

NZ Al-Anon Service Conference

10-13 June 2021



NZ Al-Anon General Service Office, PO Box 68124,
Victoria St West, Auckland 1142, New Zealand

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me
The Serenity to
accept the things I cannot
change,
Courage to change
the things I can,
and Wisdom to know
the difference.

Te Inoi Mahurutanga

*E te Atua tukua mai ki a au
te mahurutanga ki te whakaae ki ngā
mea e kore nei e taea e au te
whakarerekē,
te kaha ki te whakarerekē i ngā mea ka
taea e au,
me te mātauranga e mōhio ai au he aha
te aha*

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Thursday

The conference was opened with everyone joining in the Serenity Prayer and a warm welcome from the Conference Chair.

Conference members were introduced to their Buddies who will support them during the Conference. The group then discussed, with the help of an object in the middle of the room, how we all see things differently but not one of us is wrong, we are just looking at it from a different perspective. This will be the experience throughout the conference with many discussions taking place.

Members discussed the Spiritual Goals of Conference with their Buddies then came back to the group with their thoughts and insights.

Members then enjoyed a meal together. After Dinner, we met for orientation with the Board Chair. Delegates then met for discussion and selected the following two discussion points to bring to the conference floor on Friday for discussion.

1. Communication
2. Over commitment



Friday

Board Chair Welcome to Conference

Julie Wilson

Kiora, good morning everyone.

I sincerely welcome each of you to the 51st New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference. We are so blessed here in New Zealand to be able to thankfully meet face-to-face after such an extraordinary year of disruptions and world-wide pandemonium due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Since our last Conference, the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board has welcomed three new members, Paula, Kirsten and Cheryl, unfortunately Cheryl has since resigned from the Board. After the Board meeting yesterday, we have approved Marguerite as our newest Board member.

We give a warm welcome to Paula, Kirsten and Marguerite, plus Clare our newest Delegate from Area Five and Aley who is attending as the Alternate Delegate for Area Nine.

On reflecting on the theme of the conference: *Action is attrACTION – there is no growth in the comfort zone*, I was reminded of a speech I heard recently about how comfortable we can get in our own shoes.

I have a very comfortable pair of running shoes, I have a hoarding obsession with them, and I am finding it very difficult to discard them. As you can see the shoe has a hole and lets in water and sand when I walk on the beach, they are glued together.



It is hard for me to accept that they are no longer fit for purpose. But they are so comfortable, they are even the right colour, I have done some great walks wearing them and there is a wonderful memory that goes with where I bought them. If I throw them away, am I discarding what I have achieved when wearing them and the memories that go with them?

Is it wrong or disrespectful to the manufacturer to discard them? It will not erase what has been achieved wearing them, but they are worn out and split, they just don't fit my purpose, where I am and what I want to achieve today.

But hey, maybe a new pair will give me blisters, I will have to be patient and take the time to get the feel of new runners. How will I look to others with a new way of achieving something that I had done differently in the past?

I have learnt so much and must not forget what I have learnt from my comfortable ways. And it doesn't discard what has been achieved, but what kind of example am I showing in service if that is all I have to offer – the old comfortable ways of doing things.

So, I got myself a new pair of runners. Now I realise that there is so much to achieve but just one new pair of runners isn't going to get me there. I not only need to discard the old shoes, I need to step out of my comfort zone with some passion and confidence into the kind of shoes I need to achieve new plans and visions of growth.

These new runners will be great, faster and just as colourful,
I can use my hikers to get over a bump or climb a hill along the way.
My classy shoes – well – they might just give me respect to be supported and able to be heard.
My jandals on the other hand will keep me casual enough to meet people where they are.
These snug boots will ensure I can be comfortable giving a warm and kind welcome.

Many people prefer the comforts of the past to the risks of the future but if you wait for their support and approval, you'll never do what your Higher Power has instructed you.

Let us find our place, find our role, use the shoes that fit the purpose, make a plan to grow. ARE YOU READY?

On your mark, get set, Go!!! Are you up for it? Let's get ready for ACTION.

With love in fellowship and service
Julie W, Board Chair



Conference Voting 2021

NZASC Voting Procedure

Quoting the New Zealand Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2020 (page 100)

- ▲ The Conference Chairperson will explain the voting procedure at the beginning of NZASC.
- ▲ All Area Delegates have voice and vote.
- ▲ NZAGSB will choose by ballot NZAGSB members to a number not more than half of the number of Area Delegates and those NZAGSB members chosen will have voice and vote. Other NZAGSB members not so chosen will have voice but no vote.
- ▲ NZAGSB members balloted out at one NZASC automatically become eligible to vote at the following NZASC, the remainder are then balloted.
- ▲ Warranty Three: That all decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible by unanimity, i.e. unanimity is two-thirds (2/3rds) of those members voting.
- ▲ A suggested voting procedure is by written ballot for personnel and by show of hands for principles.

2021 Eligible members with voice and vote:

- ▲ All 8 Delegates PLUS Area 9 Alternate Delegate.
- ▲ The four voting Board members are: Sam M, Liz A-S, Kirsten W, Julie W.
- ▲ Host and observers in attendance have voice and no vote. They may make announcements and comments related to the position they hold.

Spiritual Goals for Conference


Why have goals for the Conference?

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

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

These particular goals

Focus on the spiritual aspect of our Conference encourages us to take responsibility for the partnering relationship of the members of the Conference and our personal conduct. This goal supports practising the aspects of Knowledge Based Decision Making, open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation, with all decision-makers having common access to full information and existing in a culture of trust along with our practice of presuming goodwill.



Spiritual Goal 1
"That the spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail through mutual respect and acceptable conduct of its members."

Spiritual Goal 2
"Conference members will understand the purpose of Conference, the relationships within Conference and be able to articulate Conference decisions."

Spiritual Goal 3
"Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, and we will presume goodwill."

The above Spiritual Goals for Conference were mutually agreed upon by all in attendance who confirmed to uphold them throughout Conference.

Workshop - Action is attrACTtion: there is no growth in the comfort zone

Lucy A and Robyn D

Definitions of Action

- ▲ A fact or process of doing something, typically to achieve an aim
- ▲ A thing done, an act
- ▲ Usually over a period of time

Definitions of Attraction

- ▲ The action or power of evoking interest in or liking for something or someone
- ▲ There is a feature that makes something interesting or desirable
- ▲ Quick personal activity

We sang the song composed by 'Little Old Lucy' with 'Little Billy' the ukulele from Gore.

Al-Anon, Al-Anon

Attractive and fun and heaps to learn

We need it, we need it

The Al-Anon program is for us

Program, program

We have it here

Now do the rest

Just do it, just do it

You'll learn a lot and find yourself

12 steps, 12 steps

It's for us all as Lois knew

We're grateful, we're grateful

We work the Steps and follow through

Higher Power, Higher Power

We pray to you and lay it down

You know us, you know us

You guide us through, you make it work

Sponsor, Sponsor

A friend and guide to see us through

Please phone us, please phone us

We learn from you to help us grow

Action, Action

Get up and go and do the rest

Recovery, Recovery

Action is the key to attractiveness

Action is the key to Attractiveness



Readings

Outreach is Based on Attraction, rather than Promotion

"It has always been Al-Anon's approach to carry a clear and simple message about our program of recovery – that is: to let people know what we are, what we do and how they can come into contact with us. We do this in many creative ways while avoiding high pressure tactics which distort our message of hope or bring us into public controversy. We attract interest in Al-Anon Family Groups when we communicate what our lives were like before we came to Al-Anon, what we found in Al-Anon that helped us and what our lives are like today. In error, we would be promoting Al-Anon if we offered promises, guarantees, personal advice or gave the impression that we are the experts who know what is best for all families and friends of alcoholics."

"Al-Anon/Alateen Service manual 2018-2021" page 122

SERVICE THROUGH THE CONCEPTS

The Twelve Concepts of Service

'Carrying the message, as suggested in the Twelfth Step, is Service, Al-Anon's third legacy.

Service, a vital purpose of Al-Anon, is action. Members strive to do, as well as to be."

"New Zealand Al-Anon - Alateen Service handbook 2020" page 15

"AL-Anon is attracting when it tells people why we are, what we are, what we do and how; we let them know we are available if and when help is needed."

"Pebble in the Pond" page 8 (published 1976, revised 1990)



Acronyms for ACT

Acting Carefully Together

Accept Create Trust

Always Capture Today

Alateen Caring Trust

Aley Committed Tremendously

Achieving Courage Together

AA Cooperate Together

Ask for Courage to Talk up

Acronyms for ACTION

Always Cooperate Totally In Openminded Negotiations

Feedback from Group Activity

① Individual Action

- Attending ^{open} AA meetings
- our fellowship encourage us
- our similarities, carrying message
- Attending local where community meetings through council
- meet all sorts of organisations
- networking carries message
- swap cards/contacts
- Encourage group members to attend open AA meetings / social events
- offer support to group members
- Help members to act in an - live meet
- help - help with tech support
- help at AA meetings too
- Be an example of attending fellowship events - include others
- make it fun - active participation
- doing something different

② Group Action

- Community Radio Ad spoken by a group member
- Group Inventory
- Social occasion - fellowship
- Newcomers Meeting
- Assembly Hosting
- Speaking at Intergroup
- Hosting Intergroup online
- Encourages Service
- Leaving a gap in service positions when no one steps up
- Group 'succession planning'

③ Area Action

Skill - Caring & Sharing

Orange -

laughing -

Arguing -

Amazing food

Task Force - Alateen:

Encourage members to attend Assembly meetings

Pop up Initiatives. AA

Pop up Banners. Al-Anon

Open Meetings with Alateen. AA:

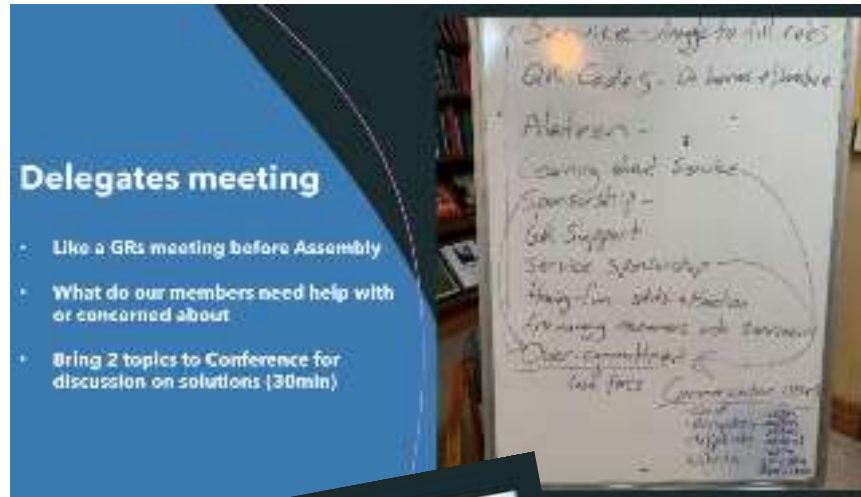
Speaker Meeting

Al-Anon - Speakers at AA meetings.

Summary of Delegates Meeting

Jason T

Area Three Delegate gave a recap from the Thursday night Delegates meeting explaining what happens in the meeting which went for over an hour. The following two topics were brought to the conference floor for discussion.



Communication

- ▲ Communication through fellowship is not great.
- ▲ There was delay in communicating important Board role changes.
- ▲ More people are needed on the Board – Task forces could help to share the workload.
- ▲ Use TELEPHONE don't wait for emails etc.
- ▲ Current communication throughout the fellowship – this is 'what happens:'
 - ❖ GSO News
 - ❖ Board Newsletter
 - ❖ Area Assemblies
 - ❖ GR and Delegate reports
 - ❖ READ THEM – LISTEN TO THEM – SHARE THE INFORMATION !!
- ▲ Don't keep secrets – when finishing service let people know as soon as possible don't wait (phone/text/email).

Over commitment

- ▲ Too many vacant positions in the fellowship. It is not attractive seeing overworked Board members. Tell fellowship, Groups need to know how serious this is.
- ▲ It is difficult to leave some Board positions VACANT. What needs to be done Vs no one to do it. Trustees can only do a certain amount but do it regardless of personalities. The only solution found, is, we need more people to share the load.
- ▲ It is a struggle to fill roles, people do not want to commit.
- ▲ Do a workshop on succession planning at an Assembly - ask to put names to something they could help with.
- ▲ Use a Service sponsor to help learn on the job.
- ▲ All levels can encourage newcomers into service – partner them to start ie: sitting next to new member that is chairing for the first time at a meeting and as they move up roles.
- ▲ ‘Boot Camp’ suggestion to encourage people to learn about service being attractive.
- ▲ Use action/attractiveness to attract more members. Having fun skits is attraction.
- ▲ Task force – extra group of those in Area to do service for a short time to learn new roles.
- ▲ Have a river of service ‘start it’ then keep it flowing through the structure from the beginning (build bridges if needed).
- ▲ It is supportive having Delegates on Selected Committees.

Discussion

- ▲ QR codes on banners and literature can be done on Area material approved by the Area
- ▲ Talk around Covid and what was going on
- ▲ Alateen meetings, which comes first the meeting or the Alateens?
- ▲ Suggest a paid position for web oversight. The Literature Committee has been asked to make Web Oversight guidelines for this role
- ▲ The website is working well at the moment

Area Delegate Reports

Area One

Lucy A

This is the start of my second term as the Area One Delegate.

Areas:

Area One covers from Oamaru south taking in Dunedin, Queenstown, Alexandra, Gore, Maitua and Invercargill. In total 12 AFG meetings, all with GR's. A new meeting has started in Invercargill during the year making five AFG meetings available in this city.

There are three approved AMIAS members waiting for meetings.

Highlights:

- Serenity Weekend at Pounawea is still one of my highlights. We have so much fun, and laughter and we were so grateful that we were able to have it at all considering last year with Covid19. Our amazing Area One fundraising events are always well supported and still went ahead last year. I was delighted that e-Messenger has begun a trial and love the fact that a member stepped up and we still have our beloved Messenger.
- Maitua AFG hosts a monthly Movie Night at a member's mini-hall, where we bring a pot-luck tea, have dessert at half time and enjoy the movie and fellowship.
- The PO Orientation Day at SIT in Invercargill was a fun day. We had a wonderful eye-catching table and chair arranged with lots of visitors coming around to chat. May have been the free lollipops that attracted them!!! As well as the free bookmarks, of course.

Public Outreach:

Wahoo!! Area One has a PO coordinator and we are very proud of this! It was my goal for last year. It has taken a huge amount of encouragement but Area One appointed a member with heaps of innovation and love for leading us forward in this area. She has already stepped up in February and hosted an informative day at SIT (Southern Institute of Technology) and has placed informative banners at the local library and hospital. I have been having fun trialling a car rear windscreen sticker. I am up to Trial No 6 and posting comments on the Delegates' WhatsApp page. Many AFG's are continually reaching out to the community with on-going PO ideas and activities.

Assemblies:

Not many because of Covid19. Gore (Aug), Alexandra (Nov), Southern Area Assembly Invercargill (March), TEAM Event Dunedin (March). I did really enjoy the Zoom meetings during Covid19 Lockdown.

Group Visits:

I have visited all 12 groups in Area One which covers a large geographical area.

Many of the groups host shared speaker meetings with AA participation, movie nights, open meetings, fund-raising nights. I also attend our famous Area One Serenity Weekend at Pounawea each year in October. We had the privilege of a Board member attending last year.

TEAM Event:

Area One held a TEAM Event in Dunedin on the 27 February, 2021, the day before Covid19 lowering of levels again! Three Board Members arrived in the South and it was a huge privilege to host them. The Dunedin AFG Committee did an exceptional job of hosting. Thank you to all involved and attending.

Positives

- Awesome planning by the Dunedin TEAM Committee.
- The Serenity Prayer sung in Maori set the scene for the day.
- Preparation, Presentation and Content from the Board members was great and resulted in lots of participation and learning from the 26 members present.
- Great advertising. Invitations sent to many areas, on the website, GSO News and WhatsApp. Three members from Area Two, one member from Area Three arrived and a travelling AFG member popped in after checking out the website.
- A relaxed, friendly, harmonious feel to the whole day.

- Social interaction was great with good food (lunch & Tea out), good jokes (!!!), good fundraising, pertinent questions asked, and great hospitality offered by the Dunedin TEAM Committee members.
- The technical capabilities of a couple of Dunedin members were very good.

Negatives

- Time control was tricky as we did run over our programme allocated times.
- A few technical hitches which were remedied, thankfully.
- Greater attendance of members would have been reassuring.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Weekend event would allow for less time pressure.
- Members come prepared having their Service Manual.
- Greater Time Allowance for questions.
- Handouts preferred by many.
- Allow longer time for the Board Members to share their story and their journey into Service.
- TEAM Event a compulsory Tri-Annual Event in every Area may help improve Service enthusiasm.

I wasn't able to attend the Virtual Convention in January but this TEAM Event in Dunedin was wonderful for us all. Thank you to the Board members who travelled to the South for this event.

Concerns:

Our on-going concern of linking Board News etc through to GR's has improved dramatically. We improved this by getting updated email addresses at every Area Assembly Business Meeting. However, it is always an issue despite how vigilant we are. I am always concerned about the drop of membership, but our Area is doing everything possible to promote Al-Anon Family Groups. The rest is over to our Higher Powers.

Concerned also that no one is stepping up to take on the RBM position in the South. As an Area we are continually promoting this as a great commitment to Service. Thanks for reading and listening.

LIAS,

Lucy.....Area1 Delegate

Update and Comments

- ▲ One of the Queenstown meetings has closed.
- ▲ SIT informative day was cancelled twice because of Auckland lockdown but we get asked every year.
- ▲ The Area decided to follow AA's example of a camp and planned a 'How Al-Anon Works' book study which was fantastic and another is planned for 2022.
- ▲ On 18 May we had a service role meeting. New and longer members came with their manuals and questions and had them answered. All went away knowing more about their roles and a notetaker made notes that were shared throughout the Area. Three positions were filled. The Area service is very active with young enthusiastic Committee members.
- ▲ To be able to visit all the groups, I plan, plot out a time in my diary and take someone with me.
- ▲ For SIT informative days we set up a table, with handouts, make it attractive, balloons, bunny, make noise, lollipops.
- ▲ After last conference where I gave an outgoing sharing, the Area asked me to do a second term as the Alternate Delegate was not in a position to take up the role of Delegate. After careful consideration I agreed and will only do this for six years in total. I declined becoming the SRBM but will consider this in the future.
- ▲ The Area is open to Alateen, we promote it in the community and at AA events with Al-Anon participation. We set up a trial Alateen meeting with a month of meetings, but the kids moved away. AMIAS are staying updated.
- ▲ Our area members are working the Steps, all have sponsors and service sponsors.
- ▲ With no SRBM we are asking people 'have you thought about? What would you do if? One newer member mentioned their goal was to be on the Board. Being enthusiastic about service and advocating for positions.

Area Two

Jessica H

Area Two covers the region from Kaikoura, through Canterbury down to Timaru.

We have had a decline in the number of groups. We went from 11 face to face groups this time last year down to 7 currently. We also have three online meetings which are running well.

Groups:

Of the seven groups, five groups have GRs. Three of the groups are very strong and have good numbers in attendance with members who are passionate about their recovery. The other two groups with GRs are smaller meetings and there has been a decline in numbers. The two without GRs are doing ok. One is Timaru and the other is a weekly meeting in the city.

Overall, the number of members whether they be new or old timers (as they like to be known as) fluctuates from having 16 people in a meeting down to 2 people,

I get around to the groups regularly and make contact with Timaru group two times a month by phone. I offer my assistance to the GR and the groups when the group has a problem and I remind them of this.

There are three online meetings: two during the week at 6.30pm and one on a Sunday morning at 10am. Members join the other online meeting in other areas.

Assemblies

The Area holds four assemblies a year. These meetings are held at one venue and the groups then come together. This works well with the groups. We have managed to fill some roles that had been vacant. The Area Chairperson and Literature Co-ordinator roles were filled in August last year, and the Treasurer's role was filled at our Assembly in March. The Secretary position is due to roll over in August this year, so we will be looking for a replacement; we do have someone in mind for this. Area Public Outreach Position is still vacant.

At Area meetings we get the business out of the way and then we have fun. We have an Al-Anon quiz, we share great food and we also have a sharing meeting. At our last assembly in March we reflected on the past year and had a meeting on self-acceptance and self-care.

Public Outreach.

One group has a 'bring and buy' on the first meeting of the month.

Other groups do the pamphlet drops to doctors' surgeries, libraries and community centres.

As an Area we send Brochures to the District Court House and Hospitals.

Highlight:

I attended the TEAM Event held in Dunedin, with two other members of the Area committee. Area Chair and Literature Co-ordinator and myself. There were three Board Members at the event, and we filled our cups up with Recovery. It was a great day, we enjoyed recovery and it was lovely seeing familiar faces, it was awesome. Thank you Area One.

Summary:

I have stepped down from Area Chair, Area Literature and am focusing on myself as Area Delegate. I have loved my role however it has not always been easy. This is when I rely solely on my Program, I am guided by my Higher Power, I am learning every day to take one day at a time also. Self-care. I am growing.

Update and Comments

- ▲ *I got into this role by being shoulder tapped. I love the position of Delegate but I have not done the GR role.*
- ▲ *The serenity weekend did not happen in May, not enough interested largely due to COVID.*
- ▲ *No one outside of AA attended the AA Assembly.*
- ▲ *To get all GRs together I phone before an Assembly and have a face-to-face, this is easier because of difficulties with technology for some. Gives opportunity to bring discussion points to the assembly and ensures everyone in the Area knows the details for the Assembly.*
- ▲ *Every month, groups have a bring and buy. They bring posters or CAL leaflets then they take them away and drop at doctors or libraries etc.*

- ▲ *Two groups are struggling to get GR's. I was working closely with one before COVID and then it became too hard to continue and one GR is not fully committed and misses meetings.*
- ▲ *There is no Alt Delegate. I am working on succession planning and trying to get someone into this role.*
- ▲ *To cope with no SRBM, I have been able to reach out to Board members for support.*
- ▲ *The Area is always open to having Alateen, we have one AMIAS at the moment.*

Area Three

Jason T

Area 3: Area three covers the lower North Island south of Levin, across to the Wairarapa, down to Wellington.

Groups: We have 11 Groups in our Area, covering all days of the week except Friday. Those Groups are Many Voices One Journey, Lower Hutt Strength and Hope, Principles Above Personalities (Step 11 Meditation), Paths to Recovery, Courage to Change, Kapiti Wednesday, Wainuiomata AFG, Steps by the Sea, Saturday Serenity, Rocket Recovery Speaker Meeting and Al-Anon Works – Paraparaumu.

Highlights: The Rocket Recovery Speaker AFG meeting hosted a 1st Birthday celebration virtual event which included Al-Anon, Alateen and AA speakers from New Zealand and Australia, as members from both countries had been attending Rocket Recovery during lockdown. The topic was 'Celebrate Family Recovery', and that is what we did.

The 2021 virtual AA Convention was a success. Three Area Three members participated on the AFG committee, with seven others from our Area also participating in various service activities. The key to success was in the effort of providing clear documented information for chairs, speakers and tech hosts and holding pre-event rehearsals. Of the 300 total registrations, 100 were from Al-Anon with several overseas attendees.

The Area 3, 4 & 5 Serenity Weekend went ahead in May at the Forest Lakes campground.

I have been attending open AA meetings, the welcome I have received has been overwhelmingly supportive and has been a wonderful way to carry the Al-Anon message before and after the meetings. Recently I was introduced to a newcomer by an AA member, we had a coffee meeting and he later attended his first meeting.

Public Outreach: In October a public meeting was held at a local community centre. The speakers were a new Al-Anon member, a member with several years and a dual member. This public meeting resulted in two news articles being written.

A new outdoor PO banner has been sourced using the road sign image. The number of phone calls per month has gone from 3 to 10 which could well be attributed to the recent PO efforts.

Area Assemblies: The July, November and March Assemblies have had 97% Group Rep attendance. Each assembly starts with a workshop on a topic decided by the Area Committee to make our assemblies attractive to more Group members.

