

New Zealand Al-Anon
General Services
Conference

28th - 31st July 2016

**Good
Leadership
At All
Levels**

SUMMARY

New Zealand General Service Office
P O Box 68124, Auckland 1145, NEW ZEALAND
www.al-anon.org.nz

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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Board Chair Welcome

Welcome to our 46th Conference

Good Leadership at all Levels

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

Last year was to be my final year on the Board, but I was asked to stay on for a further year as Chair of the Board, which I have enjoyed and I am pleased to have seen the continuing growth in the Board and Al-Anon Family Groups in NZ. This will be my sixth and final Conference as a Board member

Al-Anon is a fellowship of equals and the membership has the opportunity through its Area delegates to have their say by their participation in our annual Conference. Area delegates bring to Conference hands on knowledge of what is happening in Al-Anon Family Groups throughout New Zealand, by sharing their experience strength and hope and meeting fellow members at Conference, helps our fellowship strengthen and grow.

Service in Al-Anon is vitally important to the effectiveness and continuing growth of Al-Anon in NZ. My time in Al-Anon has been one of service including at group, area and the Board levels. This has kept me coming back and continuing my growth in the fellowship and in the process I have met many wonderful fellow members. I encourage you all to continue with your service to the fellowship and encourage other fellow members into service.

I can still remember my first Conference it was daunting initially for me, but when I realized 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

Conference Voting 2016

(p 54 NZ Manual)

9 Delegates present - 9 Board members present (8 can vote)

4 Board members voting

John B, Sally-ann M, Chris H, Teresa H

Exec Budget Chair – voice and no vote

Conference Host –no voice and no vote

Can make announcements and comments related to the position held

Observers – voice and no vote

Delegates' Meeting

Delegate report from Friday night:

Wonderful meeting, everyone in attendance.
New fund raising ideas
Excitement speakers at new center
Pull up banners are great
Public outreach branding is good
Public outreach tools used – eg members place on website
Use of free community notices eg: newspapers
Police initiative
A spend of money in woman's magazine
Members bringing disrepute to meetings
Dominance in groups
Non CAL literature being used

Summary

Q: Concern of use of non CAL lit – feeling using non CAL dilutes program

In the beginning, encouraged to read everything we can, and understanding our alcoholic relatives. Things became clear when reading Pg 104, second paragraph down of the manual.

Concern of outside materials, and fear around this, can this be addressed or not ? fear of Al-Anon message being weakened.

In early recovery, found some good non CAL literature, ok to use outside of meetings.
Service authority is carefully defined,
they do not govern, but they do lead.
Best leadership is by personal example.

People using non CAL in meetings. Al-Anon is a loving program, better to talk to them in a gentle way, it's not black and white, have read other literature but found I can get off track.

Has read big book, found another perspective, use of non CAL literature along with dominance is having an effect of permeating through meetings and having disillusion in a meeting, one voice only is hard to bring meeting back to

Chatroom Update

The idea of a chat-room came up at a WSO Conference.

The board wanted to look into this further but were slightly reluctant and one condition of it going ahead was that, John B became an AMAIS, had a committee of five people, two other people, one business consultant + John. They used the process that had been used at WWO and worked out a format, got roles for a supervisor and for moderators, overseeing emails coming in. This was advertised; they got some responses for the moderator, but none for the supervisor. They even tried to advertise the supervisor role as job-shared.

Put proposal to WSO 2015 and their reply was, there were difficulties (website tech) with the website and they could not take on any more rooms.

There is a need for a chatroom. A chatroom in NZ time.

This is disappointing that the WSO cannot provide this service.

We could do it here in NZ, but need expertise, moderators and supervisors.

Summary

Question: Can we not tap in to an existing chatroom ?

Answer: Each chatroom is set up with their own moderators and supervisors, WSO decides this.

Question: What are the requirements needed for the chatroom. Online meetings are very valuable, they can introduce any new comer to the world and brings this fellowship into focus. What sort of expertise do you need ?

Answer: The Moderator must be an AMAIS, be available for when the chatroom open, eg: 6 -8, All incoming emails that come in need to be approved, so member can log in and start the chain. If email does not meet requirements eg: must not use name, swear. This is to protect the chatroom member. This can be done from home, but firstly we need to establish the connection.

Annual Accounts

Budget & Reserve Fund

National Treasurer spoke to the Annual report and audited accounts to end March 16 From 1 April to 30 June increase of \$3000 There is now an ample reserve around 74000 well in excess of a year's expenditure.

- However it was noted that Income for June month down. Not worried because the IAGSM bills came in Then July followed with income also down This is a concern as conference will need to be paid out of this income.
- At the moment the money in the bank returns \$150 per month interest, Delegates are reminded to please keep income coming in or else if the balance drops below \$74000 with expenses being paid from that then the interest will drop well below the \$150
- Currency exchange has been erratic This has implications for literature orders. At the moment Chris H is comfortable with keeping prices at the levels they are. Many costs are not included e.g. Office Manager's time. Re-pricing is complicated and time consuming.

Group donations are down and have been lagging for some time. The improved financial position despite this is a result of several factors

1. In the past costs were cut to the bone (though Chris would like to relax this somewhat
2. Direct Donations from individual members has been strong.

The aim is to meet outgoings from income

For that we need to know our numbers and have those members know what level of contribution would sufficiently support GSO and for that to be contributed to GSO

We do not have a good enough idea of membership numbers Groups have been asked to fill in their registration details and forward to GSO. Not all have responded. Delegates are asked to please prompt the groups in their areas to respond to information request promptly.

The \$30 100 challenge Was this successful?

The impression was that over the specific appeal time it was more successful than the usual biannual appeal So much so that last year we skipped the September appeal. However it wasn't clear that this was extra money over and above the regular biannual appeal money.

There are problems of getting attention of the fellowship to the day to day financing. Crisis appeal is appealing for those of us with our disease. We get great response when we are in crisis. The Board decided not to use the challenge this year but save for next year to keep it fresh to keep it's impact.

It was brought to the Conference's attention that \$ 1.73 per member per meeting would keep GSO afloat.

Are there any term deposits and what rate were we getting?

There are none. 12 months ago it was learned there was greater interest to be gained in account if deposit made and no withdrawal 4.1%. If withdrawal drops below the rate was closer to 3.75 %.

Why are personal donations in Area Three greater than others? There was a feeling there are lots of strong groups with strong recovery. Also there were some sizable individual personal donations and a large donation from one member on one occasion.

The point of how important group registration details being kept current and correct was raised.. Every year the groups are requested to record correct contact details for meetings and the group contact person details. This is so the website can be updated with any changes to meeting times. The Groups email addresses are needed so GSO can communicate with the group. It is a challenge trying to keep current. It was discovered months down the track two groups had disbanded. The risk is potentially sending the public to meetings that no longer exist. This is contrary to interests of fellowship at large.

Are members who go to several groups are counted ?

They are counted as being a member of both groups.

Motion that annual accounts be accepted unanimously carried

Budget report Allocation for budgeted income throughout the areas was discussed. Because not all groups have a committed budget, there is little relation between the budgeted amount for and traditional amount received from areas. Some areas punch above their numbers and some less. The Budget assumes across the whole of area,

Conference can adjust the budget but if they do there is a risk of eroding.

Board members expenses item have been historically very little has been reclaimed from fellowship.

Expenses for last year was \$4300 total. The actually expenses was \$8000 for Regional Board Members whose travel has increased. If we want Regional Board Members to attend our Area Assembly's and AA Assemblies we need to think about the cost.

\$2000 budgeted for Public Outreach which has not been spent.

The treasurer hopes to stimulate discussion throughout the regions as Board Members have not been claiming for their extra travel within their Areas. Do we want Board Members to travel more often? If so how is it to be paid for? Is there a choice – funding Board Members or funding Public Outreach.

Not to expect every expense to be claimed for as each Area has autonomy Each area committee could discuss contributing to Regional Board Members travel so each Areas people could get to see the Board

Brings people together and make it as an additional cost.

Coming to the one central point works for them.

Suggestions: A budget is an aim, not a straight jacket. One Area pays for their Regional Board Member to attend an Area Assemblies. This way the Area gets to put a name to a face and bring the fellowship together with the Regional Board Member.

In Tradition 7 pamphlet is information on donation on bequest one time legacy Delegates asked to refer to pamphlet. Some members may want to. There is no limit on legacy donations .

Public Outreach Ideas

An article in a woman's magazine from a member

As a trusted servant uses her judgement as where she goes

Can areas look at scheduling board meetings and team events together to save on

Commented a budget is a guideline to work

Every 3 years convention costs can be a bulge Suggestion should be separated as convention expenses NRBM's spend was more last year because of that NRBM chooses to go to each assembly for direct info Is more efficient Taupo to Kaitaia Area 7 and 8 have 4 each Area 6 3 Person on board who deals with the AAs' for their assembly Boards job is to envision and plan for the future so I R sees that is part of her role Easier to drive Cheaper to fly?? Is tiring but worth it Is it an expense or is it an investment Rotating churn Always looking for new customers not those they already have In reach is important Look after our existing members NRBM picks up gaps Not all is in the minutes It will affect those you have for service Additional cost needs to Motion that budget be accepted Seconded John Carried unanimously

Motion 1

That the NZAGSO
2015/2016 annual financial accounts
be accepted.

Motion 2

That the NZAGSO
annual 2016/2017 Budget
be accepted.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF NEW ZEALAND

Balance Sheet

FY 2015	Assets	FY2016
	Cash at Bank	
\$4,985	ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$2,781
\$750	ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver	\$1,019
\$23,750	ANZ Term Deposits	\$0
\$2,453	ANZ-01 Online On Call	\$3,391
\$25,987	ANZ-Ample Reserve Account	\$63,678
<u>\$57,925</u>	Total Cash at Bank	<u>\$70,868</u>
	Other Assets	
-\$90	Sundry Debtors	-\$88
\$4,083	Literature On hand	\$3,528
<u>\$3,993</u>	Total Other Assets	<u>\$3,439</u>
<u>\$61,918</u>	Total Current Assets	<u>\$74,308</u>
	Fixed Assets	
\$1,616	Office Equipment over \$500	\$798
<u>\$1,616</u>	Total Fixed Assets	<u>\$798</u>
<u>\$63,533</u>	Total Assets	<u>\$75,105</u>
	Liabilities	
\$315	Sundry Creditors	\$666
	GST	
-\$403	GST on Purchases	-\$674
	GST to/From IRD	
<u>-\$403</u>	Total GST	<u>-\$674</u>
<u>-\$88</u>	Total Liabilities	<u>-\$8</u>
<u>\$63,622</u>	Net Assets	<u>\$75,114</u>

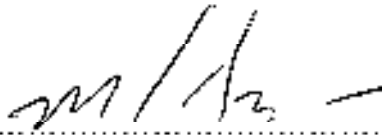
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF NEW ZEALAND
AUDIT FINANCIAL POSITION FY 2016

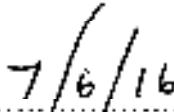
FY2015 Actuals	Profit and Loss	FY2016 Actuals
	Income	
	Donations	
	Area/Personal Donations	
\$4,108	Donations Area One	\$2,460
\$252	Donations Area One Personal	\$178
\$3,307	Donations Area Two	\$2,884
\$0	Donations Area Two Personal	\$42
\$5,874	Donations Area Three	\$6,646
\$1,794	Donations Area Three Personal	\$5,046
\$550	Donations Area Four	\$879
\$36	Donations Area Four Personal	\$200
\$1,805	Donations Area Five	\$2,125
\$529	Donations Area Five Personal	\$1,518
\$557	Donations Area Six	\$803
\$210	Donations Area Six Personal	\$31
\$12,013	Donations Area Seven	\$12,759
\$4,237	Donations Area Seven Personal	\$1,350
\$9,137	Donations Area Eight	\$10,469
\$2,537	Donations Area Eight Personal	\$2,657
\$2,320	Donations Area Nine	\$2,542
\$225	Donations Area Nine Personal	\$720
\$545	Donations - Birthday Club	\$1,053
<u>\$50,035</u>	Total Area/Personal Donations	<u>\$54,361</u>
	Other Donation Income	
\$5,350	Conference Donations	\$6,382
\$3,051	Convention Donations	\$1,601
\$1,939	Messenger Donations	\$1,792
<u>\$10,340</u>	Total Other Donation Income	<u>\$9,775</u>
	Other Income	
	Other Income	
\$0	Other Income	\$40
\$10,644	Literature Profit	\$6,054
\$521	Interest/Dividend Received	\$1,932
\$929	Received Interest - Term Deposit	\$279
<u>\$12,094</u>	Total Other Income	<u>\$8,304</u>
<u>\$72,468</u>	Total Income	<u>\$72,441</u>
	Expenses	
\$155	ACC Levy	\$75
\$200	Audit/Accounting Fees	\$200
	Assests<\$500	\$148
\$16	Archives	\$0
\$5	Bank Charges	\$10
\$4,226	Board Member Expenses	\$7,950
	Computer/Office Equipment	\$71
	Donation to WSO	\$471
\$670	Accum Depreciation	\$818
\$51	Charities Commission Fee	\$44
\$7,643	Conference Payments	\$7,316
\$1,977	Conference Travel Delegates	\$1,270
\$3,367	IAGSM Paid Expenses	\$2,796
\$0	Insurance	\$294

\$568	Postage (less recovered)	\$803
\$3,586	Printing & Stationery	\$3,420
\$169	Public Outreach Expenses	\$9
\$11,375	Rent & Rates	\$11,500
\$295	Repairs & Maintenance	
\$22	Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)	\$71
\$1,917	Telephone/Internet	\$1,980
\$383	Volunteer Travel Fun	\$300
\$20,594	Office Administration	\$21,050
\$105	TEAM Expenses	\$884
-\$67	Stock Adjustment	\$32
	Raw Material Expenses	
<u>\$57,258</u>	Total Expenses	<u>\$61,512</u>
<u>\$15,211</u>	Net Profit/(Loss)	<u>\$10,928</u>
Literature Income Account		
FY 2015		FY 2016
\$22,751	Literature Sales	\$21,020
\$3,110	Opening Stock	\$4,083
\$9,098	Purchases	\$10,842
\$3,981 \$16,189	Freight	\$3,568 \$18,493
\$4,083	Closing Stock	\$3,528
\$12,106	Cost of Sales	\$14,966
\$10,644		\$6,054
	Income postage recovered	\$1,369
	Postage Expenditure	\$2,172
	Postage less recovered	\$803

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 2016 as far as verification is available in a society of this type


 Auditor – Murray Hunter FCPA FCIS


 Date

Archives - Review

Moving into the future

KBDM on Archives at N.Z.

Question 1

What do we know about our members' or prospective members' needs that is relevant to this discussion? *What is the background to this topic? - historical background to present situation – do we need to research archive material to find out? - why has the topic come up – what are the concerns or unmet needs?*

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

Currently we have NZ AI-Anon history, documents, booklets and an array of bits and pieces stored in a couple of cabinets in the GSO, Auckland. We are running out of storage and it appears we have kept documents that don't relate to NZ. Equally at this time it appears we don't have an archives guideline as to what we keep?

It's time to formulate an archives guideline and decide what to keep, how to keep it etc.

Question 2

What do we know about the resources and our vision for the organization (or fellowship) that is relevant to this discussion? *Resources: people, skills, financial etc. Vision: our purpose and current initiatives or directions*

2 – How does this subject under discussion already operate in our meeting, fellowship, work place, relationship? Who is involved i.e. whole group, wider AI-Anon fellowship, immediate family members, one person, and people in a work station or whole work place environment.

We keep documents, bits and pieces relating to AI-Anon NZ. Generally, one person is in the position of archivist and possibly previous archivists have had an idea on what to keep or not. Some items kept may not be relevant anymore?

Question 3

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of the world and our fellowship that is relevant to this discussion? *What are the Pros and Cons of the possible choice(s)?*

3 - What are good and bad things about how this thing is already working. Good: Over time and with different people fulfilling the role of archivist an assortment of items has been kept. We have lots of information available to the membership. It reflects the changing times/thinking of people who have been archivist. With technology we may have better methods of storing records.

Bad: Stuff that has no meaning to NZ has been kept. Storage methods are out-dated. Storage room has run out. Trinkets from IAGSM's maybe relevant to the person whom attended but not to wider fellowship. Booklets from USA or UK – do they have relevance in our NZ archives.

