

# Conference Summary

## NZ Al-Anon Service Conference

### 16-18 June 2023



## *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.

## Table of Contents

---

<b>NZAGSB Chair Welcome</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Spiritual Goals for Conference</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Voting Procedure</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Motions and Trials</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Presentation – NZ AI-Anon General Service Finances</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Presentation – Budget Approval</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Area Reports</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<i>Area One</i> .....	9
<i>Area Two</i> .....	10
<i>Area Three</i> .....	12
<i>Area Four</i> .....	14
<i>Area Five</i> .....	15
<i>Area Six</i> .....	16
<i>Area Seven</i> .....	18
<i>Area Eight</i> .....	20
<i>Area Nine</i> .....	22
<b>Summary of Delegates Meeting</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>Delegate Questions for Discussion</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Workshop – Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>Workshop – Abundance of Alateen</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Presentation – IAGSM Delegates service in London</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Workshop – Public Outreach – where to from here?</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Presentation – NZAGSO Electronic Meeting Registration Trial</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>Members Outgoing Sharings</b> .....	<b>49</b>
<i>Lucy A, Area Delegate</i> .....	49
<i>Jill K, Area Nine Delegate</i> .....	50
<i>Julie W, IAGSM Delegate</i> .....	51
<b>NZAGSB Traditional Approval</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Questions on Board and Selected Committee Reports</b> .....	<b>54</b>
<b>Board and Selected Committee Reports</b> .....	<b>55</b>
<i>Board Chair Report</i> .....	55
<i>National Treasurer Report</i> .....	57
<i>National Alateen Coordinator Report</i> .....	64
<i>AA Convention Report</i> .....	65
<i>Literature Committee Report</i> .....	69
<i>NZAGSB Selected Committees</i> .....	70
<i>IAGSM Delegate’s Report</i> .....	71
<i>National Website Coordinator Report</i> .....	72
<b>Conference Members 2023</b> .....	<b>73</b>

## Friday 16 June

---

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) met for the day with Delegates invited to observe with four Delegates in attendance. The Delegates also had the opportunity to visit the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) in Pitt St, Auckland.

On Friday afternoon the Conference began with everyone joining in the Serenity Prayer and a warm welcome from Paula and Jill for the first session.

Conference members were introduced to their Buddies who will support them during the Conference. The group then considered the Spiritual Goals of the Conference with their Buddies then came back to the group with their thoughts and insights.

Members enjoyed a meal together in fellowship.

After dinner, everyone met for orientation with Tracy, (Board Chair) and Liz, (Outgoing Treasurer), who explained the purpose of Conference, encouraged participation, speaking and recording of sessions, explained the Delegates meeting, plus the voting and general procedures of the Conference.

After orientation Delegates and Observers gathered for discussion and selected the following two points to bring to the Conference floor on Saturday afternoon for consideration:

1. The importance of sponsoring and serving – what are the barriers and rewards?
2. How can we get more Alateen meetings around New Zealand?

## Saturday 17 June

---

An early sharing meeting was available for members to enjoy while having breakfast.

The Serenity Prayer was shared then the Conference was officially opened with a welcome from the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board Chairperson. Area Two and Area Five are without an Area Delegate so a NZASC Observer was in attendance. (Refer NZ Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2022 page 118)

The Twelve Concepts were read by Amanda W (Area Two Observer). Followed by a reading from the NZ Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2022 (page 117).

### **NZ AL-ANON SERVICE CONFERENCE (NZASC)**

*Tradition Two – “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.*

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.

NZASC protects Al-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. This makes it the principal guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen's harmony and survival. NZASC is primarily a service body for Al-Anon in NZ and meets annually. All NZASC members are servants of NZ Al-Anon.

# NZAGSB Chair Welcome

---

Tracy B

On behalf of the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board, it is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to our New Zealand Services Conference 2023.

This year's theme of "Moving forward with unity, courage and perseverance" is our spiritual compass, guiding us through this year's Conference as we seek to move forward within our fellowship here in New Zealand.

Tradition One, speaks of unity and our common welfare. Thinking of the principle of unity, reminds me that we are all here together, working towards our common goal of helping friends and families of alcoholics. The practicing of unity in Tradition One, reminds me to stay focused on the value we place of working together for the common good of the fellowship.

Courage reminds me to let go of my fears, and have faith that no matter what lies ahead, I am not alone, and my Higher Power will always be there to guide me, all I have to do is ask and listen.

Perseverance encourages me to keep going, to participate and have a voice. To place principles above personalities, to keep an open mind and put trust in my Higher Power and those around me for the greater good.

Prior to the 1963 World Service Conference, there was a trial period of three years of the World Service Conference. Conference members voted at the 1963 Conference that the Conference will be made permanent. The 1963 World Service Conference Summary states: "The permanent Conference will watch over the policies of Headquarters. It will be the guardian of our Traditions and will hold all Al-Anon together in unity. Al-Anon's future is in dedicated hands". Are we not those "dedicated hands"?

It has been a difficult and challenging year for the Board with us having so many important roles sitting vacant in the New Zealand service structure. This past 12 months as Chair has seen me grow in ways that I could not have foreseen. Using our spiritual principles of recovery to find spiritual solutions, I have been humbled that there has been trust and faith put in me to lead the Board. Finding courage and strength to speak up and be a minority voice when needed, to keep an open mind and place principles above personalities. With my Service Sponsors love and guidance, I have gained better and deeper personal experience and understanding of applying our three legacies.

Using the slogan "How important is it" as a tool to help guide our succession planning. To be stronger and more courageous leaders by leaving vacant roles open on the Board. By reducing multi-tasking so that we can focus on moving the fellowship forward and attract others into service. To be aware of our defects, our desire to fix and to control outcomes, to learn to not act compulsively to break out of old patterns and to become healthy and attractive role models, all of that takes awareness, courage and it takes humility. Working together, united by our singleness of purpose and our belief in a Higher Power, our "dedicated hands" can achieve great things.

My hope today, for this Conference, is that by using the principles of Unity, Courage, and Perseverance, we can work together with love, joy and understanding to make the best decisions possible for the fellowship of New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups.

Yours in service  
Tracy B – Board Chair

# 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 are 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 accepted by all in attendance who agreed to uphold them throughout Conference.



## Voting Procedure

Voting procedures are outlined in the New Zealand AI-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2022 (page 120):  
The Board Chairperson explained the voting procedure at the start of Conference.

- All seven Delegates in attendance have voice and vote.
- NZAGSB chose 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 became eligible to vote at the next NZASC, the remainder are then balloted.
- A suggested voting procedure is by written ballot for personnel and by show of hands for principles.
- 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. In 2023 this equals 7/10.
- For the 2023 conference, the three voting Board members are: Tina M, Julie W, Kirsten W.
- The Observers in attendance have voice but no vote. They may give a report on their Area and participate in Conference sessions.
- The Host and Technical Assistant in attendance may make announcements and comments related to the position they hold.

## Motions and Trials

### NZASC 2023 Motions

- Motion 1. “That the 2022-2023 annual financial accounts be accepted as presented.”
- Motion 2. “Extend the trial for NZAGSO to accept registrations of permanent electronic groups for a further year.”
- Motion 3. “That the NZASC give traditional approval of the board member nominations presented for the NZ AI-Anon General Service Board.”
- Motion 4. “That the NZAGSO 2023/2024 annual budget be accepted.”

### Trials

Conference	Trial	Review Date
June 2022	That NZAGSO accepts registrations of permanent electronic groups for a one year trial.	June 2023
June 2023	Extend the trial for NZAGSO to accept registrations of permanent electronic groups for a further year.	June 2024

## The Three Legacies

We all know Tradition 7 as the 'financial' legacy:

*Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

But the only one that mentions money is Tradition 6:

*Our Family Groups ought never endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim. Although a separate entity, we should always co-operate with Alcoholics Anonymous.*

For more detail refer to the National Treasurers Report as at 31 March 2023 and the Proposed 2024 Budget on page seven.

### Through the fellowship's donations, NZAGSO is able to:

- Support our Service Arms
- Import and sell literature
- Pay for and maintain the website
- Provide Group Services
- Create and distribute NZ Al-Anon News (monthly)
- Manage the toll-free numbers
- Assist Group Registrations and Renewals
- Manage the day-to-day finances
- And much, much more.....

### Reporting Basics

#### YEARLY RESULTS

##### **Profit and Loss Statement**

IN – Income

OUT – Expenses

OUTCOME – Profit or Loss?

#### ASSET AND LIABILITIES BALANCE

##### **Balance Sheet**

What we own = Assets

What we owe = Liabilities

Equity = Assets – Liabilities



## NZAGSO Financial Statements 2023 Summary

<b>Profit and Loss</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Income (IN)	\$67,960	\$81,026
Expenses (OUT)	<u>\$77,852*</u>	<u>\$61,619*</u>
Result	-\$9,982 Loss	\$19,407 Profit

\*Includes Accrual

### **Balance Sheet (Balance)**

Equity \$155,416

## NZAGSO Accounts 2023 Analysis

### ○ **Donations:**

- Less than last year by \$13,921
- Almost in line with the budget – actual \$50,806 vs budget of \$50,789
- Literature profit down – exchange rate fluctuations

### ○ **Expenses:**

- Up \$16,233 – now that pre-COVID events are back so too the expenses associated with this
- Less than budget
- Ample Reserve is lower due to our overall loss incurred

## What Can You Take To Your Area?

- NZAGSO needs money – for sustainability of OUR fellowship. We have a diminishing membership and have made a loss in FY 2023.
- We appreciate all fundraising events that groups and areas organise. Please send in details to NZAGSO when you run these as it's great for other groups to see!
- Please remind areas and groups to use correct references on donations so we can track these correctly.
- Overall mixed result and need to continue to be prudent with resources.