To support the host Group a team comprised of the Area Delegate and Area Chair now liaise with the host Group to assist them in ideas and formats for workshops based on our collective experience. This support has been well received, we set this up to address the fact that our Area has a lot of new and inexperienced GRs and members who have never hosted Assemblies before.

The GRs meeting is held 4 weeks before the Assembly which has been very well attended and has helped with good attendance numbers in the Assemblies. This meeting has also been vital in encouraging and supporting our new GRs.

Group concerns: Eight of our 11 GRs are new, most with no prior service experience and less than 2 years in the program which equates to many of them having not having fully completed their step work, their tradition work nor do they understand or apply the Concepts which are integral to service work. I am investigating the idea of running a boot camp

for our GRs to assist them in service and in their understanding and application of the Concepts of service.

One Group sought help from the Delegate for a member that was challenged by the pronouns in meetings specifically the reading of the legacies. I was able to discuss with them and help with understanding the importance and background of all three legacies, I supplied a previously written KBDM from another Group, and lead them to the P46 "World Service Conference Summary" 2014 which talks about pronouns. The Group decision after some KBDM research was for the one member who had the problem with pronouns to pass on reading them in the meeting rather than modify them.

Summary: Most of our Area committee members are also new to their roles, our new Chairperson though has a lot of experience in all service levels. The absence of a CRBM has been and will continue to be a challenge, and I have been nominated as the Delegate to be the AA liaison. With a lot of new GRs and Committee members, our Area focus will be on nurturing their growth and experience in service so that they are well supported in service to participate, to be good leaders and to strive towards the AFG ideals of being a vital and forward reaching fellowship.

Update and Comments

- ▲ *Serenity weekend went ahead in May ☺ There were four workshops – I am Responsible, Boundaries, Self-Care and The 36 Legacies in your Relationships. We had music and dancing and lots of fun. We had 48 attend.*
- ▲ *With new GRs, some have not done the Steps, do not have sponsors and it's their first time in a service position. I investigated the idea of a Boot Camp. It is going ahead for these GRs, Alt GRs and aspiring GRs to learn what is required. It will be four hours long, held at the Area Delegates home.*
- ▲ *Boot Camp is responding to request for help in a fun way. Unsure of future occurrences at this stage.*
- ▲ *Boot Camp is attendance only, not available virtually because it requires willingness to participate in service and coming together in fellowship face-to-face makes it very special.*
- ▲ *There have been reports of Alateens attending some Al-Anon Family Groups and some reaching out to the Trial Australian on-line Alateen meeting which has been a great support for them.*
- ▲ *We have our first re-registration of an AMIAS in a long time. We are caught in ... what happens first? Do the teens come or do we setup a meeting and wait?*

Area Four

Margaret J

Area Four runs from Gisborne to Dannevirke. The main cities are Hastings, Napier and Gisborne. The towns are Norsewood, Dannevirke, Waipawa, Waipukurau and Wairoa. The Area has two groups. Napier group have their meetings on Thursday at 7.00pm to 8.00pm at the Trinity Church Clive Square, Napier. Hastings Group meetings are held on Wednesday at 6.45pm to 7.45pm in St Andrews Church, Hastings.

The Hastings group is quite strong with about 10 people attending meetings. They keep to the guidelines for meetings. The Napier Group is smaller with about 6-7 attending meetings. We have one lone member. Meetings are kept to the guidelines. Both Groups welcome newcomers, with some staying.

Public Outreach

We have the pull up Banner, and have that displayed out in areas where the foot traffic is plentiful. At the moment it is in the foyer of the Hastings Hospital. Area 4 is also in the process of getting another one, with a different picture on, our PO person is working on that. We hope that we can have them both displayed at the same time in different places. As both banners will be a little different we will swap them around from time to time.

The Area now has a new Public Outreach Person. I will get her in contact with the National PO person.

The Area has just held their Assembly on 27 Feb 2021. There were 10 members attending. The Theme was Healthy Al-Anon family group meetings. One of the sharing meetings was on Sponsors and the other was Healthy Meetings. They were well accepted, and some members would like to do another like that. There was a lot of learning achieved. Questions were asked which there is not enough time for during regular meetings.

We were invited to the Central Area AA Assembly held in Hastings in November last year. Good attendance there too. I took along a selection of Al-Anon literature to sell.

Update and Comments

- ▲ *The Area has a new PO person and the Napier Group now has a PO person. Thank you, it is great to have members step up for this service.*
- ▲ *There are no AMIAS in the Area but I am going to put my hand up to become one myself. I have considered it for a while and a call from nurse enquiring about Alateen has helped me make up my mind.*

Area Five

Clare O'C

Area Five covers Taranaki, Whanganui and Manawatu.

Groups

There are five groups in Area Five; Palmerston North Thursday AFG, Whanganui Steps & Slogans, Hawera AFG, New Plymouth Hope AFG, New Plymouth/Ngāmotu Growth & Recovery AFG.

Highlights

The Hawera AFG continues to meet regularly with membership of just two. This is truly great commitment to Al-Anon with one person taking on an Area Committee role and the other being the Group Rep.

Coming together as an Area at Assemblies and connecting with each other continues to be a highlight. I'm sure the upcoming Serenity Weekend that has been organized by the other Areas in the Central Region will also be a highlight.

Post Covid, Zoom has become a feature and our Palmerston North Group includes Zoom participants in their weekly meeting. This supports those in distant rural locations and those for whom transport is a barrier. A positive outcome from the virus.

Not from our Area but the eMessenger is a highlight as it can be accessed by so many more members and I thought it was great.

Public Outreach

We do not have a Public Outreach Coordinator. Each group takes its own responsibility for having posters up, pamphlets delivered, newspaper and radio ads.

Area Assemblies

The July Area Assembly had only eight members present with five apologies. The October Assembly had thirteen attendees and one apology. Our planning for the March Assembly was at a date that meant not everyone was able to attend. It was also the first Area Assembly with everyone in new roles so there was some confusion. However, this has provided good learning for future planning, always listen if members are committed elsewhere and make a date that suits. There were various numbers of attendees as two left early and Whanganui members came and went at different times. The recorded number of attendees was ten with three apologies. Assemblies are held in Whanganui as the central location but next Assembly I will have the location on our agenda. Taking turns at hosting in our home towns gives other groups the chance to travel together and that is often strongly unifying. It will also give attendees an opportunity to experience all of the Assembly. It is worth a discussion.

Group Concerns

Our Area Committee members all changed roles at the same time. This may work as we are not big in numbers and members slip from one role to another. However it also causes confusion especially when assemblies are set at dates that don't work for everyone. A suggestion to stagger the change of roles as per page 61 in the NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook 2020, will be on our next agenda.

One of our Group Reps expressed problems at keeping members focused at service meeting times and suggested a general malaise in the group. Hopefully a visit soon to the group and reference to Taking a Group Inventory p 55 NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook 2020 will assist.

There seems to be confusion as to role duties. Again reference to NZ Al-Anon Service Handbook 2020 will hopefully attend to that concern.

There has been a continued problem with setting up internet banking for the group but it has been reported that it is soon to be resolved.

The Incoming Chairperson resigned at the date of takeover, but we hope to have a solid Area Committee very soon and a former Chairperson has stepped into the breach in the meantime.

Summary

We are still a functioning Area with good support from those very well versed in the programme. I'm sure with the New Zealand Al-Anon-Alateen Service Handbook and the Service Manual we will continue to grow in the programme individually, as groups and as Area Five.

Ngā mihi nui,
Clare

Updates and Comments

- ▲ *It is great to read and listen to the reports, makes me feel like our area is a million miles behind.*
- ▲ *When we say the Serenity Prayer we say it in both languages acknowledging the tangata whenua to support them in their struggles.*
- ▲ *With the support of Area Three Delegate, the Central Areas will come together for our Assembly with the AA Assembly in July. It has been a great support with the Area Three Delegate being the AA Liaison which has filled the gap of no CRBM in relation to AA.*
- ▲ *The groups are small and not enough members to sponsor a face-to-face Alateen meeting so like the idea of online Alateen meetings.*
- ▲ *The Palmerston North Group will continue as a hybrid meeting to support older and rural members unable to attend in person.*
- ▲ *I will bring up the idea of Assemblies moving around the Area at the July Assembly to give more opportunities for groups to participate.*

Area Six

Karen J-C

Geographical Area:

Area Six stretches from South of Auckland, Coromandel to Turangi.

We currently have five active groups:

Tauranga Monday Night AFG	Monday 7.00pm
Hamilton Courage to Change AFG	Tuesday 3.30pm
Waihi AFG	Wednesday 10.45am
Rotorua Geyserland AFG	Thursday 7.30pm
Tamahere Hamilton Sunday AFG	Sunday 7.30pm

Lone Members:

Tokoroa & Whitianga

Alateen:

We do not currently hold Alateen meetings. Our current AMIAS have been renewed and we have welcomed a new one. We were unable to offer Alateen at the AA Northern Area Assembly in November 2020 but will be able to at the 59th Annual AA Convention in Rotorua January 2022

Highlights:

I have truly appreciated the NZ Delegates meetings held on Zoom. It helps to keep focus and connection instead of having to wait until the next conference. Having the Alt Delegates attending is helpful too, for them and Delegates alike. Thank you all for your sharing, support and encouragement.

Although there were some challenges from our part to the process of Al-Anon participation at the AA Northern Area Assembly it was an amazing day of fellowship and connection. There was some heartfelt feedback about one of the evenings opening meetings speakers and how her sharing positively impacted a member from another fellowship greatly. We have since been able to have a conversation with her about this. You never know how what you say will affect another, a true blessing: we are honoured to have this outcome brought to our attention. The AA committee were incredibly welcoming, encouraging and supportive.

Area 6 are holding another Serenity Weekend 19-21st November 2021 in Papamoa.

The 59th Annual AA Convention is to be held in Rotorua in January 2022, their Host Planning Committee have been very inclusive and now the Al-Anon Board has appointed Paula B to role of Al-Anon Chair for this event it is full steam ahead! I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Public Outreach:

Area Six has had 300 postcards printed and they have been given to the groups to distribute. Some members are popping them in letterboxes when they go for walks. We had a literature stand at the AA Northern Area Assembly and one of our members had printed 100 copies of the literature list with prices and pictures, extremely helpful.

Area Assemblies, workshops and numbers attending.

Group numbers continue to fluctuate, we have seen a decrease in members attending our Assemblies. Some members have been challenged by Covid19 and it has brought change that has made it hard for some members to keep attending meetings. Some prefer, and some dislike, Zoom meetings. Most groups continue to get and welcome newcomers, some stay, some do not. We have had service position holders unable to attend consecutive meetings which has resulted in a call for committee discussions and assistance from service sponsors, the Handbook and a Board member.

I would like to thank the Northern Regional Board member for her time on the Board and her help, support and encouragement and wish her well in future adventures!

Yours in Service
Karen JC

Updates and Comments

- ▲ The postcard distributed had the bottle image on them. The members doing the letterbox drop really enjoyed the activity but no feedback on new members.
- ▲ A request for the Area to purchase two pullup banners was declined as two members in the Area own them. It would benefit the Area PO if they were owned by the Area.
- ▲ I gave out a PO pack to each group which was well received – contents were letters to doctors and health professionals, bookmark, Serenity Prayer card, Just for Today, Sponsorship etc. These were well received as many members did not know these existed.
- ▲ The Area now has two AMIAS and we are able to offer Alateen at the up-coming AA Northern Area Assembly in Cambridge in July. Thank you to the Area 7 & 8 assistance with this.
- ▲ We have a Serenity Weekend on 19-21 November at Papamoa Beach, the theme is 'Enjoy the Journey'.
- ▲ I will send final poster for the Area 7 & 8 Highlights and put on the Delegates WhatsApp.
- ▲ I am on the AA Convention Committee and appreciate any help that is offered.

Area Seven

Robyn D

Area Seven covers from the Bombay Hills south of Auckland to the south side of Dominion Road in central Auckland. We have 12 groups, 1 of which is an Alateen group and a monthly intergroup. We have now taken our intergroup temporarily to online meetings, twice over the last year. Our most recent one, a group conscience was undertaken, using the tools of the programme. Members worked together, each attending to their task at hand, and within days an online intergroup was arranged and attended by 31 members.

Alateen

Our Sunday Sharing Alateen meeting has been quiet over the summer months. Area Seven has appointed a new Alateen coordinator, with growing Alateen membership in the area being her focus. A new roster system has been trialled for the AMIAS. They will be doing two meetings in a row, so that one AMIAS each week would have facilitated the last meeting, allowing some continuity for the Alateens. The new coordinator has asked each Al-Anon group, as Al-Anon includes Alateen, to support our Alateens by speaking about Alateen meetings at meetings and encouraging members to bring their teenagers along, to use Alateen literature (CAL) in meetings, and to encourage members to step into an AMIAS service role. She has proposed a task force with a time frame to achieve growth, along with the Alateens involvement. On-line and pop-up meetings hold possibilities. We maintain a prudent reserve to support our Alateens attending Convention and AA Assemblies and Area Seven temporarily set up a separate online account for the Alateens at the recent NAA assembly with ongoing discussions planned.

Highlights

As Delegate, I feel well supported and celebrate a great sense of unity and fellowship working within area 7. While nothing will ever be compared to our face-to-face meetings, we have had members step up to provide opportunities for members to learn new technical skills in these challenging times. This has played a huge part in allowing our fellowship to thrive. We have just participated in our second AA Northern Regional assembly via an on-line format, with both Al-Anon and Alateen meetings in the full programme. Area 7 "pop-up meetings" have been our greatest form of evidence-based public outreach. Area 7 initiated 3 "pop up groups" with 1 closing. NZAGSO and the area have benefited with members filling group and area roles, purchasing literature, and making donations. All this information has been collated by the "pop up Coordinator" who was present at our February assembly. All of this was generated by the members who have been involved in this service for over four years. We are now encouraging members to step into this service role, in order to generate some rotation in the pop-up service roles.

Group activities

Group activities have continued over the last year despite the challenges faced. There have been a few fund-raising events and also members meeting before or after meetings for fun and fellowship. A few task forces have been set up to generate review and potential change. This allows members to participate in service, without the three-year commitment of many of the services roles. One group was faced with a sudden and unexpected cancellation of its venue. A task force was set up and a new venue found. A fundraiser was held in the second week. Another group is talking about holding a newcomers meeting. So watch this space.

Public outreach

I am very excited to inform you that we have a newly elected Public Outreach Coordinator. She provided her first Public Outreach report at the February assembly, and asked for each group to confirm a Public Outreach person by the end of February. A face-to-face meeting is planned for March to discuss outreach, have fun and share ideas. She has also suggested that the alt Group representative step into this role if the role is not filled by other group members.

Area assemblies

Area 7 has worked together to encourage and support members into service roles across the groups and in the Area Committee. We have just elected three-quarters of the area committee members. Our chairperson was re-elected for another term, along with myself and the alt delegate. This has enabled some stability within the Area Committee while encouraging new blood into the service structure. The Group Representatives have stepped up into their roles with much energy and enthusiasm, bringing many questions from their group with them.

Area Seven Concerns

The NRBM steps down in June. There are no likely nominations from Area 7 at this stage, though there are perhaps seven people qualified for the role. Adapting to on-line meetings has caused many members concern regarding anonymity and computer literacy. Access has prevented members from participating.

Updates and Comments

- ▲ *The Popup groups timing depends on how quickly the group becomes a viable self-supporting group. This is discussed as a group. They are reviewed and a group decides whether to stay or Popdown. The success has been the individual growth of the group, attracting both newcomers and members who have gone on to do services roles in the group, step up into services roles for the area and assisted with technical support in moving to online meetings last year. There have been 3 pop up groups, one pop down and two groups have remained and are now no longer a "Popup" group'.*
- ▲ *The Area 7 & 8 Highlights are a monthly email out to Area 7 & 8 members as a form of communication advising upcoming events, groups fundraisers and advertising service roles. There is a Highlights Editor from Area 7 and Area 8 who are members of each Area Committee. Area 6 is invited to contribute, and the Area 6 Committee receives them.*
- ▲ *I do not think the Area deals with Group Representatives not showing up to the Assemblies very well and requires some discussion. I have got some ideas from being at Conference to take away with me.*
- ▲ *The Newcomers meeting starts on the 27 July at 6.30 pm and I understand it will go for up to 45minutes and then members will be invited to stay on for the usual Tuesday evening meeting. It is to run for 6 weeks. It covers the meeting format and the Al-Anon Principles.*

Area Eight

Susan B

Area 8 covers the area of Auckland west of Dominion Road and the rest of the North Island from the Auckland Harbour Bridge to Cape Reinga.

AL-ANON GROUPS

- 12 Al-Anon groups and two Alateen groups - 14 in total. The Kaitia Al-Anon group has closed.

ALATEEN

- There are nine AMIAS approved in Area 8, with four more being processed.
- Red Beach Trust Alateen has had no attendees this year and Browns Bay Alateen has had one to two teens attending occasionally, but neither come regularly.
- After interest from members with teens was expressed during the 2020 Covid lockdowns, a KBDM document was produced looking at the pros and cons of setting up an online Alateen meeting.
- The committee agreed to trial an online Alateen meeting via Zoom; Red Beach Step Study as the sponsor group for Red Beach Trust Alateen, agreed to their Alateen meeting going online. Our new Alateen coordinator is in the process of organising the logistics. Once we have enough AMIAS on the roster the trial meeting will be launched.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A Recovery Day in October 2020 at Corban Estate Art Centre attended by approximately 20 members with the theme 'Creating Recovery'. Besides wonderful speakers and heartfelt sharing, the focus of the day involved working with clay and finished items were later glazed and fired.
- Members from various groups stepped up and organised online meetings for their members during our lockdowns and they proved to be a lifeline for us all. I'm very grateful for their expertise and initiative during uncertain times.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- The Big Gay Out in February 2021 was a great success with a roster of Areas 7 and 8 members manning our stand.
- Members speak regularly at the Community Drug and Alcohol Service and occasionally at The Retreat.
- Members attend AODTC (Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court) in Henderson to offer support and literature to family members and friends of offenders.
- We now have a dedicated mobile phone which receives calls from the 0508 number. Members are taking turns to keep the phone and answer calls. Quite a few calls have been received recently.

AREA ASSEMBLIES

- We hold four assemblies per year. Attendance is approximately 20-30 members. A GR meeting, chaired by the Delegate, is held for 30 minutes beforehand to share information and discuss issues and concerns.
- Members are enjoying the skits acted out at assemblies which get Al-Anon information across in a fun and memorable way.
- Not all groups have a GR or an Alternate GR but we keep encouraging groups to be proactive about encouraging members into service.

AREA CONCERNS

- At our last Assembly in February, not enough GRs were present to form a quorum for voting purposes. This meant that two new committee members could not be voted in. Encouraging GRs to attend assemblies, or to send an Alternate GR is an ongoing battle!

On the whole, Area 8 is functioning very well and Angie (Alt Delegate) and I managed to visit most groups, despite the lockdowns. We have a full committee that meets regularly, has robust discussions and makes well-reasoned decisions. We practice 'succession planning' to encourage members into future service on the committee with support. We hope to teach GRs to use this practice within their groups. Our monthly Intergroup Speakers' meeting continues to be very popular. The 'Areas 7 and 8 Highlights' continues to provide current information and up-to-date meeting lists to members. Finally, we are in the process of organising a Serenity Weekend to be held on August 20-22 at St Francis Friary, based on the theme 'Seeking Serenity'.

Updates and Comments

- ▲ The Area Alateen Coordinator is working with the Area Committee to establish an online Alateen meeting. There are recent changes in the WSO guidelines since the KBDM was carried out, that will be looked into. The day is still to be decided and we will ensure it does not coincide with other NZ Alateen meetings. It will be open for Area 8 Alateens as a trial and may eventually be open to others.
- ▲ We have new AMAIS from Kerikeri and they may start an Alateen meeting. The Area could not vote in new Committee members at an Assembly because there was not a quorum. The Area Chair and Delegate emailed or talked extensively to many to let them know and voting was able to be done at the next meeting.
- ▲ Groups can vote a GR in for the day to give a report and qualify them to vote. Focus will be on groups to encourage group members to attend the Assembly if GRs cannot attend.
- ▲ We collaborated with Area Seven and formed a committee to work on getting health practitioners to put a link to Al-Anon on their websites.
- ▲ The Area has paid for a premium Zoom Account used for Committee meetings and will be used by the online Alateen.
- ▲ In the absence of a phone coordinator a phone was purchased to receive calls from the 0508 PO number. It is being passed around different members. It is easy to top-up so it always has minutes available, members no longer use personal phones to call people back.
- ▲ A roster is required so the national PO Coordinator has names of members answering the phone to keep in touch re issues, queries and data compilation.
- ▲ Serenity Weekend coming on 20-22 August at the St Francis Retreat Centre, Hillsborough, Auckland. The theme is 'Serenity doesn't come by avoiding the difficulties in life, but by walking through them'.

Area Nine

Aley M (Alternate Delegate)

Area nine ranges from Hokitika on the Westcoast through Nelson/Tasman regions to Blenheim in Marlborough. We have meetings in Greymouth, Hokitika, Nelson (2) Richmond, Blenheim and Golden Bay.

HIGHLIGHTS

We had the Serenity weekend at Marahau, next to Tasman National park early October. We had an awesome storm on Saturday night and rain on Sunday, which is always a good opportunity to light a fire. We had some amazing meetings, sharing and fellowship. We share the organising of these Serenity Weekends with Blenheim, the West Coast and Nelson. This time it was the first time we combined our Serenity weekend with our Assembly and it was also the first time two groups were involved in the planning. Richmond was in charge of the Business meetings and Nelson Monday planned the Serenity side of things. This worked very well.

Another exciting highlight in our area is the growth in meeting attendances across the whole area. Some members have relocated from other areas. This has been a real gain for Area Nine as they bring much Experience, Strength and Hope with them. There have also been newcomers and returning members being welcomed to our meetings.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

We had a workshop with a brainstorming session on Public Outreach at our serenity weekend. The members were then asked to take a list of potential ideas back to their meetings, and to report back to the Hokitika Assembly on their PO. One group reported back that they had set up a committee of three members at the beginning of last year and were following up on a list of organisations to approach. They have also stocked up on PO resources for this. A few more members in the Area have also joined the PO WhatsApp group and are finding this very inspirational.

AREA ASSEMBLIES

Other highlights, as always, were our Area Assemblies. We have three each year and rotate venues among the West Coast, Blenheim and Nelson. This means travel twice-a-year for all of us, and we stay overnight. We carpool and end up having a meeting on the journey there and back. Saturday night is a time to get together with good food, fellowship and FUN. Our first Assembly after lockdown was hosted by Blenheim, our second was combined with Serenity, (see above) and our third was in Hokitika at the end of March. This was attended by an average of 20 members over the two days. We had 11 members at our business meeting and four at the sharing meeting which is held at the same time. More members attended our shared lunch after our meetings.

At the business meeting in November, it was decided that a KBDM paper be written on the viability of keeping a Literature person actively in service and keeping literature available for sale at Area Level. This was presented to the business meeting in March. The Area voted to discontinue this service deciding it was no longer needed.

Also, in November the meeting decided to put a survey out to the GR's, for presentation to their meetings. The content was to decide whether we keep the present format for Assemblies or change it.

Most groups decided to maintain status quo of rotation around areas with gatherings lasting two days. Most were also open to a change in format. The GRs are taking this information back to their members to discuss. They will bring their suggestions back to our next Assembly for consideration.

AA ASSEMBLY WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION

At least one of our members attended the online AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation in January and really enjoyed it.

CONCERNS IN OUR AREA.

At present I cannot think of any concerns in our area.