Question 4

What are the ethical implications of our choices? *In other words: Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles in the Legacies?*

4 – Will any decision we make be within the Traditions, Concepts of Service, family rules – real or perceived, law of the land, work place guidelines.

It is time to make a guideline that will protect what we have, guide us for the future and be relevant to NZ AI-Anon. We need to protect our heritage.

Question 5

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

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

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

What do we keep? How do we keep it? What will we throw out? Will older members (service people) be upset? Do we require more technical expertise? Do we need to spend some money to make it happen? Who is best to formulate the new guideline?

Proposed Guideline – 1st draft GN-30

National Archives New Zealand AI-Anon Family Groups.

One of the best ways to protect the future of the AI-Anon fellowship in New Zealand at a national level is to look to the past. The collection and preservation of our past renews our sense of purpose and serves as the thread that links the generations of stories that are to follow.

Purpose: the purpose of National Archives is to preserve the experience, history and memorabilia of the AI-Anon fellowship in New Zealand. This history should be preserved

so as to be available to the membership and the serious researcher, within the framework of our Traditions, for the good of Al-Anon as a whole.

National Archivist: In New Zealand we have one person appointed to the position of archivist at any one time. This position has no time frame and to date is only advertised when the current archivist resigns from the position.

The archivist is not currently a member of the New Zealand Al-Anon General Services Board or a member of the Executive/Budget committee.

The archivist through the General Secretary can have their voice heard at either the Executive/Budget committee or the New Zealand Al-Anon General Services Board.

Location: Archives will be held at the New Al-Anon General Services Office. Materials kept should be stored in acid free folders, boxes and photo sleeves. Stored in a cool dry place if practicable and protect the anonymity of all members.

What to keep and what to build on:

- Minutes of Area, Budget/Executive Committee and Board meetings.
- Long-time member interviews and recordings.
- Editions of the Messenger and its earlier formats
- Program flyers i.e. where we participate at the annual AA conventions.
- Conference summaries.
- Photographs of important events.
- Copies of media coverage of Al-Anon NZ.

The extent of archival holdings depends largely on space, common sense is a key factor in determining what history is, what will be history in the future and what can be discarded.

How to Identify Material

The importance of clearly identifying all material: people, places, events, dates, etc., cannot be stressed enough. Many items will be identified with the date of origin (minutes, etc.). However, photographs should have the name(s) of subject(s) and the date written on the back. Undated material can add hours of time to the work of future researchers and may sometimes make the document less valuable. *Please be sure to date everything!*

Currently the archive uses a card cataloguing system but this may benefit from being digitised.

Interviews

Interviews with long-time members are a valuable and interesting section of any Archives. Long-time members are asked to recall early experiences. They may be invited to participate in a recorded interview. Whether written or recorded, the topics vary but often include recollections of early group development and their personal recovery stories.

Document Search

After the Archives are organized, a search system is necessary to locate material in the collection. With electronic documents, a simple word search can replace the need for a card catalogue. Utilise resources from a local library or national archives to help establish a system.

Additions to the Archives require changes to the catalogue. To avoid any confusion, update the card catalogue at GSO and update the backup on a regular basis.

Anonymity

Al-Anon's tradition of anonymity regarding members, regardless of whether they are living or deceased, should always be kept in mind when making material available. Note: The

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) provides guidance on the topic of anonymity and is available in printed version or can be found on the Al-Anon Members' Web site.

Reference – Al-Anon Guideline G-30, Area Archives

Motion

That the Conference adopts the new
GN30 Al-Anon New Zealand Archives Guideline.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Workshop Summary

Using a prepared power point presentation we held a workshop and conducted a PO survey to guide us on PO in NZ for the coming year and beyond.

Al-Anon Family Groups is not and cannot be a secret society especially not if we want 'Everyone, Everywhere' to know about AFG.

Beginning with the Strategic Goals of the Board for NZAFG we have a clear guide for where we want to go.

Let's look together at how to get there:

Ideas for a future Public Outreach Calendar for New Zealand:

March 4th Lois birthday – leave literature on Lois' birthday in strategic places in the community: Doctors offices, refuges, waiting rooms, cafes etc...

May in 1951 Lois & Anne unify the AFG. Lets get all Areas to host an OPEN birthday meeting and invite the public & professionals and the media nationally every year! Lets make it an annual nationwide event that is consistent.

June On the 16th of June it is the Anniversary of AFG beginning in Dunedin – this is a big media angle and we can tell our stories to magazines, letters to the editor, on the radio in all kinds of places if we work together.

Dec – Holiday Season. A big outdoor campaign would be ideal here with billboards and posters in cafes attracting people to our message of hope.

Jan – Convention participation. We know its coming every year – lets get behind it and make a loud noise. After all, AA is our biggest single potential new member source to reach friends and families of Alcoholics. Ask how you can support the Convention PO team.

Press Release for Local PO – Not so Happy Holidays

Localise with the numbers of group and meetings

Depending on the way news is running

Local angles for media interest in your Area:

- New Group being formed
- Group moves premises, changes times
- Alcohol a hot topic in media look for a story to respond to, call or email the journalist who wrote it and tell them about AFG.
- Events e.g. Health Fairs, Convention – celebration, Conference – Business, Assembly is a combination of both. Open meeting, Big Gay Out, Women's Expos – we can and should be there! We are a community resource.

Remember: when approaching the journalist don't need to identify that you belong.

Now What?

Results from NZ AFG PO survey:

Use the posters that you can download from the GSO Website.

Posters

Can be printed by emailing to a Copy Centre

A1 - \$18

A2 - \$

A3

Postcard 20c

Bookmarks

Posters – with Tear Off numbers

Conference Ideas

Activity Check Sheet

Name of Activity

Bus & Train campaign nationwide

Write a magazine article – personal story – anyone can do it. Rather than let them write it – ensures that the message given better.

Dry July

Alcohol Awareness week Oct ?

Buses & Trains Posters

During Conference 2016 we discussed a recent NZ Drug Foundation survey. It's exactly the kind of survey AFG NZ would conduct if we had the resources.

The research shows us very succinctly where we will get the most effect from our Public Outreach efforts:

*A third of New Zealanders have a family member who has experienced negative effects in their life due to alcohol or drug use, research commissioned by the **New Zealand Drug Foundation** has shown.*

The survey conducted by [Research New Zealand](#) shows that many New Zealand families are affected by addiction.

Q1. Imagine that a family member of yours is being faced with an alcohol or drug problem. In this case, where would you go for help?

	Total
Base =	501
	%
GP/Doctor/Health Centre/Hospital	31
AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)	27
Other family members	15
Alcohol Helpline/Drug Helpline/ Youthline	13
Counsellor	8
Police/Emergency services	7

Internet	7
Treatment or support services (general mention)	7
Friends	4
Church	4
Citizen's Advice Bureau	4
Salvation Army	4
Community Alcohol and Drug Services (CADs)	2
Ministry of Health	1
Library	0
I would just deal with it myself	3
Other	13
Don't know	15

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

Total may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

This research will be of huge help to future PO efforts. Especially in helping groups and members decide where to focus our time, energy and \$\$\$ to have the best effect.

It shows us clearly that Doctors, health centers, hospitals and AA are our strongest leads and the BEST place to focus our resources: time and money and manpower so that everyone everywhere knows about AFG.

It is a very sad waste of the valuable AFG resources to focus on places with little to no effect.

Public Outreach

Below you will find simple questions relating to public outreach (PO) in your Area. Please answer them on this form and bring it & the answers to the workshop.

My Area is:

We participate in PO: Y/N

Our Area PO's name is:

Their contact details are:

We have an Area PO committee: Y/N

Our most recent PO as an Area was:

It was a success because:

My favorite PO tool is:

How many groups in your Area are using the NZ road sign PO tools:

a) some b) none c) all d) what are they?

How are they using them?: (give examples)

I have read the PO online tool: The Best Of Public Outreach: Y/N

I encourage others to read and use The Best of Public Outreach: Y/N

Using 'The Best of Public Outreach' what idea would you most like to work on for your next Area PO?

The most successful PO I have ever seen in my Area was:

It was a success because:

ASK IT BASKET

QUESTIONS 2016

What languages other than English is Al-Anon literature produced in? I have looked on the WSO website and all I can see is French and Spanish – surely those are not the only languages our literature is produced in.

- Al-Anon/Alateen literature is available in numerous languages worldwide. What is available on the website is only a sample of CAL. However, there is a process to go through to have literature available in languages other than English. The following are excerpts taken from the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017:
 1. “All requests to translate ... Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature must be submitted to the World Service Office for approval by the Board of Trustees prior to any printing and distribution of Al-Anon materials.” Page 61
 2. “An Al-Anon general service structure outside the United States and Canada that has received permission from the WSO to print CAL may reprint WSO public outreach materials.” Page 113
 3. “Al-Anon literature in translation should confirm to the spirit and meaning of the original English version. Application and understanding of the Al-Anon philosophy is naturally affected by varying local customs and cultures in difference areas of the world.” And, “All translations of Al-Anon CAL to other languages are to be submitted to the WSO for review and approval before permission to print or reprint is granted.” Page 108
 4. The World Service Office ...”Maintains translation review of Al-Anon/Alateen literature into foreign languages and supervises the legal aspects of its distribution.” Page 136

Could Al-Anon NZ produce a cheap version of How Al-Anon Works to give away to newcomers or to sell cheaply – it seems like our basic text is out of reach of many newcomers. \$42 for a hardback seems like a lot of money to spend – especially when you look at the cost of a Daily Reader and then Paths to Recovery on top of that.

- In a nutshell, the answer is no, Al-Anon NZ will not be producing cheap versions of any CAL. However, groups and individuals are free to supply literature to newcomers as they see fit. Some groups donate books to their local library, or have their own library for newcomers to lend from until they can afford their own copy. Again, taken from the NZ Service Manual:
 1. “Our policy is to aim at only the best. Cheap-looking, cheap-selling and poorly conceived literature is not in Al-Anon’s best interest.” Page 212
 2. Please note, “Group funds are used for group purposes only, not for personal gifts to members.” Page 99
 3. “Supporting Al-Anon and Alateen groups financially is a way for members to express their gratitude for the help they have received from the program, thus

- ensuring that Al-Anon and Alateen will be available when someone seeks recovery from living with the effects of alcoholism.” Page 56
4. “Group expenses may include ... CAL, including Al-Anon and Alateen books and pamphlets for sale to members. Most groups offer lower-priced pamphlets and leaflets to newcomers and members at no charge.” Page 57
 5. “Group contributions pay for only a portion of the WSO (or GSO) expenses; the balance is financed by the sale of literature.” Page 217.
 6. See also Chris H’s 2015 financial report in the 2015 Conference Summary, which states: “We do not sell literature to produce income. We sell literature to provide a service to our members and for public outreach.”

Could we combine with Australia to do a project like this?

- Again, the initial answer is no – New Zealand will not be combining with Australia to produce cheaper CAL. However, if there was a genuine need for a new resource, then there is a process to follow:
 1. “Al-Anon Conference Approved material grows out of need ... Proposals of new material and major revisions of existing material are brought to the World Service Conference for recommendation and approval ... Proposed manuscripts and/or content of CAL are reviewed by a Literature Committee.” Page 102
 2. “Production of new material to be added to the list of Conference Approved material that has been recommended and approved by the World Service Conference must be authorised by the Board of Trustees.” Page 103
 3. “Permission to publish CAL is extended only to national Al-Anon General Service bodies in countries outside the United States and Canada.” Page 108. *This means that NZGSO is free to re-print CAL, though it is currently uneconomical to do so.*

How do Alateen Sponsors manage young people who disclose an unsafe living situation or suicidal/self harm behaviours in an Alateen meeting?

- “Being an Alateen Group Sponsor is an on-the-job training programme”. Guidance is available through our KN17 guidelines, as well as the P51 pamphlet Alateen Sponsor to Sponsor.
- “If Sponsors feel compelled by a legal or moral responsibility to report cases of suspected child abuse to the authorities, it is suggested they first discuss their intentions with the child so that confidence and trust in the Sponsor and the Alateen programme are maintained. It is then important for the Sponsors to review the Traditions and discuss the situation with other Alateen Sponsors ... etc ... for guidance and personal support. In an effort to keep the Alateen name from public controversy, any reporting is done on a personal basis rather than as an Alateen Sponsor.” GN17

Safety of the Alateen (minors) is always paramount and so if any unsafe situation occurs what is an Alateen Sponsor to do? What is our duty of care?

- “Sponsors are to give guidance and provide direction at Alateen meetings to assure that emphasis is placed on the Al-Anon programme of recovery and, to the best of their ability, maintain an atmosphere that will protect the children from physical and emotional harm.” GN17
- Alateen Group Sponsors and other Al-Anon members do not serve as personal Sponsors to individual Alateens. Alateen members are encouraged to sponsor each other in a peer-to-peer relationship.
- “Each Alateen group must have an Alateen Group Sponsor (two are recommended) who is a minimum of 21 years old, currently attending Al-Anon meetings and an active Al-Anon member for at least two years, in addition to any time spent in Alateen.” Page 88. This ensures a level of Al-Anon maturity by the Alateen Group Sponsor. In addition:
 1. Alateen group sponsors must be certified as an AMIAS and meet all the Area requirements for service to Alateen. Alateen Safety Guidelines (G34) are available on the Members’ website. Pages 31-31.
 2. Our KN17 has a guideline What Is Expected of An Alateen Sponsor (GN17). The back of the page details the legal and traditional responsibility of Sponsors.
 3. “Each Area has its own process to implement and maintain its Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements...” Page 88
 4. “Since Alateen members often have other problems, Sponsors should be careful about giving advice; it is helpful, however, to know there are community resources available. Al-Anon/Alateen is anonymous and what is said at meetings is confidential. The Sponsor is not free to repeat what he or she hears whether at a meeting or on a one-to-one basis.” GN19

AFG NZ Website Update

Statistics

The website statistics for 2016 to date are as follows (February will be added as soon as the month is complete):

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2016	3604	9942	50336	114095	993.17 MB
Feb 2016	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

The website statistics for 2015 are as follows:

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
Apr-15	3378	7232	31858	89511	871.01 MB
May-15	3577	8010	45868	103753	1.05 GB
Jun-15	4334	9153	54222	116035	1.3 GB
Jul-15	4010	12199	137790	197053	2.6 GB
Aug 2015	4349	13279	158872	215175	2.80 GB
Sep 2015	4046	13388	173704	232458	2.92 GB
Oct 2015	3889	13270	160552	218570	2.90 GB
Nov 2015	3541	13103	104609	158588	2.04 GB
Dec 2015	3628	11661	55919	108761	1.09 GB

Overall there continues to be increased traffic with December 2015 and January 2016 unique visitors both being over the monthly average for 2015.

The web page statistics show for the last two months there are a large number of hits from other countries like America, China, Ukraine and Romania (possibly malicious but unconfirmed). New Zealand always appears in the top three countries that are visiting our website.

Content & Maintenance

We have started working with our new volunteer (mentioned last board meeting) who has just taken over basic maintenance with support. The NZAGSO Office Manager has also recruited another volunteer who has provided 4 pages of “edits” to the web page which would improve consistency and use by the fellowship (typically this is about aligning the map references to the meeting descriptions).

A small change was made to make sure that when members request access to the website they are appropriately informed about how to gain further access to the website.

AFG NZ Website Update Cont.

Future Workload

The following are items that represent future possible changes.

- 1) Inclusion of one of the Public Outreach PSA's on the first page.
- 2) Long term the potential for a "mobile" version of the website would be good. This would be aimed at those who really only use mobile devices and are looking at trying to find a meeting (now!).
- 3) Use of other domain names (eg www.al-anon.kiwi)
- 4) Possibility of a QR Code

Abundance of Communication

Our No. 1 Recovery Resource

Conference Preparation

Please note: This is the third in the Abundance Series of workshops.

Alcoholism is a disease of communication. It follows then that we who are 'affected by' may have difficulties in communication?

Purpose:

1. To have us aware of and use communication as a number one resource in our lives.
2. To have us aware of and use communication as a number one resource in our Al-Anon Family Groups.
3. To encourage our Groups and Areas to be aware of, initiate and use both new and existing channels of communication in Al-Anon service.