Our Audit is still underway!

So, our results are not considered final until this is completed.

However, we do not expect our results to materially change.

### **Answers to Questions:**

- ▲ The International costs are \$1K this year to the WSO at board request due to extra funds. Plus the IAGSM fees saved every month to cover two delegates equalised contribution to attend the IAGSM.
- ▲ Increase in Audit Fees was because the previous auditor was cheap, the new auditor is expensive and is the cheapest and best option.
- ▲ Public outreach budget \$\$ does not accumulate. If it didn't get used in 2022 it is not carried over to 2023 budget

### **MOTION:**

*“That the NZAGSO 2022/2023 annual financial accounts be accepted as presented”*

**Carried**

# Presentation – Budget Approval

Tina Mc

## Proposed Budget for 2024

	Budget 1/4/23-31/3/24	Budget 1/4/22-31/3/23	Actual 1/4/21-31/3/22		Budget 1/4/23-31/3/24	Budget 1/4/22-31/3/23	Actual 1/4/21-31/3/22
<b>Income</b>				<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Donations</b>				ACC Levy			
Donations Area One	\$ 5,039	\$ 5,569	\$ 4,107		\$ 65	\$ 35	\$ 66
Donations Personal Area One			\$ 10	Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 1,500	\$ 450	\$ 431
Donations Area Two	\$ 4,420	\$ 5,260	\$ 1,496	Archives			
Donations Personal Area Two			\$ 418	Assets < \$500	\$ 163	\$ 250	\$ 575
Donations Area Three	\$ 9,547	\$ 9,812	\$ 7,398	Bank Charges	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 27
Donations Personal Area Three			\$ 1,655	Board Inreach	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	
Donation Area Four	\$ 1,238	\$ 1,635	\$ 1,161	Board Members Expenses	\$ 2,625	\$ 2,625	\$ 1,438
Donation Personal Area Four			\$ 70	NRBM Regional Expenses	\$ 456	\$ 456	
Donations Area Five	\$ 2,343	\$ 2,343	\$ 1,991	CRBM Regional Expenses	\$ 560	\$ 560	
Donations Personal Area Five			\$ 688	SRBM Regional Expenses	\$ 1,430	\$ 1,430	
Donations Area Six	\$ 3,006	\$ 3,050	\$ 575	Computer/Office Equip	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,566
Donations Personal Area Six			\$ 936	Website	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Donations Area Seven	\$ 8,354	\$ 8,928	\$ 13,263	Donations WSO	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	
Donations Personal Area Seven			\$ 7,770	Accum Depreciation	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 431
Donations Area Eight	\$ 8,707	\$ 9,105	\$ 16,424	Conference Payments	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,443
Donations Personal Area Eight			\$ 1,309	Conference Travel Delegates	\$ 1,480	\$ 1,480	\$ 1,055
Donations Area Nine	\$ 3,403	\$ 4,287	\$ 3,552	Convention Expenses			\$ 70
Donations Personal Area Nine			\$ 1,090	IAGSM - Paid expenses	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 2,916
Donations - Birthday Club	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 815	Postage	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,844
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$ 46,856</b>	<b>\$ 50,789</b>	<b>\$ 64,727</b>	Charities Commission Fee	\$ 45	\$ 45	\$ 44
<b>Other Income</b>				Printing & Stationery	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,000	\$ 991
Interest/Dividend Received	\$ 2,658	\$ 1,250	\$ 781	Public Outreach exp	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,040
Equalised Conference Contribut	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 6,234	Rent & Rates	\$ 14,592	\$ 13,476	\$ 10,315
Convention Donation	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,266	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 500	\$ 500	
TEAM Donation				TEAM expenses	\$ 800	\$ 800	
Messenger Donations				Staff Amenities	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 35
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,508</b>	<b>\$ 8,100</b>	<b>\$ 8,281</b>	Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,620	\$ 2,520	\$ 2,149
<b>Literature Sales</b>				Volunteer Travel Fund	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	\$ 300
Literature Sales	\$ 23,267	\$ 24,961	\$ 24,525	Office Administration	\$ 31,250	\$ 29,355	\$ 28,113
Postage & Handling Collected	\$ 1,745	\$ 1,872	\$ 2,485	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 93,900</b>	<b>\$ 92,746</b>	<b>\$ 63,849</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 81,377</b>	<b>\$ 85,722</b>	<b>\$ 100,018</b>	<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>-\$ 32,368</b>	<b>-\$ 24,639</b>	<b>\$ 18,322</b>
<b>Cost Of Sales</b>							
Literature purchases	\$ 15,112	\$ 14,280	\$ 13,084				
Freight Inwards (Overseas)	\$ 4,534	\$ 3,135	\$ 4,508				
Stock Adjustments	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 256				
<b>Total Cost Of Sales</b>	<b>\$ 19,845</b>	<b>\$ 17,615</b>	<b>\$ 17,848</b>				
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 61,532</b>	<b>\$ 68,107</b>	<b>\$ 82,170</b>				

# Budget 2023/2024

## EXPENSES

- You may have seen that we have increased our budget for many of our costs this year. We have passed the pandemic bubble and are now dealing with the financial consequences of that time. We all know the cost of living has increased across the board.
- The good news is that high interest rates mean we are earning more on our term deposits. It is a significant amount, more than double.
- We have kept our PO Budget in the hopes we have some movement in that Area this year.
- More good news is our phone, internet and printing costs are all down significantly, another sign of the times, competition amongst providers mean better options.

# Budget 2023/2024

## INCOME

- In the less favourable news, we still have a declining membership. If you look at the INCOME side of our budget, you can see that we are expecting less income from our group donations. And the impact of that is that the Board and its service arms has less to plan with.
- We don't budget for personal donations rightly or wrongly, and every year we seem to receive more than what we budget for which keeps us afloat.
- We do budget a loss, and usually make a small profit. We currently hold approximately twice our ample reserve.
- We predict our expenses will increase again and I have made provision to increase our IAGSM savings, rent and rates and admin costs.
- We use the spiritual principle of abundance when setting this budget, we plan for having our service roles filled, we plan for TEAM events to be held, we plan to have volunteers to reimburse.

## MOTION:

*"That the NZAGSO 2023/2024 annual budget be accepted".*

**Carried**

# Area Reports

## Area One

Lucy A (Delegate)

### Area:

The Area covers from Oamaru south taking in Dunedin, Queenstown, Gore, Mataura and Invercargill. In total 10 AFG meetings, all with GR's.

Alexandra meeting is a full time, WSO online meeting. There are three AMIAS approved waiting for meetings. [This is my second year, second term as the Area One Delegate.](#)

### Assemblies:

Gore (Aug), Alexandra (Nov), AA Southern Area Assembly Gore (March), Invercargill (May).

### Events:

Garage Sale (Oct), two Bill W events with AFG speakers (April & Nov), Serenity Weekend, Pukerau (Nov), Convention 2023 Christchurch (Jan), AA Southern Area Assembly, Gore (March) and Edenview Camp, Edendale, a Book Study (March).

### Group Visits:

I have visited all 10 groups in the Area which covers a large geographical area. Open meetings, Fund-raising nights and Christmas parties as well. Many of the groups host shared speaker meetings with AA participation.

### Public Outreach:

The Area has a new PO Coordinator and we were very proud of filling this Service Role. The newly appointed member has done a wealth of service already e.g. been in touch with all the doctor's surgeries in Area 1, formed a PO Committee to help compile packs and deliver to surgeries, and held an informative service evening.

It has taken a huge amount of encouragement, however each Area One meeting is trying very hard to organise their own PO. One group is almost at the stage of getting a permanent Al-Anon billboard with council approval, another has the "In a Bottle poster" everywhere, another a permanent advert in a local paper as well as an Invercargill meeting placing a pull-up banner at the Southern Institute of Technology (SIT).

### Highlights:

The Edenview Book Study Camp in March 2023 was wonderful. We focused on "How Al-Anon Works" and learnt so much about our wonderful programme. We had so much fun, laughter and fellowship that it is going to be a permanent March event.

The Invercargill Friday Night meeting is a fellowship of young members who are so enthusiastic and beginning to step-up in service. Some of them have shared their goals for the "Ultimate Service Bucket List" so we are praying this eventuates!

Another highlight for me has been the 2023 AA Convention. When Jill, Area 9, volunteered at the last Conference, to Chair the Al-Anon Convention Committee because Area Two was having a few hiccups, I jumped on board too. This was an amazing experience. Another Area One member and I organised the merchandise/sales table. I was so proud of Area One as most of the meetings got behind this opportunity to fund-raise with goods to be sold on the table. I think 10 different items were supplied by them. It was a pleasure to be involved and we had so much fun. I had a personal goal for the Convention too.....that it would encourage Christchurch members to form an Area Committee. It's hard work but so satisfying, and yes, I think there is some movement towards that goal.