Updates and Comments

- ▲ *There is no dedicated PO person for the Area but the Delegate has taken part in the role discussing it with groups.*
- ▲ *The literature service has been disestablished at the moment due to ongoing personal issues of the member in service.*
- ▲ *Every group is responsible for their own literature.*
- ▲ *The area is open to Alateen.*

Discussion on NZAGSB and Selected Committee Reports

Julie W

- ▲ We now have a member employed as a minute taker for the NZAGSB Meetings that relieves the General Secretary of this task.
- ▲ When Board members resign prematurely the Board Chair investigates the reasons and has been satisfied with the members personal reasons for leaving. Regret is expressed at losing them and succession planning is discussed at every Board meeting to mitigate such losses.
- ▲ Every attendee of the conference has the opportunity to input ideas into the conference agenda by completing the evaluation form which is considered by the Conference Committee and the Board. Delegates that are seconded onto the Conference Committee have further input.
- ▲ Good personal leadership is maintained when working together on committees with trust and delegation to do the best they can.
- ▲ The holes in the service structure appear to be because the progression of delegates have been unusual. The progression of the delegate is to have a year off and then ideally roll into the next role, as Area Chair or RBM. When the Area 3 Delegate went straight onto the Board it left gaps at this level. The CRBM resigned early which guarantees gaps at later levels waiting for the next qualified members.
- ▲ Areas have to take some responsibility, Concept 1. This situation belongs to NZ Al-Anon groups rather than just the Board.
- ▲ The General Secretary said he personally did two years at Area then onto the Board. He had a good sponsor who helped. It is a good opportunity to encourage people to step up. Service needs to be attractive and fun.
- ▲ To fill current gaps it may have been expedient to get someone to do two terms but perhaps one Delegate could do one year extra and perhaps by then the Alternate may be able to step up.
- ▲ When the tasks need to be done and no-one is there to do them the fellowship suffers with over commitment and communication breaks down.
- ▲ In the handbook there is simple succession planning on how service positions can be managed i.e. not to roll off service positions at same time 3 on 3 off. There is a process for each person's role to filter down and is easy to follow. Area level to delegate to board level. Delegates can take this plan for gap filling to their groups so where we are now does not happen again.

Serenity Prayer in Te Reo Maori

The conference had a session to practice the Serenity Prayer te reo Maori. The audio that will be placed on the website was played as we pronounced it along with the pronunciation. The version may not be altered as it is the copyright of the NZ General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous which must be acknowledged when it is used in print. Many groups are using this together with the Serenity Prayer in English at their meetings.

English	Te reo Maori
The Serenity Prayer	Te Inoi Mahurutanga
God grant me	E te Atua tukua mai ki a au
the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,	te mahurutanga ki te whakaae ki ngā mea e kore nei e taea e au te whakarerekē,
courage to change the things I can,	te kaha ki te whakarerekē i ngā mea ka taea e au,
and wisdom to know the difference	me te mātauranga e mōhio ai au he aha te aha

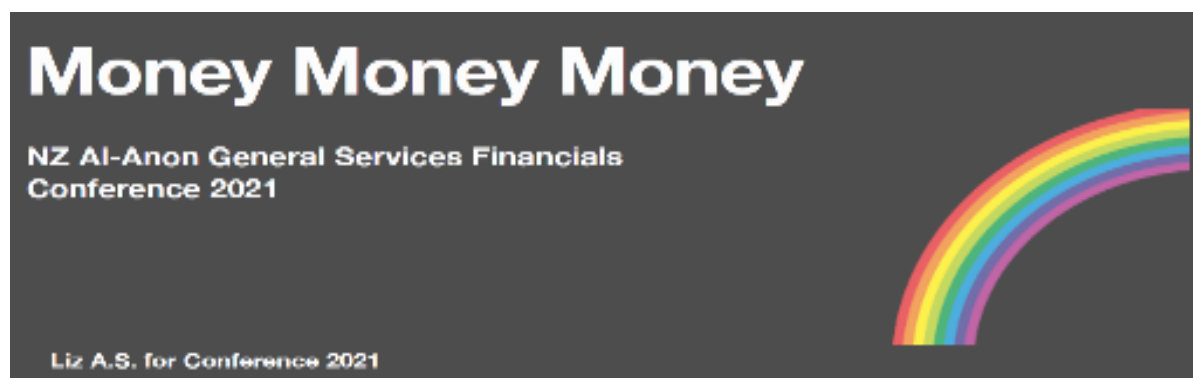
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Presentation - Annual Accounts, Budget and Reserve Fund

Liz A-S

Annual Accounts

Refer to the Treasurer's Report to 31 March 2021 later in the Summary.



Discussion

- Expenses were way down. We budgeted \$10,000 for the NZASC in 2020 which was virtual plus, the 2020 IAGSM Conference was virtual, the IAGSM payment was refunded.
- We have a new auditor – now called a reviewer. Our new reviewer has asked to have a statement of equity on the balance sheet. There have been some adjustments in reporting to Conference. This covers the fact that we do not receive public funds and we complete a form for the Charities Commission office.
- The ample reserve is in the best position it has ever been in. Overall a positive result but Covid messed with us, and we expect this to change next year, this result may not be repeated.

WHAT DOES GSO NEED MONEY FOR?



- GSO is a clearing house
- Group Registration
- Support our Sites on Annual
- Imports Literature
- Be a Librarian
- Pay for and market the website
- NZ AI-Anon monthly News
- Tell the number
- Out of the Manager

NZAGSO ACCOUNTS 2021

THE FACTS:



INCOME	
UNIQUE	STRAVE
FORWARD	STRAVE
CONTRIBUTION	STRAVE

EXPENSES	
CONTRIBUTION	STRAVE
FORWARD	STRAVE
UNIQUE	STRAVE



ACCOUNTS 2021 ANALYSIS



- DONATIONS:**
 - Up a little from last year
 - Considerably more than Budget (2020)
 - PROFIT** on Literature sales was over 50%
- EXPENSES:**
 - Reduced with the Green
 - Considerably less than Budget (\$20,490 due to Covid)
 - AMPLE RESERVE** - IN THE BEST POSITION IT COULD BE - THANKS TO COVID-19

Motion #1:

"That the 2020/2021 annual financial accounts be accepted."

CARRIED

Budget

Refer to the proposed Budget 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 later in the Summary.

BUDGETED DONATIONS



- Every year we budget \$1.70 per member, per week
- Every year the membership numbers decline
- Our group donations for the last three years have been \$58,834, \$54,889 and \$51,288 do you see a pattern?
- How does your Group and Area make donations to GSO?

SUSTAINABILITY

What does the future hold for Al-Anon NZ?



- Right now, we look like we are sitting on a big pot of money
- The Board have tried a stock option
- What if our membership stays the same?
- What if our membership continues to decline?
- What can I do about that?

Discussion

- ▲ We are having a service crisis at the moment, previously we have had financial crisis.
- ▲ Al-Anon traditionally has been more likely to react to crisis than plan for the future.
- ▲ We need to say to our groups we don't have dues and fees, but we do need Al-Anon to be supported.
- ▲ We ask for \$1.70 but hope for more. How much money have we put into other forms of help in the past before we found Al Anon. How much do we want this to work? So how do we each contribute?
- ▲ Please take back to the groups that we have an issue, we have a budget set from an estimate of donations from groups based in the past, it is hard to forward plan without knowing what we may actually get. Faster flow of money will help GSO.

Motion #2:

“That the 2021/2022 annual budget be accepted.”

CARRIED

THINGS TO TAKE BACK TO YOUR AREA...

Hot Topic? 

- NZAGSO STILL needs money
- We made a profit!
- Just over half our personal donations were contributed by one member alone, without this our situation would be very different.
- Diversify a positive result – but Covid has messed with us...
- Any questions?

THINGS TO TAKE BACK TO YOUR AREA...

Hot Topic? 

- NZAGSB (The Board) asked for Group's and Area's to please budget Donations to NZAGSO
- We ask for \$1.70 per member, per week to come to NZAGSO
- Please consider an Automatic Payment (cashflow)
- There is a spiritual solution so lets know about that in our Groups and Areas and be prepared
- Any questions?

Workshop - Sponsorship and Leadership at Work in Service

Sam M and Karen J-C

“Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism - an acid test. There are always constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.”

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 V2, page 196 Bill W's essay on 'Leadership'.

“It is clear to me that Service Sponsorship is the very backbone of our service structure in New Zealand. Without the wise experience, strength and hope shared from our Service Sponsors we would be weaker as a structure. On my worst days, my Service Sponsor lends me his courage to get me through the next service challenge. He reminds me to seek a spiritual solution and to look for the ‘facts of the matter’, not to be distracted or disheartened by my feelings. His calm and consistent example in service shows me how to apply the Concepts in my daily life.”

(International Al-Anon General Service Meeting 2018, page 41 “Service Sponsorship” by Sally-ann M., New Zealand (Aotearoa)).

Service is putting love into action

Sharing in a meeting
Opening rooms and setting up
Greeting newcomers
Making tea and coffee
Chairing a meeting
Do the Steps for personal growth
Being a Delegate
Show gratitude and encouragement
Public speaking about Al-Anon
Connecting members with text and making phone calls

Being on Area committee
Sponsorship
Being a sponsor and/or service sponsor
Being an AMIAS
Public speaking about Al Anon
Public outreach
Serving outside your group
Leading by example
Doing public outreach
Carpooling, sharing travel

Attributes of Leadership in Service

Modelling what service is and different types
Know the guidelines and follow them
Showing enjoyment in service
Do service at all levels
Using the Concepts
Being supportive
Being positive and encouraging
Modelling being wrong humbly
Really listen carefully
Encouraging newcomers into service
Asking for help
Being a good communicator
Being willing to learn
Being open minded
Being honest
Stepping up to service
Being flexible not rigid
Accepting responsibility for one's actions
Being accountable
Having a vision

Tells the truth
Friendliness
Stickability
Inclusiveness
Walk the walk and talk the talk
Uses constructive criticism
Uses spiritual principles
Giving freely
Seeking experience, strength and hope
Lead by example
Encourage participation in service roles
Being supportive
Weigh up other opinions and viewpoints
Being an example in the roles of service
Being kind and patient
Bring up topics that need to be discussed
Tolerance
Being able to challenge the process
Compassionate and kind

Attributes of Sponsorship in Service

Being a good listener	Becoming a service sponsor in the first place
Ask clarifying questions	Experience insides of service
Open minded	Steady non-judgmental
One step at a time	Gentleness
Nonjudgmental	Knowledge and kindness
Know guidelines	Being understanding and available
Doing lots of research	Nothing is a problem
Understanding	Open mindedness
Tolerant	Inspiring
Being present and available	Reassuring
Being willing to give and receive and ask for help	Encourage finding solutions in literature
Action	Willingness to help
Sharing experience, strength & hope	Encourage me to be a service sponsor
Knowing guidelines and structure of Al-Anon	Willing to share and encourage
Refer to literature	Having clarity
Pointing out CAL literature points	Encourage me to find answers with guidance
Helping people find their own answers	Holding me accountable
Setting personal boundaries	Supports not instructs
Being nonjudgmental	Listen fully to understand
Accepting people for where they are at	Clear boundaries re availability
Challenging sponsees with their defects	Encourage and support
Respond to questions rather than constantly giving advice	

Workshop Activity

Members discussed issues or conflicts in service where they had used leadership skills and with the help of a service sponsor, have worked out a resolution or not. Some useful suggestions:

Take problem to business meeting	Use ESH or your service sponsor
Come alongside a member to chat	Ask for help from Area Delegate
Being honest in a business meeting	How to discuss and challenge 'dominance'
Trusted servant – represent meeting	Chairman's choice – use Concepts, fear of change
Are you H.A.L.T?	Check body language
Be open-minded	Use Slogans
'You may be right'	Group inventory leading to group conscience
Use 36 principles at business meeting (have a format)	GR could encourage members to attend additional meetings

Saturday

Workshop - Harmony in Abundance – dealing with conflict

Liz A-S and Jason T

Friday started with a workshop on Harmony in Abundance – dealing with conflict. They ran a fun opening act highlighting a conflict (though Jason could not stop smiling) and then surprised the attendees with a gameshow format of “Jeopardy conflict resolution”.

Two teams competed for points by answering questions on different conflicts using recovery program-based solutions and tools. Gameshow music was playing, and extra bonus points were allocated for running skits of the spiritual tools in use.

The teams were formed by asking attendees to organise themselves in order of their time as a member in Al-Anon Family Groups. Teams were allocated players alternating one by one from youngest to oldest member in the program. The longest-time member was selected as a special guest judge alongside Liz as the other judge.

The members participated with great enthusiasm with lots of noise, laughter, acknowledging and appropriately using Al-Anon literature to find solutions to the conflicts presented.



NZ Public Outreach Survey Results

This is what we discovered:

We participate in PO:	Yes 6	No 1	No answer 2
We have an Area PO committee:	Yes 2	No 5	No answer 2
I have read the WSO PO online tool: P-90	Yes 5	No 2	No answer 2
The Best of Public Outreach:			
I encourage others to read and use	Yes 5	No 1	No answer 1
The Best of Public Outreach:			



Our most recent PO as an Area was:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Banners up at SIT (Southern Institute of Technology) ▲ Trial Car Sticker ▲ Lois Birthday Celebration ▲ The Doctor's Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Big Gay Out ▲ Printing 300 bottle postcards for members to distribute ▲ Pull up banner at an addiction centre
It was a success because:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Feedback and questions from general public ▲ Innovative different celebration - games, recordings and recovery questions ▲ Up to 90 Local GPs contacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Practiced attraction in the form of painted rocks which drew Interest and questions from the public ▲ We purchased a second pull up banner

My favourite PO tool is:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ My blue car and AFG logo on board ▲ Hairdresser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ AA Cooperation (Tradition 6) ▲ Informing professionals about AFG

How many groups in my Area are using the NZ road sign and bottle image PO tools?					
a) some	4 Areas	b) none	0	c) all	1 Area
d) what are they?					0
How are they using them?					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Libraries, Doctors, Police stations ▲ High Schools, Newspapers ▲ Signs at meeting venues ▲ Community flyers ▲ Pull-off tabs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Outdoor large canvas sign ▲ Pull up Banner ▲ Posters ▲ Putting literature in letterboxes, magazines, books in cafés 				

Using 'The Best of Public Outreach' what idea would you most like to work on for your next Area PO?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Newcomer's meeting ▲ New Pop-up meeting ▲ Print media i.e., magazines, newspaper editorials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Spread the message that PO can be EVERYONE'S service

The most successful PO I have ever seen in my Area was:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Orientation Day with handouts and sweets ▲ Participating at AA Assemblies and Conventions ▲ Using our pull up banners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Encouraging groups to do PO and report back successes
It was a success because:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Eye Catching display ▲ Displaying our pull up banners at a Police Station, Hospital and an Addiction Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Carrying the message to the AA fellowship and their friends and families ▲ Looking excited and engaging with the crowd

Discussion:

- ▲ Contact doctors surgeries to add Al-Anon Family Groups onto their websites as useful links.
 - New member came to Sunday Sharing meeting after their doctor sent the link to them, no paper involved, but a follow up required.
- ▲ Reminding members to use “Al Anon Family Groups” and to include “Alateen”.
- ▲ Area 7 Newcomers Meeting (Tuesday Nights) starting 27 July 2021 for 6 weeks.
- ▲ New Pop-Up Meeting planned to start in Onehunga by September or October this year. Call to Area 7 and 8 to attend this pop-up group.
- ▲ Members coming to meetings through the pop-up meeting were 51 from Ellerslie Courage to Change, 24 from Remuera, Reaching for Personal Freedom.
- ▲ Encouraging new members to step up to take pop up meetings.
- ▲ Need to encourage someone to pick up role for speakers to Bridge program and retreat. Need a meeting with the organisations to form an outline of what they want from us.
- ▲ Encourage newcomers to attend intergroup meetings and newcomer meetings.
- ▲ Stuck lollipops in AA meeting with “For very special Al-Anon members” written on them.
- ▲ Gave business cards to hairdresser who’s given the business cards to employees.
- ▲ Alcohol and Drug Court. Area 7 and Area 8 participate in this service at court. There is a roster of members. After the court session, members are allowed to approach family members to provide literature and support.
- ▲ Public outreach materials that fit into supermarket free advertising wall with the website and phone number. New posters with a QR code.
- ▲ With no CRBM, Area Three has created an AA Liaison person. This helped with the coordinating with AA public outreach for combined events.
- ▲ Public Outreach is about getting “Al-Anon Family Groups” name out there, not necessarily bums on seats.

Presentation - Literature

Kirsten W and Chris H

Kirsten was joined by Chris H, a member of the Literature Committee and presented the activities, explained changes and answered questions before motions were actioned.

- ▲ Conference decision in 2019 agreed to transfer the KN-17 to the New Zealand Service Handbook. The GN-12 (Group Secretary/Treasurer) was omitted from the list in the 2019 motion to remove it from the KN-17 therefore the below motion #3 authorises this.
- ▲ The committee is reasonably confident the New Zealand Service Handbook will be ready to approve at the 2022 NZASC. Conference will then decide whether to discard the KN-17.
- ▲ Handbook is expected to go from 116 pages to 126 pages.
- ▲ The handbook will continue to be available free as an electronic copy – searchable for individual words and phrases.
- ▲ To assist with printing, links will be available to electronic copies which can be downloaded and printed. It is possible to copy from the Pdf into Word for printing of forms. A printed copy is still available to purchase from GSO for \$10.
- ▲ The committee has been asked by the Board to Look at guidelines for the role of Website Oversight. This will be taken to the board then come to 2022 conference for approval.
- ▲ Two outstanding areas for the handbook still to be implemented are: The outcome of the KBDM for the Trial eMessenger and whether the Editorial Chair role will remain in the NZ handbook and the Boards request for guidelines for *Website Oversight* role.
- ▲ Appreciation and round of applause was given to the present and past Literature Committees. They have given a significant amount of time and impeccable wisdom to this service.

In reference to the Informal Literature Committee Report later in the Summary.

Motion #3:

We propose that NZASC 2021 formally approve that action (point 2).

CARRIED

Motion #4:

We consequently propose that the best approach is to include in our Handbook hyperlinks to the WSO guidelines wherever significant adaption is not strictly necessary (point 3).

CARRIED

Motion #5

In each case we recommend to NZASC 2021 that the above guidelines be removed from the KN-17 and reference to it be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document (point 4).

CARRIED

Motion #6

We will amend the handbook to remove reference to “P90” and retain reference only to ‘Best of Public Outreach’ (point 4).

CARRIED

Motion #7

That the NZASC 2021 approves removal of the following guidelines from the NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines (KN-17) and the deletion of reference to each of those guidelines in the KN-17 Contents document (point 7).

CARRIED

Presentation - KBDM for The Trial eMessenger

John B

Background

At the September meeting of the Board following the receipt of the Editorial report on the Messenger and the resignation of the Editorial Chair, it was agreed that the Messenger be suspended, and the fellowship be given the opportunity to make submissions on whether the Messenger should continue or not. The General Secretary was to complete a KBDM paper on the Messenger.

1. What do we know about our members (and prospective members) needs, wants and preference relevant to this issue?

- Messenger subscriptions:

Messenger Subscriptions – for period March to March *2020 figure as at 20/02/2020		2020*	2019	2018	2017	2016
Postal Subscription	Group	29	26	32		
	Individual	47	44	56		
Total		76	70	88	85	80
Digital Subscription	Group	5	1	6		
	Individual	38	29	29		
Total		43	30	35	34	30
Total Subscriptions		(119)	100	123	119	110

- Messenger shares:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Conference Summary reports. Not enough data available. Numbers could be inaccurate as months may overlap.		66	75	?	?

- Following the September Board meeting the Board Newsletter updating the membership on Board activities included the following questions:
 - Does the fellowship wish the Messenger to continue Yes/No?
 - If yes are you prepared to help Yes/No?

2. What do we know about our resources and our vision for our fellowship that are relevant to this issue?

- At the completion of this KBDM paper, feedback on the questionnaire had been received from Areas 3, 7, and 8 and two individual members.
- There was a consensus from the members surveyed that they would like the Messenger to continue. The members who replied wished to “maintain our own New Zealand flavour” (Area 7) and the main value of the Messenger is “reading New Zealand specific stories and sharing about recoveries” (Area 3).
- There was a desire to change the format, suggestions that an electronic format could be used, 37% of the current Messenger subscription are for the electronic version. Another suggestion was we could use a blog for this purpose.
- It was also suggested that the frequency of Messenger could be reduced e.g. bimonthly/quarterly to make its production more manageable.
- I received individual and group feedback that they had submitted sharings to the Messenger, and they were not used. One member has sent 6 sharings to the Messenger in the last 12 months that remain unpublished. Another member wrote to me as General Secretary that she had submitted 3 sharings and none had been published in the Messenger. (My reply is in correspondence folder.)
- Two members have indicated an interest in assisting with the continuation of a newsletter.
- Attached to this KBDM is a proposal by Renée S. to trial an electronic Messenger Newsletter produced by an editorial committee of up to 5 members, the proposal is to have a virtual trial with issues produced from January–May 2021 inclusive. The virtual Messenger during the trial period would be produced free to the membership. If this proposal is accepted, they have requested that unpublished sharings sent to the Messenger be made available for consideration for publication in the virtual Messenger.

3. What do we know about our “culture” and “environment” that is relevant to this discussion? Will our decisions be consistent with our principles, policies and legacies? What are the implications of our choices? What are the pros and cons?

- a. Concept 4 Participation is the key to harmony – the Messenger has allowed our membership to share their experience and hope with the wider fellowship. For Messenger to continue requires shares from more than the minority of the Areas (only three of the nine Areas said yes to supporting Messenger).
- b. The NZ AI-Anon – Alateen Service Handbook 2020 page 88 – 92 sets out the NZAGSB responsibilities of the Editorial Committee.

Pros

The Messenger provides an opportunity for our New Zealand fellowship to share their Strength and Hope to the New Zealand Fellowship.

Cons

Requires support from the fellowship with written shares.

4. What are the ethical implication of our choices? Would we be practicing our principles in all our affairs? – Yes

Recommendation

That the Board accept the proposal Renée S as set-out in the proposed motion.

Motion: The proposed trial of an electronic Messenger from December 2020 – May 2021, under the Chair of Renée S of the trial virtual Editorial Committee to be sent-free-of-charge to all interested NZ Members be accepted. The virtual Chair of the Editorial trial Committee to report to the Board after 3 months and the completion of the trial with any recommendations.

Other considerations

Currently there are 119 subscribers to the Messenger, 43 are digital, the remaining 76 receive paper copies. As the intention of the virtual Editorial Committee is to only publish the Messenger electronically, the subscribers who were receiving the Messenger need to be given the opportunity to receive the Messenger electronically and given the opportunity to receive a refund for the balance of their subscription for the paper version of the Messenger.

Outcome

At the Board meeting on 6th December 2020 the following motion was passed: “The proposed trial of an electronic Messenger from December – May 2021, under the Chair of Renée S, to be sent free of charge to all interested NZ members.” It was agreed that the current cover page in the Messenger which sets out the guidelines for members’ contributions for publication be included in the electronic Messenger. 52 sharings that had not been used in the Messenger were retrieved and made available to the Chair of the eMessenger.

The interim report by Renée S, Chair of the Trial eMessenger Committee:

Trial of an electronic Messenger (interim report for Conference brochure)

After reading in the September 2020 Board newsletter that the Board was considering discontinuing the Messenger magazine, I approached the General Secretary with the possibility of starting an e-Messenger trial. On 25 November I submitted a one-page proposal of how it might work to the Board and in December received their permission for a trial. On 29 January 2021 the Editorial Committee (trial) published New Zealand's very first issue of the e-Messenger.

I was pleasantly surprised, following the September 2020 Board statement that “A report from the Chairperson of the Editorial Committee said that the Messenger was not receiving sufficient sharings from the membership and had been relying on extracts from CAL to boost the content – this is in breach of the WSO copyright”, to receive 52 shares from members around New Zealand from the previous Editor and have subsequently used many of these shares in the new e-Messenger trial.

Editorial Committee Function: Compiles a monthly magazine from personal sharing and service articles supplied by AI-Anon members.

Editorial Committee Purpose: To edit and to arrange layout, in preparation for printing [issuing] a monthly magazine for distribution by NZAGSO.

At the time of writing this report (19 March) we have 12 new shares from local members, as well as three international shares from members we have approached.

Along with some of the quality shares received from the previous Editor, this makes it certain that the trial committee will send all six electronic newsletters prior to the NZ AI-Anon Service Conference so the Conference will be able to determine whether the trial should continue, be amended, or be discontinued.