References:

- Paths To Recovery – pg. 278, para 4 -279 –para 2 (end)- the win/win solution story
- How Al-Anon Works – pg. 94 -98 (esp. Pg. 97 and 98)
- The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage – pg. 11- 37
- The Conflict Series – S71, 72, 73

In Our Lives

Think of some areas in your life where you have difficulties in communication with:

- someone close to you
- a family member
- a friend
- a work colleague

In Al-Anon

Think of some areas in Al-Anon where you have difficulties in communication with:

- an Al-Anon friend
- a home group member
- an Al-Anon member in a service role.

Abundance of Communication

Our No. 1 Recovery Resource

Summary

00.00- Background: At Conference 2013 AFG NZ decided to hold workshops on Abundance for the next five years. (NZ Al-Anon Conference 2013 –pg.6. Motion). This is the third in the series.

00.01 - Last year the Abundance topic was Abundant Resources in Al-Anon.

I asked Delegates to take the workshop back to their Areas. So who has done that? What results did you get?

00.05 - Intro: Alcoholism – it is said in Al-Anon that this is a dis-ease of Communication. If that is so then perhaps Communication is a place to look

for recovery. Today we are going to look at Communication as our no.1 Recovery Resource.

Top Tip #1: Communication is Our No.1 Recovery Resource.

“.....there is no limit to the amount of communication available. It is a **limitless abundant resource**”. Taken from” NZ AFG Communications Thought Force “

Does this mean much talking? Hold that thought.....

First we will look at the area of communication known as **listening**.

We will have an exercise where we will look at the ways we listen, & some new ways of listening. Then we will look at Al-Anon communication to uncover openers & blocks.

Top Tip #2: Listening for Solutions

00.10 –Listening: Let’s look at the story in ‘Paths’ on pg.279 under Concept 5-The rights of appeal & petition protect minorities & assure that they be heard.

“Listening may bring to mind a solution we have never even thought about that serves all parties better than a compromise. Practising consideration & courage helps us seek resolution where everyone wins.

An example of such a win/win solution is the story of two people who wanted a single orange. Recognising that if one got the orange, the other would be unhappy, they agreed to compromise. Each took half of the orange. (Sharing - so Al-Anon) One promptly peeled her half, threw the peel away & ate the pulp. The other peeled the half he got, grated the peel for a recipe, & threw away the pulp. Had they listened more closely to each other, they could have discovered a solution in which each won the whole part of the orange they wanted, & none of it would have been wasted”.

Ask if anyone has had this experience & if they would like to share.

00.20 Top Tip #3: Listening can have the Impossible be Possible.

Top Tip # 4: Changing the Listening can change the relationship.

What sort of a statement is that? How can that happen? I mean – what we hear is what we hear, right? The filters.

Presenter’s Share: my Father as wrong / my Dad as he loves us. Before /After Al-Anon.

Have you changed how you listen to someone? What happened? Try it?

(Can pair share this here. 2 mins each way)

00.30 Top Tip #5: Listening for a Purpose.

What we look for is what we'll see.

Listening Grid:

Listening From (Your)

Compassion

Acknowledgement

Appreciation

Respect

Honour

Listening For (Their)

Listening for another's commitment

Listening for the gold

Listening to Learn

Listening That

Nothing is wrong

We in Al-Anon often are trying to fix things & people that we think are not right or good.

00.40 Top Tip #6: Choosing our Listening allows us Response-ability where before we had only React-ability.

Pair shares – 2 x 2 mins each way. Choose person in your life where there is difficulty in the relationship. Say what the difficulty is & then you be yourself. Your partner is the other person. You have a conversation. Then your partner is you & you are the other person.

Then swap & repeat with your partner having a turn.

What did you see about how you are in that relationship? Did your listening of/ for the other person change after you played their part? Who would like to share? Allow plenty of time for this.

00.55 Top Tip #7: Open & fully-informed Communication makes Abundance Possible in Al-Anon.

When we choose how we listen we open our minds to hear differently.

In the next example try to hear how different people were listening .

Clue: Listen to the background.

1.10 Top Tip #8: Questions are Communication openers.

At an Area Assembly it had been proposed that the Area have an ample reserve of \$500.

Background: The Treasurer was against this as she couldn't see this possible given that the Area struggles to pay Assembly rent, the Conference fee, & usually only 3 of the 7 groups are able to contribute to Area expenses.

An in depth discussion was held to discern the questions:

What is the purpose of an ample reserve?

What would /could/should it be used for? (Not to support groups to pay their rent or public outreach)

What would it provide? (Manageability/stress free for the Treasurer, the ability to plan ahead, to participate in projects- PO, events)

Does the Area want this? Yes was the answer.

What amount? \$500 as proposed. Note: ample means plenty, not what we can see as possible. The difference between abundant & scarce.

Then the conversation as to how to create this reserve. They plan to do this by building over time. Note: The Treasurer was against this initially due to not seeing it possible (based on her experience in the role) & maybe thinking that she would be responsible for creating this reserve. Open & fully-informed communication based on AFG principles achieved a great result that will grow the Area.

Update: 3 months later the Area already has \$100 reserve.

Top Tip #9: Questions come before Answers.

How did the questions affect the process? What did they contribute to the outcome?

1.25 Top Tip #10: Abundance of means plenty /Ample – not what we see possible.

Why would I say that? Because.....

Questions / Comments

Top Tip #11: Not planning for Abundance is planning for Scarcity without Choice.

Growing up in an alcoholic home scarcity was my automatic default position.

Communication is often missing or warped & twisted, shut down or blocked.

Alcoholism (& being affected by) is a dis-ease of communication.

Questions / comments

1.30 Top Tip #12: Communication can change our Minds.

Why would I say that? What sort of communication could change your mind?

Board Member To Attend WSC 2017

Arnold H

New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups has since its formation used the guidelines developed by the World Service Conference and its service arms i.e. Al-Anon World Service Office (WSO) located in Virginia Beach, America.

It is considered our senior conference. We have over time piggy backed on the great work the WSO continues to do reviewing the Al-Anon structures and guidelines. As they have confronted some of the original service structures and service meeting formats by using outside consultants new ways of running service events have been developed. Equally their conference members (delegates) belong to panels, this is based on the year a delegate first attends the world service conference (WSC). As delegates they are tasked with being on certain thought forces groups, task force groups and the standard committees that serve the fellowship i.e. literature, editorial, public outreach.

This is the basis of Al-Anon Family Groups the members through their delegates who sit on the various service arms have a voice in the future of Al-Anon Family Groups, to continue and meet future needs. This is one of the purposes of conference as you are here today to do the same for our New Zealand structure.

So in our structure we have had panels, probably through lack of understanding these didn't work very well and now we ask you as delegates to put your name under an area of service that interests you at conference, so the voice of our fellowship can be articulated through you, the delegates.

You will see on page 52 of our Service manual the requirements for a member to attend the world service conference:

World Service Conference

The WSC is composed of one Delegate from each Assembly Area in the USA and Canada, the members of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, selected committee Chairpersons and the voting members of the WSO Administrative Staff. The WSC protects Al-Anon against a service breakdown: it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. General Service Structures outside the USA and Canada are invited to send a representative at their own expense, who would have voice and no vote. If at any time the NZASC considers that it would be advantageous to our development to send a representative, it would elect a WSCR from nominations put forward by any of the Areas but subject to approval by NZAGSB.

Qualifications:

- *Currently serving or have served three consecutive years at NZAGSB level.*
- *Have first-hand knowledge of the service structure.*
- *Be knowledgeable of NZAGSO's current activities.*
- *Have been an Al-Anon Family Group member for at least five years.*
- *Be actively involved in service. For example, a member of NZAGSB, paid or volunteer staff, or a member of a selected committee.*
- *Have leadership qualities and organisational abilities*

In our history three Board members have attended the WSC with the blessings of the current Boards at the time, but at their **own** expense.

I personally was on the Board at a time two former members attended the WSC, at that time we in New Zealand were experiencing change (a constant I know) and by their at-

tendance we had a wealth of relevant information at our fingertips.

The attendance by both members at the time they went there was a lot of new ideas and issues discussed and implemented, the TEAM event, the KBDM papers, Board strategic plan, the introduction of Alateen chatrooms and I have a sense the NZ Conference welcome and induction came from here in that we are more concerned and aware of making the event a positive experience for delegates.

What are the advantages of sending a member to the WSC?

- It is similar to the IAGSM but the World Service Conference has a different purpose which is to create unity and enable their (USA & Canada) fellowship to act as a whole on important matters. The attendees of the IAGSM and WSC contribute the experience of our NZ service structure, bring back useful information and differently to the WSC, participate in international decision making.
- The representative would have voice but no vote on most issues.
- The attendee would participate in the group conscience of the USA & Canadian service structure that we recognize as our senior Conference.
- The attendee would return with first hand understanding about matters relevant to our service structure and then would be able to assist us.
- The attendee would be inspired from their experience.
- The attendee would experience first hand the way the Conference works which would assist our own Conference.
- The WSC and WSO have greater resources than we therefore any opportunity to participate in their service events can only but assist us.
- By attending we add a dimension to their Conference.
- By attending others will see that Al-Anon stretches far beyond their small areas and concerns.
- By attending we will help their Delegates pass on to those they represent back home a sense of the world wide community of Al-Anon.

Our service structure can vote and pay for a member to attend the World Service Conference (WSC). NZ AFG has never funded a member to attend. We have had some members attend the WSC paying their own way and they have been endorsed by the General Service Board to attend. Mexico, Germany and UK & Eire had a representative at last years (2015) WSC. Each year the WSC has a small handful of overseas representatives attend their Conference with voice and no vote. At times there are none.

It would appear that the attendance of a Board member at this event is highly beneficial to the member, the Board and our fellowship as a whole. According to the WSC members they also find it beneficial to have visitors with voice attend their Conference.

Various Boards over recent years have discussed this issue, at one point the idea was floated to attend the IAGSM and WSC by sending only one member to each, this was not progressed. At a similar time this very same discussion was had and was not progressed due to financial constraints at the time.

The current Board raised this idea again and we believe we would need the endorsement of the delegates to further it.

Why you may ask, because as Board we have the authority to send a member.

Simply over time we are always discussing money and mostly the lack of regular contributions. To send someone overseas may not sit well with the fellowship, one of those matters affecting us most in our journey of discovery and recovery seems to cause se-

vere reactions when it comes to spending money.

We as a fellowship through this conference have tried to focus on abundance in our recovery journeys and in the moment when we've had a workshop the thought of abundance seems to be in our thinking, however that moment doesn't seem to last long.

Our treasurer by now has articulated we have reached our goal set by conference a few years ago to reestablish our prudent reserve, but we can't rest on our laurels as the cost of running our New Zealand structure is ongoing.

To attend the WSC in 2015 the Conference cost was US\$1215 (NZ\$1844) plus there would be the airfares say NZ\$2000 = NZ\$3,844.00 plus our fellowship covers international insurance for the period, 2 nights' accommodation if required either side of the event. So without calculating the last bits a rough figure would be \$4,500.00.

For those that attend the IAGSM:

After careful consideration, the equalized expense amount for the 2016 IAGSM has been set at \$1,229.00 (U.S.) which remains at 85% of the costs; this is the same percentage used to calculate the 2014 meeting. The full amount for a Delegate to attend the 2016 IAGSM is \$1,446.15 (U.S.).

So each of our delegates $\text{NZ\$}1833 \times 2 = \text{NZ\$}3,666$, we of course can pay the full amount if we want to be self-supporting. $\text{NZ\$}2156.58 \times 2 = \text{NZ\$}4,313.06$ plus the travel insurance and a few nights' accommodation for both, so possibly a rough guess NZ\$5,000 to NZ\$5,500, which of course we budget for over a two year period.

Off course both meetings have different functions.

If you agree to fund this trip as representatives of the fellowship it would be up to the Board to choose a member of the current Board to represent us at the WSC.

Motion

That the Conference agrees to a
Board Member attending the
World Service Conference in 2017.

Succession Planning

John B

Introduction

Al-Anon New Zealand while I have been in service has always needed to look for potential leaders to lead our fellowship. The Board will have a number of vacancies in the near future to be filled. In filling these vacancies the Board has to be mindful of the way forward and the skills that are required. The Board has recently reviewed its strategic plan and it is clear that in the future the Board will need members with IT experience and experience in Alateen. In the meantime the Board still needs to plan for the continuing ongoing support of Al-Anon New Zealand as it look into the future.

Similar issues are found in Areas and groups with encouraging members into service. I remember my first role, shortly after I had joined, being appointed secretary to the group I had recently joined. I was 'tapped on the shoulder' so to speak by a very experienced member for this role

Background

Concept 9

Good personal leadership at all service levels is a necessity. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.

“ No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and leadership, the operating result of the structure can be no better than the personal performance of those they serve and make it work”. (Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014 -2017 P.198)

Bill W's essay on leadership on the same page is helpful to those in leadership in the fellowship and those considering senior service roles. I quote:

“A leader is a person who can put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader is a power-driver we rebel; when he is just an order-taker and exercises no judgment of his own, he isn't a leader at all.”

Leadership in the future in Al-Anon

This was addressed at the WSC 2015 (WSC Summary 2015 p. 38 – 42)

Workshop

Big Question: How do we envision responsible service leadership in Al-Anon, a vision that inspires today's members to be tomorrow's leaders who are motivated by Spiritual Principles?

- Relying on the ideas of Concept 9, what can Areas do to inspire members to grow and develop as future leaders
- What is our vision of Conference embodying spiritual needs that meet the needs of Conference members
- What skills, talents and abilities will the Board need of its leaders in the future
- How can service leaders use technology to link members at all service levels. Strengthening communication and inspiring spiritual connections within the service leadership.
- How can we as leaders encourage individual AI-Anon members to enter into service

Outgoing Sharing

Sam M - Area Seven

Last Conference

3 years have flown since and I remember thinking what a long time that was and what a challenge it would be to make it to the end of the term. I am not there yet but the biggest gift for me being a delegate has been the opportunity to attend Conference and get the feeling of how Al-Anon operates at the national level. It is a real privilege to be part of this spiritual business meeting, to hear about other areas and what the groups are up to around the country, to have a sense of belonging to a worldwide organisation, as well as the fellowship and friendship that comes from sharing the challenges and rewards of being an area delegate. Also it is great to hear about all the work that is going on throughout the year carried out by the Board members, pretty much in the background.

It reminds me that when I was new to Al-Anon, I really thought it was just the group and that was all there was to it. Obviously my view expanded with time but really it wasn't until I first came to Conference I really understood what it takes from people who are in recovery and keep this organisation going, by volunteering their time and skills and knowledge. The willingness and courage inspire and encourage me to be of service and contribute and to get out of my own way.

And what a blessing it is to know that, after growing up in an alcoholic home, I felt that unless I was perfect I was worth nothing, and asking for help was equivalent to a mortal sin that asking for help is a strength and in this environment, mistakes are just that, mistakes and something to learn from. The biggest thing is that we are all in it together and we empower each other.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to represent Area 7 for the last 3 years, I have had great support at Area level and from regional and national levels when I have needed it. I have learnt so much from so many people.

There have been times when I felt I should have done better, when Area 7 did not put on a 60th celebration but instead joined in with Area 8, I felt that was a personal failure but I know that it was my sole responsibility. No public outreach coordinator for over 2 years, again could I have done more to make that happen?

On the plus side, I think there has been a growing relationship between Areas 7 & Area 8 which is going from strength to strength, combining skills to implement the project at police stations etc. Combined committee meetings will take place every six months going forward and it is likely that subcommittees will be formed to progress various projects.

It has been a wonderful learning experience and a lot of fun and fellowship as well. Thank you Al-Anon and thanks NZ Al-Anon Family Groups.

Outgoing Sharing

Tracy B - Area Eight

The 3 years that I have been in my delegates role has absolutely flown by.

I was of course, apprehensive in my first year and found the experience not as overwhelming or frightening as I had thought that it may be.

I like the comfort of knowing what is happening and what is expected of me, so that I can prepare myself for the “just in case” scenario.

As with most roles that I have had the pleasure of serving in, I have grown and found my feet as time has gone on. Now that I am feel comfortable and a lot more confident in myself and in my role, it's time to step away and let someone else gain the gifts that I have received from being involved in the delegate's role and the conference experience.

I have a much clearer understanding of “How AI-Anon works” when it comes to service roles and the structure outside of my group.

