to Conference, then form a task force and report to Conference next year

To do – KBDM–task force investigating purchase of a building.

4. Mexico See committees in Service Manual

- Conference is in March each year
 - 5 Trustees Regional
 - 2 monthly seminars in different 22 Areas
 - Not all Areas have a structure
 - Office sends the topic to areas to work on. Congress is Saturday/Sunday 25 groups in each Area
 - Total 3000 groups in Mexico. 300 Alateen (Area A. 25 groups B. 20 C. 255)
- To do – seminar and workshops in groups and at RSS.

5. New Zealand Uses WSC guidelines in most things.

- Standing Committees – Conference, Literature, Finance, Budget, Editorial, Public Outreach and IAGSM
 - Use KBDM – for our Board and Conference use
 - We utilize task forces
 - 90 groups 9 Areas
 - Volunteers help at the GSO
 - General Secretary in the South Island GSO in the North Island
 - Board and Committees use Skype/e-mail
- To do – investigate webinars

. Argentina

Public Outreach

- Print their own literature

PE Committee – no chairperson, Conference, Executive, Policy, Alateen, Interior Committee - a lot of groups are isolated and unable to go to district meetings

- Have to pay for PSA
- Task force – for web site. Conclusions presented on Facebook
- Used WSC Summary for information
- Conference good with KBDM
- Problem with making decisions
- Conference support us
- Executive Committee is prudent and the money exchange rate affect us
- We sell literature cheap to groups and members
- Membership has fallen from 500 to 300 groups
- We have a big structure not as many groups. We have Delegates and District Representatives
- Latin America (Uruguay/Paraguay) come to our conference
- Conference approves projects and allocates people
- 3 Regional Trustees confirmed at Conference

Other information share

- KDBM – introduced at IAGSM as a tool to help to make informed decision
- IAGSM Conference Summaries are on WSO Members' Web site. It's good to read them to get a background.

Clarity of the General Service Office (GSO)'s purpose and mission

* GSO is to increase the unity of the structure, to buy literature, to be a unified body towards the government and its agencies. It's doing public outreach, unifies the groups before the conference.

* One GSO advised they have one paid employee who uses her name and face to take care of financial matters and accounting on behalf of their service structure.

* GSO is to support members of Al-Anon and services, to support the structure in international contacts; it's a clearinghouse for literature, the source of public outreach. GSO's mission is to make Al-Anon accessible for the society.

* GSO helps friends and families of alcoholics, distributes literature, organizes Al-Anon events, and cooperates with goal-related programs.

* GSO has to act in accordance with the wishes of the Conference, supports Al-Anon groups in understanding of Al-Anon program, stays in touch with the fellowship, handles CAL Literature and guidelines, answers any inquiries of groups and members, complies with regulations, does public outreach, informs society using the internet web site.

* GSO is an extension of Al-Anon Family Groups, the spiritual extension, is connected with literature, archives, finances, Board meetings and legal decisions. It keeps and maintains group records, prepares materials and encourages groups and Al-Anon services, improves communication and supports Conference members.

* GSO's purpose and mission is to support the Al-Anon groups, to reflect the wishes of the groups and do for them what they can't do for themselves.

* GSO creates the unity of Al-Anon groups, creates tools and conveys Al-Anon message, signs contracts. The Conference is the voice of the groups and it tells GSO what to do. The office is directed by the Trustees.

* GSO's mission is to constantly be scanning the world and looking for new opportunities and ways to carry the Al-Anon message.

* GSO is delegated authority and responsibility, groups gave delegated authority to the Conference, Conference gave delegated authority to the Board and the Board gave part of authority to GSO.

* A national office can do useful service for the groups. For example:

* The US and Canada structure publishes the public outreach magazine Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and provides it to the groups within the service structure for the cost of shipping. This gives the groups an opportunity to use this publication for public outreach.

* The WSO has legally registered the logo and Al-Anon name. The WSO supports the international structures in their efforts to protect the Al-Anon logo/trademark and the Al-Anon name.

* As a way to assist the fellowship, if there are recurring questions posed to the WSO, the WSO includes the question as a frequently asked questions and posts the question and the WSO response on the Members' Web site.

* GSO answers inquiries from Al-Anon groups or individuals with respect to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions; it uses the spiritual principles as a resource to decide to accept something or not.

* At one GSO the response to questions are written collaboratively, read, then the feedback is sent to the groups that are interested.

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5. How do we, as IAGSM Delegates, live the principles?

The Statements:

- What it means to be a trusted servant
- Service sponsors
- Balancing my recovery and my service work

The Principles:

- The Twelve Steps; from I to me
- The Twelve Traditions; from me to we
- The Twelve Concepts of Service; from we to our

This is a summary of the sharing during this discussion:

- * The role as a Delegate includes using the 12 Steps.
- * Delegates should attend Al-Anon meetings for their own individual growth. (It may be also useful to attend open A.A. meetings to learn more about the disease) The balance in recovery and service comes from being a member of the group and not as just a servant of the group.
- * IAGSM Delegates report to their respective Board of Trustees. To share one's experience of the word-wide fellowship.
- * For those structures that send two, the IAGSM Delegates work in pairs. For example, having the shared responsibility for the translation of all information about the IAGSM.
- * It is important for a returning Delegate to share and sponsor the incoming Delegate.
- * Remember that the Higher Power is helping when there are crisis and changes in structure.
- * We must remember the responsibility that comes with this service position. Our recovery comes before the recovery of others—otherwise you lead. We need a strong understanding about our principles to give us structure. Being an example of better leadership; Business is being in control – principles help in doing it in a better way.
- * Sponsorship happens by example: live a fantastic life. Balancing with other people, partner and friends needs also use of the principles.
- * Adult children expect the effect of actions will happen immediately. Steps help with achieving patience with others.
- * Difficulties in becoming a leader. Sponsors are needed in all service levels. Group and district Representative roles were putting oneself in situations. Responsibility comes with a service role. As area chair learned to allow people to do what they do well. Areas can be damaged like personalities.
- * Al-Anon is not to be forced, otherwise you alienate your relatives. Balance is to be able to see 2 sides to everything, growing up from black and white. If you accept the principles, the program will come independent of culture. Lois and Anne had very little material.
- * Lead by example. When coming to service I needed to be attracted, I had no self-esteem. Somebody had to say: would you come with us? Now I'm one of those people. But sometimes you stand alone with the Higher Power. Management skills are needed in balancing service with home group, being with family and husband. It's a learning process.
- * I did not like people. I had no place on earth. I needed to involve the 12 Steps before Traditions and Concepts. Without Steps I'd be an angry controller. Al-Anon loved me in spite of rejection. I could love too and be a leader with passion.
- * We each and other have dignity. Most people want to do the right thing – give them the opportunity.
- * We tend to emerge ourselves in anything what we do and lose our health. You can't take it all. Now I don't feel I'm missing anything. In balancing family decisions about saying no. Reconnecting with groups. Reading literature.
- * From I to me: keep on in my recovery in my own home group. I'm no good to anybody if Me is angry from we to our: saved my marriage and family relations.
- * Leadership is subject to criticism. Don't go back saying "we are wrong." Tell slowly about possibilities, changing from a follower to a leader. Be humble, but acknowledge your skills.
- * With controlling people you need an open mind. Accept also the compliments. You have pure heart and soul.
- * The program can be used in every aspect of your life. I'm grateful for those that have come before. I'm coming out of my comfort zone. To work in WSO you have to have a sponsor.
- * Sponsoring other structures you have no own vision.
- * With principles I will never be alone in my life, not working alone.

* The program is very wise and giving us the elements; to guide us was the service. My idea is to be obedient, humble and considerate towards others. Honesty to live service, and that my actions are consistent. The image that I give when I share will be proof to trust his faithful servants.

6. The balance between Tradition Four and Six: cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A.

Tradition 4 Each group should be autonomous...

- * Benefits for Al-Anon or A.A. as a whole.
- * Working on conventions together gives both fellowships the chance to work together.
- * Public outreach – working together to share our programs at schools, institutions, works well when we work and cooperate together.
- * Anyone in A.A. who has a relative may be more comfortable to refer them to Al-Anon when we maintain open relationships.
- * Alateen speaking at A.A. meetings is an opportunity for them to hear about the family disease.
- * Some areas have a strained relationship locally with the A.A. fellowship. Many find that communication on a national level is easier; Al-Anon GSO to A.A. GSO.
- * When there are families involved in both fellowships, keeping the lines of communication open can help with modelling cooperation between the two fellowships.
- * Maintaining our principle of being self-supporting and upholding our boundaries – particularly financially and when linking ourselves to them -for public outreach purposes (media/web) is important.

Tradition six Our Family Groups ought never endorse...

- * Observing our affiliation and cooperation as opposed to and autonomy
- * Caution in enabling – our participation in conventions needs to be seen as cooperation NOT affiliation.
- * Establishing financial responsibilities according to our traditions. Healthy self-respect by not asking A.A. to do for us what we can do for ourselves. Beware of the power of the “purse” strings.
- * Cooperating with GSO: maintaining contact with A.A. to ensure they have to up to date details and clear communication from Al-Anon when cooperating on projects.
- * Clearly defined lines of what Al-Anon’s role is when invited to participate (not childcare) in a function or activity.
- * Education of the respective Al-Anon and A.A. members’ roles when we are invited to participate in joint activities.
 - Service Structure: members of A.A. who do Al-Anon service. Understanding that the service structures are separate but our members who also attend A.A. are welcomed and accepted when participating in Al-Anon service.
- * Remember that A.A. is an outside enterprise.
- * A new tent card has been designed that is hopefully easily understood by A.A. members who also attend Al-Anon.
- * Identifying what service positions A.A. members who also attend Al-Anon can hold keeps the focus on the Al-Anon program.
- * As Al-Anon members we can speak quietly to an A.A. member attending Al-Anon to remind them that Al-Anon is spoken here when the A.A. member is off topic during a meeting.
- * The table cards used during the meeting can be a reminder for A.A. members attending Al-Anon meetings that the Al-Anon “experience” is the language of this meeting.
- * Remembering to leave ALL labels outside the room.
- * Outreach opportunities at A.A. Conventions are considered when accepting the invitation.

- * When participating at an A.A. convention/meeting (it is not our meeting convention) – we should remember as Al-Anon members, we need to be respectful during their conventions/meetings.
- * To practice cooperation we can schedule planned contact with A.A. Communicate and establish what's appropriate and what's not.
- * We should relate and maintain good public relations as a support for both fellowships.
- * A.A. committees – sometimes it is not easy to get along with various personalities. When there is no contact with A.A. at all, this can cause interference with the harmony of future communications.
- * When A.A. invites an Al-Anon speaker to a public meeting it is always a good idea to pass on to A.A. to establish that the speaker is in fact an active member in Al-Anon.
- * Attending open A.A. meetings (as individuals) is helpful.
- * In one structure the fellowships share a hotline – A.A. coordinates the line for two months and Al-Anon coordinates the line for two months.
- * Tradition Seven states we are all self-supporting. We need to remember that if we were to depend on an outside source for service workers/volunteers, we would be at risk of being dominated or controlled. There could also be a conflict of interest.
- * We gain healthy self-worth and self-respect by being independent, self-reliant and self-supporting in all manner or aspect.

Summary

We do cooperate with A.A. and rely on the mutual cooperation between Al-Anon and A.A. We benefit from participating with A.A. but remember they are an outside enterprise. Part of attending the IAGSM is making new friends and participating with other structures, we exchange gifts.

We took gifts for the delegates Joan arranged packets of resent mints they started off going slowly as the delegates don't all speak English.

Gillian W gave us 60th celebration pens and made laminated bookmarks out of the 60yr celebration ribbons these were also a hit.

Useful information

Participation is the key to my harmony

UK and Eire invite their year three delegates to the AGM after conference with a voice and no vote.

We used our travel paid time at the beginning of the IAGSM four days before we were able to acclimatize due to the huge distance travelled this enabled us to participate fully.

Year two delegate display an encouraging role to ensure the year one delegate participates fully. (this was given to me freely Arnold H my year two delegate) I would say that New Zealand and South African delegates were great participators, active, informative and humorous.

My fears when I received the Agenda stating that Paula B was presenting the Incorporation paper I did get slightly worried only to find that there were two Paula B's the other being the American delegate phew!

Italy's presentation verses Poland's verbal presentation shows how power point is more effective, a learning curve for Poland I am sure.

Member not wanting to be photographed however at the end of the conference he finally trusted the group re his anonymity.

Mexico has 300 Al-Anon groups the delegates had very little English however Sabina from Argentina and Ric helped with the translation.
The visit to the WSO was an amazing experience.



After the IAGSM sadly Joan and I departed company she was a great year one delegate and hopefully your year two in 2016 in Italy.