The Gore AFG meeting, my home group meeting, was part of the AA Southern Area Assembly Committee, in March. This was a privilege and honour to be involved with AA at this level. It just proves

to me all over again that if you want something urgently enough and are prepared to work at it then our Higher Power will pull us through. The Assembly was a wonderful success.

### Concerns:

The age-old Step up to Service trials that we are all talking about. We are trying our hardest in Area One but as we all know this has been on-going for some time and doesn't seem to be improving. I get concerned for Tracy, who has a terrific workload, but also inspired by the many positives that evolve. [I love the way some of the ex-Delegates worked together as Convention Chairs to bring us this Convention.](#) It Works If You Work At It. Thank you so much.

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. Perhaps this will be the year it will all happen.

Thanks for reading and listening.

Love-in-AI-Anon-Service

Lucy

### Updates and Comments

- ▲ Two committee members resigned; we have temporary members filling these roles.
- ▲ Nine AI-Anon groups in Area One
- ▲ Three AMIAS trained, one has resigned
- ▲ Area One held an AI-Anon birthday with 30 people attending.
- ▲ To inject a bit of fun we had a one-off workshop competition to create an outreach poster. At the AI-Anon Fun Night we had design a PO Poster activity. None of this went further than the get-together as it was designed for a laugh and it was!!

### Answers to Questions

- ▲ An ultimate service bucket list is to have every position filled.
- ▲ We do not have an Alternate Delegate.
- ▲ There is no Alateen meeting – waiting for teenagers to come – hoping to set up some form of AI-Anon and Alateen meeting side by side at a venue.
- ▲ The Area has one full time online meeting registered with WSO.
- ▲ AA southland Invercargill have a shared AA and AI-Anon speaker meeting which celebrates the start of AA and how it got started by Bill Wilson. There were two AA speakers, and one AI-Anon speaker.

## Area Two

Amanda W (Observer)

### Area:

The Area covers the Canterbury region of the South Island, New Zealand.

### Groups:

- a. There are seven groups in Area Two. Five of these groups are held in Christchurch City and local surrounding suburbs. One group is a short distance north of Christchurch in Kaiapoi and one group is some distance south of Christchurch in Timaru.
- b. There are five GR's out of the seven groups in the area.
- c. The majority of groups have a small number of attendees on average with committed regular members filling office positions and 7th Tradition funds being low but covering rent, newcomers' packs and CAL.
- d. Groups report periodical newcomer attendance to which meetings are adjusted to include the newcomer welcome, welcome packs provided including phone numbers and time to connect after the meeting made available.
- e. There are no Area Two Alateen groups, however, there have been expressions of interest in AMIAS approval from members and encouragement from members to have an Alateen group in Christchurch.

### Public Outreach:

- a. A Christchurch group member has injected some much-needed energy into Area public outreach in the past 12 months. A public outreach meeting was organised and all who attended committed to installing Al-Anon posters in their local areas.
- b. As a result of the public outreach meeting two members spoke at the Christchurch Women's Centre professional development training day with counsellors and support workers.
- c. A printed meetings list for the Area has been created and is available for members to print and share to all including newcomers to create greater awareness of meetings in the area.
- d. The Area does not have a Public Outreach Coordinator.
- e. Public outreach has recently revealed a Christchurch based registered charity known as Familial Trust who provides support to families impacted by addiction are holding Al-Anon meetings at their premises. It was later retracted by the Familiar Trust saying that they do not hold Al-Anon meetings instead calling their meetings an Adult-Child Support Group. It is unknown if they use Al-Anon literature in their meetings which may have caused the confusion.

### Assemblies:

- a. The previously vacant Area Chair position was filled in December 2022.
- b. Area Meetings have since been held in February, May and Aug.
- c. The Area has seen the uptake of GR's and an increase in area assembly attendance and involvement.
- d. The Area has a Treasurer and Secretary.
- e. The Area Phone Coordinator position continues and reports consistent calls-in with first contact response working well.
- f. The Area Delegate vacancy has seen two members recently express interest in serving in this role which is to be voted on at the August 2023 area assembly.
- g. A positive increase in members serving in area positions is noted.
- h. There is a good number of attendees at area assemblies including five GR's or a group member standing in for them when unable to attend.
- i. There appears to be a communication disconnect with a couple of groups in the area.
- j. In recent weeks one AMIAS approval has been received and that same member voted in as Area Two Alateen Coordinator.

### 5. Reflection:

- a. Groups have small but committed member attendance and are managing to continue to be self-supporting.
- b. There is an increase in member involvement in group and area service.
- c. There is a growing conversation about Alateen and interest from members to support Alateen in Area Two.

### 6. Conclusion:

- a. Area Two has small group attendance, though they continue to be self-supporting in addition to members making a conscious effort to practise service, proving the fourth Concept of Service that participation is the key to harmony.

#### Updates and Comments

- ▲ We are losing members and positions are not filled, but from December, Dave filled Area Chair and other positions are being filled.
- ▲ Seven groups and five group reps. Phone coordinator. We use public outreach posters and have a meetings list. There is some resistance to medical centres having flyers as they are digital.
- ▲ Al-Anon is on the govt health web site on Healthline.



### Answers to Questions

- ▲ We do not have a Delegate but have someone who is keen.
- ▲ On the NZ digital Healthline Al-Anon is there but it is hard to find, three clicks on links to get to it.
- ▲ I am the Alateen coordinator.
- ▲ With seven groups but only five turned up, one GR because of distance and one not sure why. Dave is going around to all groups and injecting energy.

## Area Three

Renée S (Delegate)

### Area:

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

### Groups:

We have 11 Groups (12 meetings): Many Voices One Journey, Lower Hutt Strength and Hope, Principles Above Personalities (Step 11 Meditation), Paths to Recovery, Courage to Change, Kapiti Wednesday, Wainuiomata Path of Hope, Plimmerton Steps by the Sea, Saturday Serenity, Rocket Recovery Speaker Meeting and Al-Anon Works Paraparaumu.

### Highlights:

Three of our meetings are participating in the online trial and staying part of our service structure. Two groups were struggling to fulfil service positions; going online has helped them get back to being fully self-supporting. Rocket Recovery Speaker Meeting now truly reflects the worldwide fellowship with its international speakers.

Our second spiritual GRs Boot Camp – for GRs, Alt GRs and aspiring GRs – couldn't go ahead in October due to the Delegate being unwell. It has been rescheduled for April 2023.

### Assemblies:

We continue to hold three Assemblies a year, two interim and election. In November, three members were elected to 2023-2025 roles – Secretary, Public Outreach Coordinator and Delegate – and a fourth said yes to fulfilling the rest of the Treasurer's term.

The Area Committee adopted spiritual principles, inspired by the WSO Exec Committee ones adopted in November 2021. The principles are: mutual respect and appreciation, balance, courtesy, accountability, honesty, abundant thinking and trust. To set a positive and productive tone, we read them aloud at the start of each Area Committee meeting and refer to them as needed throughout.

In February, our Area Committee appointed a member into the vacant role of Area Alateen Coordinator until the November election Assembly. We now have two AMIAS in the Area.

We made 'newcomer packs' for our Area Phonenumber Coordinator to send out to callers.

### Public Outreach:

Our new PO Coordinator organised an online meeting with two group PO Coordinators to talk with a local HIPs (health improvement practitioners). Feedback was very positive, and ideas are flowing for more attractive activity in this arena.

**SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF AREA 3 COMMITTEE**

**MUTUAL RESPECT & APPRECIATION**  
We value the effort that each of us puts forth to complete assigned projects and service work for our review. We demonstrate the respect that we have for each other in service. We place a high value on service experience.

**BALANCE**  
We balance our feedback so that it's honest, yet not overly critical, remembering that we need to have a reason or rationale for why we are suggesting a change and include positive points. We offer this feedback to give clarity and understanding.

**COURTESY/KINDNESS**  
We treat people the same way we want to be treated. We model this principle in our interactions with each other and the wider Fellowship. We respond to emails in a timely manner and we prioritise Area service.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**  
We value each other's time and deadlines. We promptly provide the service work we've been assigned, allowing time and consideration for peer review and constructive feedback.

**HONESTY**  
We speak our truth even when doing so is difficult and uncomfortable. We ask for and accept help and support knowing that we don't serve alone in Al-Anon.

**ABUNDANT THINKING**  
We recognise that we are serving a higher purpose by bringing creativity, new ideas, positive attitude, vision, commitment and foresight to our service work.

**TRUST**  
We value and listen to the minority opinion, appreciating the fact that others have a duty to state it. We understand that all we share is confidential.

Adapted from WSO Exec Committee 9/Nov/2021  
© Area 3 Area 3 Committee January 2022

### Cooperation with AA:

Moving our March Assembly meant we could fully participate with AA at the Central Area Assembly (CAA). The AA host committee was very welcoming, and we co-hosted the event. We had celebratory cake for Lois W's birthday, a continuous serenity countdown after the AAs sobriety countdown, and fish & chips afterwards. We held an open Alateen workshop to raise awareness. Attractive posters encouraged members to attend and learn what Alateen is all about.