Month	Emailed	Open rate	Total opens	Unsubscribed	Number of shares (includes editorial)
January	160	74%	817	1 person	8
February	172	72%	765	0	8 plus two photo sections
March	212	64%	712	0	10 plus two photo sections and one CAL quote

Figures as at 19 March 2021

- Current subscribers: 217
- New sign ups since launching on 29 January 2021: 56 (15 via the office and 41 via the newsletter link)

The mailing link wasn't set up in time for the January newsletter, so we invited all members to email office@al-anon.org.nz if they knew others who wanted to subscribe to the electronic trial. We also told members who attended New Zealand's 58th AA Convention with AI-Anon Participation to contact the office if they wanted to subscribe.

Since 14 February 2021, all new subscribers have received an automatic welcome email when they [sign up using the link in the newsletter](#). The welcome email encourages shares and/or photos.

Administering the trial

The Editorial Committee (trial) has delegated the following tasks:

- Editorial Committee Chair and Editor (Renée)
- Mailchimp ie. layout, sending of e-newsletter, managing replies: Editor (Renée)
- Editing shares: Committee members (Sally-ann; Cheryl)
- Encouraging new shares: all members

Receiving contributions remains a task that sits with our **office administrator** (NZAGSO Office Manager) as it did previously with the paper and PDF version of *Messenger*. The office has also collated new email addresses and will continue to receive some email signups each month from members who don't use the link published in the February 2021 newsletter (and beyond). We thank her for her service to the trial.

The Editorial Committee (trial) has discussed the spiritual principles: rotation of leadership, good personal leadership and self-support. This means that we have identified we need someone tech-savvy to join the committee who is capable of performing the Mailchimp tasks of the electronic newsletter. This will ensure that the responsibility does not fall to one person.

Financially we have been told that many members have chosen to donate their subscription money for the former *Messenger* to our NZAGSO anyway. We also encourage in every e-Messenger issue the financial support of our service arms through donations direct to NZAGSO.

With the platform we currently use (Mailchimp), the e-Messenger is fully financially self-supporting as there are zero costs to the fellowship; just our time and expertise which is given for fun and for free. Our monthly committee meetings have been held on a virtual platform through a subscription owned by a member (free to use for 40 minutes).

Sections within the e-newsletter

The sections we have used (to date):

1. Messenger Editorial
2. Kiwi Corner (minimum of two shares per issue)
3. Alapets (photos only)
4. Something from The Forum (one per issue)
5. Worldwide Shares (one per issue)
6. Love Our Literature
7. Alateen
8. From the Archives
9. Happy, joyous, and free (photos only*)
10. CAL quote (image)
11. Self-supporting (encourages both shares and money to NZAGSO)

**No member of any 12-step fellowship will be identifiable in these photos*

We also have an Events banner heading to highlight upcoming events that Al-Anon members are welcome to attend.

Not all sections will be included in each newsletter. One of the advantages of being in an electronic format is that we don't need to 'fill' an even number of pages for printing (8, 12, 16 etc) and we can be responsive to what the fellowship makes available to us.

The Committee looks forward to updating the June 2021 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference attendees (via the General Secretary) with the final facts, figures and results of the trial.

Fellowship Feedback

To date members of the Editorial Committee (trial) have reported on the joy and delighted responses from fellow members when they hear that there is an electronic Messenger being trialled which they can receive by subscription. Of particular attraction are the two photo sections we introduced in the February issue (Alapets and Happy, Joyous, and Free) and the office has already received three lots of pet photos and two HJF photos submitted for possible inclusion in a later issue. Announcing the e-Messenger at the 58th AA Convention with AFG participation was a lovely message to carry to our fellowship and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

We received the following as a reply to the Messenger subscription query the office sent out to some paid subscribers:

*"Also, just as some feedback, I really enjoyed reading the new e-version
- in fact I much prefer it to the old hard copy!"*

I'd like to share a text message I received directly from a former homegroup member who knows I am the trial Chair:

*"I just read my [March] messenger. It's beautiful and I loved it. I feel
uplifted now x. Thank you to you and the team".*

Summary

The e-Messenger trial (to date) has proven to be a great success with significantly increased subscriber numbers, and very good feedback has been received from the fellowship. However, the sharings so far received - despite the increased subscribers - are not enough to allow the e-Messenger to be self-supporting. 10 of the 12 new sharings received between September 2020 and March 2021 have been shoulder-tapped individually by members of the trial committee. The May issue will bring this to the subscribers' attention.

During my time on the Board which is now over 10 years obtaining sharings from our membership has always been a problem for the Editorial Committee. It was up to the membership to step-up with sharings if they wanted the Messenger to continue and the fellowship has spoken by their silence. The trial Committee Chair will update the Conference with the latest numbers via the General Secretary before Conference.

Final report on e-Messenger trial for the June 2021 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference

26 May 2021

We hope you have enjoyed receiving and reading the trial e-Messenger.

Here is the data gathered over the six months of the trial submitted for your consideration:

Issue	Emailed	Open rate	Kiwi shares	Committee sourced	Unsolicited	New share*	Old share**
Jan	161	73%	4	0	0	0	4
Feb	172	74%	4	1	0	1	3
Mar	212	69%	6	4	0	4	2
Apr	230	73%	6	2	1	3	3
May	250	68%	6	5	1	6	0
TOTAL			26	12	2	14	12

Total Kiwi shares used during the trial: 26

Total shares used from previous submissions: 12

Total shares submitted during the trial: 14

Total shares solicited by trial committee: 12

Total unsolicited shares submitted during the trial: 2

Sharings by Area submitted during the trial:

Area 3 = 12

Area 8 = 1

Area 9 = 1

* New - Does not include the editorial, something from The Forum, something from the Archives, worldwide share (all four are written or actively sourced by the trial editorial committee).

** Old - These are some of the 52 shares we inherited from the previous Editorial Committee that were never printed and given to us in December 2020.

Figures as at 24 May 2021

- Current subscribers: 250
- New sign ups since launching: 91 (28 via the office and 63 via the newsletter link)

We asked the NZAGS Board members to contribute shares to support the trial on 18 February and did not receive any shares (one Board member had already written a new share to support the trial and had sent it in on 16 February, prior to being asked as a Board Member). As well as this, the member who approached us and offered to support the trial committee was asked if they could please consider writing a share instead (on 3 Feb); they did not write a share.

It's with some sadness that the Editorial Committee (trial) reports that the e-Messenger doesn't appear to be sustainable. The numbers indicate that, although members want to hear Kiwi voices and are keen to subscribe to the trial e-Messenger, they don't want to write shares - or at least not without considerable 1:1 encouragement from the committee members.

In conclusion, members love to read the shares and are happy to sign up to the free e-Messenger. They report their enjoyment directly to the committee via replies to the newsletter, via the office as well as in meetings. However, it's clear from this trial that the Group Reps of AFG NZ are not leading by example by writing a share and haven't been successful in getting their fellow members to write a share (which they are asked to do as part of their role, NZ handbook, PN-27, page 37). The data shows that not nearly enough members are willing to participate by writing shares to keep the e-Messenger alive, vibrant, forward-reaching and, most importantly, selfsupporting.

We note Bill W's comment about distinguishing "between wishful fantasy and thoughtful estimate" (Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021, version 2, P-24/27, page 197). Although the trial hasn't been a success in terms of the membership supporting it by writing shares, we are all pleased that the Messenger didn't end abruptly with the August 2020 issue. "If an idea seems good, we try it experimentally, when that is possible" (Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021, version 2, P-24/27, page 197) - we can say, with pride, we did that. And now, with more information about what our members want, and what they don't, based on experience rather than just what they say, we can hold our heads high and say, 'we gave it a good shot'. Thank you for allowing us to be of service to the New Zealand fellowship in this capacity.

Your trusted servants, Renée, Sally-ann and Cheryl
Editorial Committee (trial), December 2020-May 2021

Discussion

- ▲ Suggestion is to leave the Messenger in the New Zealand Handbook to allow future Boards to appoint a person if they wish to do it.
- ▲ Leave open for a frequency option, decide how many times a year would like to produce it.
- ▲ Attendees were asked - How many enjoying sharings? 15 members put hands up, no members have been contributing sharings.
- ▲ The Handbook states the messenger is a printed copy and an electronic copy is done differently.
- ▲ Keep an Editorial Committee as a vacant position in the handbook.
- ▲ Trial Committee decided not to continue with eMessenger but is willing to pass on format and information on how to put together the trialled eMessenger.
- ▲ A permanent storage is required for unused sharings and eMessenger information and instructions.
- ▲ Future Board/Editorial Chair could make the request to Areas to provide sharings on a monthly roster when necessary.
- ▲ The role of editorial chair is not always on the board, if on the Board, it is easier to assist and can raise things with the Board.

Discussion took place on the KBDM information provided and it was agreed that it is proven to be a great success with very good feedback. Despite the increased subscribers, there were not enough sharings to allow the e-Messenger to be self-supporting. The Trial e-Messenger Committee stated that they do not wish to carry on with the e-Messenger.

The following motion was put forward to enable the capacity for a Messenger in the future, whether it be printed or electronic.

Motion #8:

“That the current Editorial Chair role remain in the handbook and be reviewed by the Literature Committee to include possibility of an electronic Messenger.”

CARRIED

Presentation - IAGSM Delegate

IAGSM Delegate Julie W (Year 1)

Joan G (Past IAGSM Delegate for Support)



“The purpose of the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) is to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through its delegates. It will attempt to encourage the growth of a sound service structure while maintaining worldwide unity through the application of Al-Anon Traditions. It can also represent an expression of a worldwide group conscience.

Ultimately, this leads to the primary purpose of Al-Anon as a whole—to seek the best way to carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences.”

NZ Al-Anon – Alateen Service Handbook 2020 pg 95-96

Country	Delegates	Country	Delegates	Country	Delegates
GSO Argentina	1	GSO India	2	GSO South Africa	2
GSO Australia	2	GSO Italy	1	GSO Spain	1
GSO Belgium (French Speaking)	1	GSO Mexico	2	GSO Sweden	1
GSO Brazil	1	GSO New Zealand	2	GSO Switzerland (French Speaking)	2
GSO Denmark	2	GSO Nicaragua	2	GSO Switzerland (German Speaking)	1
GSO Finland	2	GSO Paraguay	1	GSO UK & Eire	1
GSO France	2	GSO Peru	1	WSO United States & Canada	2
GSO Germany	2	GSO Poland	2	GSO Uruguay	1
GSO Iceland	2	GSO Slovenia	1	WSO International Coord Comm	5

40 Attendees
 26 Countries with GSOs represented
 13 Countries sent 2 Delegates
 12 Countries sent 1 Delegate
 1 Country sent 3 Delegates (Switzerland)
 5 WSO International Coordination Committee (ICC)

The ICC is the IAGSM representation that takes any topic of interest to the Board of Trustees who considers it then forwards it for discussion at the World Service Conference (WSC). This is the pathway that countries outside of US and Canada can take a topic to the WSC.

Interesting facts:

India has population of 1 billion 439 million 323 thousand 766 hundred with 22 languages

UK & Eire with a population of 67,886,011 could only afford one Delegate who lives in Ireland

Switzerland has two GSOs one French speaking and one German speaking – 4 languages – population of 8,654,622

Conference Agenda

Welcome and Orientation - Chairperson's Remarks		Jean L, IAGSM Chairperson
Keynote address By video	<i>Practicing "Universal Principles" with "20/20 Vision"</i>	Miriam M, UK & Eire
Questions and Answers – open throughout		Everyone able to participate
Reflections – open throughout	Sharing about the IAGSM Experience	Everyone able to participate
Session #1 Open 4-6 Oct	<i>Practicing Our Principles</i> 2020 Challenges and Successes	Gail G & Lynette K, WSO
Session #2 Open 4-6 Oct	<i>Cooperation Between Structures</i>	Rosario & Victor, Mexico & Debora, Peru
Session #3 Open 7-8 Oct	<i>Public Outreach</i>	Edith H, Germany
The Big Question Open 7-8 Oct	<i>Electronic meetings</i>	Vali F on behalf of the ICC
Session #4 Open 9-10 Oct	<i>Leadership Skills as Tools for Conflict Resolution</i>	Paul G, France
Business Meeting Open 9-10 Oct	1. Continuation of the discussion started in 2018 regarding international representation, with voice and vote, at the World Service Conference 2. The 2022 IAGSM	Kerri, Associate Director – International
Spiritual Speaker By video 10 Oct		Eila L, Finland
Closing 11 Oct	Chairperson's closing Remarks	Jean L, IAGSM Chairperson

Conference was open for 7 Days

Questions and Answers were open throughout and was an opportunity to ask other structures or WSO any questions on any topic.

Reflections was also available throughout for Delegates to comment on their feelings, concerns or mostly to reflect and thank everyone for participating at the end of the conference.

What Happened

- ▲ Delegates were welcomed to AFG Connects online environment prior to Conference - 2020 IAGSM Community
- ▲ Viewed a slide show presentation introducing each Delegate
- ▲ Heard the Serenity Prayer said in English, Danish and Spanish at intervals during the meeting
- ▲ Viewed recorded videos for Keynote speaker and Spiritual speaker
- ▲ Session readings were uploaded online to read and give feedback

Our participation

- ▲ Joan and I met each morning online – we shared amazing insights and discussions about points raised plus hearing Joan's knowledge of NZ History ... even ending in recipe swapping during COVID lockdown.
- ▲ Seeing the presenters on pre-recorded video was probably my highlight – it was more like being there and you were able to see their enthusiasm as they spoke.
- ▲ There were 467 discussions posted during the conference.
- ▲ For each discussion session on the agenda posted we had 72 hours to read it, discuss it, and respond together or separately depending on our discussion ideas. Also, to respond to other postings before the session discussion was closed. AFG Connects is available to view until the IAGSM Summary is finalised.
- ▲ Due to time zone allowances New Zealand was the first country to view uploaded sessions in the morning in NZ but overnight for others. What made it difficult for us was that our comments were often the first go up as we discussed it in the morning and then had to wait overnight to read other comments coming through. Although some Delegates who worked as well as participating in the evenings did not get much sleep at all.
- ▲ Plus, those with English as a second language took longer to interpret and respond.
- ▲ Many points were repeated during the discussions because some did not have time to read before responding.
- ▲ Two motions required voting which extended the conference time by one day to ensure everyone had an opportunity to respond and then have 24 hours to vote.

Practicing “Universal Principles” with “20|20 Vision”

Connecting the principles and bringing them together in a meaningful way ... My takeaways are:

Unity within structures

- Tradition One unity is required to keep the structure strong.
- Tradition four, no group is an island, cannot do it alone.

Flexibility with realistic vision

- I need balance between my autonomy and responsibility to others, without balance my freedom without responsibility is lost or exaggerated.
- Anticipate the future and AFGs place in it and ensure necessary resources are available to do it.

Reliance on Higher power in all our affairs

- For 20|20 vision we must rely on a Higher Power to have a clear vision to communicate.
- Concept Four. Do service to grow and strengthen a relationship with Higher Power, and to give back what was freely given to me. This keeps me from being isolated, being alone is okay I do not need to feel lonely.

Willingness to serve and grow with my own and AFGs challenges in today's climate

- Do not pine over the past nor wine about the future. When considering service needs relate them to economy, group capabilities, willingness to contribute, following the program. Not just ‘wants’ that would be easy/nice.
- What is true for each member to grow, so it is true for the Worldwide Fellowship of AFG to grow.
- What is needed for each member to grow using the Three Legacies, so it is true for the Worldwide Fellowship of AFG to grow.

Practicing Our principles – 2020 Challenges and Success

Common Challenges (many due to pandemic) Literature sales and availability was down

- Tradition Seven donations down
- Use of CAL online and in WhatsApp, people not following guidelines
- Not enough tech knowledge for Board, older members and members in service
- Not able to coordinate and keep track of temporary online meetings through the service arms
- Many PO events and conferences cancelled
- Some PO was centred more on AA and reduced AFG awareness
- Some GSO staff could work from home, some not, India moved offices and got new staff during lockdown
- Events occurred that were not linked to an official AFG service arm BUT claimed AI-Anon and used CAL

Solutions that worked

- COVID Committee formed to handle COVID operations as different states had different rules – US and Canada and Australia
- Share AMIAS around Areas, Alateen grew in some but down in others
- Other Areas, States or Countries assisted with delivery of literature when acceptable – problems in Europe with French and German literature not being able to be sent across borders.
- Able to do service meetings online saved expenses from Board/Areas not meeting face-to-face
- Loners and rural members able to join virtual meetings
- Letters, phone calls to keep in touch with those not online
- Telephone meetings established where virtual was banned or not available
- Posted a topic each week in WhatsApp group for text participation
- Conferences done virtually in France and NZ and WSC in US
- Re-organised some PO meetings and workshops to be online
- Created online guidelines for meetings, some groups utilised them
- Tradition Seven letters sent out with some countries having an increase in donations
- Renewed/improved websites and more use of Facebook
- For beginners, members spoke on the phone before joining virtual beginners meeting
- Online meetings occurring and using pay systems online before pandemic made transition easier for Tradition 7 donations in lockdown

Cooperation Between Structures

COMMUNICATION

- Diversity with unity – we may have different languages, religions and cultures but using the Steps, Traditions and Concepts keeps us united – sharing these is vital to our common goal
- More work with AA and AFG working together for conventions
- Australia utilizes their website to connect through all structures using workshops, seminars, IAGSM reports, PO suggestions, links to social media, Instagram, YouTube, WSO 2019 membership survey, PO publications, PO calendar, guidelines and more ...
- Night before conference open for everyone ‘meet your Conference members’
- Would like better and faster communication with WSO and WSC

- Suggest WSO have an official list of staff/volunteers that handle specific tasks to be able to correspond directly for copyright and language issues

DIFFERENT STRUCTURES

- Only maintain committees that were essential services, deleted ones not working from the structure
- Denmark has no Areas or Districts so invites all members to Conference but only GRs can vote

CONTACTS WORLDWIDE

- Participating in Zone meetings was useful for sharing resources and ideas - European Zone Meeting (EZM)
- Lots of benefit from Zone meetings in Europe and USA – NZ could attend Zone 5 meeting but is another expense (could work with Australia and South Africa)
- Good to have IAGSM contacts and use them between meetings
- RIASA meeting is invaluable for Ibero-American structures (Spanish-speaking countries in North, Central, and South America) who meet annually

SHARE RESOURCES

- Some countries happy to cooperate/share resources/ideas etc with other countries but do not want to join permanently
- Good idea for small countries to sponsor other local countries – works for Scandinavian countries, could work for Pacific Islands

LEGAL ISSUES DIFFERENT

- Legal and financial authorities in different countries can be a barrier to cooperating with other countries
- GSOs have different legal entities – registered charity, incorporated, associations, or nothing legal
- Australia has a Business Insurance Policy for literature, assets and public liability

LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES

- There is difficulty between countries that have a shared language but cannot share the printed CAL in that language due to WSO copyright restrictions. This is being worked on at WSO and ICC.

Public outreach

Facebook

- UK & Eire launched on Facebook “the untold story” plays on AA is known but AFG is not, they will continue with “the hidden effects” – these are short anonymous sharings to reach under 40s
- Australia reposts WSO Facebook pages with Australia phone details – questions answered from public but not for members to post sharings
- Areas and groups have private Facebook pages to share experience, strength and hope, must have an invitation, no one outside group can see who a member is or what is posted
- Pay for a specialized person/group to monitor web, Facebook, content and followers
- Some not sure how effective Facebook is yet

Websites

- Regular posts on website to continue to activate Google searches
- Australia as above for PO on website also has ‘Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism’ magazine on webpage
- Publish a story each month from magazine on website or from Forum approved articles
- Interest was shown about how a Blog and Q&A works and what is needed to put on a website

Instagram

- Trying Instagram to get Alateens

LinkedIn

- Looking at using LinkedIn to connect with addiction professionals

Professionals

- Use a database of professionals to email regularly
- Include CEOs of World Vision, Domestic Violence, Psychiatrists, Psychologists to share at PO events and AA Conventions – to tell how they work with families doing the 12 steps

Other

- Germany has a QR code on their pull-up banners
- Gluing stickers in public transport
- Australia adapted the Best of Public outreach (P-go) for Australia
- Al-Anon/Alateen Convention in Baltimore - sharings are now on YouTube
- ‘Remember to forget’ on bus, train and city places
- PO ‘spread the word’ newsletter four times a year to groups with ideas and things to do
- Posters on buses, electric flipboards on roadside, airports
- Paper bags with AFG printed on them and given to chemists when handing out prescriptions, could work for Op Shops, cafes, libraries or anywhere ...
- At public worship/celebration/remembrance days, place flyers with flowers (India has many celebrations – NZ has ANZAC and upcoming Matariki)

- Utilise members enthusiasm for projects but not wanting to be on committees
- Members unsure about anonymity, need to raise awareness and take the fear away
- Difficult to get media coverage in newspapers and TV advertising as they want to see a face
- Hope Sculpture (messages in bottles shaped in the word HOPE) travelled around the country (difficult to store and transport but fun to do)
- PO calendar included with literature list and sales from the GSO
- Italy struggles with help to do PO, had 3-day event but no new members generated, best resource has been the telephone

Electronic Meetings

- Our goal for this session is to have a forward-thinking conversation with the IAGSM Delegates regarding registration of electronic meetings and the need for, and impacts of, creating a World Service Conference (WSC) Area to support them.
- Questions provided for IAGSM Delegate consideration:
Creating an Area or Areas to support groups which meet electronically.
Registering non-English-, non-Spanish-, or non-French-speaking electronic meetings WSO only accepts communications in these three languages.
- A KBDM was previously completed by some GSOs (NZ sent through our discussions) and all were available for the Delegates. Joan and I responded with a one-and-a-half-page simple version of our KBDM responses in reply to the questions, as did many of the structures. THERE WAS A LOT OF READING ONLINE FOR THIS SESSION.
- The feedback was taken to the ICC to disseminate and further to AFG. Inc, Board of Trustees then on to WSC in April 2021.
- At the April 2021 WSC, the following motions were carried – I have only received this information this week...,
 1. The WSO Service handbook's definition of Area to include non-geographically based groupings, such as Groups who meet electronically with members that represent no single geographic location such as an Area or Service Structure.
 2. Eliminate the specific Policy on Electronic Meetings in accordance with Tradition Three:
"The relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group" – these meetings are now recognised as Al-Anon Family Groups (previously they were Electronic Meetings).
These groups and their GRs now can establish a service structure that supports all non-geographically based groups, which will follow the "Area Procedure for Joining the WSC Conference".

All electronic meetings are registered with the WSO, regardless of language or structure. Page 33 WSO Handbook 2018-2021 V2.

As an Al-Anon Family Group electronic meetings can have full representation of all service positions within a group or Area the same as face-to-face meetings.

A KBDM would be required to decide whether New Zealand wishes to implement any changes within the New Zealand structure.

Leadership skills as tools for conflict Resolution

- Many stories were about not voting yes to people into service that they felt would not be suitable.
- Refresh people in service by rotation of service
- The group conscience must be provided with all the information, spread the information around
- Concept Four, participation is not interference
- Concept five, is the right to be heard, not right to be right
- Communication from The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage B-4 – Discuss don't attack, keep the voice low and pleasant, stick to the subject, listen to his complaints, don't make demands
- Conflict can be positive (knowledge something should change) or negative (unhappiness or pain) – try to correct or better understand the situation

Business Meeting

Topic #1

Continuation of the discussion started in 2018 regarding international representation, with voice and vote, at the World Service conference.

Motion: Recommend that the Board of WSC appoints an equal number of international representatives to the ICC sub-committee reviewing the International Representation question. Appointees will be chosen from among international IAGSM delegates. The sub-committee will prepare a summary of proposals from 2020 IAGSM responses to the International representation question, conduct a vote or votes on them among the international structures and ICC will present the vote results to the Board. **Invalid motion so no action taken**

Topic #2

To share news about the 2022 IAGSM.


I am happy to report that the WSO has signed a contract with the Royal Foundation of St. Katharine, London, England.

The meeting will take place 13 October through 15 October 2022. Suggesting Delegates arrive no later than 12 October and leave no earlier than 16 October.

I plan to be there and to physically meet the Delegates in person we were introduced to online in 2020 and new Delegates with another NZ Delegate.