I went on to New York to meet my husband in our new relationship of six months we had one spat on Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem it was a good one cleared the air then we moved on. We flew to Niagara Falls for a day, experienced delays at airports and people behaving badly

and got back to New York at some ungodly hour and our slogan "**it is as it is**" we saw two shows on Broadway just an amazing time. We travelled home on different planes a bit like royalty really these are the life snippets that you can experience when doing Al-Anon service. I am truly blessed and fortunate to have been able to be the IAGSM delegate for New Zealand Al-Anon and am aware of many people that do service in NZ Al-Anon are not that fortunate.

Summary

- Finance & Accountability - created Trust which earned interest which came back to fellowship.
- Incorporation is here to protect al anon for legal credibility & insurance (i.e. if Al Anon event is funded and does not go ahead, Al anon is protected).

Q&A and Comments

- How are GSO volunteers used? - They pack pamphlets & brochures.
- Is there a limit on one time donation a person can leave in their personal will? - There is no limit of one time donation.
- Can an Al-Anon member donate a re-occurring income to the fellowship? - You can make automatic payments every month as a personal contribution.
- Equalisation of expenses, do we get money back if spend certain amount? - Capped amount now.
- Is a group inventory done for delegates at the conference? - Not yet.
- Equalisation of expenses to be able to give donations of more than \$500 to WSO.

Chatroom Update

John B

Proposed alternative Chatroom framework

Background

Al Anon New Zealand wishes to launch an Alateen Chat Room to provide a safe online environment for Alateen to work the Al-Anon programme. Since January 2014 the NZ General Service Office (GSO) has sought interest for volunteers to fill roles of Chat Room Supervisor and Chat Room Moderators needed to support the Alateen Chat Room. While there has been limited interest from Al Anon Members in Alateen Service (AMIAS), there has been no interest in the more intensive Chat Room Supervisor role.

There are currently 40 AMIAS in New Zealand, with a number indicating they would like to be involved in the Alateen Chat Room. The NZ Alateen Literature Sub-Committee (tasked with establishing the Alateen Chat Room) would like to propose an alternative framework for an NZ Alateen Chat Room. This alternative framework will be used to launch the NZ Alateen Chat Room - initially with a single weekly or fortnightly session. It is hoped that support from the NZ Al Anon community will build over time, enabling more sessions to be run each week.

Proposed NZ Alateen Chat Room Framework

The WSO require a single individual to be nominated as the Chat Room Supervisor. To support the initial launch, *we propose* that 3 members of the NZ Alateen Literature Sub-Committee collectively share the Chat Room Supervisor duties. The shared Chat Room Supervisor arrangement will continue until such time as an appropriately skilled AMIAS is prepared to undertake role, with the ongoing backup and support of the NZ Alateen Literature Sub-Committee. We also propose to limit the number of scheduled Chat Room sessions according to number of AMIAS available as Chat Room Moderators - at a ratio of 1 scheduled weekly session for every 4 AMIAS to ensure each session has the required two moderators in attendance.

Motion:

We request the GSO and World Service Office consider the proposed framework. If you are in support then the NZ Alateen Literature Sub-Committee will take the steps advised by WSO to set up the Chat Room and train the AMIAS' Chat Room Moderators supporting the Chat Room. [Carried](#)

Summary

- John B and Paula B have volunteered to supervise Alateen chat rooms. They are looking for one more person to volunteer.
- Moderators are required to approve content sent (i.e. no email addresses to be given in chatrooms)
- There is willingness to keep Chat rooms started and going.
- There are 40 AMIAS, where are they located? - About 10 in Wellington and 30 in Auckland.

Literature Approval

Chris H

New Zealand Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2014 (PN-27)

At the 2014 Conference the motion was proposed and carried as “That the Conference approve the revised New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook (PN-27) in the draft form presented to the Conference”. It was contemplated at Conference that the Board would exercise entitlement to update the history record in the final pages of the Handbook.

It has since been suggested that the Conference approval was limited to the handbook “in the draft form” only.

The need has since been identified for a small correction on page 50 (where the term of the elected IAGSM Delegate is incorrectly described as “three years” but is correctly, and has always been, “two years”). It is also considered desirable to replicate in our handbook the encouragement for groups, Areas and our national fellowship to implement and maintain budgets. The Board agreed to defer those small changes until next year to avoid unnecessarily outdating the current and recent document.

We consequently seek Conference approval for the document in final form as forwarded to all Conference members with the Conference Brochure.

Motion

“That the Conference approve the New Zealand Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2014 (PN-27) in the form presented to Conference 2015”. [Carried](#)

Oral History Forms

At the 2014 Conference a presentation was given by our Archivist relating to the recording of our oral history. The presentation included reference to three proposed forms (Oral History Release Form, Oral History Interview Information Form and Sample Interview Questions Form) which had been prepared by our Archivist but never presented to the Literature Committee or NZAGSB for consideration and approval. The forms have since been considered by the Literature Committee and NZAGSB and approved subject only to amendment of the Sample Interview Questions Form by substitution of “Which individuals were especially prominent in your Al-Anon recovery” for “Which individuals were especially prominent in your Al-Anon sobriety”.

The amended forms as approved are attached.

[Summary](#)

- [Has Anonymity been considered for the Oral History Release Form? Based on the assumption both parties are Al-Anon members, the usual anonymity principles remain in place on both sides.](#)
- [Sample Interview Questions \(pg. 62\) – the wording needs to be changed from "sobriety" to "recovery"](#)

New Motion

“That Conference approves the oral history forms as submitted to Conference subject to substitution of the word ‘recovery’ for ‘sobriety’ in the third to last question of the sample interview form.” (Carried)

Archives

Recording our Oral History

What is Oral History

History provides accounts of the past through memory, pictures, documents, artifacts and monuments. Events and stories from the past help provide perspectives that allow for thoughtful decision making today. However, memory is fallible, and if significant events or stories are not captured, we can lose parts of the past.

Oral history refers to the process of recording and preserving of oral testimony of an individual's own experiences. By joining our efforts to collect and preserve oral testimonies, you are helping to conserve New Zealand AI-Anon history for present and future generations.

This presentation provides basic suggestions for conducting and preserving the valuable historic treasures of long serving NZAFG members

Pre-interview Preparation

Preparation is vital to a successful interview.

Before the interview, contact the interviewee via regular mail, email or phone to introduce yourself and express the purpose of the interview. Your explanation should be brief and clear. Discuss the time commitment involved and you may wish to give the interviewee a list of topics and/or questions you might cover, in addition to their own experience, strength and hope story. These materials, given a week or so in advance of the actual interview, may stimulate an interviewee's memory. Indicate that any other related topics which he or she can think of will be useful for the interview.

You may wish to do a biographical sketch of your interviewee to give you some pre-direction for your interview

The Interviewer's Equipment and Documentation

Remember to fill out a oral history release form and interview information form

Most modern cell phones have built-in data or voice recorders, or you may have access to a digital data recorder. If these are unavailable or too technical, the old faithful tape recorder will do. Ideally, the device should be small so that it's presence is inconspicuous. To avoid disruptions during the interview become familiar with your equipment, run some trial recordings

Take along paper and pens, batteries or charging units, an extension cord, question sheet and research material.

Note taking during the interview is discouraged as it could be tedious or distracting to the interviewee. However, taking a few notes is ok if it is not too distracting. Write down names and places or questions that come up unexpectedly.

The Interview

As the interviewer, you should be active in setting up arrangements. This includes confirming a date, time and location. Ideally, the location should be a quiet place where the interviewee feels comfortable. The interviewee's house is a great option.

When setting up avoid sitting near windows, air conditioners or fans, place the recorder near both you and the interviewee. You may want to run a test prior to the actual interview to check the sound quality in your particular environment.

You may feel uncomfortable conducting your first interview. To ease anxiety, it is advisable that the first person you interview is someone who you are comfortable with or interview a group of "old timers" together. These group interviews can be both fun and informative,. The interaction that occurs as a matter of course serves to spark memories of the participants. One story leads into another, one interpretation brings cries of "but that's not really the way it happened at all!" The end result of such an interview will differ greatly from private interviews with the same individuals.

The interview should be conducted within parameters agreed upon by both parties.

The following tips should be helpful while conducting the interview:

1. Begin the recording by stating your name, the date, time, interviewee's name, and place of interview.
2. Exhibit self-confidence and enthusiasm, remain aware of your body language and make eye contact with the interviewee.
3. Ask easy questions first until a rapport develops between you and the interviewee.
4. Once a comfortable environment is attained, begin to ask questions that will prompt a detailed response.
5. There will be some information that the interviewee will not wish to disclose. Don't pry. This information is personal
6. Ask for examples to support general statements or explanations as these might be critical to the interview.
7. The sample interview questions, are only intended as a general guideline. You are encouraged to adapt the questions as you deem fit.
8. Although going into an interview with a prepared list of questions is vital to a successful interview, deviating from that list is okay and should be encouraged. The interviewee should feel welcomed to go off on tangents. Create an environment that encourages the interviewee to elaborate. Try ending the interview by asking if the interviewee has anything else they would like to share. It is possible that your prepared list of questions did not allow the interviewee to address a topic they wished to discuss.
9. If necessary, use props such as photographs, scrapbooks, letters or other objects that may stimulate memories.
10. Do not stop and start the recording unless requested. Turning it off and on periodically is not only distracting but it gives the illusion that the material is not worth recording.
11. Interviews should be scheduled at a convenient time and place for the interviewee. If the interviewee begins to feel fatigued you may consider ending the interview. It may be possible to continue the interview at another time.

Post Interview

1. Immediately following the interview, secure a signed "Release Form" from the interviewee. Be sure that the interviewee understands:
 - That either the recording or transcription produced thereafter may be used for the subject of research by members of AI-Anon or scholars and researchers, unless access restrictions are stipulated otherwise. Permission must be secured via a signed release.
 - His or her rights, including the transference of all literary and copyrights to NZAFG Archives
 - He or she can, at any time in the future modify or withdraw their permission for this material to be held or accessed in the AI-Anon Archives.
2. Be sure to thank the interviewee for his or her willingness to participate in the project. Maybe follow up with a written "thank you" letter or card
3. Send copy of interview along with release form and interview information form to NZAGF Archives. The best format to send to archives is MP3 via email or post using CD or Memory stick, cassette tapes will be accepted as well
Post: NZAFG Archives C/o NZAFG GSO P O Box 68124, Auckland 1145, NEW ZEALAND
or email to nzafg.archives@gmail.com



New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups Archives

Oral history Release Form

I, _____ (name of interviewee), hereby give this interview recorded on _____ (insert date) to the New Zealand Al-Anon Archives as a donation. With this gift, I transfer to the New Zealand Al-Anon Archives legal title and all literary rights, including copyright.

I understand the interview may be made available for research and such public programming as the New Zealand Al-Anon Archives may determine. This includes right and license to reproduce, copy, modify, display, distribute, perform, broadcast, transmit, and create derivatives from the recording. This may include use of the interview material in print and in live or recorded programs for radio, television, or any electronic publishing medium.

I transfer all of the above rights without limitation, to support the mission of Al-Anon and to disseminate information about Al-Anon, upon the condition that I, and any other Al-Anon or A.A. members I identify, remain anonymous at the level of all public media.

This gift does not preclude any use that I may wish to make of the information in the recordings.

_____ Signature of Interviewee	_____ Signature of Interviewer
_____ Name (printed)	_____ Name (printed)
_____ Address	_____ Address
_____ Town, City, Postcode	_____ Town, City, Postcode
_____ Date	_____ Date

Comment: _____

NZAFG Archives
C/o New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office
P O Box 68124, Auckland 1145, NEW ZEALAND
www.al-anon.org.nz
Email: nzafg.archives@gmail.com



New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups Archives

Oral History Interview Information Form

Narrator (interviewee) _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Email address _____

Interviewer _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Email address _____

Date of Interview _____

Place of Interview _____

Length of interview _____

Format: Digital File name _____

Oral History Release Form Signed _____ (date) _____

Unrestricted _____ Restricted _____

Nature of Restrictions, if any:

Transcribed ____ Yes ____ No

Reviewed by the Narrator

Yes _____ (date) No _____

Abstract of
Interview _____



New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups Archives

Sample Interview Questions

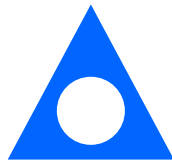
The following are typical questions one might ask when conducting oral histories for Al-Anon. These are intended as general guides and are encouraged to adapt the questions as you deem fit.

Before Al-Anon

- ☞ Please tell me a little about your life before you found Al-Anon. When and where were you born? What kind of childhood did you have?
- ☞ As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- ☞ When were you first affected by someone's drinking?
- ☞ What was your turning point, that brought you into Al-Anon?