### Concerns:

Three of our 11 Groups are without GRs, though one has an active Alternate and the other two have members in contact with Area. The upcoming, free-to-attend, GR's Boot Camp aims to address some of the service challenges we're experiencing.

The absence of a CRBM continues to be a challenge, particularly with the January 2024 National AA Convention being held in the Hawke's Bay.

### Summary

We continue to have a high proportion of new GRs and Area Committee members. My focus will be on nurturing those new to general service, so they are well supported, feel encouraged to participate, demonstrate good leadership and to strive towards the Al-Anon ideals of being a vital and forward reaching fellowship.

#### Updates and Comments

- ▲ GRs spiritual bootcamp hosted by delegate and two former delegates with six attending.
- ▲ The Area Committee meeting and GRs meeting held before upcoming July Assembly were both very well attended.
- ▲ New CAL image introduced to Area.
- ▲ At the June public meeting, three people shared how steps worked in their lives, 25 people in attendance.
- ▲ An Area Alateen Coordinator was voted in by Area Committee. Three new AMIAS forms completed.
- ▲ Serenity Weekend well attended in May, hosted by a local group.
- ▲ One GR has resigned, 4 out of 11 groups do not have a GR.

#### Answers to Questions

- ▲ Regarding the 'newcomer packs' we have only sent out one pack to a phone caller. Most new members are online, the remaining packs went to the public meeting.
- ▲ The Area has three online groups all have GRs and they physically go to Assembly business meetings.
- ▲ RBMs: three former Delegates are in service in Area or at Board. One is not.
- ▲ Held a hybrid Assembly business meeting successfully as well as a GRs meeting, but it's very tech reliant. Introducing an Area Tech Coordinator to share the service.
- ▲ Continuous serenity countdown held at the AA CAA after AA's sobriety countdown. Both fellowships stood around in a circle and afterwards celebrated Lois's birthday with a rainbow cake.
- ▲ The groups that do not have GRs, do they have Alt GRs? One does, two have previous GRs, the 4th group has two area committee members in contact with the rest of the service structure.
- ▲ Conference approved literature-slide was about the literature itself being conference approved, not the slide.
- ▲ We have no current Alateen meetings. We are working on the Alateen foundation blocks (Area coordinator, AMIASs, willing parents) and then we'll get a venue. Area Alateen Coordinator ran a mock Alateen meeting at the AA CAA.
- ▲ What is included in the newcomer's pack? - it is the welcome pack (K-10).

**Area:**

The Area stretches from Gisborne to Dannevirke.

**Al-Anon Groups:**

There is one group operating within Area Four: Hastings Al-Anon Family Group. Napier Al-Anon Family Group closed at the end of February 2023.

There are no Alateen groups within Area Four.

**2022-23 Year in summary:**

Both Hastings and Napier Groups have kept their meetings going through 2022-2023, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The Hastings AFG meets on Wednesday evenings, and while numbers have dropped slightly, they have around nine members per meeting. They continue to struggle to fill service positions. In between meetings, members stay connected socially via WhatsApp.

The Napier AFG used to meet on Thursday evenings and had on average of 2 or 3 members per meeting, with frequent newcomers attending for one or two meetings. Meeting topics followed the suggested format covering Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Slogans. During the past year the group introduced holding a Group Inventory the third week of the month with a box placed out at all meetings for members to place topics they wished to be discussed.

**Public Outreach:**

Area Four has a banner which is placed at strategic locations across Napier and Hastings. The Area has a Public Outreach officer who supports the AFGs; but our focus is on the individual Groups being responsible for public outreach.

**Area Assemblies:**

Area Four has held Assemblies in July 2022 and November 2022. The March 2023 assembly has been postponed due to the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on many Area Four committee members.

The November 2022 assembly was held as part of Al-Anon participation in the Hawke's Bay AA Intergroup meeting. The Al-Anon theme for the day was 'Enjoying Life' with three Al-Anon sharing meetings and a combined AA / Al-Anon meeting at the end making the day a huge success.

**Concerns within groups or areas:**

Both AFGs have struggled to fill Service positions.

Napier AFG has closed due to declining regular attendee numbers meaning it was no longer living Tradition Seven.

**Solutions used:**

Both Groups ask regularly for members to volunteer for Service positions, as does the Area. During meetings the roles are explained so that members are aware of what is involved and reassured that there is also support from others.

This year all AFG members were invited to attend committee meetings as a way of demystifying Area activity and increasing opportunities to gather and have fun. This has been successful, with the Area Four Chairperson position now filled.

Area Four Committee organised a social picnic lunch on 27<sup>th</sup> November. This was well attended by members of both AFGs.

**Conference Matters Arising:**

Area Four has no matters arising from the previous Conference.

## AA Convention with Al-Anon participation:

The 2023 AA Convention with Al-Anon participation held in Christchurch was promoted across both AFG meetings.

Area Four looks forward to supporting the organisation of the 2024 AA Convention being held in Havelock North.

## Year in Brief:

Area Four is saddened by the closing of Napier AFG, resulting in one AFG remaining in Area Four. However, Area Four is committed to Al-Anon recovery and fellowship.

### Updates and Comments

- ▲ Area Four now only has one group in our area.
- ▲ Two members have volunteered to be part of the 2024 AA convention to do the hospitality. One member is joining Di and attending the AA committee meetings for the convention.

### Answers to Questions

- ▲ How do you have a quorum at an assembly with one GR? Very challenging. We opened it to the floor so all the members could discuss, and they voted. The GR for Hastings is also public outreach, a few people are doing a lot.
- ▲ We invited group members to join Area our committee meetings which helped. Big success as we got a chair.
- ▲ The cyclone has impacted two members, so the assembly was delayed. The new chair did well.
- ▲ The theme was “Enjoying Life”, we had yellow and blue balloons everywhere to attract attention, combined with AA, chocolate bars, popped balloons when someone shared.
- ▲ Do you have an Alt Delegate? We have Sally as the Alt Delegate.
- ▲ With the tension in a group one member was vocal about problems, we used group conscience to move it out of personalities. We used a box for members to put anything in and the third week we looked at the questions. The person stopped coming.
- ▲ The AA convention public outreach ideas are: Road trip to Dannevirke pop up meetings beside an AA meeting. Go to where the AAs are meeting.

## Area Five

Teena H (Observer)

Area Five Greetings Everybody,

I was lucky enough to be invited as an Observer for Area Five at this year’s conference and as their representative, offered the following as a summary of how Al-Anon operates within our Area.

### Area:

Area Five ranges from Piopio in the North to Levin in the South and across to Dannevirke in the East. We have four active meetings at present: two in New Plymouth (Monday night and Thursday lunchtime), one in Whanganui (Friday lunchtime) and one in Palmerston North (Thursday night - hybrid meeting). They all have GRs at present.

### Groups

The Area has four groups one is a hybrid; one is struggling to stay open with three members only and one is a newcomer.

### Assemblies:

We hold Area Assemblies four times each year, rotating between the main areas to host each one i.e. New Plymouth, Whanganui and Palmerston North. Our Area Assemblies usually have a Sharing Meeting alongside our Business Meeting, a shared lunch and a workshop/sharing meeting in the afternoon.

Our Palmerston North Assembly coincides with the AA Assembly with Al-Anon Participation and often has members from Areas Three and Four attend. We hold a GR meeting online before the Assemblies.

Encouraging members into Service is an on-going struggle for our area.

At present our area hosts an Area Chairperson, Area Secretary and Area Treasurer although both Secretary and Treasurer will be resigning following our July Assembly. We have a nomination for an Area Delegate and Treasurer which seems promising, and a lot of shoulder-tapping is happening in the hope of filling more roles. Without an Area Delegate we miss a lot of info.

Yours in Service, Teena H

#### **Answers to Questions:**

- ▲ Yes, the finishing Area Secretary is considering being Area Delegate.
- ▲ We do try to do rotation of roles, staggering the officer roles.

## **Area Six**

**Helen P (Delegate)**

### **Area:**

The Area stretches from Whitianga, Waihi, Tauranga, Rotorua, Tokoroa and Hamilton.

### **Groups and Loners:**

Hamilton Central AFG, Tamahaere Hamilton Sunday AFG, Tauranga Monday Night AFG, Rotorua Geyserland AFG, Waihi AFG, Lone Member: Whitianga.

Hamilton Courage to Change group has disbanded.

Two new groups have started, Hamilton Central AFG, and Tokoroa AFG

### **Alateen Report:**

We do not have an Alateen group in Area Six, but we have two Alateen sponsor's currently in Area Six.

### **Highlights during the year:**

I have only been in this service role since January this year, so I am fairly new in this role but I have been an Area Delegate in the past. Attending AA convention (60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention) in January 2023 at St Andrew's College, Christchurch was a highlight for me. It was a special time spending time with others in recovery. Theme was Happy, Joyous and Free.

It has been great getting together as an Area again face to face, and being physically together for some is a better option.