What NZ Gets

- ▲ To share how the WSO and the IAGSM serves Internationally, confirms we are part of a worldwide fellowship.
- ▲ Gives NZ Groups a voice and vote on the structure and policy matters that affect us. Is our link to the WSO and WSC.
- ▲ Allows for relationships between Countries to form and support each other with ideas, solutions and resources.
- ▲ Gives clarity and understanding of Al-Anon's purpose through history and the combined shared experience of others.
- ▲ My reflections from being your IAGSM Delegate:



Quotes to Inspire

✦ The structure is only as good as the understanding of 'How it Works'.	✦ I was invited, I wanted a challenge, I wanted the experience, I wanted to see the view from the top.
✦ Conflicts happen when information is incorrect.	✦ According to the attitude I took along with me, it was equal to the kind of experience I had.
✦ Softer chairs are harder to get out of – do not stay in the comfort zone.	✦ Focus on the present, this moment will not be repeated.
✦ We were so close; water could not get between us.	✦ When the roots are deep there is no reason to fear the wind. (African Proverb)
✦ Al-Anon is a program of life, for my life, for a lifetime.	✦ I am ... because you are.
✦ Sessions are important, but talks are essential.	✦ Languages cannot divide us because using the Steps, Traditions and Concepts and Higher Power WE ARE UNITED.
✦ Paint a picture when sharing.	✦ Anonymity not invisibility.
✦ Participation is not interference.	✦ Learn from the past while looking into the future.
✦ The right to be heard, is not a right to be right.	
✦ T.T.T. Things Take Time	
✦ Experience of IAGSM is like climbing a mountain –	

**The structure
is only as good
as the understanding of
'How it Works'**

Workshop - Public Outreach

Tracy B and Jess H

A Skit in a Bag

Take some random props, paper bags, a PO topic, split into groups, create a skit, and have some fun!

Using this year's conference theme **"Action is AttrACTION – there is no growth in the comfort zone"** as inspiration, with reference to Traditions 5, 6, 11 and Concept 4. Three groups were formed who had the choice of a brown bag with items to create a skit.

The objective of this interactive fun filled public outreach workshop was to spontaneously come up with ways that we can as areas, groups and individuals attract new members into our fellowship and PO service roles.

There was a lot of fun, laughter, energy and creativity used in this workshop with everyone's participation.

We learnt that doing public outreach is fun and that inspiring people into service through action and leading by example to share our own experience's does make it easier to connect and encourage people to reach out for help and bring awareness to the public of Al-Anon Family groups.

In this workshop, there certainly was Action, AttrACTION and growth by stepping out of our comfort zones!



Group #1 'Public Outreach Superheroes'

At an Al-Anon Family Group the members discussed PO ideas with the surprise visit of a PO Superhero that helped them with strategies and encouragement to go and share their experience, strength and hope when doing Public Outreach.

Group #2 'Archeological Excavation in 2055'

News flash on TV showed archaeologists in the future unearthing archives of the abandoned NZ AGSO. The excavators found parts of literature and thought they were about alcoholics. A superhero named Lois appeared and was able to come to their rescue to explain the history and effectiveness of Al-Anon Family Groups in helping families and friends of alcoholics.

Group #3 'Recovery Radio'

A Recovery Radio Station interviewed family members of Al-Anon, Alateen and AA. There was an Alateen, Mother, Grand Mother and Grand Father (the alcoholic). They shared their experience, strength and hope and what they had gained from being members of Al-Anon and encouraged others to go out and do Public Outreach because recovery works.

Discussion

- ▲ Groups can have a Facebook group with an administrator managing it with no identification of members.
- ▲ Delegates, GRs, Area Committee roles, PO Coordinators, etc can have an email for the role and not use personal emails for Al-Anon communication within and outside of Al-Anon. It can be passed on to the next person in the role and makes PO work able to be done anonymously.

Presentation - Moving Forward with Technology

Jason T and Paula B

Electronic Meetings

Al-Anon Family Groups acknowledge the potential and value of the Internet and other electronic communications media for communicating information about Al-Anon and offering hope and comfort to the families and friends of alcoholics. Al-Anon does not endorse, oppose, or lend support to any on-line service provider or specific communication devices. Al-Anon members taking part in electronic meetings are encouraged to carry Al-Anon's message of hope and comfort to potential members, those still suffering from the impact of someone else's drinking, and the professional community.

Who can start an Electronic meeting?

The actual founding of the meeting and its functions is the responsibility of those qualified for membership. A minister, doctor, social worker, or AA member may *suggest the formation of* an Al-Anon electronic meeting provided that Al-Anon members register then conduct the meetings. **No individual, member or non-member, has the authority to block or screen participants, such actions should only be taken by a group conscience of the meeting members.**

Any two or more relatives or friends of alcoholics who meet to solve their common problem may register as an Al-Anon electronic meeting with the World Service Office (WSO), provided that, as a meeting they have no other affiliation, their meetings are open to all Al-Anon members, and they abide by the Traditions.

What name should we choose?

A meeting name should not imply affiliation with any other twelve-step group, self-help group, commercial venture, agency, religious group, rehabilitation facility, or other outside enterprise, including the service provider or a Web site location.

Can we use Conference Approved Literature (CAL) in Electronic meetings?

Each year, and for that year only, electronic meetings registered with the World Service Office may request permission from Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. to use the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, Suggested Welcome, Suggested Closing, and short excerpts (maximum one paragraph) from Conference Approved Literature (CAL) **in text format** in their meetings. Permission to quote from CAL is granted with stated conditions and can be revoked if these conditions are not met.

Real versus Virtual

Human companionship and warmth cannot be totally replaced by electronic meetings; an important element of our recovery is to stop isolating ourselves. With the exception of Lone members (e.g. those who are geographically isolated or physically unable to attend a meeting), sharing at "face-to-face" (f2f) or "skin meetings" is essential. Members should encourage other members to attend Al-Anon group meetings in their community.

The Internet and Anonymity

Members should be cautious and avoid sharing identifiable personal information online.

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/world-service-conference-wsc/highlights-of-the-wsc/>

Guidelines and Forms

- ▶ G-39 Electronic Al-Anon Meeting Guidelines
- ▶ S-60 Fact Sheet for Electronic Meetings
- ▶ Al-Anon Family Groups New Electronic Meeting Registration Form
- ▶ INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FILL OUT THE AL-ANON APPLICATION FOR ONLINE MEETINGS

Electronic Meeting Work Group Motions

The Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) presented two motions to the Conference for consideration:

1. Update the World Service Handbook's definition of Area to include non-geographically based groupings, such as Groups who meet electronically with members that request no single geographic location such as an Area or Service Structure.
2. To eliminate the specific Policy on Electronic Meetings in accordance with Tradition Three that states "The relatives of alcoholics, when gathered together for mutual aid, may call themselves an Al-Anon Family Group" and to recognize these meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups.

These two motions were passed by the Conference Members and they now gave the way for Al-Anon Family Groups that meet electronically (formally known as Electronic Meetings) to elect a Group Representative (GR). These Groups and their GRs now can establish a service structure that supports all non-geographically based Groups, which will follow the "Area Procedures for Joining the Conference" according to the "Conference Procedures" starting on page 188 in the 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) version two (2).

This is a historic moment for our fellowship, as we fully embrace the many ways Al-Anon members are able to find recovery—by attending meetings no matter the location; physical, virtual, or both—and members of groups meeting electronically become fully represented at Conference by their elected representative.



Alateen online

Australia is excited to announce that they can bring Alateens onto the Zoom Platform and connect with them online. They have had approval from World Service Office and Australian General Service Office.

Once they have registered Alateens, a “Welcome Email” with the details and confidential password, not to be share with others as this is to protect everyone’s anonymity, is sent by email.

Any questions, please send them to “Team Alateen” at alateenvsa@gmail.com or reach out to our National Alateen Coordinator.



Al-Anon Mobile App

Our World Service Office has created an Al-Anon Mobile App which can be downloaded from either the Apple App Store for iOS devices or Google Play for Android.

Safe Meeting practices: Tradition 12 – Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding to place principles above personalities.

- ▶ Turn on your Waiting Room – view and admit participants as meeting attendees arrive.
- ▶ Lock the meeting.
- ▶ Control screen sharing.
- ▶ Disable private chat.
- ▶ Mute participants, audio and if necessary, video.
- ▶ Make someone a co-host.
- ▶ Remove participants if you follow safe practices, you should never find yourself in a meeting with an unwanted guest. But if you do need to remove an attendee from the meeting at any point most platforms allow the host to remove people.
- ▶ Create some hosting guidelines for your chairpersons to follow for each meeting.



Discussion and comments:

- ▶ To get the quickest reply for registering online meetings and permission to use CAL online, go directly through the WSO.
- ▶ There is no copyright on the Serenity Prayer.
- ▶ We need WSO permission when we put up the 12 traditions/steps/concepts in online meetings.
- ▶ Members are allowed to read CAL out loud online if they have the literature with them.
- ▶ With a request to the WSO, Australia has initiated a trial Alateen meeting online. You can learn more from our NZ Alateen coordinator.
- ▶ In Australia Alateen newcomers cannot show up to an Alateen meeting. They have to pre-register. A new member has to have 15 minutes with two Alateen sponsors to explain format and answer questions. It is up to the Host on timing.
- ▶ It is assumed that no video is enabled or it's a trial regarding the Alateen meetings advertised on Al-Anon Mobile App.
- ▶ If we went into lockdown and needed to set up a virtual meeting, you could decide as a group if you want to invest in a group subscription, which is recommended. There are a lot of platforms to choose from. Most offer free options with some capability and a paid version gives more options.
- ▶ Platforms other than Zoom do have waiting room features.
- ▶ Electronic platform agreements are for one identity. The intent of the electronic provisos is not to share accounts. It's not in the agreement of usage to share accounts.
- ▶ Use the guidelines, Traditions and Concepts. Use our spiritual principles and literature to communicate where groups are not adhering to online guidelines.
- ▶ To avoid confusion in the future should alert levels change Jason made available an example of a chart of Government Alert Levels 1-4 with a handy outline of what each level means to your Group. This document can be shared with group members and as the NZ Government changes levels, members can simply refer to the chart to see how their meeting is affected. This can be discussed and implemented at a special Business Meeting.

Sunday

Workshop - Alateen

Paula B and Kirsten W

Kirsten shared her Alateen/AMIAS story. Alateen is a part of the fellowship and needs to always be there. Alateen/AMIAS are part of the Al-Anon Structure.

Paula shared her Alateen story, of her children attending Alateen. Al-Anon's attending Al-Anon isn't enough to break the chain of Alcoholism.

Not following the guidelines can be dangerous in Al-Anon – especially when dealing with Alateens.

Useful Approved Alateen CAL to use:

- ▲ Fact Sheet for Electronic meetings S-60
- ▲ Alateen Talk 60 Years Volume 54 Numbers 3 and 4
- ▲ Al-Anon Guidelines – Alateen Safety Guidelines G-34
- ▲ Alateen Service E-Manual
- ▲ <https://al-anon.org/blog/alateen-diamond-anniversary>
- ▲ WSO Members Website – there is FREE literature.

Members put into four groups to answer questions.

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

Background/History: Alateen has been part of Al-Anon family groups for the past 40 years. Conference 2012 paper How to grow Alateen, Conference 2016 report on Alateen chatrooms. More recently with the Covid-19 pandemic families and teens wanting Alateen meetings.

Why are we discussing this today?

- ▲ Coming from alcoholic homes - provide Alateen newcomers with the opportunity for recovering. Online presence becomes relevant.
- ▲ They don't know Alateen Exists!
- ▲ They do not know what Alateen is for.
- ▲ They do not know how to get to a meeting.
- ▲ They do not know that help is out there.
- ▲ We know teens like electronic media but need to have face-to-face meetings to break the isolation.
- ▲ Parents can be afraid of what their children will say.

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

Relevance: Each Conference delegate could outline where there is a need in their area or location where Alateen is needed.

Planning for Alateen is outlined in the NZGSO handbook 2020 pages 30-43. You can also download the AMIAS forms from this format.

Each area has an Alateen Co-Ordinator on their Area Committee.

Literature can be accessed FREE on the WSO Members website.

- ▲ We know it exists, resources from WSO guidelines, world service information
- ▲ Alateen coordinators? Literature available free on WSO website
- ▲ AMIAS process to be reviewed?
- ▲ Free resources are online on WSO website.
- ▲ Resources on GSO website
- ▲ National Alateen Co-Ordinator
- ▲ References in the Conference Summaries
- ▲ Alateen literature and guidelines
- ▲ Have ready Alateen literature and AMIAS at Al-Anon groups so if teens turn up, take them for a meeting.
- ▲ Have resources for younger teens to do e.g. Colouring in.

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

Context: Participants are asked to share what they did in their area to increase the exposure of Alateen. Will our decision be consistent with our principles in the 36 legacies?

- ▲ More kids suffer mental health issues, searching online for answers. Encourage to use Al-Anon/Alateen family groups. Create awareness!
- ▲ Needs in schools especially Secondary – contact nurses and counsellors - literature.
- ▲ We have two small face-to-face meetings in NZ – we need more Alateen meetings.
- ▲ NZ Alateens are reaching out to Australia online meetings.
- ▲ There are Alateen Chat rooms online
- ▲ We need more AMIAS around NZ in groups/areas.
- ▲ Action point – Area AMIAS to connect with National Alateen Co-Ordinator
- ▲ Have Area AMIAS coordinators
- ▲ Budget for Alateens to attend AA Assemblies and AA Conventions with Al-Anon/Alateen participation
- ▲ Include Alateens in open public meetings
- ▲ Have AA, Al-Anon and Alateen meetings at same venue and time – it used to happen

List Pro's and Con's

Pros – United Message

Cons – daunting, Plan, keeping momentum, support to AMIAS

Q4. What are the ethical implication of our choices?

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

That we as a fellowship follow the Alateen Safety guidelines G-34. The S60 electronic meetings pamphlet.

- ▲ Safety guidelines, stick to principles, safety for all involved.
- ▲ Keep the children safe – follow the guidelines.
- ▲ Good role modelling of personal recovery
- ▲ Include Alateens in area discussions and reporting – giving Alateens a voice!
- ▲ No Alateen online meetings on WSO website – only an Australian pilot trial.
- ▲ Safety issues with online meetings – see what happens with the Australian pilot.

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

What information is missing that would be relevant to the discussion?

Where to from here, do we need an Alateen Co-Ordinator at Area committee level.

An influx of AMIAS seeking ratification through the process documented in the NZGSO handbook. Groups purchasing Alateen new-comers packs and downloading Teen talk from the WSO website there is also free literature. Communicating about Alateen in the opening and closing at our meetings, the Al-Anon declaration is also a good tool.

- ▲ What Alateens actually want and need?
- ▲ How they want us to do that e.g., how we run a meeting
- ▲ Mention Alateen in Al-Anon meetings to remind members and let newcomers know it exists
- ▲ How to communicate with Alateen and prospective Alateens
- ▲ Where they want to meet e.g., Café, secret hall with AA or AFG?
- ▲ Who will they relate to?
- ▲ How do we get Alateens to meetings?

Other Suggestions

- ▲ Suggested all Delegates pledge to conference to become AMIAS
- ▲ Alateen at AA Convention – have Alateen literature table, proper assigned Alateen room.
- ▲ After virtual meetings suggest a face-to-face meeting
- ▲ Trial virtual meetings
- ▲ Public meeting including Alateen.
- ▲ Strictly stick and adhere to the guidelines – important.
- ▲ Use National Alateen Co-Ordinator for support and guidance.
- ▲ Connect with Australia and other countries.
- ▲ Technology – meeting accessibility
- ▲ Alateen coordinators – more needed
- ▲ AMIAS needed
- ▲ Alateen workshops
- ▲ Being ready – have Alateen literature at the groups

- ▲ Following lines of communication structure
- ▲ Normalizing Al-Anon/Alateen in meetings and schools raising awareness
- ▲ Everyone on the area committee to become an AMIAS.
- ▲ If Alateens stop attending, then do an inventory to find out why they stopped attending. Are you doing PO? Use an older and newer AMIAS rostered together.
- ▲ Suggested pledge – That Delegates who are present and agree to commit to complete an AMIAS application before the end of July 2021.
- ▲ Discussion around how often does the police checks be renewed – GOVT depts have a 3-year renewal policy.
- ▲ Paula to confirm on the guidelines on how we can co-ordinate across regions, to confirm if an AMIAS registered in one Area can sponsor in a different Area.
- ▲ Have a common ratification date for all AMIAS renewals?

Goals and Themes

NZASC Theme 2022

Dreaming Big

This is the Theme / Topic chosen for the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference in June 2022.

NZASC Goal 2021/2022

Open communication throughout the fellowship

This is the Goal which conference members will take from the 2021 NZASC as a guide for service until the next conference.

AA Convention Theme 2022

Keep it Simple

This is the Theme / Topic chosen for the Al-Anon Programme at the 59th AA Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen participation on 21-23 January 2022 in Rotorua. (The AA Theme is also 'Keep it Simple').

Traditional Approval

The NZAGSB elects its own successors with nominees subject to the approval of NZASC. Traditional approval is the procedure which the Board presents to the Conference the nominees for successors to the Board for approval by vote.

The NZAGSB selects nominations for new Board members. Nominees for Regional Board Members are selected by a nominating committee at Conference from a list of candidates put forward by Areas in a region.

At the Conference Board nominations and the Regional Board Members nominations are presented for an expression of traditional approval. Traditional approval gives expression to the principles in Concepts One, Three, Six, Seven and Ten.

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

After Conference has approved the nominees, the Board formally makes the appointments at the NZAGSB Annual Meeting which follows Conference.

Board Roles 2021	
Board Chair – Julie W.	Convention Chair – Paula B.
Alt Board Chair – VACANT	Public Outreach Coordinator – Tracy D.
General Secretary – VACANT	Literature Chair – Kirsten W.
Treasurer – Liz A/S	Editorial Chair – VACANT
NRBM – VACANT	IAGSM 1 – Julie W.
CRBM – VACANT	IAGSM 2 – Liz A/S
SRBM – VACANT	Alateen Coordinator – Paula B.
Conference Chair – Marguerite B.	Website – VACANT
Exec/Budget Chair – Sami Mc	Archivist – VACANT

Motion #9:

“That the NZAGSB give Traditional Approval for roles presented by the NZAGSB.”

CARRIED

Motions and Trials

NZASC 2021 Motions

Motion #1: That the 2020/2021 annual financial accounts be accepted.

Motion #2: That the 2021/2022 annual budget be accepted.

In reference to the Informal Literature Committee Report to March NZAGSB and NZASC 2021 later of this Summary.

Motion #3: We propose that NZASC 2021 formally approve that action (point 2).

Motion #4: We consequently propose that the best approach is to include in our Handbook hyperlinks to the WSO guidelines wherever significant adaption is not strictly necessary (point 3).

Motion #5: In each case we recommend to NZASC 2021 that the above guidelines be removed from the KN-17 and reference to it be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document (point 4).

Motion #6: We will amend the handbook to remove reference to “P90” and retain reference only to ‘Best of Public Outreach’ (point 4).

Motion #7: That the NZASC 2021 approves removal of the following guidelines from the NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines (KN-17) and the deletion of reference to each of those guidelines in the KN-17 Contents document (point 7).

Motion #8: That the current Editorial Chair role remain in the handbook and be reviewed by the Literature Committee to include possibility of an electronic Messenger.

Motion #9: That the NZAGSC give Traditional Approval for roles presented by the NZAGSB.

Trials

Board	Trial	Review Date
December 2020	That an electronic Messenger be trialed free to the fellowship.	May 2021

Outgoing Sharings

John B – General Secretary

I focus on principles above personalities. I was privileged to be on the Board of Al-Anon and privileged to be in Al-Anon generally. It's about service for me; it's not about me it's about service. I've been around the fellowship 21- 22 years now. When I started off someone thought I would benefit from service it was a wonderful member called JJ who has been dead now for a couple of years, she got me into service initially by being the librarian, then I was the treasurer and then the secretary (of the group). Then she encouraged me to do other things.

I later became chair of the board, and my service sponsor and personal sponsor had also been chair(s) of the board and they encouraged me to go into service and remain in service; then I got tested when they suggested that I become Regional Board member. I didn't think I had the experience, I'd been the chair of the Area Board for 3 years, and no one else wanted the role so I took it on. I stood down then, and when the position of Regional Board Member became vacant I thought my sponsor would nominate me but he didn't. I had to leave it to the Area 3 people to come along and that's as far as the support went. That showed me that this is not about me, but about what the fellowship wants. It's an important thing for me to always remember that.

Once I became RBM the area gave me great support. I enjoyed being the RBM for Area's 3, 4 and 5, and I travelled around the country mainly at my own expense and I was told if I wanted to claim for travelling expenses, I had to fill the car with petrol right to the top and when I got back I filled the car again and produced the receipt for the difference. So that's what I was supposed to do it and most times I didn't do that. So, I travelled around the country at my own expense and now one of the things I'm pleased about is that RBMs can get an allowance for their travel which is good. What I found is that everyone is different and they all needed to be heard. I did my 3 years and thought I'd done enough. Arnold H came up to me and said "hang on, we want you for something else, this is what normally happens. Since you have been on the Board, we would like you to be on the Literature Committee", and I knew nothing about literature. I also knew very little about the handbook, it was a fairly flimsy document at that stage. I ended up as Literature Chair and one of the things I was asked to do was to look at the possibility of Incorporating Al-Anon.

I did a KBM and thought I had the support of a number of members, and I presented the paper to the Board, and they didn't agree with it. Second time round I was heard and listened to, and I eventually voted with the board on an issue of unanimity, and I agreed that we shouldn't be incorporated. I now think that future Boards need to think about incorporation. The Incorporated Societies' Act has changed and there is going to be a new act in the next year or two. Individual members of the Board have an individual liability, what that is I don't know but in the future the Board should limit the individual liability be becoming incorporated.

Moving on from there I was tasked with preparing our Tradition 7 pamphlet, which is still around and has been updated recently. That involved a lot of work and Peter A was dead keen to have the \$5 per week donation put into the pamphlet and that was his lasting mark. The \$5 suggestion works and there were other great ideas as well which involved a lot of people. That was my literature committee experience and then I did a lot of work on the handbook The Board wanted to get Area 4 & 5 together and the Areas were adamant that they stay separate. Today they are still individual Areas. I'd like to talk a bit about literature, and I've been on that committee for quite some time and I worked with Chris H for a while as well. We sat down and re-wrote the handbook in part. He just sat at his computer and said, "we" take this and that out. We removed the 'Districts' and it took less than five minutes as he knew exactly what he was doing. Then the changes were given to conference to approve.

I've had a few fails along the way, and I need to remember that there is a fellowship out there. We are a group of equals, a democracy. This is why I'm disappointed that we don't have RBM's now and I understand the reason why. It's really important for the democracy of Al-Anon that we do have these Areas represented and the membership know what's going on and the Area's visited once a year.

I'd like to thank the board for having me, I've really enjoyed it. There are a lot of clever people in Al-Anon. I've enjoyed the role of General Secretary; I've had a part in creating that. I'm glad that you now have a person reporting so the General Secretary has the opportunity to share their ESH with you all. Thank you for having me.

Margaret J – Area Four Delegate

Good morning everyone, I am Margaret from Area Four. I live in Napier alone now as my Husband passed away 31/2 years ago. I found Al-Anon Family Group in about 1998 and have continued to attend meetings ever since.

It is during 1994 that I found that my husband was drinking wine during the day while I was at work. This changed me. The drinking continued and got worse. I became an angry person. Trying to fix and control other people included my man. I found no happiness during this time. Was not eating well and sleep was hard to get as I cried most nights. I certainly became a person that had not time for myself, also not even like myself. I used all the knowledge I had at the time to try to get him to give up the drink. I found that arguing and tipping the drink out did not work. I must have kept that behaviour up for a couple of years, till one day I was driven home from work as I was not in a fit state to drive.