Recovery

- ☞ When did you first hear of Al-Anon and from what source?
- ☞ How and when did you get started in Al-Anon? Where did you go to your first meeting? What did you think of it?
- ☞ Can you tell me about your early days in Al-Anon, your work through the Steps, and problems you had in those first days of learning the Al-Anon way?
- ☞ What was Al-Anon's "reputation" in the community? How was it different or similar from what you encountered through your initial introduction?
- ☞ What was your perception of Al-Anon's success in the general population when you were first introduced to us? How has that perception changed over time?
- ☞ Did you have a sponsor when you first came in? What type of sponsorship did you have?
- ☞ How many groups or meetings were in existence?
- ☞ Can you recall the formats used at some of these early meetings? How were they run?
- ☞ When was Al-Anon started in your town or area? How often were meetings held? Who were some of the people playing important roles in the formation of new groups? What else do you know about the growth of Al-Anon during that period of time?
- ☞ Which individuals were especially prominent in your Al-Anon recovery?
- ☞ How were new members contacted? What kinds of Twelfth Step work were going on? Are there any Twelfth Step anecdotes that stick out in your mind that you'd care to share?
- ☞ Would you tell me about your experiences sponsoring others?



New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups Archives

Sample Interview Questions Cont.

Unity - Group issues and community perception of Al-Anon

- ☞ Today, Conference approved literature is a lot more diverse and more readily available to help Al-Anon members, in your early days how diverse and available was "CAL" literature?
- ☞ Can you talk at all about the differences that led to new groups being formed in your area
- ☞ What kind of relationships did Al-Anon in your area have with local authorities? (Police, judges and corrections officers) Has this changed over time?
- ☞ Treatment facilities today frequently host Al-Anon and other Twelve Step meetings. Did treatment centres exist in your area when you came to Al-Anon? Did any of them use a Twelve Step format or incorporate Al-Anon meetings into their structure?
- ☞ Did you seek the cooperation of other local community or professional agencies?
- ☞ Today, radio and television public service announcements for Al-Anon as well as internet web sites, are becoming commonplace. In your early Al-Anon days how did Al-Anon interact with the media? Have you had any profound experiences sharing your relationship with alcoholics with the public? What cautions might you have for Al-Anon today regarding media exposure?
- ☞ During your early years in Al-Anon, how did the community receive Al-Anon?
- ☞ Do you think your group(s) has had an influence in your community? If so, how?

Service

- ☞ How and why did you get into service work?
- ☞ What contributions did you, yourself, make to the growth of the fellowship?
- ☞ What do you remember of early conferences, assemblies, and conventions?
- ☞ Who made the initial outreach to you; in what manner and in what year
- ☞ What was your first impression of Al-Anon Trusted servants, GSO staff, Delegates? Describe your first encounters.
- ☞ What was your first impressions of your first General Service Conference? What year?
- ☞ Describe some of the major decisions and Advisory Actions that involved your direct participation, as well as your committee activities over your years of service
- ☞ Is there anything you regret? Any mistakes you believe you made? Any plans that failed that you wish had been successful?
- ☞ What special occasions do you recall during your time of Al-Anon service?
- ☞ How has Al-Anon changed (if it has) since you first found it?
- ☞ Do you see any particular changes in the Al-Anon Fellowship and its service processes, since your start in service?

Spiritual Sharing

John B

Hi I am John a grateful member of Al-Anon, I come from a family that over the generations has been badly affected by the disease of alcoholism.

My Mother was an adult child, her father and my grandfather was the alcoholic in her family. I remember my grandfather as a kindly man who spent most of his time in the garden. My grandmother tightly controlled my grandfather, limiting his access to alcohol. I was fortunate that my own parents were not alcohol dependent, however my Mother was a caretaker of others, often complaining about the demands of others on her time. The classical signs of a potential Al-Anon member.

My father was ill when I was young and as a result I took up many jobs that he would have done. My older brother already exhibited alcoholic tendencies and many years later died at his own hand, at the time of his death he was under the influence of alcohol. As they say it is a family disease and my family through the generations has been badly affected by the disease.

I have had a series of relationships with women who had been affected by the disease of alcoholism. My second wife was a member of AA and although advised by her sponsor at the time that I should join Al-Anon I didn't take this advice, as I wasn't the one with the problem with alcohol! During this time I became well aware of the AA program through attendance with my then wife at AA Assemblies and various AA events and my wife's participation in AA generally. When this relationship ended after 17 years later I was again attracted to another woman, who was affected the disease, although I was in denial. We met at a desperate and dateless ball, although clearly even then that she appeared to have a drinking problem, this I ignored and we were soon in a relationship. I stepped up and tried to sort out her business and matrimonial issues out at my expense. Life became more complex as my life became entwined with hers. I struggled to sort her out and paid for professional assistance. Life was exciting with a continuous round of parties and entertainment. However our relationship deteriorated and after incident in which I was attacked and I had to call for police assistance I ended up in Al-Anon having been recommended to me by a health professional I still clearly recall my first meeting when I stepped through the doors of Al-Anon, it was in an old cottage behind a church. There were only women attending and I was the only male, I wondered how they could help me, and on the wall was the Serenity Prayer banner with "God" in red, I didn't at that time have a God of my understanding, I was a non-believer and a sceptic. The members of the Group listened to me and after the meeting a young woman shared with me her story was similar to mine, I felt that I could belong. I was assisted to find a sponsor and I kept coming back. I had only been in the group a short time before I was appointed secretary of the group. This was my beginning of service in Al-Anon; I moved onto to be treasurer and a number of years later to an alternate group representative. While I was in this position, the Group rep at that time insisted on me attending the Area and committee meetings with him. When he completed his term I followed him into the position, then to Area chairperson. During this time I completed the 12 steps and found my higher power. My partner also found sobriety during this time and was sober for over 5 years, before she relapsed. On this occasion I was able to accept the fact that I was powerless over alcohol. My journey in Al-Anon was by now was one of service. I went from Group Rep to Area Chairperson in quick succession. After I completed my service as Area Chairperson, I was elected as the Central Regional Board member the beginning of my service on the Board. It has been an exciting journey, great fellowship and the broadening the depth of my experience in Al-Anon NZ. Also during this time have been an active sponsor and I have found this to be satisfying, particularly seeing sponsees grow and change as they work the 12 steps.

I still live with the alcoholic in my life, it is a sad disease and progressive and she is still to find recovery. In a sense I have found serenity by actively continuing to work the programme.

It is a privilege to be able to serve the fellowship and to a member of a wonderful supportive fellowship.

Unfinished Business

John B

People raised length of the conference over the weekend. Could it be shortened? A lot depends on what is on the agenda, but we need to take care of ourselves. I would like to raise this for discussion.

Summary - responses

- I'm a Newbie and couldn't have jammed in anymore. If the conference was shorter I wouldn't have been able to take it all in and go back to Area Nine and report effectively. I have been able to come to each session refreshed. If it was jammed in to a shorter space I wouldn't have coped.
- A lot of sharing in the intervals, it was good time out. God works in between the business meetings
- I enjoyed the breaks – they are vital as it makes it more relaxing and can pick up more. I would be reluctant to see the conference shortened.
- We need to also consider travel time. From Thursday – Sunday but for those people that are travelling from around the country it is usually longer. Then return to jobs etc. It wouldn't be good to cram it in.
- Conference is one of our major expenses and the temptation is there to reduce the cost. It has been suggested that we could save money by making it shorter. This conference is the one opportunity where the board is responsible to the fellowship.
- I suggested conference be compressed. People have children and fulltime work. I took Thursday and Friday off work. Want to do my part for Al-Anon but have a lot of other responsibilities. Perhaps I could come up with a draft proposal suggesting where time could be shaved off in places. Travel is a consideration. Reduce cost and make it less of an ask of Delegates. Our participation in AA convention this year we took opportunity to do some web conference meetings, maybe we could think about the Delegates/Board getting together online. A midyear online get together would keep up contact between conferences too.
- I hear what others have said. Conference is not an expense but an investment. Not just money but time also. I love the idea of using technology but refer to the welcome. Talk to each other, reason things out. Group meetings are still face to face. Even if skyped. I wouldn't want to replace my group meeting with anything that wasn't face to face and I wouldn't want to replace this conversation with non face to face.
- I'm excited to hear this conversation again. I'm a more effective Delegate with the work I do outside of conference. The more prepared we are the more quick conference is'. I think we are going to get more efficient partly due to technology. We would be doing Al-Anon a disservice if we didn't inventory this. I would like to consider the conference has one less nights' accommodation. In Al-Anon time does cost money. I don't feel I can go back to my group and ask for more donations if I am not using time wisely. I love the idea that Delegates meet online a week/a month ahead of conference to work through some things. This may equal one less nights' accommodation.

- This is the format for newbies to learn and grow. We got through things quicker. We could have put in another workshop. Would you like another workshop? Having a Conference on a short week (Queens's birthday) was difficult. I would suggest for planning that doing conference on a short week should be avoided. I would be sad to see this get smaller but it is in your hands.

Decision:

This issue can go to the Board meeting in September. This is when the Board does its annual inventory we could as a matter of course look at the issue? And be aware of it.

What do delegates do with board news?

- Initially didn't do anything with it as I didn't read it. Then it was pointed out that this is a disease of communication and my GRs can't read my mind or the Boards mind. I send it out to my Group Reps.
- Ditto. The challenge is to keep an updated list of emails for GRs.
- I send it to the GRs but could do it in a much more timely fashion. It's good to have this conversation. I also have a challenge of updating GR email list.
- Guilty also
- So far I have only received one thing from the Board. I found it very valuable and passed it on to the GRs. We update GR list at every Assembly.
- I Pass it on and have learnt here how important it is to get it out.
- Print emails and take them to my meeting and announce it there and what the group then does with it, it is up to them.

Delegates' Report

Area One

Karen B

Area One covers the region from Oamaru south, taking in Dunedin, Gore, Mataura, Invercargill, Queenstown and Alexandra. This incorporates ten AFG meetings in total.

My term as Area One Delegate commenced on the 1st November 2014.

Assemblies: Pounaweia November 2014.

Convention: January 2015

Meeting other Area Delegates, Board Members and other Al-Anon members was truly inspirational and motivational for me. This visit created great excitement and gave me confidence in looking forward to, rather than a feeling of anxiety and fear of the unknown, going to conference.

Group Visits:

Dunedin, Gore, Mataura and Invercargill Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday AFG's

Public Outreach:

Emails were sent and telephone contact made with GR's in Area One. Contact from GR's was welcomed and they were provided with my phone numbers and email address. GR's were reminded about up and coming events/activities to inform groups.

Highlights:

A new group started called 'Stepped Up in Windsor'. This is a step study group which had a successful first meeting with 12 in attendance.

Concerns:

Continued promotion of AA jargon/literature within meetings

Continued advertising/endorsing outside entities within meetings.

Summary:

In our Area there is a new Area chair & secretary that's exciting

We are getting progress by using spiritual principals; there is still the talk and AA jargon. Newcomers are encouraged to use AA literature. We use principles above personalities, leaving the consequences to happen when they happen.

Area Assemblies are often held with AA assemblies, with secretary, treasurer, and an agenda.

There are business meetings within that time, often a lot of Al-Anon members are there, saving on travel costs, we will probably trial having separate meetings.

The Area is enthusiastic with what the Delegate brings back from Conference. Suggestions are great but they do not always seem to get off the ground.

Fund raising:

Sales tables, movie nights, pot luck teas, clothing exchanges, Cheese roll orders, garage sale, auctions at serenity weekends.

Area Two

Teresa H

Area 2 covers Kaikoura to Waimate (South Canterbury) which is an area of 789km. In Christchurch there are thirteen Al-Anon groups and one Adult Children Group. One Al-Anon group in Kaikoura and two new Al-Anon groups have started since my last report. Timaru now has a meeting and Christchurch has a Saturday night meeting on steps and sponsorship. Waimate & Ashburton have closed.

Area Assembly: Our Area Business meeting was held in Timaru on the 22nd March at the AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation. As an Area we try to involve groups that are outside of Christchurch whenever possible. The hospitality is always excellent and enjoyed by all.

Highlights: Last October one of our largest AFG celebrated their 17th birthday with a BYO shared dinner. Then followed by a fun and games evening. We celebrated the courage, determination and trust that the two founding members shared and when they organized the meeting room, literature and welcome. Their story of “just sitting there” until others joined them has inspired others. It was a memorable celebration with our founders and families.

Since the last conference our Area has been discussing the idea of Intergroup. Members feel it could be beneficial to our Al-Anon groups and would be another way to bring members together. One group has offered to host and organize it. I am looking forward to this.

Fund raising was another subject raised at the business meeting and one of the suggestion was having an Area Movie Night which seemed to be liked by all.

Our Area is struggling with service positions – The Area Chair Person will stay on and do a second term, the Secretary's position is now filled, the Treasurer has resigned but will stay on until the end of the year. The Alternate Delegate role has now been filled. The Public Outreach position is vacant.

Our Area is celebrates our fourth year of having a Serenity Weekend in July that is well attended and enjoyed by all. We have good fellowship and come away feeling re-energized.