It has been great to have two new groups starting up in our Area, which is a bit of a boost with the number of groups diminishing in Area Six.

### **Public Outreach:**

There is a desire for members to spread the information and get the message out there in the community. For members to share their experience, strength and hope. There is always room to learn more in public outreach and gain new ideas on how to spread the message in our area. We do not have a public outreach co-ordinator at this present time.

### **Area Assemblies:**

As an area due to diminishing groups and lower numbers attending the Area Assembly, we made a decision to have a catch up at the beginning of the year and a main assembly at the end of the year. The committee will still stay in touch through emails, phoning, and on the Messenger App.

### **Concerns:**

In the new group starting in Hamilton, there was a concern about paying rent, but the venue where they hold their meetings, the owners are not charging rent for a couple of months. In the new group, members are encouraged to get involved in service. Setting up a new bank account can be difficult, so in the Waihi AFG, a member has opened up a subsidiary account, purely for Al-Anon and that is working well.



In the Tauranga group, we have not had access to our bank account, so we went through a process at the bank of setting up our bank account so we can do online banking. After doing all that was required, we have finally completed the process and are now very close to being back up and running again.

The meetings in Rotorua AFG are very low in numbers and there have been times lately where there was only the person opening up. The person opening up is staying there for a set time, before locking up for the night when no one else turns up.

Having the Covid Pandemic has had an effect on people, and they seemed to have changed their priorities and their commitments. They may choose to live their lives differently, and that may not include mixing in a group of people in an Al-Anon meeting.

### Summary:

To be honest, there have been challenges in our area, with diminishing numbers and a reduction in Al-Anon groups in the area. We as an area have been affected by diminishing numbers and there have been groups which have struggled to have enough members to fulfil service positions and be self-supporting financially. With lower numbers, this has had an impact on those who want to continue to hold meetings but can't because no one turns up.

It is exciting to have two new groups opening up in area six, and as an area we will support them to get established. We still have committed members who attend meetings each week and share their experience, strength and hope. I am proud to see members show their resilience and commitment to Al-Anon in Area six.

### Updates and Comments

- ▲ We usually have three Assemblies a year, now one catch-up and one Assembly. We caught up in Tirau in May. This was decided because our numbers in attendance were going down. We got to meet the two members who started new groups in Tokoroa and Hamilton which was a great encouragement for us all.
- ▲ The next Assembly is in October which is an election Assembly.
- ▲ One group has finally got their bank account up and running and able to use it online and are looking at a budget for an ample reserve.
- ▲ There is a need for a support person when you open up as there is concern with safety as a homeless man got aggressive and a male member was able to successfully escort him outside.
- ▲ On one occasion the Church rented out the main area and people kept walking through our meeting space, very uneasy for members, so we are sending an email to let the church know so it does not happen again.

### Answers to Questions

- ▲ What is the format for the catchup, who attends and how long?
- ▲ The Assembly was originally planned for March. It was decided at the last Assembly as Committee members were going down and hard to fill service roles as a compromise to have a catchup and communicate the rest of the time through the App. The Delegate preferred it when there were three Committee meetings then Area Assemblies. The Delegate connected better and there was better communication. We have a Delegate and a Treasurer and the Secretary stood down at the last Assembly, as she only stood for one year, so we agreed to share the role of secretary and use email not post in communicating to organise things.
- ▲ The next Assembly is an election assembly, hopefully we will have a quorum.
- ▲ The males attending come and go as their circumstances change. They are new members not ready for service. We recognise they have the same issues and see things from a different perspective and enjoy their participation.
- ▲ Will you consider increasing the number of Area Assemblies per year? Maybe a change to a Sunday. I will be suggesting increasing the Assemblies and maybe try an electronic meeting in the middle. This may fit better for those with sporting activities.
- ▲ The Area AMIAS are approved at the end of year Assembly so we need new forms for the October Assembly. The Delegate and one other are AMIAS.



- ▲ To explain the not charging rent for a couple of months. We have very understanding people in the church and have been meeting there for 30 years. After a meeting to get the group conscience it was worked out that it has always been a donation, not a set amount. I will catch up on the last two years then pay a regular payment after that.
- ▲ To explain the subsidiary bank account. In Waihi we couldn't get a bank account and there is a separate personal account with a very trustworthy and responsible member, and this is working well. It was easier in Tauranga as we already had an account.

## Area Seven

Julie M (Delegate)

### Area:

The Area covers from the Bombay Hills south of Auckland to the south side of Dominion Road in central Auckland. Area Seven has 10 Groups as follows: Remuera Personal Freedom AFG, Courage to Change Meadowbank AFG, How Al-Anon Works AFG, Sunday Sharing AFG, Papakura ODAT AFG, Manurewa Luncheon AFG, Wednesday Steps to Recovery AFG (on-line and registered to GSO), Friendship Discussion AFG, Tuesday Night Serenity AFG, Sunday Sharing Alateen AFG.

### Alateen Report:

We have an Alateen Coordinator and seven approved AMIAS sponsors. One Alateen is currently attending our meeting. The AMIAS commitment is two-meetings every five weeks. We are looking for a Group willing to set up an Alateen meeting alongside their meeting, encouraging members to become an AMIAS and are seeking support to enable Alateen to grow.

### Highlights:

*AA Northern Area assembly with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation* was held on Saturday 12th November 2022 and was held in Botany. There were a number of online meetings with the AA Committee prior to Assembly and they were a great team to work with. In addition to Al-Anon meetings we held two Alateen meetings.

*Intergroup:* Intergroup continues to go well with good numbers and Groups Chairing on a roster basis organised by our Intergroup Coordinator on the first Wednesday of the month. At the March Intergroup there were 16 people.

*Quarterly Delegates Meeting:* Delegates from areas are meeting quarterly to discuss What's happening in their area – sharing information and challenges experienced. This is particularly useful in the absence of Regional Board Members. Board members have been allocated to Areas. Our Board member is Kirsten W. These two actions improve the information flow and communication in the fellowship.

*Area Seven Recovery Weekend:* Friday 17-19 March 2023 – This was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. There were 13 participants. This is a “Who am I?” and has been run for 20 years. It is a great way to work the steps in a serene environment. This year it was steps 10, 11 and 12.

*Literature Coordinator:* This role has been filled. Literature in our Area Seven/Area Eight supply is being reviewed and is heading towards being complete. This is used for Assemblies, Recovery weekends, and AA Assemblies with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation. Moving forward as literature is sold, it will be replaced.

*Visiting Meetings in Area:* I will be working with the Alt Delegate to ensure as many Groups as possible are visited to share information and to listen to the Group's opinions and any problems and challenges, they may have.

*Area Assembly workshops:* At our last Area Assembly it was agreed that we will hold Workshops, the first one on Service. Other suggestions are Alateen and Sponsorship. A task force will work on a presentation and invite and encourage participation with lunch afterwards. This will meet the needs of new GRs and those wanting to know more about Service and the joy and benefit it brings. It is encouraging to

see we have people supporting the Area by attending our assemblies and I would like this number and support to grow.

*AA Convention with AFG Participation – Christchurch:* Four from Area Seven attended the Convention.

### **Public outreach:**

Our current Public Outreach coordinator has created a Task Sheet in Google documents which is accessible to Groups and is a comprehensive list. The PO Coordinator holds Quarterly on-line meeting to keep things reviewed and current. Initiatives include - Doctor's surgeries, Police, Rotation of large Posters, advertising in papers (Stuff) and an editorial. The Groups are encouraging members to join these meetings either a Public Outreach person or an Alt GR. Some Groups are having difficulty to get a representative along to these Quarterly meetings.

### **Concerns in Groups:**

Concerns have been expressed regarding the number of AI-Anon's that are involved in service within and outside the Group. This comes together with our decline in numbers. As well as attracting new members, ways of encouraging members to participate in service has been discussed. One suggested solution is Workshops at our Assemblies.

The year is going well in the Area with a full committee being elected in February who bring passion and enthusiasm. Generally, numbers and Groups are down. We are aware of this and the implications and as an Area are working to find solutions.

### **Updates and Comments**

- ▲ First year in the role. Area seven is a very busy area.
- ▲ Have visited all but one group and will continue to visit after one visit as get amazing feedback and connections especially where there is no GR.
- ▲ Encourage those with no GR to send a temp or elect a GR for the Assembly.
- ▲ Public outreach person has stepped down, but she did a spreadsheet of all that was happening in the area that anyone can access. She has encouraged a PO person in each group and had monthly meetings now moved to one before each Assembly.
- ▲ AA Northern Area Assembly. The Remuera group met monthly with them, the theme of serenity. AAs were very cooperative and had rooms for AI-Anon and Alateen.
- ▲ May Workshop on service with help from area three bootcamp workshop. GR's meeting then the workshop with food and fellowship which got one GR from this.
- ▲ Succession planning is on the agenda each assembly, suggesting at the beginning of the service to think of an alternate to take over later.
- ▲ Alateen coordinator is stepping down.
- ▲ Area seven assembly is on Google docs. Encourage everyone to read GR reports.
- ▲ Very active area secretary works with Delegate if we don't have a GR they will get a person in the group to receive emails.
- ▲ Board communication actively shared at meetings.
- ▲ Four members attended the convention in Christchurch.