I have seen the traditions and concepts work, concept 5 in action in a healthy way. Conflict resolved and no resentments carried on into the conference. Acceptance of other people's opinions and of decisions made, even if personally I do not agree.

I now tend to “back myself” more than I have in the past. I have discovered skills (like public speaking) that I did not realise I had and re-awakened some skills that had been dormant for a while.

I loved being connected with the fellowship and visiting as many groups in my area with my alternate delegate, sharing our experiences. Road trips up north, great fellowship and connecting with our sister program of AA, working alongside of the AA committee's on the AA Northern Area Assemblies and AA Conventions have been highlights for me.

Thank you for the support I have received from many people. Love and encouragement. Trust in me and my ability to serve as the Area 8 delegate.

It has been such a pleasure, and I take away very warm and fond memories of my experience.

Yours in Service

Tracy B
Area 8 Delegate

Outgoing Sharing

Chris W - Conference Host

First, a short summary of the story that brought me to Al-Anon. Boy meets girl, 1st date she drops it into the conversation that she is in AA to see if I would run or stay. Boy wants to understand what AA is all about and went to some AA meetings. I was introduced to Al-Anon by a mutual friend that I meet going to AA meetings with then my partner, now my wife. My Introduction was a bit of a setup by my partner and some friends from AA. My flatmate was up on his fifth DIC and I thought it was setup for a couple of AA people to come and talk to him. Little did I know I was in that set up as well, one member to talk to my flat mate and two over coffee to introduce me to the “sisterhood”. That was on a Friday, and one of the people talking to me was very difficult refuse. Tuesday Serenity was that first meeting and now my home group.

My personality pre Al-Anon was very judgmental, closed and narrow minded. I was introduced to Al-Anon by a very “blokey” male but still I thought Al-Anon was a bunch of old ladies whining about their drunken husbands. My first meeting was one third male and two thirds female. Walking into that meeting, I found three women that I thought justified my thinking at the time. Early in my Al-Anon walk, one of these women was just a phone call away to put me straight. Another shoulder tapped me and encouraged me into my role of Conference host. She is now my service sponsor and Al-Anon mum. Just shows you a bit of my insanity coming into Al-Anon. Al-Anon has given me a family of choice, since my family of origin was very dysfunctional. I found it really hard belonging, since I’ve never seen my alcoholic drink. I thought I didn’t belong in Al-Anon. I’ve learnt that my dad was borderline alcoholic and my mum’s an addict in another ball park. I never would have pictured that until coming into Al-Anon and hearing the experience/strength and hope of Al-Anon members.

One of my nicknames is PAP: Pedantic Anal Person. I was a perfectionist but with low confidence. My first year in this role, my service sponsor was so patient. Before me, the title of this role was “Gopher”. By adding an air of professionalism to the conference, over my seven years I’ve made the role into conference host. My time here at conference has brought to life the Traditions and Concepts where before they were dry and hard to understand. This conference has some major pearls, “open, honest and willing”, “I can’t be nuts as long as I’m working the program”.

I didn’t expect to be able to do an outgoing sharing and had mixed feelings about it. I.e. “I don’t deserve this...”, “I’m only a volunteer...”, “... but I’ve done this for 7 years” and other up and down feelings.

It’s a privilege to do the service. I’m more confident for doing this service. I’m pro service. Now to succession planning... Go back to your groups, anybody can do this role, 2 years in Al-Anon preferably. Use the Hidden Talents on the Al-Anon website (members site).

They just need to have an eye for detail, to make it professional and pretty.

Delegates' Report

Area One

Karen B

Area One covers from Oamaru South, including Dunedin, Gore, Maitua, Invercargill, Queenstown and Alexandra, incorporating ten AFG meetings in total.

Assemblies:

Invercargill, Maitua and Dunedin: Held at an AA assembly with AI-Anon participation.

AFG Visits to:

Alexandra, Dunedin, Gore, Maitua, and four Invercargill meetings (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday).

Public Outreach:

Contact via email, text and telephone has been made with Group Representatives (GRs) in Area One to let them know I welcome contact from them. They have been provided with my phone numbers and email address.

GRs are reminded about upcoming events/activities to take back to groups.

Our new pull up banner was used at the Dunedin AA Assembly with AI-Anon participation. This will be a well used asset for public outreach.

The Birthday Club is well advertised within groups.

Concerns:

Communication: Challenges with getting information filtered through from the Area Delegate to GRs and then on to members.

Concerns have been voiced by some members with regard to Dunedin Friday AFG. Melda and I will investigate to see if there is any way in which we can help.

Highlights:

Our pull up banner looks amazing and is being well utilized already even though we have only had it a week. There has been lots of positive feedback received from members. I am in the process of taking it around to groups. My goal is for everyone to have a chance to see it.

The Area One Committee is working well together.

The upcoming TEAM event is exciting and we are working hard to make this a successful event.

The Serenity Weekend at Pounawea is always well supported with much love and fellowship shared. It is always exciting to see new faces at this weekend.

We continue to involve long time members, keeping in touch and giving opportunities to enjoy continued fellowship when and wherever possible.

Last year there were concerns regarding the promotion of outside literature. I am pleased

to say the Al-Anon focus has returned to being the primary purpose.

Area One

Summary

Focus back on Al-Anon

Birthday club is successful by advertising regularly at meetings.

What potential solutions to help get information from Area Delegates to Area Members?

Answer: Can pass information on to the best of our ability. It maybe lack of understand of GR roles. Acceptance is one and powerlessness another.

This is an area we expect to be ongoing and we values information from other areas.

Area One committee working well, what is causing this?

Answer: We are trialing an area get-together before our committee meetings to prepare which is challenging. Keeping principles above personalities and using the spiritual principles from conference at area meetings. We are keen to build for success.

Anything else the fellowship could help with ongoing situation with dominance within groups ?

Answer: Steps One, Two and Three.

Area One Team Event Report

Sat/Sun 2nd-3rd April 2016

Held at the Hearing Association Inc., Leet Street Invercargill

Our Planning Committee members met regular in Karen's home. We used Al-Anon guidelines GN3 and previous Team Event Literature as a starting point. We also kept in touch between meetings to keep up to date with one another progress.

Advertising was a high priority; we wanted the flyers to be bright interesting and eye catching to attract attention. These were emailed to all Area One groups as well Area's 9 & 2 with updates and reminders on a regular basis. We also handed out hard copies whenever possible.

To keep cost down the groups supplied morning & afternoon tea. The food was delicious and as usual plenty of it. Saturday Night's Dinner & Sunday's lunch was at The Invercargill Working Man Club. We also had enough billets to be able to billet members who required them as well as our three travelling Board members.

Fund raising it was decided to run raffles items were donated by members.

Al-Anon Bags, Magnets, pens, bookmarks were also for sale.

It was with anticipation and excitement The Team Event weekend had arrived and Invercargill had obliged with a hot sunny day.

We welcomed from Auckland Chris H Board Treasurer. Who was going to present a power point workshop on Show me the Money – Where do our Donations go?

From Alexandra Arnold H, Boards General Secretary with a power point presentation on the Structure/s of Al-Anon NZ.

From Wellington Sally-Ann , CRBM, N. P Outreach. Delivered a power point on Conflict Resolution both in service and in personal life.

Melda SRBM presented a power point of a Walk through the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office and how to find your way around The NZ Al-Anon Website.

The program was developed in conjunction with the Board Members.

Saturday was a full day with three workshops only stopping for refreshments and fellowship. After dinner we returned to the venue for a sharing Al-Anon meeting Topic was Humor. Sunday we had one workshop and fellowship. Some members headed home, the rest of us went for a relaxed lunch and continued Fellowship.

FEEDBACK

The feedback from the board members positive and they enjoyed the weekend.

We emailed out evaluation forms - very few came back, we have had a lot of verbal comments all very positive and in agreement it was a very successful weekend and were pleased it was 2 days, they enjoyed meeting the Board Members and understanding more about GSO. I have noticed in the meetings I have attended there is more talk on fundraising & finances. One member went home & went on the Al-Anon web site and ordered some literature. Everyone agreed that the shared Al-Anon Meeting and the humorous topic ended the day perfectly.

De-brief

Overall we were happy with the way the Event went and the positive feedback. Food was good but it would have been nice for a few more savory items. More thought to the length of talks so there is enough time for questions in general or more breaks to be considered when presentations are longer.

Thank You to the organizing committee

Karen - Chairperson

Lucy – Transport

Raewyn - Billets

Colleen – Fundraising

Eleanor - Tech

Melda – Hospitality

We were pleased to raise \$244.00 to go to Area to cover the costs of the TEAM Event – this included raffles and the 7th tradition at the Al-Anon Meeting.

\$112.20 was raised by selling the left over bits and pieces from the 2016 Convention – this money will go to G.S.O.

Area Two

Sarah R

Area Two covers from Kaikoura to Waimate (789km apart). Christchurch has 12 Al-Anon groups and one Adult Children group. There is one Al-Anon group in Kaikoura and one in Timaru. Rotherham now also has an Al-Anon meeting.

Highlights

The Bishopdale group has now hosted two open fellowship meetings which brought members together from various Al-Anon groups plus their friends and families, to hear two Al-Anon speakers share their story. The feedback from both of these events was extremely positive and members enjoyed the opportunity to mingle and chat afterwards. We are looking to get a speaker from another Twelve Step fellowship to attend the next open fellowship meeting in order to share their story.

The annual Serenity Weekend is due to go ahead again this year on August 6th and 7th. This will be the fifth year running and it is always thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. We have most of our service positions filled at area level which is promising. We still have vacancies for Literature Coordinator and Public Outreach Coordinator. We are still encouraging groups to make sure that they keep their service roles filled at group level. We are still looking into the possibility of setting up an Alateen meeting in Christchurch. We still have Al-Anon volunteers who go and speak to medical students about how the Al-Anon programme benefits their lives. Currently we are looking for more members to offer assistance with this. Christchurch will be hosting the AA Convention 2017, 20th – 22nd January, to be held at St Andrews College.

Concerns:

A few groups still don't have a designated Group Representative so information isn't always getting back to these groups from Area level, which I think is important.

Summary

Noticed service positions not filled

Answer: Yes at group level, some groups do not have GR's – finding that not a lot of Al-Anon people are offering.

Suggestions – Have workshops at business meetings for GR's, more outreach and shoulder tapping to fill roles.

Comment: Experienced same problems, visited groups and talked about, groups becoming isolated and affects areas, failing to participate is damaging as a whole to Al-anon – If not a member of AA allow them to come forward.

Can someone who was in AA 17 yrs ago be on a committee today?

If AA members no longer are in AA they are eligible for service beyond the groups in Al-anon.

Area Three

Lynne C

Area 3 is part of the Central Region and covers the Wellington region, Kapiti and Wairarapa. There have been some changes in the area, the lunchtime meeting in Petone has closed after the passing of a long time member and a new group has opened in Masterton in the Wairarapa. We have 10 regular groups (with two of them having two meetings) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday with on average about 80 people attending every week.

Highlights

The main highlight this year was the TEAM event we ran in October 2015 as a joint event between Area's 3, 4, and 5 held at Forest Lakes Conference Centre, Otaki, Kapiti.

We were very fortunate to have four board members speak at our TEAM event, this was the first time any team event has had so many Board members attending. From Auckland, we had Joan G the IAGSM Delegate (International Al-Anon General Services Meeting) and Board member who spoke about attending the international conference in Florida last year. Also Chris H, Treasurer, Board member and Chair of the Literature committee who spoke about money and recover in a most engaging way. Then we had John B, Board Chair and National Alateen Co-ordinator talking about Service and the service manual and finally Sally-ann Central Region Board Chair, National Public Outreach, Alternate Board Chair and IAGSM alternate Delegate delivered an insightful session on Conflict Resolution both in service and in personal life.

For the planning of the day we used the TEAM event literature available on the WSO website and the pre-prepared flyer. And we used the Al-Anon guideline

GN- 3, 'Participation in AA conventions' as a starting point for the different service positions and also read up about previous TEAM events and spoke to previous speakers. The lesson – as always in Al-anon there is wisdom available and it was not necessary to invent from scratch.

We had a great committee made up of members from the three areas and we met via an online meeting room every one or two weeks to discuss tasks and logistics. Using Forest Lakes as the venue had the advantage of being a central location and one that many people were familiar with as our Serenity Weekend is held there. We self-catered to keep the cost as low as possible. The members from 'out of town' were able to stay in the holiday villas on site. The two Auckland Board members were billeted for the first night and joined the Area 4 and 5 members in a sharing meeting, a joint meal and fellowship by staying at Forest Lakes on the Saturday evening.

The programme was developed in conjunction with the Board, highlighting both their areas of service and experience. It was a full day with four workshops one after another interspersed with great food and fellowship. The feedback from the Board members was positive and they enjoyed the day. Response from the fellowship was also good – there was a suggestion of another one!

More recently, in February this year, we took part in AA's Central Area assembly by holding an open Al-Anon meeting at their invitation. The subject of the meeting was Acceptance and there was some wonderful sharing on the subject. We had the Al-Anon road sign banner and a literature table. There were 12 people at the meeting and many stayed to have morning tea with the AA's and then join their open meeting afterwards. We were made to feel very welcome and several people said afterwards that it was an insightful morning. I thanked the committee members afterwards and said how we

appreciated being invited. Hopefully we'll get the opportunity again.

Area Three

Area Assemblies/Workshops

We have had Area Assemblies in Porirua, Lower Hutt 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 and have found that a workshop to start the Assembly works well.

Area committee

Our committee is in a period of change, we are currently recruiting for a Secretary and our Chairperson is soon to finish her term. We do not currently have an Alateen coordinator.

Public Outreach

The PO coordinator's work with the Salvation Army Hope Centre is still ongoing and they are now purchasing Al-Anon literature and incorporating it into their therapy sessions. The PO coordinator has been in contact with the NZ Medical Association and has spoken to the doctors in training and has now been added to their annual training programme.

Conclusion

It has been a successful year in Area 3, with much fellowship, love and laughter.

Summary

Has the concept of knowledge Based decision filtered down to this area?

Answer: Yes, going back to literature – we don't need to reinvent the wheel

Are there any concerns/challenges in Area Three?

Answer: Basically some unhealthy groups with strong personalities.

The important of the role of the Area Delegate helps to show loving guidance to members in Al-Anon by directing them to Al-Anon Service Manual which helps in group situations to tease it out. Using service sponsors. Placing principals above personalities.

Area Four

Rowena B

Area Four stretches the area 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 has one group the Napier Alanon Family Group which meets on a Thursday at 7.30pm.

Last Wednesday the Hastings Group re opened, with a meeting now being held at 6.45pm in the Heretaunga Women's Centre.

This new meeting is just in the process of being registered with GSO.

We have one registered Loner in the Napier Area.

There is no AI-Ateen meeting in Area Four but the Napier meeting encourages all age groups and has appropriate CAL information available.

Members continue to place AI-Anon information around where they are frequenting during the day. E.g.: Libraries, cafes, notice boards and free newspapers.

We have recently had some enquiries from Mental Health in both Napier and Hastings.

The Women's Centre in Hastings is very supportive of AI-Anon Family groups.

We have had several counsellors coming along to open meetings in Napier throughout this year.

Area Assemblies were held on July 4 and November 14.

The July assembly and November assembly was held at a church hall in Gloucester Street Taradale. This venue seems to be very good

For our assemblies, it's always held midway between both Napier and Hastings.

The Theme for our assemblies were 'Attraction not Promotion' and 'Moving On' About twelve people attended both assemblies.

The year has been a good one for the Napier Group. Lots of new comers are coming to the meetings but most seem to drop off after a while.

The meeting is self supporting paying for advertisements in community newspapers, rent and a good supply of books.

We have been able to donate to GSO.

The meetings average 8-10 and the door is always open. During the year we have had several out of town AI-Anon visitors who have given good feedback about the Napier group being friendly and very welcoming. The group enjoys having visitors and appreciates the different sharings.

Area Four is very excited about the new group in Hastings. I was able to attend the first meeting and 4 people were there, one being a newcomer. Napier has held some books from previous Hastings meetings and so these are available now for the new meetings. We have separate structure for Area and Groups. The next assembly is planned for April 9 and again this is very exciting because we will have Hastings there as well.

As I have only taken on the Area Four Delegate position since the November assembly

this report is not a lengthy one.