Concerns: The GR's meetings with the Area Delegate have not been well attended for the last two sessions. In my report for the Area Business meeting I have asked GR's to state what they want out of these meeting **if at all**, they want the meetings and asked them to communicate this back to me.

Another concern I have is the position of GR's in groups. There is discussion around who can be a GR. One of our groups has a member who is willing to be the GR but Al-Anon is her second 12 step program. The service manual states “An Al-Anon member who is also a member in A.A. is not eligible to serve as GR”. One member emailed me stating “I have talked with several older long term Al-Anon members and they say that each group can make its own decision and that they are only suggested for groups but groups are autonomous in their decision”. I would the conference's opinion on this please. Lastly this is my last year as Area Delegate and I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

Summary

Concerns:

- Dominance
- Contributions – how money is spent, members are not contributing enough.
- AA input coming into meetings

We realise the Area can ask for help at Conference. These concerns are basically the same from last year. Principals above personality, is one thing taken away from the meeting.

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, the group in Kilbirnie recently closed and the Alateen group has just recently suspended (more on that below). This means we now have 10 regular groups (with two of them having two meetings) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday with on average about 74 people attending every week.

Highlights

The main highlight this year was participating in the 52nd Alcoholics Anonymous NZ Convention in Wellington in January this year. It was a wonderful opportunity for the members in the area to hear ESH from long time members from all over the country and also to sit in on AA meetings also.

We had our regular Serenity Weekend in May at Forrest Lakes in Otaki. And by the time of Conference we will have had our annual Birthday Party, an opportunity for fun and fellowship.

Area Assemblies/Workshops

We have had Area Assemblies in Kapiti and Wellington all of which have been well attended with on average around 25 members. We have been investigating different approaches to these Assemblies in order to try to get more members to attend.

Area Committee

All of our Area Committee positions are currently filled including Institutions Coordinator, one that has been vacant for a while. The new Institutions Coordinator is working closely with Public Outreach Coordinator to maximize effectiveness. However our Area- Alateen Coordinator has come to the end of his term and so that position will soon be vacant.

Public Outreach

The PO Coordinator has developed a relationship with the Salvation Army Hope Centre and speaks to the live-in recovery participants in their programme every six weeks, some of whom are attending local meetings. There are ongoing attempts to build a relationship with Addiction Services at Wellington and Kenepuru Hospitals to inform addiction practitioners of AI-Anon.

Alateen

Last year Area Three agreed to sponsor the hire of a venue for 6 months to offer an Alateen meeting in the Wellington area. It started in October 2014 and was run on a Friday evening in Wellington Library with two AMIAS present. Unfortunately the coordinator for the meeting has recently been forced to suspend the meetings as not enough AMAIS were offering to help out at the meetings or serve as sponsors. Hopefully they can be resumed soon.

Conclusion

It has been a successful year in Area Three, with much fellowship, love and laughter.

Area Three Summary

The last area assembly, Area 3 had a workshop that explained about the structure of Al-Anon as it was thought that people might find it helpful. The feedback attested to the fact that it was helpful.

GR's meetings have been held at different times/days to help to accommodate as many people as possible. The time before an Assembly is good for new GRs so they can have it explained to them what goes on at an Assembly.

We recently discussed a group who had no GR and no bank account, we talked about we could assist them as an area, to work it out but the group subsequently folded.

Institutions

The Alternate Area delegate is also PO coordinator and has been active in the area.

We had not had an Institutions coordinator for a while so we took a good look at the job description and found out the job was wider than just prisons. After that one member decided to help, so she and the PO coordinator are working together to cover both areas. It comes down to people who have passion for this. It's about publishing at area level and shoulder tapping for someone with this particular set of skills.

Forest Lakes Serenity Weekend was very successful, people are now returning year after year and the numbers are increasing. There is an active committee, they advertise on the Al-Anon website and their own website. They were able to give a donation \$900 - the secret, they say, is advertising and getting people involved.

Alateen - virtually all the committee have signed up to be A.M.I.A.S. The area agreed to sponsor an Alateen meeting by paying rent on a room in the city library for a six month trial. There was a lot of support to start with, the young people were coming and one even spoke at the AA conference in January. But unfortunately it proved difficult to get continual adult commitment and then the Coordinator left the country so the meeting is suspended for a while.

Area Four

Margaret J.

Area Four covers the region from Gisborne in the north to Woodville in the south. Cities are Gisborne, Napier and Hastings; smaller towns are Wairoa, Waipukurau, Waipawa and Dannevirke.

The area only has two groups: Wairoa AFG which meets on Friday evenings at 6.00pm at Manaaki House and Napier Evening AFG which now meets on Thursdays at 7.30pm. There are no Alateen Groups here.

The Napier group had to find a new venue for meetings as Jacaranda House was to be sold. After much searching, the Napier Methodist Trinity Church in Clive Square, Central Napier was decided upon. As we could not get that venue for Tuesday nights and Thursday nights were available, the group decided to go with that.

Our group had two Batons-Up raffles to raise funds, after having a shared lunch at a member's home. Another member hand knitted a matching scarf and hat and donated it to the group to raffle. Quite a bit of money was raised and the raffle was drawn at the July Assembly. Another idea used was that members who wished to donate some of their old Al-Anon books, double ups etc. and wrapped them as gifts to make a Lucky Dip for a gold coin donation. This went really well with all happy to take home books they did not already have. A little swapping went on too.

Assemblies were held on July 12th and November 1st. The July Assembly was held at Jacaranda House with the theme of 'Gratitude'. Nine members were present. Also, a cake was made by a member to celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon in New Zealand. The Lucky Dip with the books was also drawn at that assembly. The November Assembly was held at the Salvation Army Church, Greenmeadows, Napier. We were invited to combine with the Central AA Assembly. The Al-Anon theme was 'Serenity'. It was well attended and a good day was had by all. We were well fed and food was supplied by Al-Anon and AA combined. The meeting was held at end of the day and there was excellent sharing from both sides. About eight Al-Anon members ended the day by going out to a restaurant for a meal together.

The year has been a good one for the Napier group - a new venue and a new day.

Lots of newcomers are still getting to our meetings but not all are returning. The loss of the phone line does not seem to have affected our attendance.

We are self supporting, paying for advertisements in community newspapers, rent and a good supply of books. We have been able to donate to GSO this year.

Fortunately the Wairoa group is still going with approximately six members but no members of this group have been able to attend the assemblies.

Summary

Minor mistake – Assembly section of the report we had no part in food process. AA has always done the catering.

A Batons-up raffle is a fun afternoon, bring along unwanted things from your house, wrapped and all labeled, the first number is drawn, and the person goes and chooses from table, then draws another ticket. We had a blind one, parcels were all wrapped. It's a good fundraiser.

We would dearly love to have more groups, in our meeting in Napier we are keeping an eye on how many dedicated people are from Hastings, then we would open one there.

We have separate structures, for Area and groups

Regarding the split of Areas four and five and the current configuration was what both Areas wanted.

Combining won't work due to the geographical part – the Areas are too big – not all group members can travel.

Area Five

Anne F.

Area Five stretches from Manawatu to Taranaki. It consists of six groups. Inglewood has one group, New Plymouth has two groups, Palmerston North has two groups and Wanganui has one group. Most are fully self-supporting although a couple of groups are low in numbers and new members don't always stay.

The Taranaki groups are doing well and socialise between meetings. Coming up on Saturday 28th March, Inglewood Monday, New Plymouth Friday and New Plymouth Wednesday night groups are having a Pot Luck picnic at the beach. A gold coin donation will be asked for to raise funds for GSO. If the weather is foul the picnic will be taken to a member's home.

As for Public Outreach, two members from Taranaki on rotation, go to the Salvation Army's Bridge rehabilitation program to share their experience, strength and hope with the people attending the program. Contact phone numbers of group meeting times and venues are given out for any partners who may choose to attend Al-Anon. They are informed that Al-Anon uses the same program as Alcoholics Anonymous i.e.: the Twelve Steps.

Area Five has three assemblies a year: March, June and November. The last two assemblies were not very well attended due to sickness, GR's away and on one occasion a member's house was burgled the night before.

When there have been problems in groups, the past Area Delegate gave good suggestions such as: regular conscience meetings, taking group inventories and encouraging the rotation of service positions. As the new Area Delegate I did a follow up on this.

As I have only taken on the Area Five delegate position since the beginning of February this report is not a lengthy one. My home group is Inglewood Monday AFG.

Summary

The Delegates takes GR reports before Assembly

The Levin group is still going.

We have Messenger editor Patti in our Friday lunchtime group

We had a blind auction....each member bought a gift nicely wrapped, the contents were not revealed and an auctioneer (fellow member) called for bids. It was a lot of fun and excitement and anticipation as to what was in the parcel. The money raised by the auction \$25 was sent to GSO

Area Six

Margaret S

Hello, Kia Ora. I have very recently stepped into the position of Area Six Delegate. I would like to thank the outgoing delegate for her warmth, loving service and support of the Al Anon members in our area.

Area Six extends from Hamilton to Tauramanui and currently has eight groups. We have had two groups close in Hamilton due to very low attendance. However on the upside the Thursday Hamilton City South group and the Hamilton Serenity Tuesday night group have been able to make a large donation of literature to the Area which has been shared out between three groups. Many thanks also to Thursday group for their large financial contribution to Area Six. I would also like to give gratitude for the brand new meeting opening in Tauramanui that currently has one very experienced and enthusiastic loner whom the outgoing Area Delegates was able to meet with and support via email as well as with banners and literature. Another plus is that the Friday night Hamilton Hope for Today has increased in numbers.

Currently we have two approved Alateen sponsors but no Alateen groups in our area. Currently Online meetings for Alateen members are being discussed.

Highlights during the year were the Area Six Serenity Weekend held at Waihi Beach. It was great fun with the grand finale being that the longest attending member gave the Al-Anon "How it Works" book to our newest member. This was signed by all attending.

Concerns about falling numbers have been discussed both among group members and at Area meetings. Focusing on the solutions has brought to light that most of our referrals come from A.A. members. This emphasizes the importance of attendance at AA assemblies that have Al Anon participation which also allows members to practice their twelfth step. Attendance at the Thames assembly and the Te Aroha assembly by myself and the then Area Delegate was also very enriching. Another area of concern has been conflict among members that has brought a commitment to follow the new literature titled "Conflict Resolution." Finally another solution has been the importance of supporting our long timers.

It is my understanding that the two P.O. representatives for the Area have had a great deal of struggle due to other commitments. Hopefully we can begin to remedy this. Individual groups and group members have been able to complete stunning service in this area.

It has been a year of change in our area and at times this has been quite challenging for all of us but it has also been a year of learning and focusing on the solution rather than the problem whilst endeavouring to practice the steps, traditions and concepts.

Summary

Online, Alateen meetings, I'm not too sure how things are we, have two AMIAS.

It's harder to get people to meetings; there was a problem with dominance, for about two years. There was conflict and because of this and old time members were not coming. The observer went to the Area meeting and spoke. The committee came to the meeting and made suggestions. The dominant person did not come to meeting. Suggestions are working and guidelines are being followed by everyone.

One Hamilton group closed, it was sad to see and it looks like two groups have opened. It seems Al-Anon going through hard time.

People struggling financially, which results in lower numbers.

We have a passion for healthy groups and serenity weekends and hopefully groups will increase. A lot of new people are coming in but not core of old timers.

We have a business meeting once a month and group inventories every six months, these are help full things for this area.

Area Seven

Sam M

Area Seven stretches from the Bombay Hills south of Auckland to the south side of Dominion Road, Auckland.

There are 12 groups, with a meeting every day of the week with three on Wednesdays, including a men's meeting.

The groups are: Monday First Steps Pukekohe at 7.30pm and Howick-Pakuranga 7.45pm; Tuesday Manurewa Luncheon 1pm and Tuesday Night Serenity 8pm; Wednesday City Lunchtime 12pm, Wednesday Steps to Recovery 6pm and Men's Meeting 7.45pm, (except for third Wednesday of month); One Day at a Time Thursday Papakura 7.30pm; Friendship Discussion Manukau Friday 8pm; How Al-Anon Works Saturday 3pm; Sunday Sharing 7pm and Sunday Sharing Alateen 7pm.

Intergroup continues every third Wednesday of the month. A number of groups which met at St Davids Church were affected when the church was closed due to the need for earthquake proofing. Groups have moved to a smaller venue in the hall opposite. So far the groups have managed but some may move in future.

There are now 10 AMIAS in Area Seven supporting the Sunday Balmoral Alateen meeting. Sadly the number of Alateens which peaked at around seven, has now dropped to two or three attendees. Hopefully this will change.

A fundraiser by one of the groups in Area Seven is worth a special mention. There were items including baking, a massage, car cleaning, gardening, a lunch, a weekend at a bach etc, etc., that were auctioned off before two consecutive meetings and they raised over \$1000!!