### **Answers to Questions**

- ▲ How does the Area support electronic meetings – as there is no GR they sent a physical temp representative which helped with the quorum.
- ▲ Serenity weekend is not at Aio Wira, but now looking forward to having it in the St Francis retreat in March 2024.

**Al-Anon Family Groups:**

Area Eight covers the area of Auckland west of Dominion Rd and the rest of the North Island from the Auckland Harbour Bridge to Cape Reinga. We have twelve groups operating some face-to-face, some via Zoom and some offer hybrid-style meetings.

At present, we have no Alateens in attendance at any meetings face-to-face or via zoom, however, we do have eight AMIAS currently available to roster on for service should they be required.

Anna (Alt-Delegate) and I have implemented a timetable, allowing for each group to be personally visited by one or both of us. We are trialling using a template group visit sheet to record notes and keep us on task. This will maintain a sense of uniformity in our group visits.

**2022-2023 Highlights:**

After being postponed due to the COVID pandemic, the Serenity weekend held over Queen's Birthday weekend in 2022 at the Friary in Hillsborough was very successful. A lot of positive comments were received, and it seems that people are keen to attend a future event, currently scheduled for June 2024.

Our monthly Intergroup Speaker's Meeting is back up and running face-to-face in Northcote.

The AA Regional Assembly with Al-Anon participation scheduled in Whangarei on March 11 was unfortunately cancelled due to the after-effects of cyclone Gabriel. This was particularly disappointing for me as I had experienced excellent support from our Whangarei and Kerikeri groups, with regard to hosting and chairing meetings, along with providing an Al-Anon speaker for the public meeting.

**Public Outreach:**

*Auckland City Council Community Notice Boards:* The Area has a rotation of three signs in central Auckland and a rotation of one sign over two sites in West Auckland. These have been displayed throughout the year at prominent locations.

*AFG Awareness:* Most years Area Eight with the support of Area Seven has a small stall at the Big Gay Out event. This is a fun day and a great opportunity to reach out and create awareness of AFG.

Volunteering to help on the day is a great opportunity for Tradition Eleven service. However, the Big Gay Out on 12 February 2023 was postponed due to Auckland flooding issues and unfortunately, Area 8 was unable to commit to the new proposed date of 12 March, so reluctantly withdrew from the event.

*Mobile Phone:* A dedicated Area Eight mobile phone receives calls from members of the public who call in on the 0508 number. The phone has been upgraded to a new model. A budget of \$400 has been allocated for phone top-ups. It is encouraging to see members volunteering to take the phone and do service.

*Libraries:* I am aware of three libraries within our area that have Al-Anon Family Group featured in their windows. Posters, books, and Conference Approved Literature, that is available from Auckland libraries, have been predominantly displayed.

*Supermarket Noticeboard Cards:* We are encouraging members to place cards featuring AFG contact information on local supermarket noticeboards. No permission is required to display these cards and it is an example of how members can easily begin service and maintain anonymity.

*Trifold Brochure:* Ref: WSO Service Manual p 123

Pre-COVID-19, a need for a simple multipurpose brochure unique to Area Eight (Auckland, North Shore, and Northland) was recognised. The intention was not to replace CAL pamphlets but to present identifiable Area 8 icon images to attract newcomers to AFG. An article about the effects of Alcoholism from Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2020, a brief outline about How Can Al-Anon Help? and contact information connecting to the AFG website were included in the design. The process of having the brochure approved has been arduous and we are still awaiting an outcome.

**Area Assemblies:**

Four assemblies are held each year, two on either side of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. The GRs hold a

meeting beforehand to share information and discuss any issues of concern. Lately, attendance from the groups has been down, however, there seems to be a good commitment to fundraising and hosting duties. Lunch and the workshop skits are always fabulous. Groups are often choosing to elect a 'GR for the Day' if the Group Rep or Alt Group Rep is unable to attend.

### Concerns:

- It has been brought to my attention that an issue of dominance is occurring in a group. This is of concern to members, and we are looking at ways in which the issue can be addressed and solved by using our AFG Three Legacies.
- We have some key service roles on the Area Eight committee coming vacant at the end of 2023. Succession Planning and shoulder tapping to encourage new people to participate in service at the area level are needed.
- We would appreciate clear GSO / GSB guidelines and a timeframe on how to process requests for printing additional area information e.g., a brochure.
- We would like to find ways in which we can attract Tradition 7 donations via the website. Perhaps adding a donation button to the shop and homepage... plus enabling electronic payment for literature orders might be items for discussion and then action.

With all this in mind, Al-Anon Family Groups in Area 8 continue to provide great experience, strength and hope to those of us who have been affected by another's drinking and I feel privileged to be involved with the fellowship.

### Updates and Comments

- ▲ One groups concern about dominance, Delegate suggested CAL readings and has since visited the group and all is ok now.
- ▲ The Trifold Brochure mentioned in my report will not go ahead.
- ▲ The Public outreach person is very enthusiastic and supports the Area well.
- ▲ The Area has two secretaries (one for minutes one for communication).
- ▲ Many physical groups use an electronic part as well.
- ▲ One group is fully electronic and their members, who now mostly live outside Area Eight, are wanting to know whether or not they should remain part of Area Eight, or not.
- ▲ Our Whangarei group, although small, was very eager to support the AA Northern Area Assembly. Unfortunately it was cancelled due to post-cyclone roading/flooding issues.

### Answers to Questions

- ▲ The GRs meet at 9.30am for discussion and the Assembly starts at 10am.
- ▲ Comment from the regarding website buttons for donations and sale of literature. Mentioned and considered in the past and there is a way it can be done but – a donation button invites outside contributions, and with a payment button GSO loses money to the service provider.
- ▲ Although there are eight AMIAS, we do not currently have a roster for Alateen meetings.
- ▲ Regarding when we can provide an Alateen meeting. We do now when Alateens turn up, two AMIAS will facilitate a meeting. The older Alateens that turn up have easily attended the Al-Anon Groups.
- ▲ Paula and Angie will chat about how the National Alateen Coordinator can support Area Eight. There was concern that these Alateen meetings are 'phantom' and not available on the website.

**Area:**

Area Nine stretches from Haast to Karamea on the West Coast across the top of the South Island. Including Blenheim, Nelson, Motueka and Golden Bay.

Groups include: Hokitika, Greymouth, Nelson Monday, Richmond Wednesday, Nelson Friday and Blenheim.

Golden Bay group stopped holding meetings since the end of February 2023 and I have suggested that the Group Rep consider the loners status. Golden Bay had been meeting for five years with small numbers. They have also participated in Assemblies and the Teapot Valley AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation.

Some of our rural area have very small numbers and in the case of Golden Bay a long-time member has stepped back, and another has left the area. This means that only the Group Rep was at the meeting rooms each week. I have supported the Group Rep by suggesting a trial period of an electronic meeting. But the members do not want to accept that offer. They have had several meetings to explore the group conscience options. The group makes their own decision.

Loners include Golden Bay one, Motueka one, Reefton two and Haast one.

**Highlights:**

Area Nine members participated in the Alcoholics Anonymous 60th Convention with Al-Anon participation in Christchurch on 20-22 January 2023.

This included the planning Convention Committee members, i.e. Convention chair, secretary, hostess, session chairs and many travelled to Christchurch to enjoy the fellowship and fun at Convention.

As the Area Nine delegate and in the absence of a SRBM I was invited by the Board to chair the Convention. This was a wonderful service opportunity but my time visiting groups has been impacted. But I do keep in touch by phone and visiting other Nelson groups as often as I can.

I always actively encourage all GRs to attend assemblies but geographically this is a challenge for some. Participation in an AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation held at Teapot Valley in June was very successful.

**Assemblies:**

We have had one electronic Assembly last year in August. The Area committee acted very nimbly to change the Assembly from Blenheim because the road to Blenheim was closed due to the extreme and damaging weather event in our Nelson/Blenheim area.

I delivered my post conference report at that Assembly.

The November Assembly was in Greymouth where we had a small active and welcoming group. We voted on a new chairperson from Hokitika and a new Treasurer from Nelson.

**Public Outreach:**

Most groups continue with regular activities in the groups local areas. Our Area Public Outreach coordinator position remains vacant.

Assemblies: We have an Assembly this weekend and so I will update the Conference on the current public Outreach activities later this year.

We have two significant issues to vote on at this weekend Assembly. We are adding a new Area committee position for an Alateen Area Coordinator. One of our Nelson group members has been working towards this role for some six months now and also has had contact with the Board Alateen coordinator for advice and support. The Area will need to decide on a financial support fund and plan of action will also need to be approved.

The other issue is the Group Rep vote to decide on the format of our Assemblies. Traditionally these have been held over two days with the business meeting on the Sunday and the group rep and committee meetings as well as a sharing meeting held on the Saturday. One group suggested having all the business on the Saturday and then the sharing meeting on the Sunday. Survey was done some two years ago and we have had the trial going until this Assembly. I can comment on the results in my Conference update.

Group inventories are being discussed by a few groups and there are positive feedback comments.