I have had several offers of support for which I am very grateful.

Area Four

Summary

Update: Since report, Napier meeting gone quite, maybe winter, and changed venue.

Napier group dropped off quite a bit. Looking to change venue, and maybe even night.

New Hastings groups is growing, slow but steady.

Report says welcoming to young people? How do you know this?

Answer: They have been told they are welcomed. Newcomers may come for 6-7 meetings but they do drop off.

Have you thought of having a conscience meeting as to why the numbers are dropping off?

Answer: There has been some personalities in action.

Aware that smallest area with the least members, financially contribute very well. How do you manage this?

Answer: Tradition 7, fundraising, raffles, bring and buy table and talking about GSO how money is needed regularly.

Women meeting?

Answer: There is a building in Hastings, a wonderful drop in place for women which have a variety of programs which feed in well for our Al-Anon program.

Men also know they are welcome to come in as well.

Area Five

Anne F.

Area Five stretches from Levin to Taranaki and consists of seven groups. These groups are: Levin Thursday Night, Palmerston North Tuesday Night, Palmerston North Thursday Night, Wanganui Tuesday Night, Inglewood Monday Lunchtime, New Plymouth Wednesday Night, and New Plymouth Friday Noon. During 2015 we have had Assemblies on 21 March at Waverley, 11 July at Wanganui and 31 October in Waverley.

Highlights

- Workshop by Central Regional Board Member (CRBM) Sally-Ann: 'Loving Interchange to Resolve Conflicts'.
- Members from Area Five and I attended the TEAM Event at Forest Lakes, Otaki and also the Serenity Weekend at the same venue.
- The Inglewood group purchased a 'Pull Up Banner' and were happy to loan it to Wellington (Area Three). Inglewood had a Public Outreach week at the Inglewood Library with the banner, plus a table with pamphlets and information about meeting venues, days and times. New Plymouth Friday Lunchtime AFG borrowed the banner also for a week-long display at the New Plymouth Library.
- Members are keen to find new ways of fundraising.
- New Plymouth combined with Inglewood to have a picnic at the beach. They got rained out but a member opened the doors of her home for them to enjoy lunch and her hospitality.
- These groups have come up with another idea, which will occur monthly. One member hosts a dinner but must only spend \$30. Six members pay \$10 for the meal, this equals \$60. The host is paid back \$30 and the other \$30 will go to GSO. The challenge is in keeping strictly to only paying \$30 to provide food for six people. The first dinner was held by a vegan member. It was delicious and members had lots of fun socialising. I am looking forward to the next dinner to be held this month.

Area Assemblies

Saturday 21 March 2015 Area Five Assembly in Waverley

- General Business and Matters Arising from Correspondence at the previous Assembly took place. There was a query from a probation officer based in Palmerston North asking if Al-Anon could help families affected by drugs rather than alcohol. Using Tradition Five, times and locations of Palmerston North groups and Al-Anon website information were passed on and then left up to the officer's discretion as to whom he gave the information. This was discussed further and it

was noted that there was N A to help in this area, but the two programmes overlap and this could be left to individual group autonomy.

Area Five

Summary

Update: One group in Palmerstone North has folded and one in Wanganui has begun. Two groups in New Plymouth have been concerned about another group.

Planning to dive bomb this group.

Enquiry from a probation office, is this individual autonomy issue or group issue?

Answer: Member who brought this up is no longer attending meetings.

Have you recently participated in an assembly you may want to share about?

Answer: Been under pressure and no longer wanting to do job,

Assembly would not have occurred without Regional Board Member's support.

We have been using web-ex which worked very well in Areas Three, Four & Five. We would meet online and get a lot of chores done.

Area Six

Helen P

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area Six stretches from Taumarunui up as far as Whakatane. Whakatane has been included, but there is no Al-Anon meeting there at the present moment, nor any registered lone members.

Al-Anon, Alateen, Al-Anon Adult Children Groups and Loners.

Hamilton Hope for Today is held on Fridays at 7:30pm. The Friday Hamilton group has also started another group held on Thursdays at 12 noon at St Andrews Library. Hamilton Courage to Change holds meetings at St Andrews Library on Tuesdays at 3 pm; Tauranga Monday Night Al-Anon Family Group hold meetings at St George's Church Hall on Mondays at 7 pm; Rotorua Geyserland AFG holds meetings at Malfroy Primary School at 7:30pm; the Tokoroa group holds meetings at Living Hope Church on Tuesdays at 7 pm. There is a meeting in Waihi at the Salvation Army Church on Wednesdays at 10:30 am. The Taumarunui AFG meeting is opened by Michelle each week and there are two other members who attend, except when they are committed to outside activities.

Alateen report

There are no Alateen meetings in Area Six. At the present time we have one Alateen sponsor in our area. When we attended the AA Assembly in Te Awamutu on the 12th March 2016, provision had been made to have Alateen meetings but no Alateens attended the sessions.

Highlights during the year

One of my highlights during the year was attending the 53rd AA Conference in January at the Copthorne Resort in Waitangi. It was a fantastic conference and such a lovely place to hold it. The theme was 'A New Beginning' with topics such as courage, wisdom and gratitude. I also attended the AA Assembly in Te Awamutu on March 12th and I had the privilege of sharing my story at the night time Public Meeting. The topic was 'The Gifts of Al-Anon'. It was great to be invited to attend the assembly and be able to participate throughout the day. In Area Six we are planning another Serenity Weekend at the end of the year on the 14th to 16th October 2016, at Papamoa. The preparations for this weekend are under way. The theme for the weekend is 'Step up to Serenity'.

Public Outreach

Hamilton did a mail out to Health Professionals sending the Al-Anon open letter, bookmarks and the 2015 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism magazine. Whenever possible we make donations to the wider Al-Anon community. Tauranga is planning to donate a book to the local library. Purchased pamphlets are to be taken to relevant places such as doctors, drug and alcohol centres etc. People have contacted me through 'googling' on the internet. Rotorua has a dedicated person who continues to put up the library display kit that the group developed last year. We are able to get regular bookings for a minimum of three weeks a year in the local library at no cost. We display meeting details, contact phone numbers and leave free bookmarks for anyone to take while the display is up. This has brought some new members into the group. The local radio stations are putting announcements over the air via eleven radio stations twice daily, at no cost, and it took

only a letter from the Group Representative for this to happen. Letter box drops of bookmarks have happened in some Rotorua streets and we have also shared what we are doing for Public Outreach with other groups in Area Six.

Area Six

Area Assemblies, Workshops and Numbers Attending

We have had Area Assemblies in Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga and these have been well attended by members in Area Six plus our Northern Regional Board Member and other visitors from Auckland. We have a workshop coming up on April 2nd 2016 on the topic of 'Abundance' which will be presented by the Northern Regional Board Member.

Area concerns in groups and what solutions were used?

Members in Tokoroa are not able to attend their meeting every week. It can be financially hard when there are low numbers and it becomes a struggle to pay the rent. The Tokoroa group was able to lower their rent to \$60 per month.

Taumarunui had put up an advertisement on the community notice board but someone had borrowed a key and removed it. There are days when meetings cannot be held as members have other commitments. There are only two members attending, so donations are low.

Groups that have been struggling to pay the rent have had to change venues, however this change is working for them. It is important that groups in the area stay connected and communicate with each other through written reports and attendance at Area Assemblies. If the communication is not getting through from a group to the Area, then the group becomes isolated. Groups in our area are tagging other groups in Area Six to keep up communication and offer support if needed. Tagging another meeting in the area seems to be working well and keeps that vital link going.

When the library kit was being developed it was hard to get any suitable posters for attracting newcomers. We would like to get hold of the 'logo' used in other material so that there is consistency across all our posters. There was not as much help through GSO that we would have liked. We need to regularly send the letters to the station manager.

In winter, numbers tend to drop as it's cold and people are reluctant to go out to attend meetings.

Conclusion

Overall, this year has been really rewarding with lots of wonderful happenings, which included the AA Conference in the Bay of Islands and Area Assemblies spread throughout the year in Rotorua, Hamilton and Tauranga. Members have been going out there and getting the AI-Anon message across by doing Public Outreach. There have been challenges throughout the year, but members have worked together to change the things they can.

Summary

Update: New AI-Anon Meeting started in Thames.

Suggestion: For Alateen it was decided at Conference 5 years ago that 6 AMASI in each area is needed and they can be available if necessary. Encourage all areas to have this available.

Area Seven

Sam M

Area Seven covers from the Bombay Hills south of Auckland to the south side of Dominion Road in Central Auckland. We have 13 groups, one of which is an Alateen group and one is a men's group. One group moved premises during the year but there have been no other changes.

Alateen

The Alateen coordinator reported that 15 newcomers attended Area Seven's Alateen meeting during 2015/2016. Many returned for two or three meetings and Alateen sponsors are thinking about how to keep them. There are four core members. No Alateens attended Convention but through public outreach at Convention, a newcomer has since attended. We have ten fully approved AMIAS and a very proactive Alateen Coordinator.

Highlights during the year

August Area Assembly: At this Assembly were two IAGSM delegates who attended the International Al-Anon General Service Meeting in 2014. They delivered a presentation and talked about their experiences with 23 others from 13 countries. It was very informative and a good reminder that we are part of a worldwide fellowship.

Group activities: These included a 36th birthday, a guest speaker and a door prize, plus an auction fundraiser raising \$700 and a potluck by Sunday Sharing. A fourth birthday celebration is coming up for a group out south, with a guest speaker and supper afterwards.

Public Outreach

- The Alternate Delegate has created a spreadsheet to track what groups are doing and what alcohol and drug treatment programmes/organisations are based in their vicinity to assess the potential for more public outreach.
- A group provides speakers for The Bridge in South Auckland. Another group has recently started attending The Wings Trust which has halfway houses for alcoholics after treatment and they also have Al-Anon speakers at their meetings every six weeks. Area Seven members also speak at Higher Ground in Area Eight.
- A number of groups have advertisements in local papers and four groups in Central Auckland all contribute to an advertisement in a paper with a circulation of 64,000.
- Attempts to establish a roster for people to attend the Drug Court in Area Seven are being made.
- A number of groups provide literature to their local libraries, super clinics and other community facilities.
- An exciting proposal involving providing literature and information to police stations in Auckland is being developed. AA has already done this. There is an opportunity for Areas Seven and Eight to collaborate on this project.

Area Assemblies: On average about ten people attend the assemblies in addition to

Group Representatives and the Area Committee. Consideration is being given to having more workshops to attract more members to attend.

Area Seven

Concerns: Groups hold regular inventories and issues seem to be resolved through the use of the Traditions. Good discussions take place at Assemblies about welcoming newcomers and follow up contact, for example, how much contact, by what means and so on.

AA Convention with Al-Anon participation: Area Seven along with Area Eight was part of the organising committee of a very successful convention in a beautiful place. We are awaiting feedback from Al-Anon participants to hear what worked well and what did not.

The Retreat: Al-Anon will still have some involvement but not on such a regular basis as The Retreat no longer requires two regular speakers.

Summary

Update: There was a closure of a group, that had been going for 37 years.

New group starting in September.

Combined 7/8 Area Meeting suggested to happen twice a year.

Interested in Police initiative

Answer: In larger Police stations, they have AA information available, with a stand and contact information. They are looking at a project to have Al-Anon alongside AA as well. Local Groups are supporting and forming a relationship with police stations. It is taking time but we don't want this to fall over. Brochure holder are being quoted and AA have presented a mock meeting. Police have said Yes to Al-Anon.

Auction fund raiser \$700 – what in auction?

It's held towards end of year and has gifts like vouchers of service from members for example car washing and someone's batch.

Birthday Celebrations, individual or groups?

Answer: Group celebrations; invite other groups, speaker style.

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 16 groups two of which are Alateen groups and two are Adult Children groups.

New Groups

Although through the year Area Eight unfortunately had one group disband (Whangarei Heads Wednesday), we are delighted to have two new groups start up in our area. We welcome Kerikeri which meets on a Monday and Kaitia which meets on a Friday evening. Also a fabulous new Alateen Group which meets on a Monday afternoon after school finishes, has been started in New Lynn. All groups have made a wonderful start and continue to be supported by our fellowship. Our groups have expanded from 14 to 16 groups this year so that is very exciting as we have been at 14 groups for years.

Alateen

- The Browns Bay Alateen Group continues to function, however over this year, we have sadly lost some of our long term members as they have reached the age of 20 years old. This has unfortunately, had a rather large impact on this group and we as an area are working on helping them to grow and flourish for our children.
- We also have a very new and exciting opportunity that has been developing throughout the year. A NEW Alateen group has been established at Rata St, New Lynn. We were approached by Youth Services West who work with disadvantaged children to see if we could be of assistance, as they were aware that many of their clients were affected by someone else's drinking. This is an open meeting and available to all Alateens who are not clients of Youth Services West. This is a six month pilot and our first meeting was on Monday 29th February 2016 at 3.30pm.
- We have an Area Alateen coordinator who is very busy making sure things are running smoothly for the Alateen meetings and coordinating AMIAS in our area.

Events and Highlights

- 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 had a three month trial period (with a temporary Intergroup Coordinator) to see if attendance grew and if our members wished to continue with this meeting. After the trial, it was decided by GRs that our Intergroup was to continue and we were fortunate to have a member elected as a permanent Intergroup Coordinator.
- A few dedicated Area Eight members continue to support and participate in AA Northern Area Assemblies, whether they are inside or outside of our area. Some of our members supported the AA National 53rd Convention in Waitangi in January 2016.
- We continue to work hard to maintain a close relationship with Area Seven as our immediate neighbours. We are currently in discussion re joining resources in the Auckland area for combined public outreach.

AODT (Alcohol and Other Drug) Court. This is at Waitakere District Court each Wednesday. We have a number of members on a roster who attend as "friends of the court". This is a pilot program that is running in New Zealand for five years and based on the very successful drug and alcohol courts in the US. Judge Lisa Tremewan presides

over this court and is extremely supportive of the AA and Al-Anon Family Groups programmes. This court provides support from many

Area Eight cont.

community services for the 50 participants per court and it is a 12-18 month program, with graduation on completion. We have now created a AODT Coordinator position on our Area committee to manage the roster.

- The 53rd AA Convention at Waitangi on January 22nd – 24th January was held in Area Eight. This was well attended by around 50 plus Al-Anon members, including visitors from overseas. Ten months of hard work was put in by our wonderful convention committee. This was a fabulous weekend at a great venue. We managed to provide GSO with extra funds from the profit made on literature sales and fundraising at each meeting. We also had our first spiritual Al-Anon meeting which was held at dawn on the beach and was well attended.

Public Outreach

- Our area Public Outreach Coordinator works enthusiastically on a variety of projects, including a stall at this year's 'Big Gay Out' which proved to be well received and effective.
- We provide three speakers every four weeks to the Higher Ground Drug and Rehabilitation Centre to speak to the residents. We have a public outreach notice board at Higher Ground for their use in their weekly family support group meetings and occasionally remind them to continue putting it out. We also had some members who assisted area Seven with speakers for The Retreat treatment centre on a fortnightly basis earlier in the year, when this service role was available.
- Groups regularly provide literature to branches of CADS, Victim Support, to schools and libraries, run advertisements on local radio stations and support the efforts of our Public Outreach Coordinator.
- Police Initiative: We are currently, in conjunction with Area Seven, working alongside AA to introduce an Al-Anon presence in some of the larger police stations around the Auckland area. This could eventually become a nationwide initiative and AA is working closely with the Police on a gradual roll out starting in the Auckland area.
- BNZ community signs. These are present in each branch of the BNZ bank and it is free to put up a community notice. Some groups have been putting up their local meeting details at their local branch.

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 first two assemblies.

From discussions that came about in one of our Area Assemblies one group is currently trialing a closed (invitation only to members of that group) Facebook chat group, where photos/videos of events, sharing of experiences in the programme and fellowship can be seen. This will hopefully encourage members to step up and do service roles outside of their group, within our area. They can see what's going on and may wish to become involved as it takes the "fear factor" away.

Concerns / Solutions

Some of our smaller groups continue to struggle to survive. Although we have lost some groups, others are popping up.

Service still seems to fall to a small minority, although we have had some new members join us in service. We have had a lot of discussion at GR meetings and assemblies on how we can encourage people into service. The main points that seem to keep coming up are to 'lead by example' and 'shoulder tap' new members to encourage them into service.