Last June was the Area Seven and Eight combined celebration of Al-Anon's 60th birthday. As Area Eight took the lead role, I will just say it was a great success with some members of the public, mainly from the drug and alcohol field, attending.

On July 12, there was a Northern Area AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation. Despite the torrential rain there was a great turnout by Al-Anon members with around 45 people from Area Seven attending. Alateen members shared in the combined sharing meeting and an Alateen member spoke at the public meeting. The Pukekohe Al-Anon meeting has attracted more members and the fortnightly meeting has since become weekly.

The Northern Area AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation was held on March 14 at Howick. There were about 30 Al-Anon attendees, the local group helped with registration and three Alateen newcomers attended the Alateen meeting. A letter from our Alternate Delegate was tabled at the AA business meeting, explaining what Alateen is and asking if AA would be willing to inform AA about Alateen. It was a great venue and the alcohol and drug court judge who spoke at the public meeting commented that it was great to hear the Al-Anon message. The co-operative and welcoming approach by the AA committees of these Area Assemblies was greatly appreciated.

The Alternate Delegate is encouraging groups to provide literature to appropriate organisations in their local areas. Some groups have been doing this for a long time so it has been about getting more groups to take on this Public Outreach. Area Seven

continues to provide speakers at a local rehabilitation centre every Sunday with some support from Area Eight in this service and some members attend the Alcohol and Drug Court in Central Auckland on Friday afternoons.

We have had a new Chair and Treasurer on the committee since the beginning of the year and we are still looking for a Public Outreach coordinator. Attendance at Area Assemblies varies from eight to fifteen members. There has been a lot of change over the year, with new committee members and our Khyber Pass venue being changed with very little notice. However, Al-Anon members have adjusted and got on with it. Fortunately, the groups are carrying out a good deal of public outreach including putting advertisements in local papers.

Summary

Our annual Recovery weekend was very successful

There was difficulty in one of the groups, which was visited by the Delegate along with the Area Alternate Delegate and the problems seem to have calmed down.

Al-Anon involvement in alcohol and drug court. This originated in Area Eight. Area Seven, go to the Central city, 1-4pm, in the District Court, Al-Anon is in court and available to speak and hand out literature to families. We have one consistent member attending.

The 60year Celebrations.

We combined with area Eight, it was a big push, and we got over 200 people including professionals.

We had members from treatment centers; CADs (Community Alcohol and Drug Services) attended and spoke.

Area Eight

Tracey B

Area Eight comprises all of Auckland west of Dominion Road and all of the country north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. We currently have 14 groups of which one is an Alateen group and one is an Adult Children group.

New Groups

Although through the year, Area Eight were unfortunate to have 2 of our group disband (Pt Chevalier Alateen Group and our Warkworth Group), we are delighted to have had 2 new groups start up in our area.

We welcome Whangarei Heads Wednesday and Western Freedom, which meets on a Thursday evening. Both groups have made a wonderful start and continue to be supported by our fellowship. Western Freedom also has a number of members who are AMIAS.

Alateen

- The Pt Chevalier Alateen Group continued to struggle to attract Alateens for much of the year, however, the AMIAS remained committed and continue to hold the meeting available. Sadly, the decision was made recently to close this Alateen meeting.
- The Browns Bay Alateen Group continues to flourish with older members continuing to attend reasonably often. We have an Area Alateen coordinator.
- Our Alateens continue to participate in public outreach activities. One of their older members frequently agrees to speak to community groups and is on the roster to speak at a local treatment center.

Events and Highlights

- Area Eight (with the assistance of Area Seven) celebrated our 60th Diamond Anniversary on the 14th June 2014. It was a fabulous day enjoyed by all who came along with wonderful speakers and fellowship. We invited many professionals to our public meetings, and we were rewarded with participation from some new professionals who attended our meetings.
- Our monthly Sunday afternoon speaker style Intergroup meeting continues to be self-supporting but small. There has been much discussion at our Area assemblies on whether to continue with this format, and we are currently trialing a three month period (with a temporary Intergroup Coordinator) to see if attendance grows and if our members wish to continue with this meeting.
- Area Eight is currently trialing a new internet based phone system which allows us to manage and monitor our telephone calls into our area from the public with more efficiency. This is proving to also be much more cost effective. We are doing this in conjunction with Area Seven. The Telephone Coordinators for area's Seven and Eight are also busy working on updating the guidelines to assist our members when they are involved in a 12th step telephone call.
- A few dedicated Area 8 members continue to support and participate in AA Northern Area Assemblies – whether they are in and outside of our Area. Some of our members supported the AA National Convention in Wellington in January.
- We continue to work hard to maintain a close relationship with Area Seven as our immediate neighbors.

Public Outreach

- Our area Public Outreach Coordinator works enthusiastically on a variety of projects, including a stall at this years "Big Gay Out" which proved to be well received and effective.
- We provide three speakers every four weeks to a local drug and rehabilitation center to speak to the residents. We have a public outreach notice board at the rehab center for their use in their weekly family support group meetings and occasionally we remind them to continue putting it out. We also have members who assist area Seven with speakers for another treatment center on a fortnightly basis.
- Groups regularly provide literature to branches of CADS, Victim Support, to schools and libraries, run adverts on the local radio stations and support the efforts of our Public Outreach Coordinator.
- Area 8 has used the new pull up sign arranged by the National Public Outreach person. This has been received very well. Area Eight is currently discussing purchasing one of these for ourselves.

Area Assemblies

We hold four Area Assemblies each year and usually most of our GRs are engaged and enthusiastic. Our assemblies are fun and interesting. We run two workshops during the beginning of the year at our assembly.

Concerns / Solutions

Some of our smaller groups continue to struggle to survive.

Service still seems to fall to a small minority. Although we have had some new members join us in service.

Summary

Attendance at the Alcohol and drug court – every Wednesday, has a small roster and is relatively successful.

GR meeting prior to Area Assemblies. Encourage alternate GR's to attend, this helps with succession planning.

We also have an issue with dominance and an isolation issue from the Area – they were not sending the GR to Area Assembly or giving a report.

The contact person has not been an active member for 3 years this was addressed in the meeting; isolation issue was also addressed, but not satisfactorily settled.

Local re-habilitation center meetings

Higher Ground Centre, has 3 Al-Anon speakers go along to provide experience, strength and hope. Its wonderful service for the Area.

Phone system

We are reviewing it as the recorded message not adequate.

The telephone coordinator is tech-savvy, and we have we some options that we could employ that are financially do-able and we will be trialing it in Area eight

All calls go over interest – using existing phone numbers. The coordinator can track the calls. The system is a plan and we pay \$35 per month and an allowance for mobile calls. They started on lowest plan, which can have 5 different numbers which simultaneously ring and the first person to answers takes a call.

We are getting a roster together now, there is only a recorded message at the moment until members are up and running. They can then be put into the system what times members can take calls.

We are putting together some guidelines as how to take calls, what to say, giving training to members. We have a very experienced person to take difficult in depth calls.

The phone system can divert calls to people in that particular area so it could become a National thing with one number.

Court: we were invited by the court and are seen as 'friends of the court' with the judge referring to Al-Anon.

They are looking at spreading these courts nationally.

Area Nine

Dawn C

Geography - Area Nine stretches the length of the West Coast through to Tasman and Marlborough – basically the west and top of the South Island.

Groups - There are six groups – Greymouth (2 regulars), Reefton (3-4), Nelson Monday (9?), Nelson Friday (12?), Richmond (10), and Blenheim (7-8), with two registered loners. Hokitika and Motueka disbanded last year, though there is talk of re-starting both groups. Membership in Area Nine is around 50 regular members.

Alateen - There are no Alateen groups or approved sponsors in Area 9.

Highlights - Committee workshop on sponsorship; combined West Coast Xmas party; Area Assemblies with fun and fellowship, Melda (SRBM) attended the last Area Assembly – thank you.

Public Outreach - Advertisements have been displayed in cinemas and BNZ outlets. The Nelson groups participated in an AA shared family picnic. Presentations and literature have been supplied to Police, Women's Refuge, and Victim Support – visits followed up with a thank you letter. We welcome consistent branding and are awaiting electronic versions of adverts.

Area Assemblies - Area Nine met in July 2014 (Reefton), November 2014 (Blenheim), and March 2015 (Greymouth). Generally, around 20 people attend our Assemblies. We meet over a weekend, incorporating opportunities to strengthen fellowship ties – always with much laughter and many hugs. Saturday consists of a committee meeting, we alternate a workshop or sharing meeting, enjoy a meal out, followed by an evening of entertainment organised by the hosting group. Sunday sees a Group Rep meeting, a five minute personal sharing from one member, followed by the committee meeting. There is usually a sharing meeting held at the same time for those not involved/interested in service roles. We finish with a shared lunch. The only Committee roles not filled are Public Outreach and Alternate Area Delegate, though both roles have interested members and we expect to be able to secure these places at the next Assembly.

Concerns - Dominance in groups has been an issue, as has lack of service commitment and declining numbers. Greymouth and Blenheim have both lost long-time members. All three Nelson groups appear strong, though their members not holding service positions rarely travel to Assemblies.

Possible solutions to dominance have included encouraging tagging by other groups, meeting topics on the three obstacles to success or other such targeted topics, and encouraging members to adhere to Al-Anon guidelines. A workshop is being planned for the next Assembly on how to chair a healthy meeting and how to interrupt sharing in a respectful manner.

One woman in Blenheim was using the AFG name inappropriately in professional circles. She was approached by telephone to desist. There was an unhealthy member disturbing a group (over a number of years), they were contacted by phone and given "homework". When that was not successful they were given a suggested reading, not seen since! The group is now functioning healthily and happily.

Conference Matters Arising - Update posters so they appeal to younger people; one group queried donations to Area and GSO – are they equitable? Thank you Board for your response.

AA Convention - Unfortunately my car broke down on the way to Wellington, so I was unable to attend the Convention. One member from Area Nine attended.

Year's Summary – Area Nine has struggled a little. From observation, this is primarily due to personalities over principles and a lack of understanding of the Traditions and Concepts – Area workshops are now being planned to address the issues.

Summary

The Delegate knows how to register a new group and to see that groups properly disbanded

The Westport group, was resurrected with new member. They have yet to register with GSO.

We are looking at purchasing a banner

Group reps have a meeting for 1 hr., alternate group reps come along as well.

We met in Hanmer to celebrate Al-Anon's 60th birthday– there was great fellowship, we often get dressed up, makes for great fun.

The next Area Assembly – workshop how to chair a healthy group and interrupt in a respectful manner.

Board Reports

Board Chairperson

John B

It has been an interesting time since our December Board meeting. I have found being able to participate in Exec Committee meetings which was very helpful to my understanding of the day to day needs of Al-Anon NZ and has added to my appreciation of the work and dedication of the Executive Committee members. The conference phone system works well, my only problem is that I don't have a speakerphone and by the end of the meeting my arm becomes rather tired.

I participated in the Convention Committee for Al-Anon's participation in the AA Convention. This was a wonderful experience with a dedicated Committee and Chair. The Convention was very good and I noted good support from the AA fellowship. As a result of the Convention there has been an increase in AA members attending Al-Anon meetings in the Kapiti area.

I have continued as a member of the Forest Lakes Serenity Weekend for Areas Three, Four and Five, which is scheduled for 8 – 10 May 2015. The theme for the weekend is "Belonging". We have our own website serenityweekend.org which was set-up by a member who is currently in Germany.

The Alateen Chatroom paper for submission to WSO is now with the General-Secretary. The paper requests consideration of a proposed alternative Alateen Chatroom framework, which if accepted would need three qualified members to share the supervisory role for the Chatroom. This was approved at the December Board meeting. In addition there would also be a requirement for a minimum of four moderators available to moderate each Chatroom session. There are at present approximately 40 AMIAS's in Areas Three, Seven and Eight. My concern upon reflection is, that if our proposal is approved by WSO will we find enough qualified members to be moderators for the Chatroom sessions? It is to be noted that there was limited interest in the positions of moderator. On reflection the Board needs to make a decision if we should proceed further with this proposal, considering the ongoing need for support from AMIAS's and the limited number available. There are currently nine Alateen Chatroom meetings scheduled in the USA and Canada, which is an option for NZ Alateens.

I am looking forward to catching up and sharing the business of Al-Anon NZ, we will be busy.

Treasurer's Report

Chris H.

Financial year

Our financial year runs from 1st April in each year until 31st March in the following year.

Audit

The audit of the financial accounts for the 2014 year was completed prior to the 2014 New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) and reported to that Conference.

Membership numbers

It appears to be the case that our membership is declining. In 2015 we have 83 groups. Six of those groups failed to respond to requests for group registration information so we can only assume how many members they each have. Assuming each of them has members equal to the average for those in their respective Areas who reported, we have a total of approximately 566 members in 2015. Of course some members attend more than one meeting and have consequently been counted more than once.