One day I got home from and was so angry that my man rang a friend to “please come and sort my wife out”. She arrived and we chatted then she said that I needed Al-Anon and arranged to get me picked up and go to a meeting the next morning. She was an Al-Anon member. I did not now what Al-Anon could do for me as I thought I was managing things well. Going to that first meeting was really an eye opener. Learning that I was not alone, that there were people out there that understood what living with active alcoholism was like. So, I listened to the sharings that night with much interest. Leaving the meeting feeling as if there was hope for me. The next week was far too long as I wanted to hear more. I soaked up as much knowledge as I could at a time and continued attending meetings. I also learnt that I was contributing to the problem with trying to change my man. So slowly I was able to change my behaviour and attitude at home and with that change, things started to improve at home, to the point that my man came out of denial and sought help. He went to rehab in Wellington for three months and came home sober. We did have happy years together before he passed away in 2017.

While being in Al-Anon since 1998 I have continued to attend meetings and am quite a different person now. My journey in recovery has been a life saver for me and will continue, having done all the service positions at Group level and Area level. Much enjoyment has been had with these meetings, travelling away in shared transport with the fellowship, hearing sharings is always good. I have gained hope, happiness, and confidence to continue to attend meetings. I also studied more on the Steps and Traditions with an extra group set up from the Napier AFG. I use the tools of this programme in my everyday life.

It is sad that this is my last Conference. I have gained so much from being here. Until Al-Anon I had never served on a committee, so was not used to speaking with people that I did not know. Another lesson. Technology has been big mover for me, especially for the Zoom meetings we have had. The Conference last year with Zoom has allowed me to find out how Al-Anon works behind the scenes. I have loved the fellowship, togetherness and unconditional love I have received while being here. I will remember you all and wish all of you the best.

Board Reports

NZAGSB Chairperson

Julie W

Since the 2020 Conference, the Board has been operating with only six members fulfilling ten service positions. Six positions remain VACANT. This is not an ideal situation. To enable the Board to operate effectively for the good of NZ Al-Anon as a whole, we need the support of the fellowship.

The Board has had responsibilities during the COVID pandemic which involved updates on the Website for the fellowship that included notices and online meetings. With the Executive/Budget Committee's input, we ensured the GSO Office Manager was in a safe and secure environment, with implementing government guidelines for health and safety issues relating to staff and the workplace.

The September Board meeting was a virtual meeting. Members submitted reports, completed the annual Board Inventory and reviewed the Board's Strategic Plan. The Board Agenda contains Succession Planning, and now includes revisiting the Strategic Plan and the Conference Goal at every meeting.

The Southern Regional Board Member resigned after conference in August and we have not been able to fill this vacancy. There has been no activity to fill the role of Central Regional Board Member. The current Northern Regional Board Member will stand down at the June Conference as she will no longer be living in the region. This will mean that unless we get RBM nominations for 2021 conference, we will have no Regional Board Members in our three New Zealand regions.

We have invited two members to submit profiles and to join the Board meeting on 6-7 March as prospective members. If approved as Board Members in March we hope to have two of the VACANT roles filled before Conference.

With no Editorial Chair and the threat of the Messenger not being able to continue the fellowship responded with members willing to commit time and sharings for it to remain as a valuable NZ resource. We very much thank and appreciate the work done by the Trial Virtual Editorial Committee for a trial Electronic Messenger to be created. We look forward to the discussion and decisions made at conference for the outcome of the eMessenger trial.

In the absence of a Literature Chairperson, we have been privileged to have previous literature committee members continue the challenging work of combining the KN-17 into the NZ Handbook as approved at 2020 Conference. A report from the Temporary Literature Committee which lists their activities for discussion and approval will be included in the Conference Brochure.

In January 2021 Al-Anon participated in the Virtual two-day AA Convention that was scheduled to be in the Central Region. The General Secretary put a committee together of experienced members and were able to have many Al-Anon meetings. Thank you to the team who worked so hard to make sure it was a success.

With no CRBM the General Secretary was appointed as the AA Convention Chair in January 2021. He also participated on the Temporary Literature Committee and attends Exec/Budget Committee meetings regularly. He has served 10 years in total on the Board and will finish his service at 2021 Conference. We will miss his knowledge and contributions to the Board and the fellowship as a whole.

We sincerely thank our retiring Board members for their committed and outstanding service as General Secretary, Public Outreach and Regional Board Member, Conference and Executive Budget Chairpersons. We also give appreciation and thanks to the non-Board members that have continued to maintain the Website, Literature and Archives.

The NZ Al-Anon Website sits under the management of the NZAGSB which at present does not have the Web Oversight position filled. I will give an update on this at Conference.

Yours in fellowship and service
Julie W

Treasurer Report to 31 March 2021

Liz A-S

Financial Year & Audit



Our financial year runs from, 1 April to the following 31 March. As this report has to be completed in time for inclusion in the Conference Brochure, it means the accounts have not yet been finalised at time of writing as they await audit. The final audited accounts will be provided at the 2021 New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC). Those results will be very close to the results below.

Donations

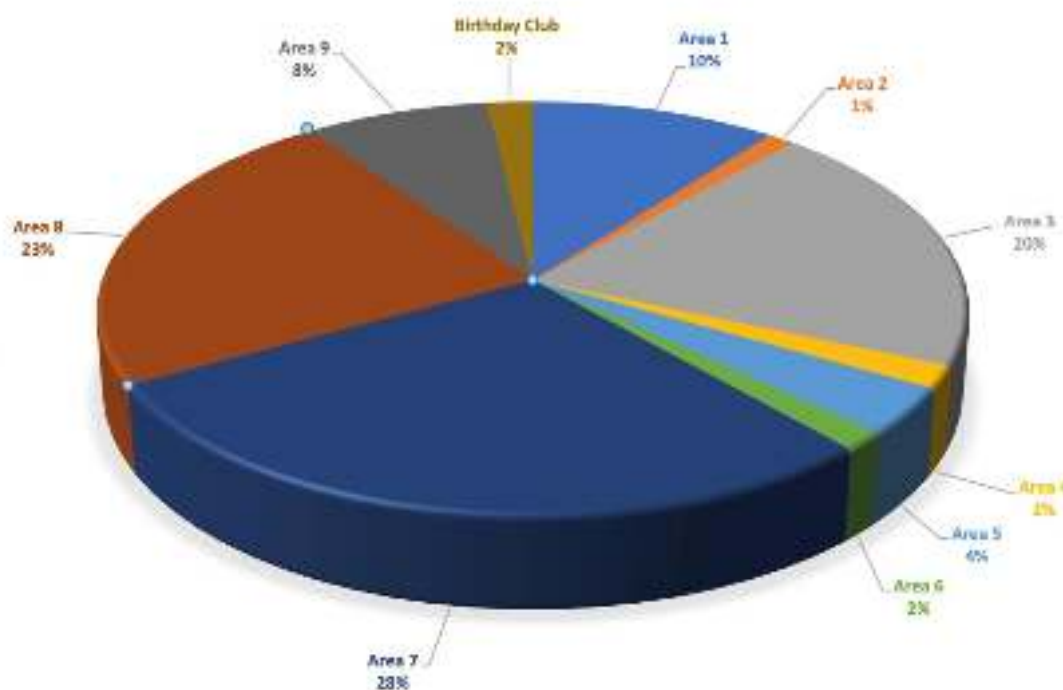


Al-Anon's Tradition 7 states we are "fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions". This makes us financially dependent on the contributions we receive from our members. Members donate through their groups, through their fund-raising efforts, and through personal donations made directly to the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) and through profits on buying literature.

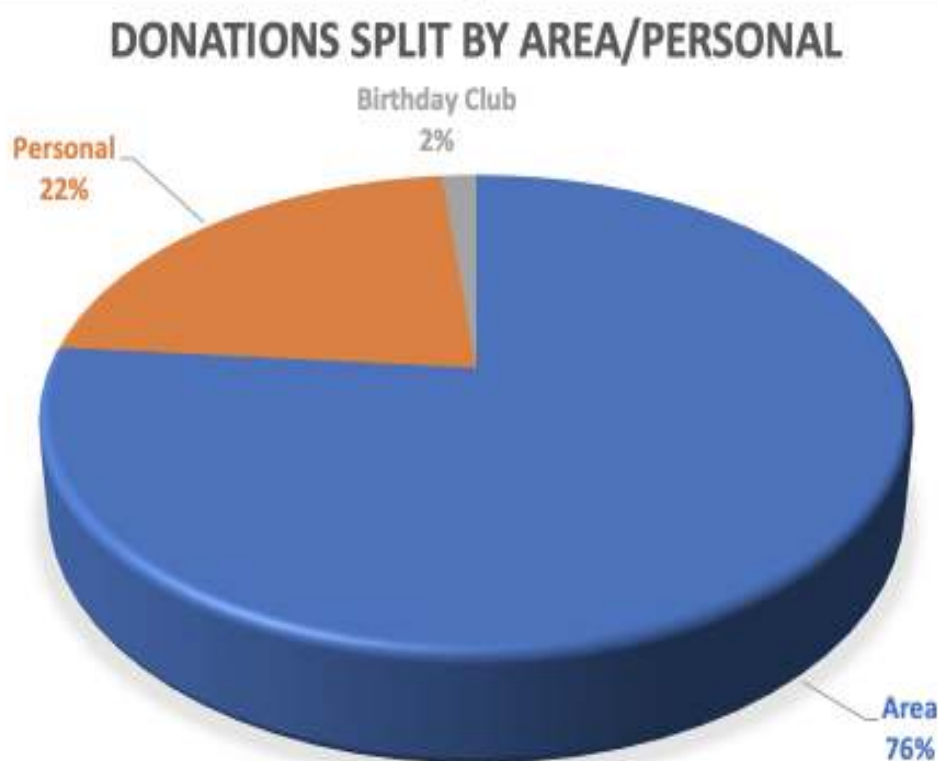
The approved budget for donations for the year 2020/2021 was \$54,889 with \$64,141 being received. The Al-Anon New Zealand General Service Board (NZAGSB) remains extremely grateful for all the ways that members found to contribute. It is easy for us to think that the NZAGSO does not really need the money and seems to be endlessly asking for it. However, combined experience from the last 16 years has shown that the fellowship accounts are prone to jump from crisis to crisis. Because of this experience, NZAGSB has chosen to maintain the requests for financial donations to enable us to work towards sustainability as a fellowship.

The split of donations by area, is as follows:

DONATIONS SPLIT BY AREA



The split between personal donations and group/area donations is as follows:



Each year, we review the distribution of the number of groups (and the distribution of members within this) based on the best information – 2020 group registrations. For the 2020/2021 year we budgeted to receive \$1.70 per week, per member. This gives the following breakdown:

Area	Nbr of Groups	Approx Nbr of Members	Budget FY 2020/2021
Area 1	12	65	\$ 5,746
Area 2	7	67	\$ 5,923
Area 3	12	98	\$ 8,663
Area 4	2	17	\$ 1,503
Area 5	5	27	\$ 2,387
Area 6	6	35	\$ 3,094
Area 7	12	105	\$ 9,282
Area 8	14	112	\$ 9,901
Area 9	7	44	\$ 3,890
			\$ 50,388

Comparing this budget to the 2020/2021 result, (including personal donations) some areas are struggling to make the budget. However, those that did exceed budget, brought the overall total received to well *above* budget. We see that 22% of donations received are personal donations.

As reported last year, NZAGSO is provided for overall and members are generous, however as in recent years it is the contributions of a few members bringing us across the line. Sustainability of our fellowship is always a major focus. Our membership continues to decline year after year. For future financial planning we would be prudent to ask ourselves how sustainable is our current position?

Other Income



We take a small amount of income each year from our ample reserve held in term deposits. This year we have started two deposits, each totalling \$50 000, rolling over at three-month intervals to avoid potential cash flow issues. The interest earned on these is extremely small currently due to extremely low market rates.

We usually take a small amount of income from Messenger donations. However, in December 2020 the Messenger ceased in its current format. Due to the nature of how the Messenger will proceed based on the decision made by Conference, we are yet to gather data on the cost it will take to produce and distribute. Therefore, I am unable to reflect that in the budget, or estimate the donations we may receive.

Literature Sales



We sell our Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to provide a service to our fellowship and for Public Outreach, rather than to produce income.

Any profit from literature sales does not include the cost of:

- Rent paid for our NZAGSO
- Paying the Office Manager
- Time donated by volunteers

Including these items would mean that there was a cost/loss to the fellowship on the sale of literature. However, that cost/loss is more worthwhile in terms of our spiritual purpose.

We buy CAL from the World Service office (WSO) in US dollars and pay freight in US dollars. The exchange rate between US and NZ dollars has again fluctuated wildly during this unprecedented pandemic-affected year. In the 2020/2021 financial year the rate has varied from as low as \$0.6126 to as high as \$0.7349 with an average of \$0.6671.

Just recently we have repriced the literature from an exchange rate of \$0.60 to \$0.68 to reflect the upwards trend. As a result, members will be able to enjoy cheaper literature for the foreseeable future. While uncertainty and unprecedented moves within global markets continue, we will keep a close eye on exchange rate fluctuations.

Overall, the gross profit on literature is \$5,957 (this does not include the costs listed above). Our literature sales were slightly down on the previous year.

Expenses



Expenses have remained much lower than budgeted for this financial year 2020/2021, which were \$89,671 and came in at \$51,207 for the year. This is less than the prior year, which included the expenditure of a new public outreach initiative.

The major contributing factor to these overall lower expenses has been Covid, forcing us to participate online for some gatherings including our annual NZASC Conference, and Board meetings. Though not ideal, not having Regional Board Members (RBMs)

currently sitting on the Board has also meant less airfares have been purchased contributing again to overall lower expenses.

Generally speaking, in business you would expect expenses to see an increase from year to year with normal inflationary factors. The fact that they have not increased significantly (even without Covid savings) shows how leanly the NZAGSO operation continues to run.

NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS							
Balance Sheet							
FY 2020		Assets		FY 2021			
			Cash at Bank				
\$	7,032		ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$	3,933		
\$	50,000		ANZ Term Deposit	\$	50,000		
\$	4,156		ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver	\$	5,927		
\$	11,986		ANZ-01 Online On Call	\$	2,698		
\$	44,882		ANZ-Ample Reserve Account	\$	81,121		
	\$ 118,056		Total Cash at Bank	\$ -	\$ 143,679		
			Other Assets				
-\$	318		Sundry Debtors	\$ -			
\$	5,279		Literature On hand	\$ 4,250			
	\$ 4,961		Total Other Assets		\$ 4,250		
		\$ 123,017	Total Current Assets				\$ 147,929
			Fixed Assets				
\$	61		Office Equipment over \$500	\$ 601			
	\$ 61		Total Fixed Assets		\$ 601		
		\$ 123,078	Total Assets				\$ 148,530
			Liabilities				
\$	1,472		Sundry Creditors	\$ 1,647			
			GST				
-\$	265		GST on Purchases	-\$ 344			
			GST to/From IRD				
	-\$ 265		Total GST	-\$ 344			
		\$ 1,207	Total Liabilities				\$ 1,303
		\$ 121,871	Net Assets				\$ 147,227
		\$ 121,871	Equity				\$ 147,227

The new Auditor (Reviewer) required us to make a Statement of Equity.

Statement of Equity			
2020		2021	
\$	100,843	Opening retained earnings	\$ 121,871
\$	21,028	Current year earnings	\$ 25,356
	<u>\$ 121,871</u>	Total GST	<u>\$ 147,227</u>

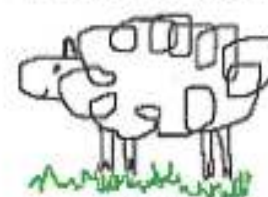
		NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS	
		AUDIT FINANCIAL POSITION FY 2021	
Profit and Loss			
FY2020 Actuals			FY2021 Actuals
		Income	
		Donations	
		Area/Personal Donations	
\$ 4,722		Donations Area One	\$ 5,228
\$ 286		Donations Area One Personal	\$ 267
\$ 1,183		Donations Area Two	\$ 580
		Donations Area Two Personal	\$ 379
\$ 11,113		Donations Area Three	\$ 9,982
\$ 8,899		Donations Area Three Personal	\$ 1,859
\$ 863		Donations Area Four	\$ 871
\$ 99		Donations Area Four Personal	\$ 180
\$ 1,538		Donations Area Five	\$ 1,856
\$ 335		Donations Area Five Personal	\$ 305
\$ 790		Donations Area Six	\$ 740
\$ 542		Donations Area Six Personal	\$ 1,406
\$ 11,215		Donations Area Seven	\$ 14,244
\$ 2,657		Donations Area Seven Personal	\$ 7,072
\$ 12,157		Donations Area Eight	\$ 11,848
\$ 2,085		Donations Area Eight Personal	\$ 1,333
\$ 3,453		Donations Area Nine	\$ 3,885
\$ 987		Donations Area Nine Personal	\$ 1,341
\$ 1,027		Donations - Birthday Club (ex Personal)	\$ 987
	\$ 63,591	Total Area/Personal Donations	\$ 64,141
		Other Donation Income	
\$ 4,784		Equalised Conference Contribution	\$ 3,551
\$ 5,289		Convention Donations	\$ 325
		TEAM Donation	
\$ 1,675		Messenger Donations	\$ 722
	\$ 11,728	Total Other Donation Income	\$ 4,598
		Other Income	
		Total Donations	
		Other Income	
\$ -		Other Income	
\$ 10,715		Literature Profit	\$ 8,986
\$ 1,287		Interest/Dividend Received	\$ 928
\$ -		Received Interest - Term Deposit	
	\$ 12,002	Total Other Income	\$ 7,914
	\$ 87,321	Total Income	\$ 76,653

		Expenses		
\$ 34		ACC Levy	\$ 65	
\$ 200		Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 200	
\$ 147		Assets<\$500	\$ 498	
		Archives		
		Bank Charges	\$ 9	
\$ 4,196		Board Member Expenses	\$ 1,455	
\$ 212		NRBM Expenses		
		CRBM Expenses		
\$ 449		SRBM Expenses		
\$ 880		Computer/Office Equipment	\$ 1,845	
\$ 1,000		Donation to WSO	\$ 3,500	
\$ 353		Accum Depreciation	\$ 240	
\$ 8,451		Conference Payments	\$ 924	
\$ 1,038		Conference Travel Delegates	\$ 187	
\$ 184		Convention Expenses		
\$ 3,750		IAGSM Paid Expenses	\$ 2,954	
\$ 539		Postage (less recovered)	\$ 450	
\$ 44		Charities Commission Fee	\$ 44	
\$ 3,172		Printing & Stationery	\$ 2,908	
\$ 3,773		Public Outreach Expenses	\$ 1,905	
\$ 11,880		Rent & Rates	\$ 11,232	
\$ 18		Repairs & Maintenance		
\$ 44		Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)	\$ 137	
\$ 2,452		Telephones/Internet	\$ 2,735	
\$ 800		Volunteer Travel Fun	\$ 800	
\$ 23,580		Office Administration	\$ 24,131	
		TEAM Expenses	\$ 730	
\$ 115		Stock Adjustment	\$ 458	
	\$ 66,290	Total Expenses	\$ 51,297	
	\$ 21,028	Net Profit/(Loss)		\$ 25,356
		Literature Income Account		
FY 2020			FY 2021	
\$ 27,570		Literature Sales	\$ 22,585	
\$ 3,470		Opening Stock	\$ 5,279	
\$ 14,213		Purchases	\$ 11,210	
\$ 4,451	\$ 22,134	Freight	\$ 3,389	\$ 19,868
\$ 5,279		Closing Stock	\$ 4,250	
	16,855	Cost of Sales		15,638
	10,715	Profit on Sales		6,986
	38.9%			30.9%
		Dif between opening and closing stock	\$ 1,029	

2 June 2021

Members of NZ Al-Anon Family Groups
P O Box 68-124
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

Two Sheep & an Angel Ltd



Julie Lamb & Associates
5th Floor Ranchhod House
39 Webb Street
P O Box 6850
Wellington
04 385 1498
admin@ja.co.nz

Dear Members,

Review of Financial Reports of NZ Al-Anon Family Groups for the year ended 31 March 2021.

I have reviewed the attached financial statements (3 pages reflecting a surplus of \$25,356) of NZ Al-Anon Family Groups for the year ended 31 March 2021.

A review is limited primarily to analytical review procedures applied to the financial data, and therefore provides less assurance than an audit.

Based on samples of source documents, treasurer interview and process review, the compilation and preparation of these financial reports has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice, within the NZ financial framework. They appear to reflect the financial activity of the entity for the year ended 31 March 2021 and of its financial position at that date.

Julie Lamb
Principal
Julie Lamb and Associates (Two Sheep and an Angel Ltd)

Budget 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Liz A-S

	Budget 1/4/21-31/3/22	Budget 1/4/20-31/3/21	Actual 1/4/19-31/3/20
Income			
Donations			
Donations Area One	\$ 5,746	\$ 7,337	\$ 4,722
Donations Personal Area One			\$ 286
Donations Area Two	\$ 5,923	\$ 5,923	\$ 1,163
Donations Personal Area Two			
Donations Area Three	\$ 8,663	\$ 9,459	\$ 11,113
Donations Personal Area Three			\$ 8,699
Donations Area Four	\$ 1,503	\$ 1,680	\$ 863
Donations Personal Area Four			\$ 99
Donations Area Five	\$ 2,387	\$ 2,387	\$ 1,538
Donations Personal Area Five			\$ 335
Donations Area Six	\$ 3,094	\$ 3,006	\$ 790
Donations Personal Area Six			\$ 542
Donations Area Seven	\$ 9,282	\$ 9,459	\$ 11,215
Donations Personal Area Seven			\$ 2,657
Donations Area Eight	\$ 9,901	\$ 11,492	\$ 12,157
Donations Personal Area Eight			\$ 2,065
Donations Area Nine	\$ 3,890	\$ 3,448	\$ 3,453
Donations Personal Area Nine			\$ 867
Donations - Birthday Club	\$ 900	\$ 700	\$ 1,027
Total Donations	\$ 51,288	\$ 54,889	\$ 63,591
Other Income			
Interest/Dividend Received	\$ 900	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,287
Equalised Conference Contribut	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 4,784
Convention Donation	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,269
TEAM Donation			
Messenger Donations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,675
Total Other Income	\$ 8,250	\$ 11,500	\$ 13,015
Literature Sales			
Literature Sales	\$ 27,457	\$ 27,457	\$ 27,570
Postage & Handling Collected	\$ 2,059	\$ 172	\$ 2,011
Total Income	\$ 89,054	\$ 94,018	\$ 106,187

Cost Of Sales			
Literature purchases	\$ 15,186	\$ 15,186	\$ 14,213
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	\$ 3,135	\$ 3,135	\$ 4,451
Stock Adjustments	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 115
Total Cost Of Sales	\$ 18,521	\$ 18,521	\$ 18,779

Gross Profit	\$ 70,533	\$ 75,497	\$ 87,407
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	Budget 1/4/21-31/3/22	Budget 1/4/20-31/3/21	Actual 1/4/19-31/3/20
Expenses			
ACC Levy	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 34
Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
Archives	\$ -	\$ -	
Assets < \$500	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 147
Bank Charges	\$ 20	\$ 20	
Board Members Expenses	\$ 2,625	\$ 7,273	\$ 4,196
NRBM Regional Expenses	\$ 456	\$ 456	\$ 212
CRBM Regional Expenses	\$ 560	\$ 560	
SRBM Regional Expenses	\$ 1,430	\$ 1,460	\$ 449
Computer/Office Equip	\$ 2,664	\$ 7,670	\$ 860
Donations WSO	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Accum Depreciation	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 353
Conference Payments	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,451
Conference Travel Delegates	\$ 1,480	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,038
Convention Expenses			\$ 184
IAGSM - Paid expenses	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750
Postage	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,472
Charities Commission Fee	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 44
Printing & Stationery	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,323	\$ 3,172
Public Outreach exp	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,773
Rent & Rates	\$ 12,363	\$ 12,363	\$ 11,960
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 18
TEAM expenses	\$ 800	\$ 800	
Staff Amenities	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 44
Telephone/Internet	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,280	\$ 2,452
Volunteer Travel Fund	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	\$ 800
Office Administration	\$ 25,056	\$ 25,056	\$ 23,580
Total Expenses	\$ 76,144	\$ 89,671	\$ 68,189
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$ 5,611	-\$ 14,174	\$ 19,218

General Secretary

John B

This is my final year as General Secretary. I will be standing down at the annual Conference. This year has been very much affected by Covid19, which also affected our Conference and all but one of the Board meetings. We had to rely on Zoom for the Conference and most of our Board meetings.