Area Eight

Summary

Update: Alateen meeting @ Rata Street, New Lynn – after piloted for 6 months, great support from AMAIS, but no Alateens. Group decided to close, but another meeting to hopefully open.

In conjunction with the Alternate Delegate, going through 16 group visits, but not been to Kaitia yet, hoping to get there before Tracey's term finishes.

Phone system implemented – using knowledge based information .

Store at Big Gay Out ?

Public outreach coordinator, annual event she approached, Area 8 paid for the stall, had pull up banner + board for visual attraction. Was wonderful. Format changed for the better, away from food. They had literature to give out. Well worthwhile. Used GSO banner and Area 8 has a banner also.

BNZ community signs for Public Outreach?

Westpac and other banks may do this as well. Seen in bank community notices coming up on the digital screen. Enquired and some bank managers are not keen, due to word alcohol being used.

Face book chat group, could this be country wide?

There are closed Face Book pages, social media, you are invited to join, can create own anonymity – idea to encourage people, share fellowship, early days, people have to participate in it for it to work. Looking now to open up to more people.

WSO have a Face Book page, is a good possibility.

New telephone system – has this been initiated?

Wanting to expand into the board and the rest of the country. We have the capacity but it is not working – waiting for new phone coordinator to step up. Writing responses still. At this point, a message is available, a work in progress.

Area Nine

Dawn C

Geography: Area Nine stretches the length of the West Coast through to Tasman and Marlborough, covering the west and top of the South Island.

Groups: There are six groups and they are Greymouth (3 regulars), Reefton (3), Nelson Monday (3-6), Nelson Friday (8-10), Richmond (10-20), and Blenheim (8-12), with four registered loners. There is still talk of re-starting the Motueka group.

Alateen: There are no Alateen groups or approved sponsors in Area Nine, although Blenheim has three new regular members in their teens, aged 16 plus.

Highlights: Participation at Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) October Southern Area Assembly in Nelson, which resulted in new members for the Richmond group; checklist for organising Area Assemblies handed to all groups; Area Nine's meetings list being re-issued; and our shared West Coast Christmas meeting. Fundraisers, over-and-above each Assembly's grocery raffle, have included a silent auction; more grocery raffles; bring and buy produce tables; and a \$5 pot luck meal. All groups participated in the \$30 challenge. Taking home, a slogan card each week and reporting back proved popular. I will be attending TEAM Event in Invercargill in April (Area has travel fund for AD) and members will be attending the Southern AA Area Assembly in Nelson in June with the theme of 'Acceptance'.

Public Outreach: Weekly West Coast radio community notices; fortnightly advertisements in local papers; BNZ rolling screen advertisements; and library books checked throughout the Area. With the arrival of the new pull-up banner, groups have been challenged to present consistent branding Area wide by August 2016 at the latest. One query, what happened to the new branded bookmarks?

Area Assemblies: Area Nine met in July 2015 (Blenheim), November (Nelson) and March 2016 (Reefton). Attendance is usually around 20 members. Saturdays started with a Committee meeting, followed by a workshop and/or sharing meeting, before going out for tea as a group and finishing the day with the host group organising entertainment. Sundays started with a Group Representative (GR) meeting. The business meetings started with a five minute member's story while a sharing meeting was held at the same time. The meetings finished with a shared lunch prepared by the host group. All service roles are now filled, with the exception of the Public Outreach role which one person is considering. Two workshops were held, both well received, on 'Spiritual Goals' and 'Planning for Abundance' plus a focussed sharing meeting on 'Time' from which each person went home with a challenge. Suggested Twelve Step Guidelines were shared, taken from a 2008 Area Nine workshop. The Fire Service is showing us support with rental for Assemblies costing the price of a nice morning tea! Groups are considering appointing an interim six week sponsor to newcomers.

Concerns: All groups are now registered with GRs attending Assemblies, however one group was somewhat tardy. Dominance has been an issue within a few groups. Suggested guidelines on 'Encouraging Responsible Sharing' were shared with groups, along with tips on how to (politely) interrupt inappropriate sharing and this

seems to have remedied the problem. Groups are encouraged to hold a time bound conscience meeting at the start of a meeting so all voices are heard. Anonymity is

Area Nine cont.

now troublesome in one group, predominantly from dual members. Suggestions were given about welcoming them with boundaries, but to step up and offend if need be! Anonymity is to be a meeting topic at June's AA Southern Area Assembly in Nelson.

AA Convention: An individual member attended the AA National Convention in January 2016 in Waitangi, volunteering at GSO on her way past and then sharing her experience at the March Assembly. We are planning carloads of members for the 2017 Convention in Christchurch.

Year's Summary: Area Nine has stepped up! All groups are conducting healthy meetings, public outreach is ongoing, participation with AA is embraced and Assemblies are well attended.

Summary

Update: Already has contact and information in Police stations and linked to drug and alcohol places. Going to tap into AMP shows.

Knowledge based decision making at area level, not sure about group level.

Westport group folded – some members are now starting a new meeting, not using Al-Anon name but using Al-Anon literature.

All groups have a budget.

Area Nine uses free or very cheap venue - hospitals and councils.

All groups have been given AMAIS forms.

Board Reports

Board Chairperson

John B

This year the current Board has consolidated, it has been pleasing to see our financial reserves grow and the Board members participation in all aspects of the fellowship and particular in Team events.

Our Regional Board members have continued their important regional roles, including attendance at Area Assemblies where possible and input into the successful AA Convention with AI-Anon participation at Waitangi.

The Board has spent sometime looking at our strategic plan and identifying areas where we can do further work, these include General-Secretary to attend the WSC 2016, increasing our electronic footprint, IAGSM bid for NZ, website (planning new structure to fit the future)

The appointment of Arnold as honorary General-Secretary has been a great help to the Board and the fellowship. Arnold's role has continued to grow and a number of you would have had contact with him in his new role.

Our GSO continues to provide a wonderful service to our membership with our one paid staff member, supported by members who give their time as volunteers.

It was interesting to note in the 2015 WSC summary that they are planning to have a virtual Conference by 2020.

John B
Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

Chris H.

Financial year



Our financial year runs from 1st April in each year until the following 31st March. At the date of preparation of this report (February 2016) available accounts reports extend only to 31st January 2016 – with only limited availability of information for February 2016. Updated information to 31st March 2016 will be available for the New Zealand AI-Anon Service Conference (NZASC).

Audit

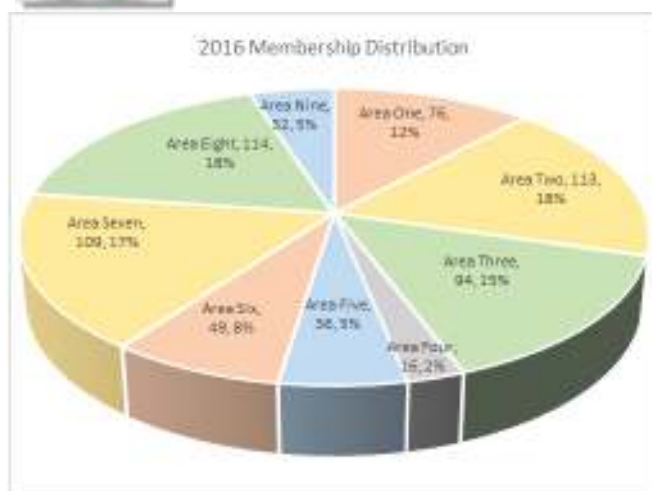


The audit of the financial accounts for the 2015 year was completed prior to the NZASC in 2015 and reported to that conference. Our aim is that the accounts to be presented to NZASC in 2016 will have been audited.

Membership numbers



The latest and best information currently available to us from the groups suggests that we currently have 82 groups (down from 83 groups in 2015 and 90 groups in 2014) with a total of 639 members (up from 566 members in 2015 and down from 709 members in 2014).



The information is only approximate because we still have some groups who fail to complete and return group registration information, some members attend more than one meeting and are consequently counted more than once and, of course, group numbers fluctuate each week.

Our membership averages between 7 and 8 members per group – the smallest group with 2 members and the largest groups with 20 members.

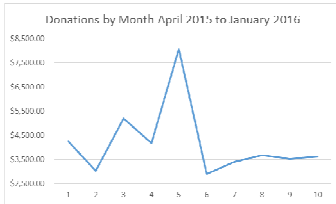
Our largest Areas respectively have 15 groups with 113 members, 11 groups with 109 members and 11 groups with 114 members. Our smallest Area has 2 groups with 18 members.

Members' donations



Because we ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions we are totally dependent financially upon contributions from our members by way of donations. Members donate through their groups, through their fundraising efforts, through their personal donations directly to NZ AI-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) and through profits on sale to them of our literature.

At the NZASC in 2015 our fellowship approved a budget for the 2016 year based on donations income at a level of \$50,736. The budget represented the amount required to meet anticipated expenses for the year. It required an average donation contribution to NZAGSO of \$1.73 per member per week. It also represented a reduction from the budget level of \$51,050 for the previous financial year. As in past years the budget was allocated between Areas in proportion to the numbers of members in each Area despite the hugely differing historically financial performance of the Areas. There has been an ongoing conscious effort



to encourage and challenge those Areas which perform less well in terms of Tradition Seven to “lift their game” while having faith that the Areas which do perform well will continue to do so.

To monitor financial performance against the annual budget on an ongoing basis the required annual contributions are averaged to a monthly basis.

At the time of writing this report the latest available information is to 31st January 2016. To that date donations are running at only \$45.00 below budget. It is, however, of some concern that due to outstanding performance in the August 2015 month contributions to 31st August 2015 were \$3,279.00 ahead of budget or 111% of budget to that date. The advantage has, unfortunately, dissipated with dwindling donations over the following months.



Early unofficial indications of the February 2016 donations might reflect an encouraging reversal of the trend.

The performance of the various Areas against budget for the year to date range from a disappointing 26% of budget to an encouraging 150% of budget. This seems to demonstrate that we need to continue our efforts to encourage and challenge all members in all Areas to be financially fully self-supporting.

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

Concept 1 tells us “The Ultimate Responsibility and Authority for Al-Anon World Services Belongs to the Al-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.



Literature sales

We sell Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to provide a service to our members and for public outreach rather than to produce income.



When we speak of “literature profit” we do not include in the calculation any provision for the “hidden costs” being rent cost (our rent cost is greater because we need larger premises to enable us to continue to sell CAL), the cost of the time our Office Manager spends administering CAL sales and the value of the significant time our volunteers spend assisting to provide CAL sales. If we included in our calculations a realistic “value” for those hidden costs then I believe that the outcome would almost certainly be that CAL sales is a net cost (or loss) to the fellowship but worthwhile in terms of our spiritual purpose.

We buy CAL from the Al-Anon World Service Office (WSO) in US dollars. In November 2014 the exchange rate between US and NZ dollars had progressively moved substantially in our favour causing the cost to us of buying CAL to diminish. We reviewed prices and decided to reduce them to avoid “profiteering”. We considered it contrary to our spiritual principles to exploit the opportunity to otherwise supplement the fellowship's income and passed the savings on to the purchasers.

After November 2014 the exchange rate moved substantially against us and has since been very volatile. From a high of \$0.88 in July 2014 the rate dropped to a low of \$0.63 in September 2015, recovered to a high of \$0.69 in December 2015 and at the time of writing sits at \$0.66. Because our current pricing assumes a rate in the \$0.65 to \$0.70 range we have not yet increased prices, but we are monitoring the situation to ensure that the fellowship does not incur a loss through CAL sales even before allowance for the hidden costs.



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 2016 year but expenses are inevitably increasing. This must reasonably be expected. The latest information available at the time of writing this report is that to 31st January 2016 expenses are running at 11% less than for the same period last year, 2% less than for the same period in the 2014 year and 7% more than for the same period in the 2013 year.

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) and the Executive Committee continue working to minimize expenditure where possible despite that every cost reduction inevitably involves a reduction in the service available to and for the fellowship.

Expenses for the current year are running at 11% less than the budget amount for the period as approved by the NZASC 2015.

Balancing the budget for the fellowship continues to be challenging. We continue to plan for abundance by maintaining essential services but we constantly need the fellowship to increase donations to avoid losses and drastic cuts in services.

Following the transformation of the NZAGSO in 2013 there were some complaints from the fellowship that the NZAGSO is not open between Thursdays and Tuesdays or for longer hours on the three available days. 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 International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM). The consequential reduction of participation by and for the groups in our country have led our trusted servant thus far to resist those reductions.

Similarly, suggestions that reductions of the service involvement at NZAGSB level of members who are resident out of Auckland would reduce costs have been strongly resisted on the basis that our service structure should involve democratic representation from throughout the entire country despite the level of Board Members' expenses consequently involved.



NZAGSO Expenses

The NZAGSO lease expires on 30th June 2015. Increase in our rent is likely considering the favorable rate we currently enjoy.

Our current rent including rates and electricity at \$958.33 plus GST per month is less than the \$1,041.67 provided in the budget in 2014 based on market rentals.

In accordance with the decision approved at NZASC in 2015 the insurances for NZAGSO were cancelled.



NZAGSB Expenses

Board Members expenses include the travel cost of getting the five 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. For the three quarterly meetings away from NZASC the NZAGSB members from out of Auckland are billeted by the Auckland NZAGSB members or by their own family members in Auckland to avoid incurring accommodation costs.



Ample Reserve

At NZASC in 2013 it was resolved “That NZ Al-Anon members aim to increase the NZ Al-Anon reserve to \$25,000 by June 2014 and to \$35,000 by June 2015.”

The good news for the fellowship is that the aim was achieved with cash in the bank as at 31st May 2014 of \$44,301.98 and as at 31st May 2015 of \$61,378.93. As at 31st January 2016 the figure was \$66,307.09



which, when compared with the figures at the same time in previous years, suggests that we are continuing to rebuild our ample reserve. Given that the budget for total expenditure for the 2016 financial year is \$65,500.00 we have achieved the happy result that our ample reserve is currently a little more than expenses for a year. In the WSO pamphlet Reserve Fund Guideline (G-41) it is recorded “In keeping with the accepted norm of not-for-profit organizations, the goal was to have one year’s operating expense be the ample reserve of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.” We appear to have achieved that happy position.

A note of warning is that our ample reserve has been rebuilt out of the severe cutting of our services to the fellowship and the generosity of a relatively small number of our members rather than out of the generosity of all of our members. We need to continue to work to encourage all of our member to contribute generously to enable us to maintain our ample reserve and expand the services we are able to provide

Conclusion

We are currently in a healthy financial position. 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 and that our trusted servants get that understanding through the groups to all of our members.

NRBM Report

Robyn M

Area Six:

I have been talking with the Delegate regularly to provide a supportive ear, any guidance or feedback she may require, and to build our relationship. The next Area Assembly is in Tauranga on the 2nd April. I look forward to seeing how the committee is developing with the new Chair, Alternate Delegate and PO Coordinator. I will be presenting the Abundant Resources Workshop – which I have now taken to calling an Interactive Conversation – in April, with the Area Delegate.

Area Seven:

An enjoyable and interesting day after a bad start – no AFG sign out and a locked door at the venue's usual meeting room. After wandering round the venue and checking other possible entry sites with no luck, and my (blessed) tablet for changes and/or correct venue, a couple of texts raised someone to let me in, at which point I wedged a cone in the door to ensure access for the following arrivals.

I heard great questions and input from some of the group representative's. A very service-experienced member was elected Highlights Coordinator. She has begun to work with her also new Area Eight counterpart – so vital to both areas delivering timely and accurate information to members as well as maximising participation at events.

Still no PO coordinator and no discussion- however the Alternate Delegate has designed a spreadsheet- "Area 7 Group Public Outreach Spreadsheet"–which charts agencies in the Area, contacts , literature, and the group assigned (if there is one). She envisages this will shift the PO responsibility back with the groups. It may serve to fill the role of PO coordinator and keep it a responsibility of the Alternate Delegate. Time will tell. I will ask Sheryl to send a copy to all NZ Delegates.

I had offered in November to take the Abundant Resources Workshop in May if they couldn't find time in February. However, the Delegate proposed to take a PO Workshop and the vote from the GR's was for leaving the Resources Workshop off the table.