Our largest Area has 15 groups with 103 members. Our smallest Area has 2 groups with 18 members. Our largest group reports 25 members. Our smallest group reports 2 members.

Our 2014 Treasurer reported 90 groups and 709 members in 2014.

Members' donations

This is the matter of primary concern.

At the 2014 NZASC the NZ Fellowship approved a budget for the 2015 year based on donations income at a level of \$51,050. In terms of the best membership information currently available, that budget requires an average contribution to NZAGSO of approximately \$1.73 per member per week.

The income budget represents the amount required to meet anticipated expenses but rebuilding the fellowship's reserves clearly requires a greater income level.

The increase in the budget amounted only to a modest increase of 4.27% over the actual donations income for the 2014 year (\$48,958) and an increase of only 0.35% over the actual donations income for the 2013 year (\$50,870).

Because fundraising in the 2014 year for the Rick B visit was considered to be largely responsible for the 3.8% drop from the 2013 year, the 2015 income budget was undoubtedly realistic.

Much effort was involved in producing the "Fundraising" workshop at the 2014 NZASC. NZAGSB and the Executive Budget Committee have strived to communicate to the fellowship the encouragement to lift donations. Despite these efforts donations continue to run substantially behind budget.

At the time of writing this report the latest available information is to 31 January 2015. Donations are running at an average of only \$1.36 per member per week – about 14.5% behind an averaged budget and 15.7% behind the 2014 level.

The cash shortfall is made worse by the fact that more than 5% of the total 2015 donations to 31 January 2015 represents the value for bookkeeping purposes of essential computer equipment donated by two individual members.

We are clearly failing to get our message through to the groups and particularly to the groups outside of Areas 7, 8 and 9. The average donations per member per week currently achieved by the other Areas respectively amounted to Area 1 \$0.57, Area 2 \$0.52, Area 3 \$1.23, Area 4 \$0.36, Area 5 1.57 and Area 6 \$0.40. The poor response from large numbers of our members is disappointing.

Areas do fund an equalized contribution to the cost of having their Area Delegate attend the annual NZASC. This is, and as always been, an additional drain on the members' donations through their groups.

The eroding level of donations income and the lack of significant response to the appeal to avert a looming crisis is disappointing despite my belief that the fellowship will respond when a real crisis emerges and they learn of it. In the meantime, at the time of writing this report, it appears highly unlikely that the aim set by the 2013 NZAGSC to increase our reserve to \$25,000 by June 2015 can be achieved.

Concept 1 tells us "The Ultimate Responsibility and Authority for AI-Anon World Services Belongs to the AI Anon Groups". We need our groups and members to understand the necessity for donations to fund the service structure through to the World Service Office level.

Other income

A small amount of income is derived each year from Interest on deposits and Messenger sales. The effect of those items is negligible. There is often also a contribution arising from our participation in the annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous but historically the experience has been so erratic that it has previously been considered unwise to rely upon anything for budget purposes.

Expenses

The cost benefit of the transformation of the NZAGSO in the 2013 year continues to trickle down to benefit the fellowship in the 2015 year.

Expenses have, however and of course, increased. This must reasonably be expected. The latest information available at the time of writing this report is that to 31 January 2015 the expenses are running at 8.8% more than for the same period last year.

The NZAGSB and the Executive Budget Committee continue working to minimise expenditure where possible despite that every cost reduction inevitably involves a reduction in the service available to and for the fellowship.

It is difficult to reliably compare actual expenses with budgeted expenses because the 2015 budget was prepared on an annual basis and historically the final months of the financial year represent a disproportionate share of the annual expenses. This distorts the comparison – as does, for example, that the cost of sending our IAGSM Delegates is

budgeted on an annual basis but mostly incurred every other year at a greater than budget rate.

Balancing the budget for the fellowship against declining income is problematic. We continue to plan for abundance by declining to eliminate essential services – but unless the fellowship responds to the need to increase donations we are headed for losses and eventual drastic cuts in services and perhaps even the failure of the fellowship.

Arising out of the 2013 transformation of the NZAGSO, we had some complaints from the fellowship that the NZAGSO is not open between Thursdays and Tuesdays or for longer hours on the three available days. Any future cost cutting must inevitably result in further reduction of our staff days and hours and further complaints from the fellowship.

Suggestions to reduce the cost of holding our NZASC each year have been mooted as have suggestions that we reduce our country's contribution to the IAGSM. The consequential reduction of participation by and for the groups in our country has led the fellowship thus far to resist those reductions.

Similarly suggestions have been made to reduce the service involvement at NZAGSB level of members resident out of Auckland. These have been resisted on the basis of the wish to ensure that our service structure involves democratic representation from throughout the entire country despite the level of Board Members' expenses that are involved.

Literature sales

In November 2014 we reviewed the prices at which we sell CAL. We buy literature from WSO in US dollars. The exchange rate between US and NZ dollars had progressively moved substantially in our favour causing the cost to us of buying literature to diminish. We decided to reduce prices to avoid "profiteering". We considered it contrary to our spiritual principles to exploit the opportunity to otherwise supplement our income and passed the savings on to the fellowship.

Since November 2014 the exchange rate has moved against us. We have not yet increased prices but are monitoring the situation to ensure that the fellowship does not incur a loss through literature sales.

Conclusion

Our Tradition 7 requires us to be self supporting by our own voluntary contributions declining outside contributions. It is clear that the groups throughout the country need to understand and apply that principle. It is also clear that there is an urgent need for NZAGSB to get that understanding through to all of the groups.

Northern Regional Board Member Report

Robyn M

Area Six: Sadly the Area Six Delegate resigned. The Alternate Delegate will be taking her place at Conference. Luckily I was able to attend the 21st March Assembly in Waihi as the date has been changed from the same as the Board Meeting. I am was pleased to see the members again.

Area Seven: It was great to be at their February Assembly as I missed the November one. The discussion was varied and thought provoking.

A 60th Celebration is planned for the 18th April and will include meetings and fellowship time. It will be great to have another 60th event in Auckland.

Area Eight: February Assembly in Orewa had the usual good turnout with a lively day of Al-Anon fellowship. An interesting discussion of the continuation of Intergroup continues.

AA Convention 2015 in Wellington: I attended the 2015 AA Convention in Wellington and was fortunate to participate by chairing a meeting and sharing at the opening Al-Anon meeting. Thanks to the Al-Anon Chair I was also able to understudy the Chair role, sit in on the committee meetings and help out with preparation.

AA Convention 2016 in Waitangi: The AA theme is "The Last Frontier" and refers to emotional sobriety. I have been in contact with the AA Chair. The committee seems mostly based in Kaitia, so with inconsistent internet and cellphone coverage I am not sure if I will be attending many AA committee meetings. We have an Al-Anon committee of eight set up so far, equally from Area Seven and Eight Specific roles are yet to be assigned. The first meeting will be in March.

Conclusion: All Areas now have Alternate Delegates, a great resource and structure for consistent and "no gaps" leadership succession.

Area Six now receives the Area Seven and Eight Highlights newsletter providing a communication link between the 3 Areas.

I am requesting that all Areas forward their year's Assembly dates to the GSO for publication in the calendar to aid in avoiding clashes.

For me I am learning to balance providing leadership and service support to the Delegates without overstepping into their territory.

Central Regional Board Member Report & Public Outreach Report

Sally-ann M

Website

Here are the results of the last two years of web statistics gathering, plus 2015 so far. You'll notice the huge spike in Jan & Feb 2015. I would (like to) attribute this to the Convention and to the PO article. (LOL)

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2013	2467	4991	20905	75033	817.56 MB
Feb 2013	2482	4633	16467	68522	705.25 MB
Mar 2013	3147	5742	20309	71001	742.62 MB
Apr 2013	3506	6754	25073	79163	827.81 MB
May 2013	3791	7104	25727	77652	805.11 MB
Jun 2013	3488	6389	22156	74028	774.28 MB
Jul 2013	2824	5324	13360	65564	669.25 MB
Aug 2013	2539	4288	11815	62009	632.00 MB
Sep 2013	2290	3802	10667	60292	607.75 MB
Oct 2013	2046	3600	11380	56311	575.81 MB
Nov 2013	1555	2806	10241	51068	505.41 MB
Dec 2013	0	0	0	0	0
Total	30135	55433	188100	740643	7.48 GB

2013
2014

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2014	2048	3516	12781	68678	682.26 MB
Feb 2014	1973	3269	11896	64365	615.19 MB
Mar 2014	2502	4163	15544	72824	700.47 MB
Apr 2014	2647	4637	15732	73356	715.69 MB
May 2014	2869	5056	18143	69567	666.90 MB
Jun 2014	3237	5395	19603	66588	621.41 MB
Jul 2014	2944	4905	18937	75576	714.37 MB
Aug 2014	3066	5104	20276	82299	784.57 MB
Sep 2014	3486	6630	25866	79024	764.06 MB
Oct 2014	3830	7530	28590	83141	835.46 MB
Nov 2014	3536	7537	27553	83883	808.15 MB
Dec 2014	475	811	2894	8620	83.94 MB
Total	32613	58553	217815	827921	7.81 GB

2015

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	3903	8084	28687	97983	964.10 MB
Feb 2015	3243	6451	25316	82208	809.19 MB
Mar 2015	1107	1675	6560	15097	133.93 MB

Area Updates:

The Areas are all meeting this month, either today (Area 3) or in two weekends (Area 4&5)

I have a new delegate in Area 5 that I have reached out to. I may be able to visit their assembly this month.

I have also reached out to all of the Central Area Delegates to ask them to continue the discussion of a possible Central Area Assembly in the future.

I will email them all the Board calendar dates for 2015.

I have my eye on a couple of people in area 4&5 as potential CRBMs.

Is the term measured by calendar year or Conference to Conference? I am somewhat confused.

General Updates for PO

The pull-up-banner is made and paid for. It cost \$194.52. It had its debut at the 2015 AA Convention and has had many guest starring roles since: it appeared at the Area 8 Assembly in February (as a consequence of which the Area committee is talking about obtaining one for the Area and several of the GRs indicated that they will be suggesting to their groups that the group obtain its own). It was then taken by the Area 8 PO Coordinator to the AI-Anon stand at Auckland's Big Gay Out (where I am told it attracted lots of people and initiated many discussions). She then took it to the Tuesday morning meeting where I am told that the group "got really excited" is talking about obtaining its own.

Thank you to Chris for keeping me updated with the joyful reception & successful travels of the banner. Perhaps we should keep a record of where it goes in its lifetime – much like a library book.

When you don't know
where to turn...
Because someone drinks
too much...

Al-Anon Family Groups
New Zealand
www.al-anon.org.nz
0508 4AL-ANON

- Ask yourself do you...
- Search for hidden alcohol?
 - Pour alcohol down the sink?
 - Cancel plans because the drinker is unable to participate?
 - Make excuses to cover up problems caused by the drinking?
 - Have money problems from behaviour caused by the drinking?
 - Do you think that if the drinker stopped drinking your other problems would be solved?

If the answer to any of these
questions is "yes"
Al-Anon/Alateen can help.

Learn more by
attending a
confidential meeting
in your community.



Al-Anon Family Groups can help.


Al-Anon Family Groups
Strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers

[illegible]

This public outreach article appeared in the *Wellingtonian* one day ahead of the AA Convention. It was then picked up by the online news website 'Stuff'.

Feedback at the Convention was that a member came along as a direct result of seeing the article. Despite going to meetings at her home group regularly she had no idea that the Convention was even on. What does this tell us about our GRs? And about our members? How can we engage with them better?

Do our members know that when an article or news items like this appears we are encouraged to write to or contact the journalist/media outlet to thank them? (Did anyone else do this?) Perhaps we need to remind the fellowship that this is good practice and helpful to PQ?

FYI: this article was approx. 6 months in the making – between issuing the press release/ meeting with the journalist to discuss the idea and how it could work/ organizing someone to share/them meeting/the article going to print.

2015 National Outreach plan - ongoing

National outreach tools: a file that can be accessed nationally from our website. This will give us consistency. Members can use local phone numbers where required.

This file can also be used on line in banner ads. DONE

Poster (portrait) shaped file that can also be downloaded. - DONE

Media placement – encourage Area POs to contact national media outlets to utilise free NFP placement e.g.: newspapers, TV, radio & internet ONGOING

Create NZ specific press release (following the lead of WSO) – this can also be on our website. – DONE

Create national pull-up-banner - DONE

Create Public Service announcements for Area POs to distribute to NZ media and to go on our website - DONE

Generate editorial stories TV, press, online. ONGOING

Update the PO section on our 'member' website to better reflect how simple and easy PO can be. (Put the resources here to make PO available to everyone) ONGOING

Southern Regional Board Member Report

Melda T

Area One

This was my first Area Assembly held in Pounawere as SRBM

Area One has Secretary and Area Chairperson Positions vacant.