As the Minute taker for the Board with Zoom, it was not always easy. It is not easy to interrupt the speaker electronically in a virtual meeting, but we got there. Another role of the General Secretary is the preparation of the Board newsletter which was originally put in place to keep the fellowship aware of what was happening at the Board level. The Newsletter, in addition, is now being used for other information which the Board wishes to bring to the attention of the Fellowship; this has included the trial eMessenger and the recent vacancies for Regional Board members.

I have also had input into the trial eMessenger and chaired Al-Anon's involvement in the recent virtual AA Convention with Al-Anon participation. The Convention was a great success. The input of our members in technical support and a wonderful program made this happen. I am delighted with the high quality of the e Messenger and the sharings from the fellowship. The members in our survey wanted the eMessenger to have a New Zealand flavour and this certainly is so.

I am pleased to note that the Board is considering employing a note taker to complete the minutes for the Board meeting. This will allow future General Secretary to participate more fully in Board meetings.

In standing down from the Board my main concern is the number of vacancies at Board service level on the Board. Of particular concern to me, are at the time of writing, are the vacancies for three Regional Board Members. I started on the Board as the Central Regional Board Member. I learnt that these positions are a great opportunity to personally develop in the program, meet a lot of wonderful people in fellowship and participate in the democracy of Al-Anon at Area and Board levels.

NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO)

Sam M

Volunteers

The NZAGSO is open three days a week, Tuesday to Thursday, from 10am to 3.30pm. Involvement of the regular volunteers is crucial. NZAGSO volunteers are responsible for the picking, packing and shipping literature orders to the fellowship. There is also a team of four to six volunteers who lovingly prepare monthly mail-outs. Two new volunteers have started, one helps with literature and the other manages the birthday club. One long-term volunteer continues to assist with literature orders.

The service carried out by volunteers at NZAGSO means that literature orders are sent out in a timely manner. Volunteers also enable the NZAGSO News to be sent out each month and they perform a myriad of tasks to assist the Office Manager in her role. Service provides opportunities for personal growth and increases knowledge about how the office supports the fellowship. We hosted an end of year lunch in November to thank the volunteers. As always, it was a time for shared food, fellowship and fun. It would be helpful to find some volunteers familiar MYOB, as backup, should the Office Manager be absent. A huge thank you to the volunteers for adapting to the Covid alert level restrictions, and for continuing to attend NZAGSO when possible.

Office Manager

The Office Manager is in her third year and is constantly working on ways to improve processes in day-to-day operations. The Board Chair and Exec Budget Committee Chair carried out the annual Performance Management Review in September. As a result, consideration of the office hours is underway. NZAGSO has a warm and friendly atmosphere as well as being a well-organised space.

Literature

Literature continues to flow out to the fellowship from NZAGSO. Prices of literature decreased earlier this year as the NZ dollar has increased in value against the US dollar. We continue to run a regular book special and include it in the NZAGSO News.

Top literature sales for 1/4/20 to 31/3/21

Item No.	Title	Units Sold
Top selling books & workbooks		
B16	Courage to Change	89
B32	How Al-Anon Works (soft cover)	87
P92	Reaching for Personal Freedom	41
PN27	NZ Service Handbook	38
P91	Blueprint for Progress (Large)	36
B27	Hope for Today	35
B24	Paths to Recovery	31
B06	One Day at A Time	30
P24-27	Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual	23
B33	Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships	21
Top selling pamphlets		
K10	Newcomers Pamphlet	677
P03	Merry-Go-Round Named Denial	147
P07	A Guide for the Family of the Alcoholic	129
P04	Alcoholism the Family Disease	83
P14	So You Love an Alcoholic	83
P16	To Parents of Alcoholics	78
Other		
AFAM	Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism-2020	317
M81	Just for Tonight - Bookmark	192
MN100	When you Don't Know Where to Turn	187
M12	Just for Today - Bookmark	147

Group Numbers

In NZ there are currently 77 groups in total with the following group closures.

New Groups	Disbanded Groups
	GOLDEN BAY AFG – (Saturday morning only)
	KAITAIA AFG
	THURSDAY NIGHT LITERATURE AFG
	ILAM AFG
	KEEPING IT SIMPLE SATURDAY AFG
	GISBORNEJUST FOR TODAY AFG

	2021	*2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Number of groups	77	84	85	94	91
Al-Anon Family Groups	73	80	81	89	86
AFG Groups that focus on Adult Children	2	1	1	2	2
Alateen Groups	2	3	3	3	3
Loners	17	19	16	13	12

*2020 figures as at 20/02/20

Birthday Club

There are currently 23 members subscribing to the Birthday Club. We have a new, enthusiastic birthday club organiser, who is determined to grow the number of members participating, all of whom will receive an individualised card.

Mailouts

Every month NZAGSO mail-out to all groups the NZAGSO News which provides the fellowship with information on upcoming events, recent fundraising activities, opportunities for members to take up national service positions, literature specials and any new literature that is available to the fellowship. It also includes monthly financial reports. The mail-out no longer includes the Messenger to subscribers (groups and individuals) while the trial for a virtual eMessenger is being underway. There are currently 98 Messenger subscribers (64 Postal and 34 e-mail). The whole mail out is sent to 214 recipients with 84 being by post and 130 being sent by email. It is good to see that we are reducing the number of postal items gradually.

Messenger

The Exec Budget committee decided to print and send a hard copy of the online Messenger to lone members, who previously received a printed copy. This ensures they have some access to sharings from other NZ Al-Anon members. There was initially a good response to the Messenger Editor's calls for sharing, and we will be constantly encouraging members to send sharing's to Messenger in NZAGSO News.

Updates regarding Office & Equipment

- Inventory of office equipment and furniture regarding any upgrades has been undertaken.
- Stocktakes of NZAGSO took place on 28 September 2020 and 27 March 2021 very efficiently by office manager, and several committee members. It was a great team effort.
- The Executive Budget Committee completed an inventory in September 2020 and will do the same in September 2021.
- Executive Budget Committee meetings since last report from Conference, have been held online. They will continue as such so that members outside of Auckland can fully participate as committee members. The chairperson has attended in person in the office with the Office Manager on several occasions.
- Signatories were updated in December 20 with ANZ, so the Treasurer, Exec Budget Committee Chairperson and the Office Manager are now the signatories.

Northern Regional Board Member

Tracy B

Area 6

Area 6 currently has five groups. There are currently two groups in the whole of Hamilton and one group in each of Tauranga and Rotorua. The fifth group is in Waihi and there is also a lone member in the small town of Whitianga who will host a meeting on a Tuesday lunchtime if persons wanting a meeting in Whitianga contact her by mobile phone.

After the disruption of last year's unprecedented national lock-down, most of the groups reported that they are now back to face-to-face meetings. There was discussion on the benefits of the online meeting during lockdown for the groups and how it has been noted that although they have returned to face-to-face meetings the number of attendees has reduced initially. All groups reported that they saw an increase in their numbers during the lockdown period at their online meetings.

To be an inclusive region, Area 6 has asked both Area's 7 and 8 if they can be included in the 'Area 7 & 8 Highlights' each month. The committee members are now all personally receiving the Highlights. They wish to engage their fellowship to place events in this publication, and for their members to receive it as well. There is continued ongoing discussion between the areas.

Area 6 have worked hard over the last year and elected a Public Outreach Co-Ordinator who has now joined the National Public Outreach WhatsApp group for support and inspiration. Feedback has been that they have found it great and inspiring. Area 6 have a PO budget and some postcards with the bottle image have been made and distributed around the groups for them to hand out for PO.

The AA Northern Area Assembly with Al-Anon participation was held in Mt Maunganui on 14 November 2020. The Mount provided us with the most stunning day for the event. A total of 21 and 26 people attended both Al-Anon meetings. Sadly, we had no opportunity to provide an Alateen meeting on the day. No room was available at the venue. We did have AMIAS on hand. The weather was great and we could have run a meeting outside, however, there were no children in attendance.

Area 7

Area 7 currently has 11 groups (including 1 Alateen Group).

Area 7 have of course experienced two extra lock-downs due to Covid-19 outbreaks in the city. In-between these lockdowns, most meetings are now back to face-to-face meetings. Online meetings are swiftly set up during the lockdown periods to give members the opportunity of recovery during uncertain times.

There was lots of discussion around the Messenger last year with general feedback from the groups that they wish this to continue. Members have given the commitment to provide sharings. The first eMessenger was sent out on 29 January 2021 to members who either subscribed to the original messenger or have contacted GSO by email in the past. Members have been encouraged by their Delegate to contact GSO to add their names to the list to support the trial eMessenger.

Area 7 have been working on engaging their members to donate their weekly amount to their groups electronically by automatic payment. This has resulted in better cashflow in groups to donate to the area and GSO.

Alateen meetings are generally back to face-to-face meetings in Area 7, with some disruption over the last year due to the Auckland lockdowns. The area currently has 9 AMIAS and they have an area budget for Alateens to help them attend events such as AA Northern Area Assemblies with Al-Anon participation or AA National Convention.

The AA Northern Area Assembly with Al-Anon participation is to be held on Saturday 13 March 2021 at the Flicking Centre in Mt Albert. The topic is "Keep coming back". Plans are well underway for this event.

Area 8

Area 8 currently has 14 groups (including 2 Alateen groups).

Last year Area 8 assembly voted for a new committee structure and rearranged its Area Committee structure to attract more members into Area service with redefined roles. As with anything new, after a few early teething problems, this new structure is working very well for Area 8. All committee roles have been filled, with some new committee members in these service roles.

Once again, discussion regarded the benefits of the online meeting, the increase in numbers and the subsequent drop in numbers returning to face-to-face meetings after the national lock-down. As with Area 7, with each lock-down that Auckland has experienced over the year, members kick into gear and online meetings are set up to fill the need.

A Serenity Day was held on the 3 October at the Corban Estate Art Centre. There were 21 members attending which was full capacity for the day. Feedback noted a great day of fellowship, fun and activity was had by all who attended. A Serenity weekend has been arranged for 20-22 August 2021 at the St Francis Retreat. Weekend and day rates will be available. Further information is pending.

An online Alateen meeting is to be trialled (no trial time specified) and is being sponsored by the Red Beach Step Study group after extensive Area discussion and a KBDM paper. This has eventuated due to the need determined by the national lock-down last year. Currently AMIAS are being sourced and the appropriate processes followed by the Area 8 Alateen Coordinator. AMIAS will be on a 6-week roster basis and Sunday night has been chosen as the meeting night. Once the trial is to start, information will be shared with GR's and put in the Area 7 and 8 highlights, then opened to the rest of NZ.

The Public Outreach phone has been answered by one member for over 18 months. This member's circumstances have changed and she is unable to continue in the service role. Discussion was held at the final assembly last year on ways to support this service. The decision was made to have an Area 8 mobile phone which will be shared among members, each taking a month-long turn organised by a roster system. This is a great way of sharing the service and giving new people the opportunity to do service for a short period of time. This new phone system is now in place and seems to be working well, with several calls received and information given out.

The Big Gay Out is an annual event that is attended by Al-Anon Family Groups. It was held at Coyle Park in Pt Chevalier. This year's event was on the 14 February 2021. A roster was set up for people to man the stand and information was shared and given out if asked for. This year's event was also supported by Area 7, supplying members to operate man the stand. It was a great team effort with cooperation between both Auckland areas.

Conference

Julie W

The NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) brings together Area Delegates and Board Members with a Host who are all servants of Al-Anon. NZASC makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of Al-Anon and the guarantee that our services shall continue to carry on under all conditions.

Tradition Two states “For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants – they do not govern”.

The Area Delegates do not represent local interest and pressures. They reflect Area opinion but are not bound by directive from groups. (2017 PN-27 page 51-52). I believe our Delegates are the messengers of HOPE for NZ Al-Anon to continue, they need the Areas support and encouragement to implement decisions from Conference. Each Area contributes \$650 for their Delegate to attend and the NZ fellowship as a whole contributes the remainder of the cost of Conference. The fellowship relies on Delegates’ feedback and communication of initiatives from conference to be implemented throughout NZ.

The 2020 virtual Conference went more smoothly than anticipated, thanks to having two conference members onsite with me during the conference. Their technical support was invaluable. The feedback from conference attendees was appreciated and has been helpful in setting the 2021 Conference Agenda.

As there were no scribes for the virtual conference and the meeting was taped, it took a while to put the summary together. It was still completed by the September Board meeting for approval. I also appreciated the assistance of other attendees who supplied accurate information to ensure the 2020 Summary became a true and correct record of what occurred, and the decisions approved.

Most Areas’ 2020 equalised conference contributions have been carried over for the 2021 conference, except for one Area which for their contribution made a donation to GSO for 2020 and made another payment for 2021.

The 2020 NZASC Goal, ‘To inspire and excite members into service’ has been on my mind since conference and this is how I have tried to demonstrate this:

- ▲ Shared my service experience in a positive way when at meetings on Traditions and Concepts.
- ▲ Stopped commenting on how busy I am doing so much service, and recognising that doing service is a privilege which is helping to keep me sane as I continue to grow in my personal recovery. The skills I have gained from doing service has complemented my job and activities outside of Al-Anon immensely. My confidence has improved to another level.
- ▲ Seeing talents that members have and encouraging them with suggestions of service I believe they could do.
- ▲ Letting members doing service know I believe in them, complementing and thanking them while supporting them by attending events they are participating in.

This is my fourth conference, and I am anticipating a warm and welcoming time together in fellowship not unexpectedly changed to a virtual format. I am a natural loner that gets things done on my own. I struggle with reaching out for assistance, but I have had wonderful support from my committee members, Marguerite, Karen, Angie and Madelaine. Thank you for your input and patience. I would like the next Conference Committee to work more as a team than I have. I would encourage you to be courageous with topics, timing and with more input from Delegates.

I am looking forward to the fellowships national group conscience coming together to serve New Zealand Al-Anon as a whole.

Literature

Kirsten W

INFORMAL LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT TO MARCH NZAGSB 2021 AND NZASC 2021

Since NZASC 2020 an informal Literature Committee has continued work to progress bringing the *NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines* (KN-17) into the *New Zealand Al-Anon – Alateen Service Handbook* (Handbook). The committee has been working outside of NZAGSB but reporting to NZAGSB.

The committee has been aiming to have a fully updated version of the Handbook submitted to NZASC 2022. The target is to have a completed draft presented to NZAGSB for its meeting in December 2021 for NZAGSB input and then to NZAGSB for its meeting in March 2022 for NZAGSB final approval and submission to NZASC 2022.

1. NZASC 2020

The NZASC 2020 resolved “That NZASC 2020 approves the removal of the guidelines that have been incorporated into the Handbook from the KN-17 NZ AL-Anon Service Guidelines”. The resolution was clearly intended to refer to the guidelines listed in the preceding Literature Review report as the guidelines which had been reviewed:

- a) GN-1 (Members Interested in Speaking)
- b) GN-5 (Alateen Meetings in School)
- c) GN8[stet] (Taking a Group Inventory) [correctly it is “GN-8”]
- d) GN-11 (Group Representative)
- e) GN-13 (Suggested Programmes for Al-Anon/Alateen Meetings)
- f) GN-15 (District Meetings)
- g) GN-24 (Area Alateen Coordinators)
- h) GN-35 (Al-Anon Guidelines for Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service)
- i) PGN-14 (Starting an Alateen Group)
- j) GN-3 (Al-Anon/Alateen Participating in AA Conventions)
- k) GN-3a (Al-Anon/Alateen participating in AA Assemblies)
- l) GN-3b (Chairing Al-Anon Meetings at AA Conventions and AA Assemblies)
- m) CN-14 (Editorial Committee Guideline).

Those guidelines have since been removed from the KN-17 NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines and the KN-17 Contents document has been updated.

2. EARLIER INCORPORATION

Previously the Literature Committee had also reviewed the GN-12 (Group Secretary/Treasurer) and incorporated the relevant contents of that guideline into the 2019 version of the Handbook. Removal of that guideline from the KN-17 (and consequently its Contents document) have yet to be authorised by NZASC.

We propose that NZASC 2021 formally approve that action.

3. A CHANGE TO THE APPROACH

There is no clear record of when the KN-17 was first created but the oldest dated guideline in the current KN-17 is GN-69 dated 10/89.

It seems to be clear that the contents of many of the guidelines in the KN-17 were at the time simply copy typed from the contents of the corresponding WSO guideline. This approach undoubtedly arose back in the days when corresponding WSO guidelines were not readily available. There clearly was little real need to substantially amend many of the guidelines to adapt them to the NZ environment and in some cases, there was no such need.

Modern technology has since made the WSO guidelines readily available to us online and WSO has significantly greater resources than NZAFG to allow for consistent review and updates to the guidelines.

We consequently propose that the best approach is to include in our Handbook hyperlinks to the WSO guidelines wherever significant adaptation is not strictly necessary.

4. CURRENT COMPLETED WORK FOR NZASC 2021

We have reviewed several guidelines from the KN-17.

- a) GN-22 (A Meeting on Wheels). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- b) GN-27 (PI) (Sample Invitation to an Open Al-Anon/Alateen Meeting). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook. We will include, in our reference to “Open Meeting” on page 49 of the current (2020) Handbook, a reference and link to G-27 on the WSO site.
- c) CPCN-17 (Adult Children Excerpt). We believe this document to be obsolete. The only content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook will be included in the proposed “Special Interest Meeting/Group” for the 2022 edition of the Handbook.
- d) CPCN-16 (A Community Resource for Spiritual Leaders). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- e) OSN-1 (An Open Letter to Spiritual Leaders). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- f) ODN-2 (An Open Letter to Doctors). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- g) OLN-3 (An Open Letter to a Lawyer). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- h) OPN-4 (An Open Letter to the Police). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- i) OHN-6 (An Open Letter to the Human Services Professional). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- j) CPC-15 (An Open Letter to my Teacher). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- k) IN-4/5 (Suggested Statement of Purpose for Al-Anon Meetings in Institutions). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- l) IN-8 (Sample Institution Workshop). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.
- m) LN-7 (Sample Institutions Letter to the Professionals). We believe this document to be obsolete with no content which can usefully be incorporated into the Handbook.

In each case we recommend to NZASC 2021 that the above guidelines be removed from the KN-17 and reference to it be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.

In most (if not all) of these cases, we have not known any of the documents to have been used. What very little useful service information in them is more than adequately covered in *The Best of Public Outreach* which is hyperlinked in three places in the Handbook. Incidentally the Handbook consistently references *The Best of Public Outreach* as “P90” but no reference to either “P90” or to “P-90” can be found on the WSO website which appears to have (consistently but not perfectly) dropped the “P-90” and refers simply to “*The Best of Public Outreach*”.

We will amend the Handbook to remove reference to “P90” and retain reference only to “*The Best of Public Outreach*”.

5. CURRENT COMPLETED WORK FOR NZASC 2022

We have reviewed and incorporated into our current draft for the proposed 2022 edition of the Handbook:

- a) GN-2 (Beginners Meeting Format). We believe that all of the useful content of this document is already in the WSO G-2 guideline (from which it was apparently copied in 2000). We have consequently inserted into the Handbook a modern hyperlink to the WSO G-2 guideline on the basis that it is preferable to laborious and unnecessary duplication of the contents and the necessity for ongoing review following any changes to the WSO guideline. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GN-2 be removed from KN-17 and reference to GN-2 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**
- b) GSN-10 (Anonymity Statement). We have drafted only a brief paragraph on anonymity and included a reference to the relevant section in the *P24/27 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (Manual) and an additional

reference to the P-33 *Why Anonymity in Al-Anon* pamphlet. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GSN-10 be removed from KN-17 and reference to GSN-10 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**

- c) Statement on Al-Anon Groups for Adult Children of Alcoholics. We believe that the statement approved by the 1984 World Service Conference is now obsolete but we have inserted a brief section on “Special Interest Meeting/Group” (men/women/adult children/adult grandchildren/parents/grandparents/ LGBT+/Indigenous) simply to clearly record that any special interest meeting/group must comply with Tradition Three as to the only requirement for membership. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that the Statement on Al-Anon Groups for Adult Children of Alcoholics be removed from KN-17, and that the reference to Statement on Al-Anon Groups for Adult Children of Alcoholics be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**
- d) GN-30 (National Archives). We extensively considered and discussed whether the National Archivist role properly was, or was not, a NZAGSB role. We acknowledged the history that the role has now for many years been filled from outside of NZAGSB. We do not believe that fact to be conclusive since in recent times the Editorial Chair role (which has clearly always been a NZAGSB role) was filled from outside NZAGSB and our Literature Committee is also currently operating outside of NZAGSB (at NZAGSB’s request). Historic annual NZASC reports have consistently included the report of NZAGSB roles including a record that the Archivist role had been filled “Non-Board”. We noted that the Archivist role was filled inside NZAGSB several years ago (by Margaret W) and we also noted that our Handbook has, since back to at least the 2004/2005 edition (the earliest edition currently available to us), provided “other selected committees, e.g. Archives ... can be appointed as required.” We considered that the composition of NZAGSB has always included “Chairpersons of Selected Committees” and Archives has always been contemplated as a Selected Committee. We also considered that NZAGSB is undoubtedly the only body responsible for the National Archives (because the Archives undoubtedly fall well outside the legitimate limits of “routine management of Al-Anon Headquarters” as delegated to the Executive Budget Committee in terms of Concept Eight (Archives cannot, in any sense, be considered to be “routine management”). We consequently concluded that the Archivist is a NZAGSB role and have included it into the Handbook as a Selected Committee role. We acknowledge that the role is likely to continue to be filled, if at all, outside of NZAGSB. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GN-30 be removed from KN-17 and that reference to GN-30 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**
- e) GN-29 (Co-operating with the Professional Community (CPC) Service). CPC was listed in the Handbook but only in the defined abbreviations, as a potential Area contact to be known by GRs and as a potential Selected Committee. The full name, without use of the defined abbreviation, was also included as part of a special service which a retiring Area Delegate might undertake and was obliquely referred to as part of NZAGSO duties. We have considered GN-29 and WSO’s G-29 and concluded that nothing is to be achieved by duplicating the content of WSO’s G-29 in our Handbook. We believe that adopting WSO’s G-29 is a preferable alternative. We have consequently added into the Area Committee section a very brief description of an Area CPC Coordinator role and we have included a hyperlink to the WSO’s G-29 pamphlet. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GN-29 be removed from KN-17 and that reference to GN-29 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**
- f) GN-9 (Al-Anon/Alateen Institutions Service). We have considered GN-9 and WSO’s G-9 and concluded that nothing is to be achieved by unnecessarily duplicating the content of WSO’s G-9 in our Handbook and that adopting WSO’s G-9 is a preferable alternative. We also believe that any Institutions work is most likely to be carried out at an Area service level and we have consequently included a section on Area Institutions Coordinator in the Area Committee section. The insertion comprises a brief description of the role and a hyperlink to the WSO’s G-9 pamphlet. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GN-9 be removed from KN-17 and reference to GN-9 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**
- g) GN-14 (Al-Anon/Alateen Service in Correctional Facilities). We have considered GN-14 and WSO’s G-14 and concluded that nothing is to be achieved by duplicating the content of WSO’s G-14 in our Handbook and that adopting WSO’s G-14 is a preferable alternative. Again, we believe that any Correctional Facilities work is most likely to be carried out at an Area service level and we have consequently included a section on Services in Correctional Facilities in the Area Committee section immediately following the Area Institutions Coordinator section. The insertion comprises a brief description of the service and a hyperlink to the WSO’s G-14 pamphlet. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GN-14 be removed from KN-17, and that reference to GN-14 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**
- h) GN-69 (Questionnaire for a Committee Inventory). We have considered GN-69 and placed an edited version in the Handbook before the Area Assemblies section. **We will recommend to NZASC 2022 that GN-69 be removed from KN-17 and reference to GN-69 be deleted from the KN-17 Contents document.**

We believe that NZAGSB should be transparent in disclosing a suggested inventory process for NZAGSB. We have reviewed the inventory form currently used annually by NZAGSB and have included it in the Handbook as a “Taking a NZAGSB Inventory” section comprising an outline of the suggested essential features.