The chair initiated a brief Team talk leading into a discussion on bidding for a Team event possibly with Area Eight. Referring to the 'deadly silence 'of my previous report, I wonder if a seed was planted and good things take time. They talked of rescheduling the combined Area 7 and 8 Committee Meeting, traditional for some years now.

A member outlined the Police Initiative he has undertaken with AA and expanded to include AFG of which he is a member. In agreement with Police hierarchy he takes in AA members who demonstrate a mock AA meeting and then 1 or 2 AFG members get to share. All shifts from Auckland are rostered in so that all get to attend. The beauty of this 12 step exercise is that we do it in cooperation with AA. Ref.pg 120 Al-Anon Alateen

Service Manual. I had been in communication with him about this earlier and he had requested a meeting with the Convention Committee at Convention in a break time.

Area Eight:

I had a great and busy day, taking the Abundance Workshop (alias Interactive Conversation) with the Area Delegate. Feedback was that it was successful and fun, producing lively conversation and lots of great awareness/attitude changing sharing. I was helped by another two Board members and the Delegate. I also decided to take the convention fundraiser stock and set up shop (I couldn't resist the opportunity to play shops!) A group of committee members' role-played AFG group approval process for AMIAS' which was great and did the job I thought. A new PO Coordinator was elected from the current GR's which will be great in the interests of keeping well-established initiatives rolling. This Area is also participating in the Police Awareness Initiative too (since the Convention meeting).

Northern Regional AA Assembly was held at Te Kauwhata on March 12th. The AA theme was 'Growth with Service.' The AFG theme was 'The Gifts of Al-Anon'. We enjoyed 3 great AFG meetings in a comfortable room. About 20 members were present, many from Areas 7 and 8, and 5-8 AA members. A great day of Al-Anon and AA fellowship was rounded off with the public meeting where we heard a Waikato judge speak of 'Despair and Hope', sharing her experience of alcoholism in the community and the courts, an AA speaker and an Al-Anon speaker. All carried a great message of recovery.

AA Convention 2016 in Waitangi

This event was the culmination of nearly a year's work. I have chosen to submit my report for this event separately. Suffice to say here that though it may not have looked like it sometimes, I had the time of my life.

Conclusion

This last quarter has been an exceptionally busy one with Convention in late January.

CRBM Report & Public Outreach Report

Sally-ann M

IAGSM

We have a date but we are waiting on a venue. Joan is gearing up to book her flights in this financial year, I will book mine in the next.

NATIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH (PO)

More and more banners are being ordered.

There was great PO work done as part of the NZ AA Convention. Banners, information boards, literature and PO information were on display and there were many visitors to the AFG rooms. It was great to see the fellowship turn out and support this event.

I found myself involved in a clear case of 'double headed management' due to an overexcited member's lack of understanding of the service structure. This all came to a head on Tuesday night, when with my sponsors guidance, I was able to contact the delegates involved (Areas Seven and Eight) and directly and clearly hand the matter back into their capable hands. I am glad I was able to address the issue immediately with firm and loving kindness, with the full picture and full support of the delegates involved. It was helpful that it all boiled down to a concept, so was therefore easy for me to raise as it was clearly related to a principle, not a personality. This is kind of ironic given my December report where I talked about the lack of understanding of our service structure. I think my Higher Power was giving me another reminder that I need to go back to basics as a leader.

The great news out of my 'learning' above is that Areas Seven and Eight are trialing an initiative with the police whereby we will have our flyers in Police Stations. This is an opportunity where we are cooperating with AA on something they are already doing and I'm hoping it is a massive success and can be rolled out nationwide.

CRBM

I have been in contact with all three Delegates and let them know that my term is up this calendar year and that they need to ideally ask for nominations at their upcoming assemblies. I also contacted the person I have shoulder tapped and updated them on the correct timing. They are willing to do the footwork and hand the rest over.

Area Three: I have passed the running of the AA Assembly AFG meeting on to the Area Three Delegate as it is the same day as this Board meeting. Being only one meeting, I am confident that it will be a success.

The AFGs Assembly is the following weekend. Planning is progressing well for the annual Serenity Weekend in May that is held in conjunction with Areas Four and Five.

Area Four: Rowena has invited me to their upcoming Assembly On April 09. However, it is very close to the TEAM event in the South Island and I need to see if all that travel will work with my family and my work, as that is many weekends in a row to be away for AFG

events.

Area Five: Their Assembly is on the same day as the Area Three's.

I have reminded both the secretary and the delegate to make sure that there is a discussion about the upcoming AA Central Area Assembly at their next AFG Assembly and to find out if AFGs have been invited officially to participate so that the service structure can be adhered to. I do not believe we have and have let the delegate know this.

Members of New Plymouth Friday Group and Inglewood Group are rostered to be guest speakers at the NP Salvation Army Bridge Rehabilitation programme. They encourage the participants to give Al-Anon information pamphlets to their partners/wives/parents etc. The speakers are always well received and lots of questions are asked about the Al-Anon program.

Alternate Chairperson on the Board

John asked me to work with him on preparing the draft agenda, which I did. I will also be chairing this Board Meeting. I can't wait.

ISSUES:

- Comprehension/understanding of service roles.

- Lack of understanding of how AA and AFGs co-operate within the service structure.

- Lack of strong leadership/chairpersons (guidance, boundaries, traditions, concepts).

- Lack of understanding of service structure.

SUCCESES:

- Progress in a closer relationship with the delegates of my region.

- Potential successor for my role.

OVERALL VIEWPOINT:

Re: support of delegates

I have scheduled my first online Central Delegates meeting for the night after our Board meeting, so I will give feedback in my next report.

SRBM Report

Melda T

In November I attended the Area Nine Business Meeting in Nelson.

Saturday

The Committee meeting was 3pm--4pm. While other members caught up over afternoon tea.

The workshop = Abundant Resources In Al-Anon. Well done Dawn.

Feed back from members = some thought provoking informative and inspiring workshop.

A silent auction was held with brisk bidding and lots of laughter. (Items donated) this was a different way to fundraise.

Sunday

With all attending joining for Serenity Prayer, a member shared her story, then those not attending the business meeting broke off for a sharing meeting.

Business meeting. 20 members attended. The Public Outreach position is still vacant all other positions filled. The AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation went very well.

The groups all reported an increase in new comers attending their meeting.

The only concern that was tabled by a group was the cost of the Area Delegates Conference Fee.

When I explained the fares are booked as early and as cheap as possible and every group in NZ pays an equal amount towards the Conference, The Group was satisfied as some members were under the impression the groups that did not have to fly their delegates did not have to pay.

Conclusion : it was a relaxed, friendly, fun time working together getting the business done. The grocery raffle was drawn (enough donated items to have six shopping bag draws) Impressive.

Area Two

I attended Area Two Business Meeting in November. 12 members attended.

They are having a problem filling the committee positions. With several vacant, Treasurer, Public Outreach, Literature, Secretary (we will continue with a temporary secretary) with no one coming forward to fill any of these positions.

Alternate Delegate takes over as Area Delegate in December.

There was ongoing idea's on a movie night for fundraising.

There were four group reports with an average of four to six regular members.

Area Two appears to be financially stable with the groups sending in regular donations.

My concern was the meeting was very rushed, There was a Workshop organized but there was no time allotted, only over a coffee break for her to have it.

Convention 2017

We have no updates, the Area Delegate has been unable to contact AA to find out their topic etc.

Area One Team Event

The planning is well under way, we are all very excited and looking forward to seeing everyone there on the 2nd/3rd April. 2017

Area One business meeting is being held at the Dunedin AA Assembly in March. I will report on this later.

General Secretary Report

Trial Update – year two.

Arnold H

The responsibilities:

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

The respective chairs of the Board and Executive /Budget committee set their own agenda's. Members of each group all see a draft agenda prior to each meeting and have opportunity to comment, add items or clarify subject matter. I am responsible for taking the minutes of the Board. Julie Mitchell our office manager looks after the Executive/ Budget minutes.

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

I attend most budget/executive meetings by phone, the group at this time is ably chaired by Rana S. so any issues are clarified by discussion. I am part of the Editorial proof reading team and where I see issues I liaise with Patty our editorial chair. Literature and Public Outreach tend to run independently, if asked I contribute. TEAM events are delegated to respective Area running them, I assist where appropriate. AA events with AI-Anon participation, these are received at GSO who forward them to relevant RBM for their action.

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

As indicated above.

Attends NZ AI-Anon Service Conference with an annual report for inclusion in the Conference Brochure.

This is the report.

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

I have had discussions with WSO over chat rooms and printing of literature this year. I have had my email added as the NZ contact via "AFG Connects" a web based communication tool used by WSO to communicate with us or send relevant information we need to consider, WSC attendance, IAGSM attendance.

I am setting up (probably will have happened by Conference) a telephone discussion with Marsha Ware at WSO to talk about holding an IAGSM in NZ, part of our KBDM process on this subject.

I have sort commentary from Australia in regard the (equivalent) of a 0800 or 0508 number and what success or otherwise they've had in implementing this.

I've communicated with South Africa asking for a summary of their experience in running an IAGSM again part of the KBDM process on this subject.

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

We liaise as appropriate. A phone call resolves any issue as it arises.

As appropriate this is forwarded to me. We by continued discussion work out whose responsibility various tasks are as they arise.

Comment: The position has been with us now since December 2014, it is a three year trial. From my point of view I contribute with my experience gained from my time on the Board and various roles I held in that time. I feel it would be for others on the Board and Budget/Executive to comment on how this role is working from their perspective.

Committee Reports

Convention Report

The Facts:

The 53rd AA New Zealand Convention with Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) participation was held on the 22, 23, 24 January at the Millennium-Copthorne Resort Waitangi. Our AFG theme was "A New Beginning" with the koru as our symbol. The AA theme was "The Next Frontier".

Overall attendance:

48 AFG members pre registered
10 AFG s registered on the weekend
58 in total attended registered as AFG members

Breakdown of AFG meeting attendance numbers:

<u>Friday</u>	<u>7:45pm</u>	<u>Serenity, Relief to Recovery</u>
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>Courage</u>
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>1:15pm</u>	<u>Wisdom</u>
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>3:15pm</u>	<u>Gratitude</u>
<u>Sunday Sunrise</u>	<u>6:20am</u>	<u>Ata Tapu (Sacred Morning)</u>

Friday	7:45pm	- Serenity, Relief to Recovery	- 54
Saturday	10:30am	- Courage	- 73
Saturday	1:15pm	- Wisdom	- 75
Saturday	3:15pm	- Gratitude	- 83
Sunday Sunrise	6:20am	- Ata Tapu (Sacred Morning)	- 45

Our numbers suggest AA attendance which would include dual members too.

Literature:

\$1006.80 was sold.

5 Newcomers packs were given to those who requested them (first time in an Al-Anon meeting). Also 2 Alateen packs were given away although no Alateens attended.

Fundraising:

<u>Al-Anon meeting Tradition 7</u>	<u>\$394.90</u>
<u>Literature</u>	<u>\$1006.80</u>
<u>Fundraisers (Stock Cost \$945.23)</u>	<u>\$1,873.50</u>
-	-
<u>Total Taken</u>	<u>\$3,275.20</u>
-	-
<u>Total to GSO</u>	<u>\$2,241.17</u>

Sold Since

<u>Area 8 Assembly</u>	<u>\$129.00</u>
<u>Area 7 Assembly</u>	<u>\$142.90</u>
-	-
<u>Additional to GSO</u>	<u>\$271.90</u>
-	-
<u>Total to GSO</u>	<u>\$2513.07</u>
-	-
<u>AA Contribution to GSO</u>	<u>TBA</u>
-	-
<u>Remaining stock: (Value @ full sale price)</u>	<u>\$891.00</u>

Al-Anon meeting Tradition 7:		\$394.90
Literature:		\$1006.80
Fundraisers:	(Stock Cost \$945.23)	\$1,873.50
Total taken:		<u>\$3,275.20</u>
Total to GSO		<u>\$2,241.17</u>

Since sold:	+ Area 8 Assembly	\$129.00
	+ Area 7 Assembly	\$142.90
	To be paid to GSO	<u>\$271.90</u>
	Current Total to GSO:	<u>\$2,513.07</u>
	+ AA Contribution to GSO:	TBA

Remaining stock: (Value @ full sale price) \$891.00

Items we sold:

- Slogan Teatowels
- Slogan bags –Jute, black on off white, Calico in unbleached & Al-Anon blue
- Magnets- Serenity prayer in English & Maori, business card & postcard size, green ferns & white ferns
- Pens – yellow, green, blue, purple

**AAConvention
funds**

			<u>out</u>	<u>in</u>	<u>diff</u>
Float	GSO		\$ 100.00	\$ 1100.00	\$ -
Literature	GSO		\$ 1,006.80	\$ 977.00	-\$ 29.80
Tea Towels	Area 8	\$ 180.00			
Magnets	Serenity w.e	\$ 88.44			
Pens	Serenity w.e	\$ 155.25			
Bags	Serenity w.e	\$ 453.10			
Extra Magnets	Jannene	\$ 68.44			
Total Stock			\$ 945.23	\$ 1,873.50	\$ 928.27
Copying	Mary		\$ 29.00		-\$ 29.00
Lanyards	Robyn		\$ 30.00		-\$ 30.00
Tradition 7				\$ 394.90	\$ 394.90
					\$ -
			\$ 2,111.03	\$ 3,345.40	\$ 1,234.37 To GSO
					-

Our Al-Anon Experience

The Committee /Team:

Our committee comprised 8 in all - myself as Chair (NRBM), 2 Area Delegates, 2 Alternate Delegates, an Area Treasurer, an Alateen Coordinator, a younger member (a new GR). Having members in different service roles worked well when assigning jobs, i.e. the Alateen coordinator was responsible for the Alateen meetings, the treasurer picked up the treasurer role.

The committee team worked hard & were extremely generous in the giving of personal time energy & money/resources for this event.

I wish to acknowledge Julie our GSO office manager who fielded communications, & Rana ferrying keys & adjusting schedules to have us able to use GSO as our meeting venue, compiling & packing our substantial literature order & checking the returns back into stock. Also I noticed them helping out at the event. I thank those Board Members who were able to attend Convention & the Board for their support provided. Thank you too to the members who helped out on the Literature & Fundraising tables, the packing up on the Sunday.

Special thanks to Gillian who inspired me to travel up on Thursday, & stay on Sunday night. I was lucky to have her as roommate & with her relaxing & fun company I found her a great support. She & I were the team on Friday on our own setting up. She just slotted in when & where she saw a need. It was great to have the voice of experience close at hand.

The Preparation:

Scheduling meetings several months ahead (by from September right up to the last meeting on 10 January 16) & also a consistent time & day of week helped to ensure better attendance. Also the Secretary included all these future meeting dates on the bottom of the minutes. Meetings were monthly till September, then 2 per month. We had a break from before Xmas until 10th Jan, our last meeting- a Workshop day meeting with lunch at a local cafe. We completed with a 'walk through' of the event. This is where we visualise the whole event from arrival to departure. We used this process to check that we had not missed details or items we might need. We scheduled a team meeting on arrival at the venue & one for Saturday morning.

The Venue

The Millennium-Copthorne Resort at Waitangi, a most gorgeous place with rooms that view the lovely grounds, sunrise & sunset, & the beach. The hotel & staff provided every support possible & promptly.

Our AFG Meetings

The meetings are a first thing first because they are where we get to share our experiences. Themes were based on Al-Anon principles & were well-attended not only by Al-Anon members but also AA (& dual?) members. Our room had capacity for 80 plus room for our literature & fundraising tables. It was a lovely room although internal & with a sliding walls between the restaurant & also the passage. There was a lovely mural on the wall which perfectly suited with our theme.

Our AFG Sunday dawn meeting was our spiritual one -down at the beach where we could see the sunrise seated on plastic chairs which we took there. We created this as an extra meeting that did not coincide with any other meeting. I believe it was a first for NZ Al-Anon to have a dawn meeting.

The Relationships

With AA: The HPC Chair Sue & myself built a relationship based on communication, cooperation, respect & sharing that served us well for the 15 months prior to, during & after Convention. The AA committee was just 3 members with others assigned to specific tasks, registration, etc.

With the hotel: AA was their client & yet we were treated with the same respect, care & attention to all our needs wherever possible, which was nearly always.