The treasurer position was filled at the last Area Assembly. The Treasurer is at present sorting out Area Ones finances. No transactions and payments had been made for some time. The Treasurer was unable to attend because of a close family bereavement. She has reported that the books are well on the way to being sorted out.

A successful Serenity Weekend was held in Pounawere at the beginning of October The 60yrs of AL-Anon was celebrated The Theme was Blue & white. There were blue and white balloons, decorations, cakes, and coconut ice sweets. The members dressed in blue & white for a fun night full of laughter.

My concern is the Big Book and advertising non-Al-Anon events is still happening in some meetings.

Area Two

I attended Area Two Assembly in Timaru at Roncalli College School on the 21st March. The Timaru AFG hosted, they have 8-10 members and have only been going since September.

Area two attendance - three Group Reps, and 16 members. It was their new Area secretary's first assembly. There were several vacant positions these were all filled except one, the Treasurers position was held over. The Group Representatives were asked to keep informing the groups that this position was vacant.

The telephone coordinator had 22 calls in the last three months.

The Public Outreach coordinator has been very active and they have a lot of ideas for the coming months.

They are planning for the Serenity Weekend on the 11-12 July in Springston.

Area Nine

I Attended Area Nine Assembly in Greymouth at The Shed-Youth Centre on 28-29th March

There was 23 present 16 were Group Representatives.

The discussion at the committee meeting on Saturday informed all the committee what was on the agenda making the next meeting flow smoothly.

The several vacant positions were filled by willing members, The Public Outreach position was held over to the next Assembly as there were two members who had shown interest and needed to be contacted.

Public Outreach: Some banks have a screen advertising meeting details for free also GIGGLE TV in store this is to be checked out.

The Area is very interested in purchasing a Pull Up Banner in the near future.

Conclusion

I have really enjoyed visiting the Area's after a slow start I am feeling a lot more comfortable in my role. Meeting the new Area Nine Delegate has been a help to both of us as this will be her first Conference in June and it is always good to be able to put a face to a name. I am hopeful this will now lead to easier and more regular communication. I received a very warm and loving welcome at all the meetings as only AL-Anon does.

Committee Reports

Convention Report

The facts:

The 52nd Alcoholics Anonymous New Zealand Convention with Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) participation was held on 16, 17, 18 January at the Kingsgate Hotel, Wellington. The AFG theme was 'A special quality of joy'. The AA theme was 'We are not a glum lot'.

Overall attendance:

331 people attended the Convention
 64 people as AGF
 263 as AA
 4 as 'other'

Break down of AFG meeting attendance numbers:

Friday 7:45pm	A special quality of Joy	35
Saturday 9:30am	Hope	56
Saturday 11:30am	Sponsorship	59
Saturday 2pm	The Serenity Prayer	57
Saturday 4pm	Gratitude	48

Fundraising:

2015 AA Convention with Al-Anon participation - Al-Anon Expenses

	Expenses	Paid by	Received
Tea towels (Slogans)	\$250.00	Jason	
Craft Supplies for fundraising		Cheryl (donated supplies)	
Sound System (provided by hotel)	\$120.00	Jason	
Fund raising - raffle			\$139.60
Fund raising - arts & craft			\$685.50
Al-anon Meeting Collections			\$831.30
Convention contribution			\$1,760.10
	Total expenses		
	\$370.00		\$3,416.50
		Total for GSO	\$3,046.50

AA contribution to AFG NZGSO:
\$1760.10

The challenges:

Last minute attendees: up to and including 12 January 2015 (4 days before the event) only 37 people had registered as AFG. This makes planning very difficult when 40% of attendees rock up on the day. If we had had a larger number that had registered earlier we may have been able to secure a bigger room and more chairs.

The location was small. Our meeting room was small for the number of people who attended our meetings. While the room accommodated the registered number of AFG participants, it did not allow for the double winners or those interested in learning more about AFG or the last minute attendees so our room was cramped at times.

No Alateens came.

Parking was somewhat difficult.

The successes:

As a committee we used virtual meeting technology for many of our committee meetings. Utilizing a tool called 'Webex' we were able to meet online. Out of our 14 committee meetings only four of them were face to face. This saved time and travel expenses. Learning about the 'purpose' of a Convention and keeping that in mind when making decisions.

We had a 'working bee' at one of our face-to-face meetings to paint the background of the fundraising 'slogans' and we all really enjoyed this day. We met at a member's house, had a shared lunch and got stuck into the task enjoying fellowship. Then we had our Committee meeting.

The venue was the conference rooms of a hotel so this meant that there was no food preparation.

The location of the hotel was in the city. It was close to the CBD, to transport and accessible to all.

Saving seating for the hearing impaired at each meeting was a greatly appreciated

The suggestion box was used by members. We were given two suggestions and also received a lovely thank you note and a compliment.

Having the Committee chair for the 2016 Convention involved with shadowing/supporting the current committee over the weekend worked out well.

The Committee met during breaks and in the morning of the Convention to re-group and touch base. This was helpful.

We decided to use as much literature as we could across the weekend for the meeting readings/topics to encourage literature sales and to introduce books that perhaps people had not seen or read from before.

We each had a copy of the 'call sheet' for the weekend with the programme for the weekend, plus the names and numbers of the Committee members, plus the names of chairpersons and speakers. It meant we all knew what was happening and when.

The chairpersons and their speakers were all very organized and prepared.

The Nationally led PO article coming out one day before the Convention (HP's timing perhaps?) – and the story getting picked up by national online news website <http://www.stuff.co.nz/>

Recommendations for future Conventions:

Ask for help: Organizing this Convention is a huge job. Outsource or delegate what you can. I asked our Area AMIAS to help organize the Alateen meeting. This meant that it had everything it needed to be a success. I also asked a former Convention Committee Chair, and two former Committee members to be on this year's committee and their experience, strength and hope was invaluable. I also kept in phone contact with two former Chairpersons from another Area and they were very helpful.

Follow the guidelines: read them at each committee meeting to help stay on track.

Use the experience, strength and hope: Read the previous Convention reports to see what the overwhelming experience, strength and hope is from the people who have already done it and make sure you follow it.

Also use members' skills in the right area, it helped having someone on the literature table who owns most of the literature – it meant that recommending books was easy for them.

Plan for abundance: Remember to allow space for non-members to visit the AFG rooms. A room that comfortably seated 80 would have been better for us by the time the fundraising table and public outreach displays had their space as well as the podium and the front chairing table. Encourage the fellowship to register early as this helps the committee plan for a better Convention.

Go with the flow: It's possible that AA is going to do things differently from how you/we/AFG would do them. This is OK-it is their event after all. They may make decisions, then change them, then perhaps forget to update you or give you things to do at the last minute. Just smile, breathe and be kind to them and to yourself because God's got this all in his plan and everything is going to be OK.

Be real: Part of the feedback I got over the weekend is that people liked hearing from me that I was nervous too. I shared that I was carrying a piece of paper with my Sponsor's advice on it during the weekend that said: " 1) Breathe 2) what's the wise thing to do?"

Suggestions for AA:

Is it possible to have a dual member tick box on the registrations, as this would help AFG better calculate what size room to use? Our room was too small.

Can the literature table be more visible – where people will naturally pass by and be attracted to it?

Before asking an outside entity to participate eg: Te Papa to run the Mihi Whakatau (welcome), ask for guidance regarding anonymity & the traditions.

Ensure that the names on the identification badges are large enough to read easily (in 2015 we had feedback from attendees that they were too small)

Images of 2015 Convention:

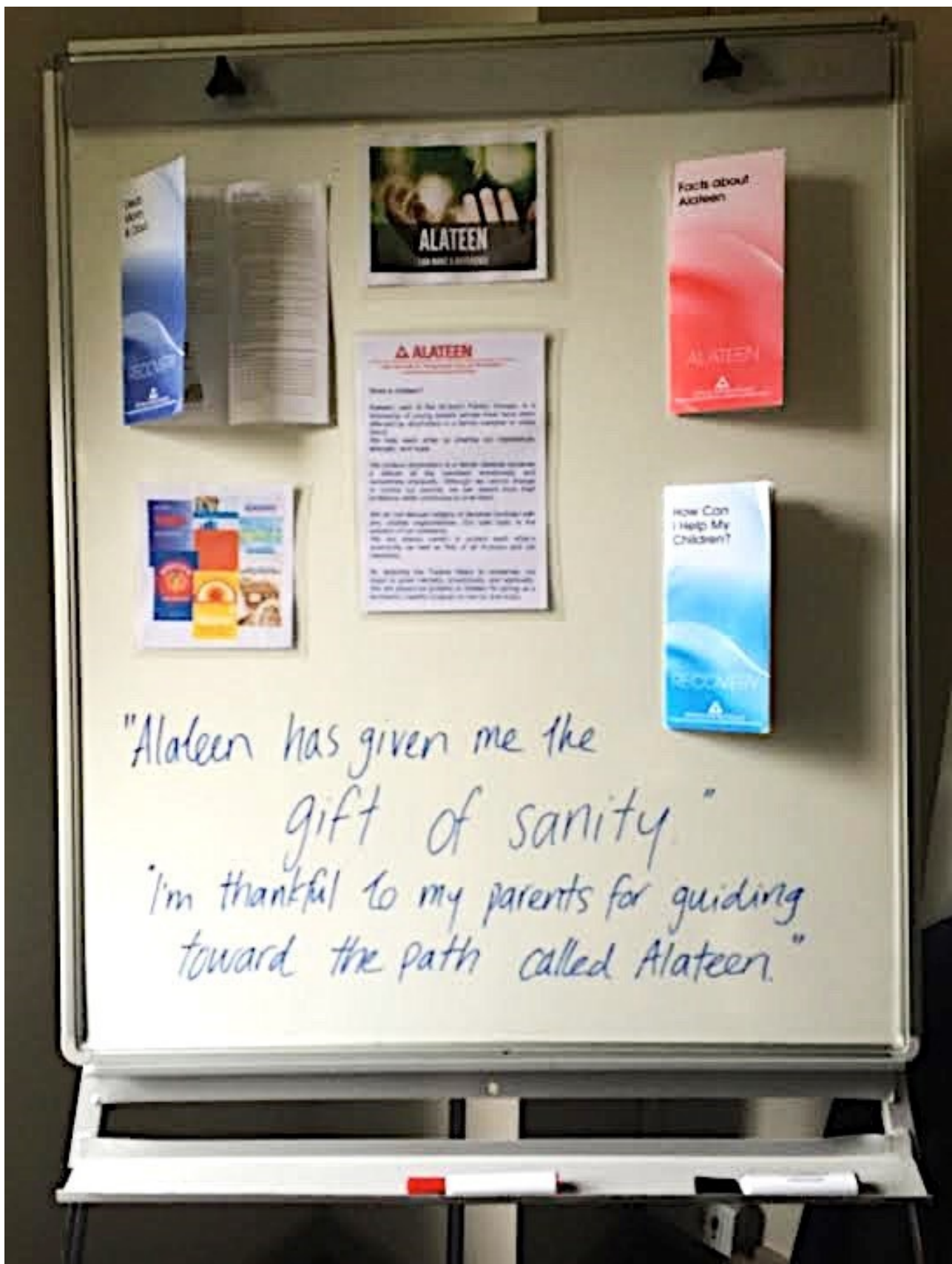
This is the Convention whiteboard.

We put the recent public outreach article on here along with the Convention theme plus the theme of each meeting and the reading (including which CAL it was from and the page number) as well

Having the Convention and the meeting theme written there meant that the speakers referred to it and it helped people stay on topic during the meeting.



We had a whiteboard with information about Alateen and Alateen literature to encourage those with teens to find out more. We also had meeting lists for the Wellington area in the literature room.



The committee members all wore smiley face lanyards with big smiley face embroidered badges pinned on to fit with the theme: 'a special quality of joy' and to make sure that the committee were easy to identify over the weekend



The new 'national' AFG pull-up banner was used for the first time at the Convention. It was very attractive. This image also shows a committee member wearing her lanyard and badge.



A woman with short blonde hair and glasses is seated at a black table, working on a large arrangement of colorful wooden blocks. Each block features a different quote or phrase in various colors and fonts. The blocks are arranged in a grid-like pattern on the table. The woman is wearing a patterned top and glasses. In the background, there is a blue poster with text and a window. The poster has the following text: "Ask yourself if you...
• Gossip to others about it?
• Feel doubtful about the cost?
• Cannot place because the dream is unrealistic?
• Make excuses to come up with something?
• Have money problems?
• Are you sure that if the dream is your other problems will be solved?
If the answer to any of the questions is "yes", then don't dream it." The poster also has a small graphic of a person with a speech bubble. The woman is looking down at the blocks, and her hands are on the table. The room has a window with blinds and a black bag on the floor. The overall scene is a creative and organized workspace.