### **Summary:**

Overall our Area Nine is in good heart and we enjoy sharing our experience, strength and hope.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- ▲ The Area is in good heart. The recent assembly in Blenheim had two events to vote on:
  1. The format of assembly going forward? There has been considerable debate over the past five years about one day or two. There was a confronting meeting at the serenity weekend and the issue was reopened. Travel challenges and one group not wanting meetings on Sundays. A survey was conducted but not conclusive and was brought up again at the next Assembly with not enough GRs attending it was postponed until the Blenheim meeting when all GRs attended and a decision was made. It will be two days with members having the option to stay over or not.
  2. A new appointment of an area Alateen coordinator, her AMIAS Police check is done and two more are waiting checks.
- ▲ The next assembly is in August with the hope to organise a plan going forward.
- ▲ The Area is struggling with a bit of fatigue after participation at the convention in CHCH.
- ▲ The Delegate has walked alongside the Alternate Delegate and is happy she will support and participate in the AA Southern Area Assembly.

#### **No Questions**



# Summary of Delegates Meeting

Di & Lucy

All nine Delegates met on Friday night after orientation.  
The meeting opened with Serenity Prayer

## Discussed expectations of Conference

- Having fun, and go home on a high note
- Get 'take home messages' and memories
- Inspire and motivate AFGs when go back
- Open to learning new things
- Feeling more united with Al-Anon NZ fellowship
- See what happens in a practical way
- Mindful of responsibility to learn and take back
- Do the best we can for our Areas
- Open lines of communication between Areas and rest of NZ
- Take back Alateen information
- Make a contribution to Al-Anon
- Make a connection with people

## Area Updates Provided

### Area One

- Proud of way Area One stepped up to help with AA Convention – fund-raising etc
- Proud of Area One committee with all service positions filled
- Working on getting service back together for Area committee

### Area Two

- Proud of AFGs which are getting smaller but are still self-supporting and filling service positions
- Proud of Area Chairperson service role being filled, and progress made to fill other roles
- Working on continuing the growth at Area Level and Alateen

### Area Three

- Proud of how quickly Area has embraced risk with technology – now have Tech role
- Proud of adopting Spiritual Goals for Area Committee meetings and Assemblies
- Working on getting more GRs – supporting people to be confident to be GR

### Area Four

- Proud of Area Committee with new members stepping into roles
- Proud of Hastings AFG welcoming members from closed Napier AFG
- Working on taking Al-Anon to areas without a AFG – pop up meetings and annual meeting with AA in towns without Al-Anon

### Area Five

- Proud of way Area has focussed on always going back to the Handbook and Higher Power as our guide
- Proud of making Assemblies fun with combination of business, sharing, and workshops
- Working on consolidating Area and AFG knowledge of Handbook

### Area Six

- Proud that we have decided to keep the Area going via flexibility of meetings
- Working on having a third annual meeting via Zoom to keep communication flowing and maintaining our identity

### Area Seven

- Proud of the way committee functions – fun place to be while taking care of business
- Working on the way Area committee helps develop GRs and Alt GRs – succession planning

### Area Eight

- Proud of how groups have approached electronic meetings and use of mobile phone to share service role for 0508 phone calls

- Proud of how the Whangarei AFG supported the AA Northern Assembly
- Working on succession planning for Area roles

#### Area Nine

- Proud of the way the Area has worked the programme to manage a challenging situation and have agreed to a way forward
- Proud of the Area committee with all service positions filled
- Working on fostering newer Al-Anon members into service and succession planning

#### **Connecting as Delegates**

- Online meetings
- Four per year minimum

#### **Chat Group**

- Welcoming
- Sharing resources and guidance
- Fellowship
- Support for each other e.g. Convention

Noted some points to share with the two questions chosen by the Delegates to bring forward for discussion to the conference floor – full notes follow ...

Shared a funny story

Closed with Serenity Prayer

# Delegate Questions for Discussion

Di & Lucy

## Question 1:

### The importance of sponsoring and serving – what are the barriers and rewards?

#### Rewards

- ▲ Got CAL to help with our understanding for the member, which leads to rewards
- ▲ Sponsorship/Working Together to Recover Bookmark (M-78)
- ▲ NZ Handbook (PN-27)
- ▲ Sponsorship pamphlet (P-31)
- ▲ Daily readers e.g. Courage to Change e.g. pages 52, 179, 226, 241, 308, 363
- ▲ Working smarter not harder through sponsorship
- ▲ Do you have a sponsor?
- ▲ Do you have a service sponsor?
- ▲ Do you go to meetings regularly?
- ▲ Spiritual relationships
- ▲ Opportunity for growth for both Sponsor and Sponsees
- ▲ Get more than you give – need to live this experience
- ▲ Ability to work beside others
- ▲ Get to know and trust another person
- ▲ Someone to talk to without judgement
- ▲ Gain confidence and increased self esteem
- ▲ Fellowship
- ▲ Practice boundaries with certain sponsees
- ▲ Creating lifelong friendships and intimate friendships with people
- ▲ Witnessing change and growth
- ▲ Realising when it's not working
- ▲ Humility from serving
- ▲ New skills
- ▲ Encouraged to step out of comfort zone. Someone is there in your corner.
- ▲ Laughter and fellowship
- ▲ Great food at Assemblies
- ▲ Changed attitudes can aid recovery
- ▲ God creates the time for me to do service

#### Barriers

- ▲ Not sure when we should offer a sponsor
- ▲ First meeting give newcomer pamphlet
- ▲ Put group members phone numbers on the back
- ▲ Agreed person talks to newcomer about how to use phone numbers for reaching out
- ▲ At meeting ask who is looking for a sponsor
- ▲ Smaller groups
- ▲ Promoting use of inter-Area activities to find a sponsor from another Area
- ▲ Want to know person will work programme – ask sponsees to attend six meetings
- ▲ How do people know who is willing to be a sponsor?
- ▲ Asterisks on phone list those willing to sponsor
- ▲ At meeting ask those who are willing to be a temporary sponsor - show of hands
- ▲ “I don't have time” and I can't commit to the duration (three years for some service roles)
- ▲ Serve ‘one day at a time’
- ▲ Reach out for help if time is a barrier
- ▲ How to make service attractive?
- ▲ Have a service sponsor

## Barriers ...

- ▲ Raffles
- ▲ Themes
- ▲ Competition between hosting groups
- ▲ Hosting group given budget from Area for food
- ▲ Understanding the difference between a service sponsor and a personal sponsor
- ▲ Clear boundaries and understanding the service manual
- ▲ Clear guidelines and transparency about understanding what the role entails
- ▲ I am my biggest barrier – and my ego and attitude. I just need to talk to my service sponsor.

### What have groups done to reduce these barriers?

- Hold a workshop at assembly facilitated by the host group – these are usually about sponsorship and service sponsorship (Area Three idea)
- Increase the transparency of the types of activities required for service roles (Assemblies, Conference, etc) to better understand the time commitment
- Shoulder tap people who you believe this could benefit/ could be good for the role
- Check that everyone on the committee has a handbook, and buy them one
- Be flexible with service and not “punish” people who are unable to commit to the exact time requirements
- Abundant thinking

## Question 2:

### How can we get more Alateen meetings around New Zealand?

- ▲ Mock Alateen meeting at Assembly
- ▲ Recommendation is to first set up an Alateen meeting group
- ▲ Suggested core minimum of five AMIAS
- ▲ Have an Area Alateen Coordinator
- ▲ Suggested core minimum of two parents (in AA or Al-Anon) who promote Alateen to their teens and pre-teens
- ▲ Site that has a separate room which is co-located beside either
- ▲ Open AA meeting
- ▲ Closed AA meeting and open Al-Anon meeting
- ▲ Second Step - use public outreach to attract members
- ▲ Target audience are members of AA and/or Al-Anon
- ▲ Develop links with local intermediate & high schools
- ▲ Drive interest - Pop-up meetings within schools
- ▲ Pamphlet on Alateen on Schools
- ▲ Mindful that school may then ask you to close the meeting on their site
- ▲ Barrier to Alateen transport to meetings
- ▲ Co-location of meetings
- ▲ Alateen meetings at Assemblies to show AA members there is a place for pre-teens / teens to go
- ▲ Areas to review Handbook for guidance
- ▲ Don't give up if groups close “Let it begin with me”
- ▲ Alateen groups closing is not a failure
- ▲ Barrier for children to go to assembly is the registration price
- ▲ Area Seven has an Alateen budget to cover the cost of Alateen registration
- ▲ Friendship house on a Friday night - get the fellowships communicating with each other – meetings at the same time and place removes barriers
- ▲ Meetings at schools?

# Workshop – Moving Forward with Unity, Courage and Perseverance

---

Angie M & Jill K

“Moving forward”: Idea of being active with purpose.

Al-Anon recovery can be like going through an open door. Beyond that door is another door, and another, and another and down the road there are more and more doors to go through.

With music the members formed an Active Congo line, going around the room, going through many open doorways dancing to the song: “Conga” by Gloria Estefan.