The Decisions

We chose to respond to the AA decision not to have Al-Anon sharing in the **AA Spiritual meeting** as has been customary in the past, by accepting the invitation to attend the AA meeting & farewell, & providing the AFG spiritual meeting at dawn. This was based on the principles of cooperation with AA ("we should always cooperate with AA" Trad 6) & out of respect that we "are invited to share the program" (pg 120, AFG SM).&"it is well to remember that Al-Anon is present only by invitation." (GN3) I was asked to arrange an AFG meeting on the Sunday concurrent with the AA Spiritual one twice. Given that the program had been set in Committee months prior, given to attendees, signed off by AA (whose event it was) & funded by AA, I deemed it appropriate to decline the request. We had the choice to have our **Literature table** alongside the AA's. Having decided to have it in our room instead with our fundraiser table, I decided to stay with that. I suspect

that this may have cost us literature sales & exposure to some AA members, although one motive for visiting our room would have been removed. On consideration though the benefits were: attendees, committee & those manning the tables could attend all our meetings. This was more important as the meetings are where we share our ESH. Previously members have sometimes not been able to attend meetings through serving on literature tables. It was easier to provide support in our room; it meant that we had another attraction into our room for AA's along with our meetings & our fundraisers. The meeting attendance numbers support this - ref. pg1. Moreover I see the principle of attraction at work. Another benefit was that we were all together, making fellowship easy.

The Challenges

- The timing of convention with Xmas, New Year & NZ summer holidays making committee meetings hard to schedule. Having the break was good for all but would be wise to have another meeting just prior to Convention. This is something to be accepted.
- The AA made many changes & to their programme which meant we had to make changes too.
- The out of town venue with holiday time traffic difficulties & sickness meant the Friday set up meeting at 1.30pm did not happen. So there was uncoordinated & fragmented activity which was counterproductive at times. With hindsight I would have a back up meeting time set later & make it happen.
- Our room was not soundproof & was next to the restaurant, bar & passage through from the entrance resulting in noise at times. Air conditioning was not effective & we couldn't open the doors as it was too noisy & not private.
- Having a group of individuals works as a team vs as a group of individuals. This meant all taking responsibility for the whole event which achieves a very different result from each member managing their own particular role only. Mostly the committee helped out with other tasks as well as their own responsibility.
- I was unable to find local members to serve on the committee as there are only a few small groups up North. Those from the region registered later or were walk-ins - too late to be of use on the committee.
- Labelling the AFG pop up banners. We had 3 – one from GSO, one from Area 7 & one from Area 8. They are all different & fit differently into different bags.
- 2 of our committee suffered badly with migraines at convention meaning that we needed help to take over their tasks at times.
-

The Successes:

- We planned for abundance in many areas: our room had capacity for 80 people; we had many AFG Programmes printed (allowing for AA members to have one); the literature stock was the sales from 2015 & 1 more copy;
- Many people expressed their enjoyment of & pleasure in the event.
- Attendees loved the dawn meeting some of whom had been noncommittal about getting up so early.
- Great sharing & well chaired meetings.
- The venue was fabulous - enough to override the inadequate air conditioning.
- Committee members reported that they enjoyed Convention.
- The fundraisers were very successful in terms of quality & volume of sales + profitability. (all items had to sell at 100% mark up at least)
- It has been noted that some PO initiatives have been forwarded by communication at Convention, e.g. The police outreach in conjunction with AA. The double whammy

- here is that AFG gets to participate alongside AA.
- Good signage is helpful, i.e. large A3 size 'AFG Programmes' either side of the meeting room door, the 'Hard of Hearing reserved' signs, the 'Reserved for Latecomers' signs for back row seats.
- Inheriting signage & meeting format documents was most helpful. Thank you 2015 Convention. We too will pass ours on.
- Our Archives, which need to go electronic now. I have created an "AA Convention 2016" file to pass onto Convention 2017 chair & also to Archives as well as an entry in the hard copy folder.
- The 'Walk through' exercise at the last Committee meeting was helpful in terms of the team visualising what we would need to have & do to fulfil the event successfully.

Recommendations for future Conventions:

- Read and reread GN-3 Guideline- Al-Anon/ Alateen Participation in AA Conventions.
- The GSO float at \$100 we found to be more of a nuisance. The floats for fundraisers & literature were \$100 x 2 alone. We had the local Area fund our fundraisers. This was fine for this well-resourced Area. I think a more realistic convention fund would be \$1,000. Once established it would be used & repaid each year. Hence that would be a one off outlay. I suggest that the 9 Areas in NZ might contribute \$111.11 each.
- That we have, ready to sell, any books with quotes on the programme & those referred to by opening or closing speakers.
- Take care with choosing logos or emblems – that they do not imply affiliation with outside issues.
- Committee arriving a day earlier (when possible) would give better preparation & avoid stress.
- 'Go with the flow when working with AA'. Quote from 2015 Report.
- Delegate every task that you can. More tasks will appear.
- Use the pop up banners. They make it easy to find AFG.
- Organise plenty of relief help on the literature, fund raising & registration tables before Convention.

Suggestions for AA:

- That the Host Planning Committee might set up Archives recording their experience each year as AFG Convention Chair does. This saves "reinventing the wheel" & supports the (small local HPC of 3 in 2016) in managing a huge event. Many times the comments made were "You Al-Anons are so well organised". For me this always came back to our access to AFG's previous experience.
- The registration process is complicated for some people with accommodation booking often including some meals while other meals are on the registration form.
- Sometimes it depends on the venue type, i.e. hotel, school hostel, etc. It would be good for this to be as easy as possible as earlier registration makes easier planning.

Photos from Convention

Ata Tapu (Sacred Morning) – our Spiritual Meeting at Sunrise



Our Fundraising table



Our Flowers



Committee Reports

Literature Committee Report

Chris H.

NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook

Since the complete rewrite of the NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook in 2014 no suggestions have been received for significant amendments and very few minor amendments have been seen to be desirable. The 2016 review has concluded that no fresh issue is yet required.

The Literature Committee remains receptive to any suggestions from the fellowship which might improve the usefulness of the NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook which is an ongoing work in progress.

Alateen Police Check Form

Our Alateen Police Check form had to be abandoned to enable us to comply with the changed requirements of the NZ Police. A complex form was required and some effort was made to enable the form to be completed as simply as possible.

Other

Complete review of all of the contents of the KN17 and the various NZ guideline documents remains on the "To Do" list.

Committee Reports

NZAGSO Report

Rana S & Julie M

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. NZAGSO Volunteers are responsible for the picking, packing and shipping of literature orders for the fellowship. They also lovingly produce all the Newcomers Packs that are sold and prepare the monthly mail-outs. They also open the NZAGSO when the Office Manager takes annual leave. The NZAGSO would not be able to function without the essential input of the 12 volunteers. As there have been some changes in volunteer availability we have recruited new volunteers to work in the NZAGSO bringing in more fun and fellowship in to the office. We continue to be humbled by the generosity of the volunteers.

Literature

Literature continues to flow out to the fellowship from the NZAGSO. Recently we have been advised there will be a change to the postage to be paid from the 1 July 2016, we will keep a track on these changes.

We continue to run a regular book special including it in the NZ Al-Anon News changing it every two months to make literature more financially accessible to the fellowship.

Top Ten Book Sales for 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Item	Title	Number sold
B16	Courage To Change	83
B22	How Al-Anon Works	56
P92	Reaching for Personal Freedom	55
B06	One Day At A Time	53
B27	Hope For Today	40
P91	Blue Print For Progress New	29
B24	Paths To Recovery	19
P05	Blue Print For Progress	16
B04	Dilemma Of Alcoholic Marriage	15
B11	As We Understood	12
KN10	Newcomers Pack	779

Group Numbers

In NZ there are currently 87 groups with the following group closures and new groups

New Groups	Disbanded Groups
Whangarei Heads AFG	Petone Keep it Simple AFG
Kerikeri Serenity AFG	Whangarei Heads AFG
Kohukohu AFG	Kohukohu AFG
Hope for Today Wairarapa AFG	
Rata Street Alateen AFG	
Hastings AFG	

The breakdown of the groups is as follows:

	2016	2015	2014	2013
Al-Anon Groups	82	84	84	83
Groups focus on Adult Children	2	2	2	3
Alateen Groups	3	4	3	2
AIS	0	0	0	0
Loners	12	7	7	8
Institutions	0	0	0	0

Birthday Club

There are currently 26 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 has included a Knowledge Based Decision Making Papers on:

- reimbursement for mileage claims (which saw the rate remain at \$0.40 per km)
- potential of applying for a grant with NZ Post Community post
- a review of paid hours in the NZAGSO

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 110 Messenger subscribers (80 Postal and 30 e-mail). The whole mail out is sent to 199 with 99 being by post and 100 being sent by email.

Website

Currently the day to day maintenance of the NZ Al-Anon website (www.al-anon.org.nz) is done within the NZAGSO. During the year there have been a great many changes implemented. New functionality was provided in the members section of the website with the new Public Outreach tools being made available at the same time the whole look of the website got a refresh with the inclusion of the "Road Sign" as the banner (the picture at the top) to keep our public outreach message consistent. Security for the website was

improved with the implementation of a “botcha” to prevent the creation of spam users, making maintenance of the website much easier and the whole website more secure. While this was all taking place two new volunteers have stepped up to help with the day to day maintenance. Website maintenance takes some skill and experience and it has been great to see members stepping up in service to take on these tasks for the fellowship.

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. Members can gain access to the members section by firstly setting up a user name and then emailing NZAGSO with the details of their username and home group and they will be granted access.

Equipment

Equipment in the NZAGSO has been stable however a large projector screen that had never been utilised was sold to make more room in the office. A new voice recorder was purchased for use at Conference and a new hands free phone was purchased to make the work of the Office Manager much easier.

Committee Reports

Messenger Report

Patty J

I have carried out the editor's job for the messenger for nearly 3 years coming up in August. I looked back and my first edition was August 2013. I have enjoyed the challenge of putting it together and it has been therapy for my soul and a privilege to be able to put some of my own thoughts and sharing down.

I have been encouraged this 2016 year for the steady flow of sharing arriving through my email.

It certainly makes my job easier, and it is heartening to enter others stories from New Zealand. I trust that the messenger is relevant and it serves those who subscribe to it and the groups who receive it.

I thank the three people who have been perusing and checking the messenger before it is put to print. Love in Al-Anon Patty.

PUBLIC OUTREACH CALENDAR

Remember: We are all responsible to tell: Who we are • What we do • How to find us.

Use the full name "Al-Anon Family Groups" rather than just "Al-Anon"

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

August	Places of Entertainment – anywhere and everywhere. Leave posters or pamphlets at video stores, movie theatres, cafés or restaurants. A poster can be left on the inside of a toilet door. Visit www.coffee.news to add an advert in your area.
September	Magazines and Newspapers – participate in the FREE community advertising available, write letters to the editor. Write a response to articles you have read or topics in the Media. Send a copy of publications with Al-Anon Family Group articles to your PO person or delegate. Show gratitude by sending a letter of thanks to publications that have had Al-Anon Family Group articles.
October	Hospitals and Health Clinics – leave some reading matter, update or replace old posters. Include Church, Community and Whānau Health Centres; medical training establishments. 'Remember to Forget' a pamphlet in a place or magazine or leave 'Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2013' somewhere.
November	Cooperating with Professionals – visit Lawyers, Counsellors, Doctors, Spiritual Leaders, Police. Offer to speak at their meetings. Make new contacts, update existing contacts. Use suggested letters, literature and guidelines from the NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines (KN17). The 'Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Magazine' is ideal for waiting rooms, reception etc.
December	Poster Campaign – from letter boxes to supermarkets, car park drops to doctors surgeries, use your imagination. Ask permission, use local phone numbers, replace faded posters, include www.al-anon.org.nz . Put the 'Sad House' poster out to show.
January	Personal Outreach (one-to-one) – recognise a need in someone and share your experience, strength and hope. Attraction not promotion (be a good Al-Anon example). Meet them for coffee and take them to their first meeting. To lead another person from despair to hope and love blesses us in turn.
February	Cooperating with AA – communicate with the local AA Outreach person and offer Al-Anon Family Group speakers to accompany AA speakers during this month. Send a letter of thanks to AA for their time and cooperation with Al-Anon during the past year. Invite your local AA group to your meeting or visit theirs (don't show up unannounced).
March	Focus on Schools – check their library resources; offer books, pamphlets, tapes and videos. Offer Al-Anon/Alateen speakers for their classes on addictions, alcohol or social issues. Visit the counsellors, offer Al-Anon and Alateen information and literature with up-to-date contacts. Posters are useful for Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Universities. Pay to put an advert in their Newsletter. Suggest Al-Anon be on their list of 'Local Support Services' they supply to their students.
April	Radio Stations – Read and utilise the Media & Public Outreach Kit with CD. Fax your meeting details and use free community announcements. Respond to Talk Back Radio by sharing about your growth in Al-Anon when related topics come up.
May	Open Meetings (birthday month) – celebrate by telling your story at your meeting, at an AA meeting, at an open Public meeting or to a group of professionals. Explain what your life was like before Al-Anon, how you found Al-Anon and how it has helped you. Open your meeting to the public – use local paper to invite visitors.
June	Community Groups (prepare for displays in July school holidays) – Visit libraries, CABs, Sports Facilities, RSAs, Community Centres – ask where best to display Posters and Table Display cards to be most effective, and listen to their suggestions. Leave 'Sad House' bookmark in a book when returning a book to the library.
July	Other Recovery Agencies/Groups – offer Al-Anon Family Group speakers, ask if starting an institution meeting is appropriate for their facility, provide meeting lists and information, and donate the Al-Anon videos, tapes, books and pamphlets.

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

Board Appointments 2016

Board Chairperson.....	Sally-ann M
Alternate Board Chair	Chris H
2017 AA Convention Committee Chairperson	Melda T
Archivist (non Board)	Chris W
National Public Outreach Coordinator.....	Sally-ann M
National Alateen Coordinator.....	Vacant
Editorial Chairperson (non Board).....	Patti J
General Secretary.....	Arnold H
Literature Chairperson	Vacant
Treasurer	Chris H
Executive/Budget Chairperson.....	Rana S
Northern Regional Board members	Robyn M
Central Regional Board members.....	Vacant
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 2017 8 – 11 June 2017

Theme : Everyone Everywhere

Venue: Blue Skies Conference Centre, 12 Williams Street, Kaiapoi.

Convention 2017 Theme: Paths to Recovery

Conference Goal for the year. 2016/17: Improving our Communication.

Motions and Trials

Motions

Motion One – That the Conference agrees to a Board member attending the World Service Conference in 2017.

Motion Two – That the Conference adopts the new GN30 AI-Anon New Zealand Archives guideline.

Motion Three – That the NZAGSO 2015/2016 annual financial accounts be accepted.

Motion Four – That the NZAGSO annual 2016/2017 budget be accepted.

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 AI-Anon an household name.	2018
2014	That the role of General Secretary for AFGNZ be for a trial period of six years.	2020

NZ Al-Anon Family Groups Conference Members 2016

General Secretary	Arnold H	1st year 1st Term
National Alateen Coordinator Board Chair	John B	3rd year 3rd year 3rd Term
Southern Regional Board Member	Melda T	1st year 2nd Term
Board Member IAGSM Delegate	Joan G	1st year 1st Term
Executive Chairperson	Rana S	1st year 1st Term
National Public Outreach IAGSM Delegate Central Regional Board Member Alternate Board Chair	Sally-ann	3rd year 1st Term 2nd year 1st Term 3rd year 1st Term 2nd year 1st Term
Board Member Literature Chair Treasurer	Chris H	2nd year 1st Term 2nd year 1st year 2nd Term
Northern Regional Board Member	Robyn M	2nd year 1st Term
Archivist	Chris W (Non Board)	3rd year
Editorial Committee	Patty J (Non Board)	3rd year
Conference Chair	Teresa H	1st year 1st Term

AREA DELEGATES

Area One	Karen B	1st year 2nd Term
Area Two	Sarah R	1st year 1st Term
Area Three	Lynne C	3rd year 3rd Term
Area Four	Rowena B	1st year 1st Term
Area Five	Anne F	1st year 2nd Term.
Area Six	Helen P	1st year 1st Term
Area Seven	Sam Mc	3rd year 1st Term
Area Eight	Tracy B	3rd year 1st Term
Area Nine	Dawn C	2nd year 1st Term

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.