We identified that “a directives” in the final line of the NZASC Composition section (page 98 of the current (2020) Handbook) is illogical. “They reflect Area opinion but are not bound by a directives from groups” now reads “They reflect Area opinion but are not bound by any directives from groups”.

A small inaccuracy has been identified in the Al-Anon AA Area Assembly Committee Literature and Display Officer provision which could be understood to suggest that funds might be received from and payable to Alcoholics Anonymous. That ambiguity has been resolved.

6. ONGOING WORK

We are working on the remaining guidelines in the KN-17 and those either mentioned in the KN-17 Contents document or simply held outside of the KN-17 regime. We are continuing to progress the NZASC 2019 resolution to continue to remove guidelines from the KN-17 into the Handbook.

7. PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR NZASC 2021

That NZASC 2021 approves removal of the following guidelines from the *NZ Al-Anon Service Guidelines* (KN-17) and the deletion of reference to each of those guidelines in the KN-17 Contents document:

- a) GN-12 (Group Secretary/Treasurer)
- b) GN-22 (A Meeting on Wheels)
- c) GN-27 (PI) (Sample Invitation to an Open Al-Anon/Alateen Meeting)
- d) CPCN-17 (Adult Children Excerpt)
- e) CPCN-16 (A Community Resource for Spiritual Leaders)
- f) OSN-1 (An Open Letter to Spiritual Leaders)
- g) ODN-2 (An Open Letter to Doctors)
- h) OLN-3 (An Open Letter to a Lawyer)
- i) OPN-4 (An Open Letter to the Police)
- j) OHN-6 (An Open Letter to the Human Services Professional)
- k) CPC-15 (An Open Letter to my Teacher)
- l) IN-4/5 (Suggested Statement of Purpose for Al-Anon Meetings in Institutions)
- m) IN-8 (Sample Institution Workshop)
- n) LN-7 (Sample Institutions Letter to the Professionals)

Public Outreach

Tracy B

PO WhatsApp group

This platform is working very well with new members joining frequently and members encouraging other members of the fellowship to join. There have been lots of conversations, encouragement, and creative ways to conduct PO around the country such as using this tool for in-reach too, encouraging members to participate in group celebrations and posting flyers for events around NZ. More banners have been created, one of which was displayed on a busy intersection. Listings of the PO 508 number have been in phone books, and PO kickstart packs have been created by areas to share with their groups. Discussions were held about what areas can do regarding PO being carried out by groups into and over the festive season. There was also lots of discussion and feedback regarding the national Phantom Billboard stickers campaign in December 2020.

PO Zoom Meetings

After the success of the WhatsApp group and seeing the enthusiasm and communication between people who are doing PO around the country, I have decided to capitalise on this and start regular Zoom meetings every 3 months for those who would like to catch up and talk about the PO initiatives they are doing in their groups/areas. I am looking at having these before the area's assemblies, in order to create excitement and to give the attendees information that they can share in their individual areas about different PO that is going on around NZ and the wonderful ideas they have come up with for their areas. I am hoping to have our first meeting before the end of February 2021.

The Serenity Prayer in Te Reo Māori

Work is still being done on the serenity prayer in te reo Māori. We are hoping to put two audio files on our website, in which an Al-Anon member will use the correct and approved version from the Maori language commission. This initiative seems to have come to a bit of a halt as the member who has been helping me has taken on another service role. I will continue to see what progress I can make.

National PO Initiative

The National Public Outreach committee have been busy through the year coming up with ideas as to what we can do as a national campaign.

We decided to work with Phantom Bill stickers, after a very successful campaign run in Wellington by Area 3. They came back to us with a very exciting nationwide proposal with a budget of \$3,000.00. The committee has given the green light to roll this campaign out. We put A0 size posters (children in bottle) in available spaces in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. A1 size posters were put up within the smaller cities/townships (Hamilton, Dunedin, Nelson).

This campaign was leading up to the festive season from 13th – 20th December 2020.

An email was sent out to the fellowship informing them of the national campaign and asking for feedback.

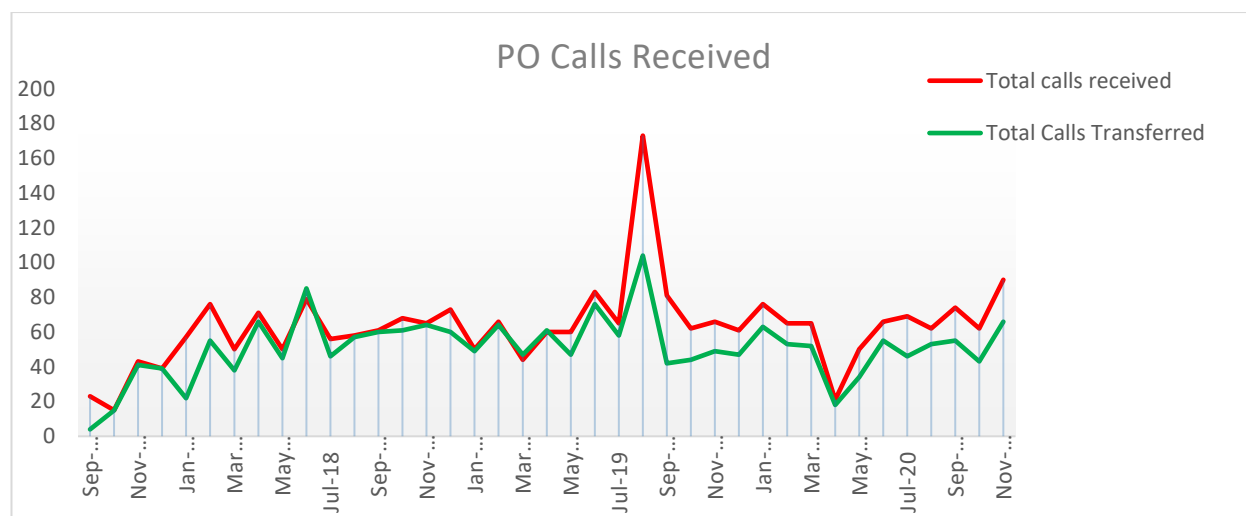
During the campaign I received some very positive feedback from members around New Zealand who had seen our posters such as the photo below taken by a member who spotted the poster in Nelson. Thoughts are now turning to another campaign in other smaller town and cities.



NZAFG Public Outreach Toll-Free Phone Number

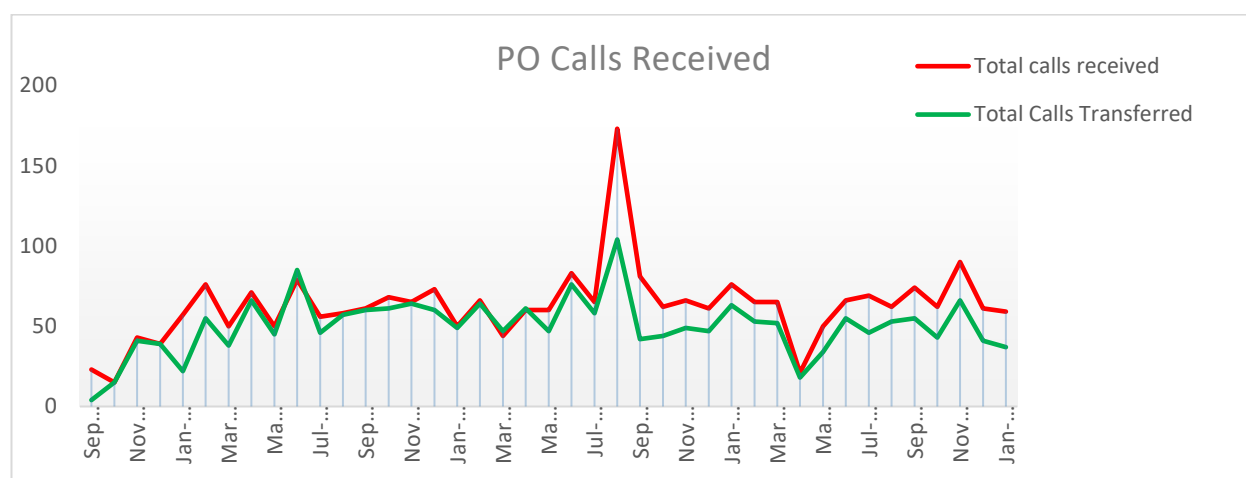
From 16 August 2019 menu routing was implemented for the NZAFG Toll Free Number. This means that one member from each area answering calls routed to them based on the menu selection made by the caller.

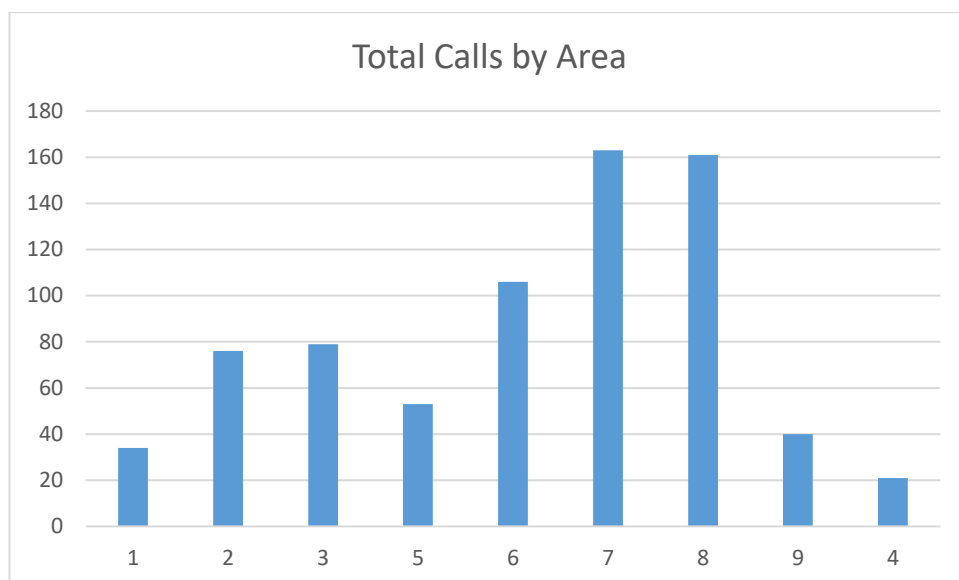
The following graph gives the split between calls received and routed to a member:
This graph is from my December 2020 report.



Note: There is a large spike in August 2019 which was the testing of the current menu routing.

The following graph shows the split between areas from 19 June 2019:

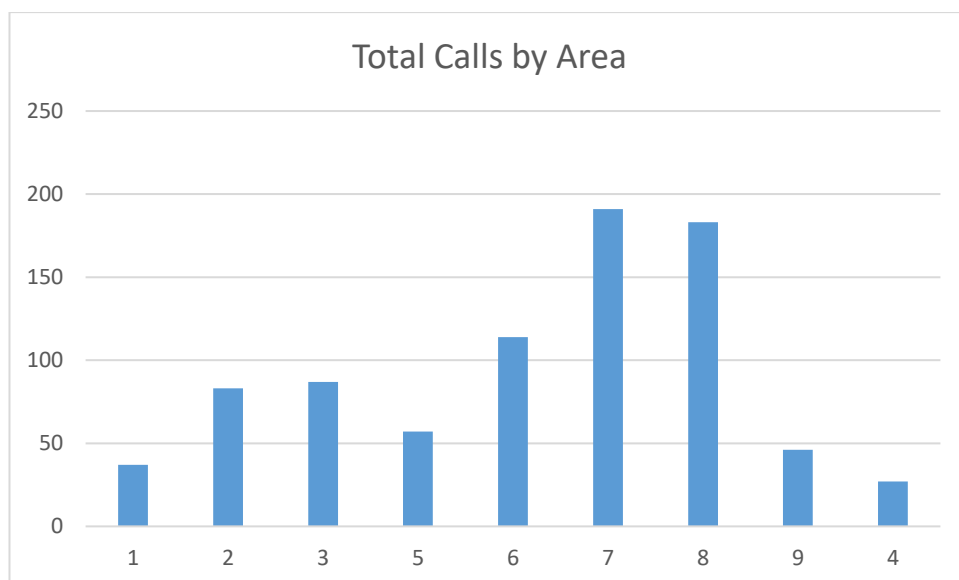




The above graph is from my December 2020 report. The graph below indicates an increase in calls in area 7 (up 28 calls) and area 8 (up 22 calls) area 6 up 8 calls. Area 9 was up 6 call which is quite a bit for this area. Area 3 showed an increase of 8, area 1 up 3 calls, area 2 up 7 calls.

Area's that the national campaign focused on were:

- Christchurch
- Hamilton
- Auckland
- Wellington
- Dunedin
- Nelson



Call numbers reported in my March 2021 report.

Typically, the call cost (excluding GST) is approximately \$60 per month (this needs to be monitored regularly).

Alateen

Paula B

I have been in this role since December 2020. I have communicated with the Area's regarding AMIAS (Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service), Alateen activity and AA Convention Alateen participation.

With little action happening throughout New Zealand in Alateen, the starting point is members taking on becoming AMIAS. By going through the profile and police vetting process this is a great form of service which can include dual members.

In 2014 I returned from Virginia Beach IAGSM meeting after learning that all the Al-Anon members working or doing service at the WSO were AMIAS. I reported this to the conference and the ball started rolling.

This was the start of Balmoral Alateen. The AMIAS on a roster turned up weekly for eight months before the Alateens started to turn up. In that time, we did Public Outreach, however the most important tool is in-reach, attraction within the Al-Anon fellowship. There seems to be a myth that we carry - *'if I am in recovery, this is enough to break the chain for my family'*. Also, Al-Anon members have a little bit of reservation about; what will my teen say about what is happening at home!!

Let me draw your attention to the purpose of AL-ANON / ALATEEN: To help families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with someone whose drinking is a problem. Similarly, Alateen is our recovery program for young people. Alateen groups are sponsored by Al-Anon.

Historically Alateen has been active. I recall my daughters immersing themselves in the Alateen program, initially it was the chocolate biscuits that attracted them, then came the fellowship of other teens and preteens. At its best, there were twelve members turning up each week. The sponsor's giving their time freely have all passed away and the Alateen program has also lost its lustre in New Zealand Al-Anon.

We as ambassadors for New Zealand Al-Anon / Alateen have an obligation to keep Alateen alive in New Zealand.

AA Convention 2021

Alcoholics Anonymous 58th Annual Convention with AI-Anon Participation

John B

INTRODUCTION

1. Following an invitation from Alcoholics Anonymous to participate in their 58th annual Convention on 23-24 January 2021 – their first virtual convention, I was requested by the Board to Chair AI-Anon's participation in the Convention.
2. I invited Sally-ann (Secretary), Jason T (Treasurer, virtual expert) and Tracy (NRBM, PO) to be part of the AI-Anon Convention Committee and I was the Chairperson.
3. The Committee met fortnightly on a virtual platform from 28 August up until Christmas 2020. We met again on 6 January 2021 and 20 January 2021. On 16 January our tech host held a training session for our tech hosts. On 20 January we had a virtual rehearsal to which all the Chairs and their speakers were invited to attend. This was also attended by our technical host team, Yvonne, the Chair of the international meeting and Mike from Recovery Tapers both in the USA.
4. "Just For Today" was the Theme for both AA and AI-Anon. The Committee members were provided with an attractive "Just for Today" badge, that was worn at all meetings attended.

Liaison with AA

Contact was made with the AA Chair, Adelia, after our first meeting requesting information on the platform that AA had chosen and how they were planning to run the event virtually re: access codes, anonymity, security, process etc... and their expectations of AI-Anon. It took them some time to respond. AA had some flawed plans and outdated ideas for running the virtual event as they had little experience in this area. The AI-Anon committee was fortunate that a member was very experienced in this area. We offered to help AA on several occasions with their virtual platform planning and choices. They initially declined and after much discussion the Committee decided to investigate running the AI-Anon program on a separate platform in parallel with the AA program.

After further discussions our technical virtual expert was able to establish a rapport with AA's technical expert. This helped in resolving the technical issues and led to a good workable technical outcome which worked well for both fellowships and reduced potential costs. This allowed for both AI-Anon and AA to have their own virtual rooms and own virtual codes, which worked well during the Convention. The Chair also took part in several meetings with AA, which were positive and allowed us to establish a good working relationship. It was very pleasing that the AA chair at the final meeting in her closing remarks thanked the AFG committee members for their assistance.

Technical

With the benefit of prior experience with participating and organizing AI-Anon New Zealand and International events our recommendation to AA was to be provided four virtual meeting hosts accounts. This recommendation would provide a virtual meeting room with a distinct joining link as would occur at a physical event with four separate meeting rooms. Those links could be shared with the attendees along with the agenda.

Initially the AA tech organizer preferred a more complex method, using breakout rooms. The AA tech organizer did some outside research and after a few joint committee meetings, going through the pros and cons, we came to the same understanding: this method of multiple meeting hosts would work best for all.

Our AI-Anon chairpersons and speakers were invited to participate in a technology check which was well received. There were one or two speakers who did not attend the training, and they stood out with their lack of preparation but overall, the chairs and speakers presented themselves in an attractive and technically capable manner. The same was suggested for AA and Jason was able to assist them in their technology check and rehearsal. Doing this also helped foster stronger relations between the two fellowships.

A sub-committee was created for tech hosts so that each of the meeting rooms had someone who could look after the security and technology settings. These tech hosts had a training session to help them to run their meeting rooms and they were provided with safe practice guidelines; this was very helpful. We were able to have one on one sessions as required. This helped very much with game day nerves. There was wonderful tech support the whole day of the Convention. Apart from a couple of human-error teething problems in one meeting, everything ran very much like clockwork and was very sharp and professional.

The secretary wrote up scripts to support the Chair and tech hosts with tips, support notes and ad-libbing ideas for fellowship. These were widely used across each of the three streams (sharing, workshops and theme meetings)

To aid with clear communications, useful slides to share on the screen showing the agenda, pre-ambles, and prayers. We used a web browser-based app to enable the tech hosts to share these slides at appropriate times before, during and after the meeting.

The key points to note for a similar virtual event in the future would be to have technical support host roles defined and allocated to support each virtual room. Training and rehearsal sessions should be planned and held for chairpersons, committee, speakers and technical hosts. Finally use easily accessible web browser-based apps for shared documents like <https://www.canva.com/> and google docs. These make it easy to coordinate information to support people in their roles.

Program

Following the AFG guidelines for hosting a Convention, we matched the AA program. They changed it at the last minute. However, by this stage we had three streams of events in four virtual rooms and were happy with our offerings for the fellowship. We had a 'sharing' stream, a 'workshop' stream and a 'theme' stream. Alateen had its own private room for security purposes which was hosted by our National Alateen Coordinator and a capable tech host.

We asked AA to add Alateen as a registration choice which they did.

For the first time, we offered an abundant multi-meeting-type programme featuring our own International Meeting, a Long-timers meeting and Workshops for those who wanted to participate a bit more deeply. All were very well attended. After much discussion both the International and the Long-timers meetings were recorded, and are available on Recovery Tapers.

Public Outreach (Tracy)

With this being an online event, there was not the opportunity for a public meeting and therefore no opportunity for public outreach. We did however focus on in-reach.

I was very grateful for the support of my fellow committee members who, with their expertise putting together eye-catching and dynamic flyers, came up with an appropriate save-the-date flyer to publish early. Once the programme was completed a flyer featuring the AFG programme, and another featuring the codes for the rooms for this online event were posted.

These flyers were sent to all online groups listed on the NZ Al-Anon website, GR's, Delegates, and Alt Delegates of the fellowship to spread the word. Members were encouraged to pass this information onto members who they knew overseas, as this was an international event.

Our flyer was also listed on the WSO website, the Australian GSO website and Facebook page. Our flyer was sent to a committee member's (former IAGSM) international and associated contacts with helpful websites featuring Al-Anon/AA online events. They were asked to post this flyer for their members information. These were very happily received and shared which greatly helped with virtual attendance.

Alateen (Paula)

We had two participants, one from Wellington who has been attending online meetings in Australia and the other from Nelson who had been to Al-Anon zoom meetings, but not Alateen.

Our theme was "together we can make it," great readings from the slogan booklet. We spent the last 15 minutes sharing how your week has been, the good, not so good and what we were grateful for. It was a great meeting. We conducted it the same as an Alateen meeting. Our tech moderator told her story, about being an Alateen as a youngster which was very appealing to the teens.

There was no Sunday sharing or Area 8 teens. They are still really over the *virtual* concept and haven't returned from holiday. This is normal. However, the Delegate messaged me on Friday that a teen wished to attend the meeting and the registration had closed. I made an executive decision to let the teen in through the back door if she contacted Olivia then we would pay AA the registration. Sadly, this did not happen. I contacted Jason saying if there were any teens floating around, we would do the same with them. The teens that attended swapped details. Hopefully the teen from Nelson will be able to attend the meetings in Australia. We have sent the meeting pack to both of the teens.

Highlights

- The first ever virtual AA Convention for NZ AFG running so smoothly.
- Lots of international all-stars of recovery spoke or joined us for the international meeting thanks to the Chairperson's reach and fellowship contacts.
- The committee were very courageous and forward-thinking in bringing in different elements.
- The committee had the best virtual support and were 100% capable of pulling the event off no matter what AA decided to do, or not do.
- Fellowship between meetings.
- Fellowship during and after the event.
- AA including our registration information on their info sheet.
- AA including Alateen on the registration page.
- AA were able to accept help from our tech host and offered him thanks.
- AA gave AFG praise for the choice of AFG speaker in the combined spiritual meeting.

Lowlights

- Some AFG members could not work out how to get into the AFG rooms despite there being multiple explanations on the AA information sheet for the procedure.
- Members not upskilling themselves around use and participation on a virtual platform and using their phone and moving it all over the place. This was very distracting and unprofessional at a national event.
- The AA hosted Spiritual Meeting on Sunday was left until the last minute to organise and AFG faced the usual bias of being asked to participate, but just barely, until finally someone spoke to their Sponsor and was told that AFG are, in fact invited to co-chair this meeting. But again, it was all handled with grace and goodwill behind the scenes and the meeting itself was very well received.
- We were given feedback that the flyer was a bit hard to read.

Statistics

Total Al-Anon registrations: 90

Total Alateen registrations: 2

Workshops

11:30am - 12 Steps in 15 minutes: 20

1pm - I will adjust myself to what is: 6

3:30pm - Traditions Tonight: 27

Theme Meetings

11:30am - Alateen: Together we can make it

1pm - International meeting: 28

2:15pm - Longtimers: 26

Sharing Meetings

10am - I will live: 23

11:30am - I will have a program: 18

1pm - I will be happy: 20

2:15pm - I will be unafraid: 25

3:30pm - Adjust myself to what is: 24

6pm - Just for tonight: 32

10am - Prayer for today: 48

In conclusion

We had a wonderful team with the right expertise, great input from our membership and in the end a very good working relationship with AA which led to a very successful first virtual Conference. The 59th Annual AA Convention 2022 is to be held in Rotorua, with the theme 'Keep it Simple'.

Conference Members 2021: Board Members

<u>Roles</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Terms</u>
Board Chairperson Conference Chairperson IAGSM Delegate	Julie W	2nd year 1st term 3rd year 1st term 2nd year 1st term
Board Treasurer	Liz A-S	1st year 1st term
General Secretary	John B	3rd year 1st term
Executive Budget Chairperson	Sam M	3rd year 1st term
Public Outreach Chairperson Northern Regional Board Member	Tracy B	3rd year 1st term 1st year 1st term
Literature Chairperson	Kirsten W	1st year 1st term
Alateen Coordinator	Paula B	1st year 1st term
Board Member	Marguerite B	1st year 1st term

Conference Members 2021: Area Delegates

<u>Area</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Terms</u>
Area One	Lucy A	1st year 2nd term
Area Two	Jessica H	2nd year 1st term
Area Three	Jason T	2nd year 1st term
Area Four	Margaret J	3rd year 1st term
Area Five	Clare O'C	1st year 1st term
Area Six	Karen J-C	2nd year 1st term
Area Seven	Robyn D	2nd year 1st term
Area Eight	Susan B	2nd year 1st term
Area Nine	Jill Kersey (Apologies) Alternate Delegate Attending Aley M	1st year 1st term

Members in Attendance

Madeline D Conference Host
Chris H Literature Committee



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.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS
for families & friends of alcoholics