We dressed the room in a celebratory way with beautiful flowers, balloons and colorful slogans. (In this image you can also see the suggestion box)



This was our reserved seating sign. We had them outside the room to let people know that we were doing this and we placed them on the front row of seats in each meeting.



**SEATING RESERVED
FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED**

This was the room sign that AA made for us so that it was similar to theirs. Each room had one informing people what was happening there & at what time.



Tinakori

Time	Session
	AFG meeting
Friday 7.30 – 9.00	<i>"It's the special quality of joy one gets when something very precious has been lost for a long time and suddenly found again"</i> – <i>Al-Anon Family Groups</i> page 73
Saturday 9.30 – 10.30	AFG meeting – Hope <i>"We want more, we want rich, full, exciting lives with joy as well as sorrow."</i> – <i>Courage to Change</i> page 148
Saturday 11.30 – 12.30	AFG meeting – Sponsorship (The best thing my sponsor ever told me)
Saturday 2.00 – 3.00	AFG meeting – The Serenity Prayer <i>"We urge you to try our program. It has helped many of us find solutions that lead to serenity"</i> – <i>How Al-Anon Works</i> page 8
Saturday 4.00 – 5.00	AFG meeting - Gratitude <i>"I am grateful for the many blessing that have come my way since I joined Al-Anon"</i> – <i>Hope for Today</i> page 151
Saturday 9.30 -	No sessions running
Sunday 9.00 – 10.00	No sessions running

Literature Committee Report

Chris H.

NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook

After the complete rewrite for 2014 the 2015 review of the NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook has required few amendments.

On the front cover “2014” needs to be updated to “2015”.

On page 1. The “Note: A vertical line, like the one at the side, indicates where changes were made in this issue.” Has been reinstated.

It was noted that nothing in our Service Handbook reflects the encouragement over recent years for all groups to have in place a financial budget. The references on pages 47 and 57 of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017 encouraged inclusion of the encouragement in our Service Handbook. On page 16 the words “Groups are encouraged to have a budget that includes regular contributions to Area and NZAGSO.” are added after “Acts as collector, custodian and distributor of funds.” for description of Group Treasurer role.

On page 18 the size of the font for the final line reference to KN17 has been reduced to prevent the single line from spilling over to a new page.

On page 26 the words “Areas are encouraged to have a budget that includes regular contributions to NZAGSO.” added after “The Area Treasurer handles all Assembly collections and funds.” for description of Group Treasurer role. This was motivated by a desire for consistency through the service structure.

On page 42 “Accounts for the past year and a proposed budget for the coming year shall be presented annually to NZASC for approval.” Has been added after “The NZAGSB Treasurer’s accounts shall be audited by a Certified Public Accountant at regular intervals, as directed by NZAGSB.” and before “The NZAGSB Treasurer is ex-officio the Chairperson of the Budget Committee and a member of the Executive Committee.” for the NZAGSB Treasurer role. The description record actual practice and reflects consistency through the service structure.

On page 50 the words “two years” have been substituted for “three years” as the term of the IAGSM Delegate role – an error having crept through unnoticed is now corrected to restore the correct (and past) position.

A resolution is required for Conference to approve the changes after they have been approved by the NZAGSB.

Committee Reports

NZAGSO Report

Volunteers

The NZAGSO is open three days a week Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 3.30 pm, the involvement of the regular volunteers is crucial to many of the tasks that take place there. NZAGSO Volunteers are responsible for the majority of literature orders being picked off the shelves and packed off to the fellowship. They also lovingly produce all the Newcomers Packs that are sold and prepare the monthly mail-outs. The NZAGSO would not be able to function without the essential input of the 12 volunteers. These volunteers give as much as 50 hours every month.

Bookroom

Literature continues to flow out to the fellowship from the NZAGSO. During the year a new piece of literature was sourced Resolving Conflict (S73), this is available and a very useful piece of literature and is the last addition to three items concerning Conflict made up of the S-71 The Loving Interchange to resolve Conflict Wallet card, the S-72 The Conflict Resolution using our Twelve Tradition cards and the S-73 Talk to Each Other – Resolving Conflict within Al-Anon.

Recently we have been advised there will be a change to the postage to be paid from the 1 July 2015, we will keep a track on these changes.

We recently ordered a reprint of the excellent NZ pamphlet on Tradition Seven, it has also recently need sent out to each of the groups in the hope that groups could use it as a resource to run a meeting on.

We continue to run a regular book special including it in the NZAGSO News changing it every two months to make literature more financially accessible to the Fellowship.

WSO code	Title	Number sold
B16	Courage To Change	74
B22	How Al-Anon Works	48
B27	Hope For Today	36
B06	One Day At A Time	34
B24	Paths To Recovery	19
B30	Discovering Choices	10
B04	Dilemma Of Alcoholic Marriage	14
B29	Opening our Hearts	13
P92	Reaching for Personal Freedom	70
KN10	Newcomers Packs	757

Top Literature Sales for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Group Numbers

In NZ there are currently 84 groups with the following group closures and new groups

New Groups	Closed Groups
Ilam AFG	Dunedin Hope for Today AFG
Wellington Alateen Love and Service	Dunedin Wednesday AFG
Western Freedom AFG	Warkworth AFG
Timaru AFG	Hokitika AFG
Stepped up on Windsor AFG	Waimate AFG
Taumarunui AFG	Hamilton Serenity AFG
Whangarei Heads AFG	Ashburton AFG
Rock on East Side Steps AFG	Thames AFG
	Hamilton City South AFG
	Let it Begin with Me AFG
	Motueka AFG

The breakdown of the groups/registrations is as follows:

	2015	2014	2013
Al-Anon Family Groups (Total)	84	84	83
Al-Anon with Focus on Adult Children	2	2	3
Alateen	4	3	2
AIS	0	0	0
Loners	7	7	8
Institutions	0	0	0

Birthday Club

In 2014 we appointed a new person to manage the Birthday Club who hand makes each card that is sent out. There are currently 28 members subscribing to the Birthday Club and it has been actively promoted in the last year.

Expenses

During the year the NZAGSO has been regularly reviewing its expenses (in conjunction with the Treasurer), this process has resulted in a new look Messenger (which reduced costs), a reduced price on the Newcomers Packs to make them more accessible to the fellowship. We also completed negotiation of the renewal of lease September 2016 which included only a small (very reasonable) increase. We have also been reviewing our insurance cover/costs

Mailouts

Every month NZAGSO mail out to all groups the NZ Al-Anon News which provides the fellowship with information on happenings in NZAGSO, recent fundraising activities,

opportunities for members to take up national service positions, literature specials and any new literature that is available to the fellowship, plus monthly financial reporting. The mail out also includes the Messenger to subscriber (groups and individuals). There are currently 133 Messenger subscribers. The whole mail out is sent to 196 with 105 being by post and 91 being by email.

Website

One of the major functions of the NZAGSO is the day to day maintenance of the website, it being one of our greatest public outreach tools. We make regular changes to keep group details up to date.

Please make sure that any groups changes about location, day or time are communicated back to the NZAGSO. We also regularly update the calendar of events and we will look at expanding this over the next few months. We are also looking at making some small changes to make it easier for members to gain access to the members part of the website.

GSO WEBSITE Demonstration:

- It is easy to access. You can show people at Assembly.
- Access and using the website show GR's, first
- Things you can do:
- Resources are plentiful
- Manage events
- Notices which helps with scheduling diaries
- Key dates
- Informing the membership is important
- This website is for members and newcomers
- It provides national unity

Equipment

During the year the NZAGSO computer started to fail, this was reviewed to determine the best course of action and a brand new computer with the necessary software was donated by two kind members. The new computer has made a big difference to the daily functions of the NZAGSO.

The monthly Executive/Budget Committee meeting is held in the NZAGSO and these involve both the Board Chairperson and the General Secretary both of whom live outside of Auckland. To make it possible for them to attend the NZAGSO has recently been donated a Conference phone and recent Executive/Budget Committee meetings have been able to include both the Board Chairperson and the General Secretary.

Additionally NZAGSO was also donated a laptop which will make it possible to Board members to Skype into board meetings if they are unable to attend due to ill health. It will also be used regularly for board meetings etc.

Committee Reports

Messenger Report

Patty

It is a privilege to send a small report for the conference as the editor for the Messenger.

I have shared on occasion that when I sit at my computer to compose the items that come to mind.

Or the items I have hunted out through AI-Anon literature I am having an AI-Anon meeting on my own. This is edifying for me and has hastened my spiritual growth I am sure. I can only trust that it is edifying for the Messenger subscribers.

I haven't made enquiries as to how many subscribers there are or if they are up or down to what they used to be. In reading the Profit and Loss sheet dated 1/4/14 to 28/2/15 that Messenger donations were \$1681.00.

I would spend a good 10 to 15 hours a month gathering articles and typing up the Messenger.

Unfortunately I have not received any sharing from AI-Anon members from anywhere in the country for a good while now.

Our General Secretary has offered to help me approach Board members and Delegates to ask for lead articles on any topic they would wish to send or I could suggest a topic or their own personal journeys.

And please feedback and articles from this conference send them to me. patty.jones@xtra.co.nz or to the GSO office.

Board Appointments 2015

Board Chairperson	John B
Alternate Board Chair	Sally-ann M
2016 AA Convention Committee Chairperson	Robyn M
Archivist (non-Board)	Chris W
National Public Outreach Coordinator	Sally-ann M
National Alateen Coordinator	John B
Editorial Chairperson (non-Board)	Patti J
General Secretary	Arnold H
Literature Chairperson	Chris H
Treasurer	Chris H
Executive/Budget Chairperson	Rana S
Northern Regional Board members	Robyn M
Central Regional Board members	Sally-ann M
Southern Regional Board members	Melda T
International AI-Anon GSM Delegate	Joan G /Sally-ann M
Conference Chair	Teresa H
WEB oversight	Rana S

Conference 2016

Theme:	Good Leadership at all Levels.
Venue:	The Friary, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough, Auckland.
Date:	28 – 31 July 2016

AA Convention 2016

Theme:	A New Beginning
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Conference Goal for the year. 2015/16:

Strengthening Groups

Motions & Trials 2015

Motion: That Helen P be seated at Conference for Area 6 with voice and no vote.
Carried

Motion: That Conference approves the New Zealand Al-Anon Alateen Service Handbook 2014 (PN-27) in the form presented to Conference 2015.
Carried

Motion: That New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups adopt TEAM EVENTS as their preferred form of service related events. And that the GSB work on the guidelines to suit New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups in an ongoing way.
Carried

Motion: We request the GSO and World Service Office consider the proposed framework. If you are in support then the NZ Alateen Literature Sub-Committee will take the steps advised by WSO to set up the Chat Room and train the AMIAS' Chat Room Moderators supporting the Chat Room.
Carried

Motion: that the draft annual accounts for the financial year ended 31/3/15 for NZAGSO be accepted.
Carried

Motion: that the budget for the financial year 1/4/15 to 31/3/16 for NZAGSO be accepted.
Carried

Motion: that the conference approves the oral history forms as submitted to Conference subject to substitution of the word "recovery" for 'sobriety' in the third to last question of the sample interview form.
Carried

Trials

2013	That a workshop on abundance be held at each Conference for the next five years focusing on people into service, attracting people into meetings, attracting more money, move love, and support in the fellowship. Working together towards making Al-Anon a household name.	2018
2014	That the role of General Secretary for AFGNZ be for a trial period of six years.	2020

Conference Members 2015

Board Members

General Secretary	Arnold H	1 st year 1 st Term
IAGSM Delegate	Paula B	2 nd year 2 nd Term
National Alateen Coordinator Board Chair	John B	2 nd year 2 nd year
Southern Regional Board Member	Melda T	1 st year 1 st Term.
Board Member IAGSM Delegate	Joan G	3 rd year 2 nd Term 1 st year 2 nd Term
Executive Chairperson	Rana S	1 st year 1 st term
National Public Outreach Central Regional Board Member Alternate Chair	Sally-Ann M	3 rd year 2 nd year 1 st term 1 st year
Board Member Literature Chair Treasurer	Chris H	2 nd year 1 st Term 2 nd Year 1 st year 1 st term
Northern Regional Board Member	Robyn M	1 st year 1 st Term
Archivist	Chris W (Non Board)	3 rd year
Editorial Committee	Patty J (Non Board)	3 rd year

Area Delegates

Area One	Karen B	1 st year 1 st Term
Area Two	Teresa H	3 rd year 1 st term
Area Three	Lynne C	2 nd year 2 nd Term
Area Four	Margaret J	1 st year 1 st term
Area Five	Anne F	1 st year 1 st term
Area Six	Helen P (observer)	
Area Seven	Sam M	2 nd year 1st term
Area Eight	Tracy B	2 nd year 1 st Term
Area Nine	Dawn C	1 st year 1 st term

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.

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.