## Readings:

### UNITY

Source: B-32 Soft cover - *How Al-Anon Works*

*Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters Inc 1995,2008, Pg104 &107*

### COURAGE

Source: *Excerpts from One day at a Time June 5, pg 157 Al-*

*Anon Family Group Headquarters inc.*

### PERSERVERANCE

What I practised before Al-Anon was not “moving forward with life.” It was actually “not giving up and staying stuck in the same old place.” Perseverance was my way of practicing the same behaviour over and over, each time expecting a different result. My loved one would reach for the alcohol. I would be filled with dread, but then tell myself, “Maybe this will be the last time” or “maybe he won’t drink as much this time”. I kept expecting things to become different – magically.

“What I’m learning in Al-Anon is things don't magically become different unless I do some footwork. The first step is that I have to fully admit that there is a problem. Noticing a problem and then holding my breath until it goes away is not going to cut it. I realize now that what I used to call perseverance was really just holding my breath. I wasn't living. I was just staying very quiet, not making any waves, and doing everything I could do to keep the home functioning.

In Al-Anon, I pray, I read Conference Approved Literature, I go to meetings, and I work with a sponsor. I really don't know who or what to pray for, but that’s okay. It’s all part of Al-Anon teaching me to breathe, to fully take life in, and move forward. I’m learning to live.

*By Maxine I., Washington*

Excerpt from *The Forum* February 2016.

Reprinted with permission of *The Forum*, Al-Anon Family Group Hdqts., Inc., Virginia Beach, VA

Three groups were formed and asked to create a scenario that they could reason out a process of moving forward to achieve a specific goal or event. Each group were the given the CAL readings.

**Groups were given six questions to ask in the scenario;**

1. Why are we moving forward
2. Where are we going?
3. When are we going?
4. Who is coming with us?
5. How will we know when we get there?
6. What resources/tools do we need?  
these must include Unity, Courage, Perseverance



**Group 1 Scenario**

**Organising a convention/assembly.**

When are we going?

- Jan 24<sup>th</sup>

Why are we moving forward?

- Part of a service role
- Encourage participation.
- Attraction rather than promotion
- Stepping out of comfort zone
- Opportunities to network with AA and increase participation from AA members.
- Sharing and growth

What resources?

- CAL
- Chair/service roles
- Venue
- Appropriate space
- Read the past information in the drop box folder.

How will we know when we get there?

- We are there!
- The Al-Anon hug.
- Debriefs afterwards.

Who?

- The whole fellowship



## Group 2 Scenario

### How do I get out of the alcoholic bottle?

Why?

Misery, violence, cramped, scared, trained, but don't know about Al-Anon

Who is coming?

Family, friends, anyone who feels the same that we do. Our peers

Resources needed?

Communication, courage to search for what we need, courage to step out of the bottle, perseverance, public outreach in the community. Drug and alcohol addiction services.

Where are we going?

Out of the bottle, change our lives.

When?

When we've had enough, and we want to get out of the bottle. When I see someone who has got better after being the same as me.

How will we know when we get there?

When we find people of like mind who can help in Al-Anon, Alateen and AA. When you experience serenity.

## Group 3 Scenario

### We want every group to have a GR, regardless of the group's venue.

When are we going?

Now – we want to start this immediately at the next meeting we attend as members.

Why are we moving forward?

Because groups need to be heard, and connected to the NZ structure in a meaningful way

What resources?

CAL, workshops, committed delegates, fun and fellowship, committed delegates visiting meetings, other members visiting isolated groups.

How will we know when we get there?

We'll have a GR for each group in the NZ service structure.

Where are we going?

Full representation at area level

Who is coming?

All members, regardless of the venue of the home groups.

# Workshop – Abundance of Alateen

Paula B & Julie M

The workshop began with the song “Give a Little Bit of Your Life to Me” - by Supertramp

A video of a recorded Alateen meeting was shared with four Alateen members sharing their journey in Alateen.


Purpose of Alateen and what is happening in your Area.

Foundations blocks are needed prior to Public Outreach.


When a meeting is set up you are looking for participants.

Public Outreach posters were shared from NZ and the WSO websites.


## First things first ...




- ENTHUSIASM
- AREA CO-ORDINATORS
- AMIAS:  
Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service



Some Areas have AMIAS (Al-Anon Member involved in Alateen Service) and three Areas have Alateen Coordinators.



- CONCEPT 1
- UNDERSTANDING SAFETY
- DOs and DON'Ts OF BEING AN AMIAS
- CONFIDENTIALITY
- REWARDS OF BEING AN AMIAS
- PUBLIC OUTREACH



Paula can provide Alateen Safety Guidelines.

Possibility for AMIAS training in the future.

Rewards of being an AMIAS were shared:

- Amends to self
- Understood their own children
- Helps the healing process and understanding of the disease
- Didn't get to Alateen as Mother did not share their attendance at Al-Anon or what was available for her children.

Public Outreach is the icing on the cake – there is \$12,000 for PO in the budget maybe some can go towards Alateen this year. If you do Public Outreach now where are the children going to go?

A humorous skit was performed of an Alateen meeting which demonstrated how an AMIAS is supportive, accepting, and confidential while maintaining Alateen guidelines.

How not to get things done was demonstrated with the reading from a previous Summary.

**Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, Nobody**

A team had four members called **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done. **Everyone** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it. **Nobody** realized that's **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

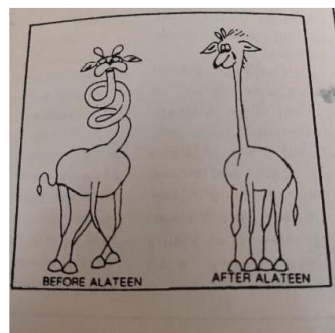
Recommended Resources - <https://al-anon.org/for-members/wso/>



NZ Al-Anon - Alateen Service Handbook 2022 – AMIAS guidelines and how to set up an Alateen meeting  
 P-24 Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work – has the format for meetings  
 S-27 Card on Alateen sponsorship

Session ended with the enjoyment once again of the song: “Give a Little Bit of Your Life to Me” - by Supertramp. With some appropriate words ....

... Give a little bit  
**Oh, give a little bit of your love to me**  
 I'll give a little bit of my love to you  
 There's so much that we need to share  
 So send a smile and show you care  
 I'll give a little bit of my life for you  
 Now's the time that we need to share  
 So find yourself, we're on our way back home



Sunday 18 June

---

Conference members were invited to suggest ideas for the following themes and goals which were listed on the whiteboard overnight and then voted on Sunday morning. The results are:

## **NZASC Theme 2024**

The theme chosen for the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference in June 2024 is:

Practicing our Spiritual Principles

## **NZASC Goal 2023/2024**

This is the Goal that Delegates and Board members chose to take from the 2023 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference as a guide for service until the next Conference.

Keep Coming Back- Service Works When You Work at it!

## **AA Convention Theme 2024**

This is the Theme chosen for the Al-Anon Programme at the AA Convention with Al-Anon participation on **19-20 January 2024** in Havelock North, Hawkes Bay. The AA theme is *One day at a time*.

Together We Can Make It

# Presentation – IAGSM Delegates service in London

Julie W & Liz A-S

## WHAT IS IAGSM?

- The International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) is a biennial service meeting for General Service Offices & National service structures.
- Its purpose is to share the experience of Al-Anon National services around the world through its Delegates.
- It isn't a decision-making body, it passes any recommendations to the International Coordination Committee (they go to the Trustees and then WSC).
- The IAGSM summary is the written report of the meeting which includes a report of all presentations, workshop report backs and discussions that occurred. The IAGSM summary is a resource of ideas.
- IAGSM summaries are all available on the WSO website with a real wealth of information.

## WHY DOES NZ GO TO IAGSM?

- Participation is the key to harmony; NZ has a voice in international decision making.
- We get to learn from other structures' Experience, Strength and Hope.
- Growth for the individual in recovery comes from service so when a Structure invests in a Delegate, we all learn and grow.
- It helps broaden our minds and helps to reiterate that we are a World-wide fellowship.
- We don't do Service alone, and we don't need to reinvent the wheel.
- It is the responsibility of the WSO (Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc) and the Board of Trustees to be open to the world.
- The WSC is the largest Group Conscience and Service arm where decisions are made for the world-wide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.
- The WSO and Board of Trustees are guided by the WSC. By attending the IAGSM we get representation at the WSC.
- The WSC encompasses the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The WSO Board of Trustees work on a strategic plan, there is a tendency to think only of North America, rather than the whole world.
- We get to create bonds with the WSO and International Delegates which are important and also really helpful in carrying out the Traditions of Al-Anon.
- Gain first-hand knowledge and explanations about strategies, procedures and policies that are being implemented and how they affect NZ laws and our autonomy to act on them – recognising electronic meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups, registration of electronic groups, Alateen online policy.

## WHAT HAS NZ GOT OUT OF ATTENDING?

- Apart from the fellowship and hopes listed before, there are tangible things to come out of the IAGSM in the past.
- Tools like the KBDM and how to use them.
- The introduction of the Spiritual Goals for the NZASC, Board Meetings, Assemblies, and Committees etc.
- STOP paddles to stay on topic in business meetings, at the Board and at Conference.
- Regional Service Seminars changed to TEAM Events, Board Road Trip, Task and Thought Force ideas.
- Having leadership ideals modelled.
- Staying in touch with other structures for support between meetings.
- Being part of current topic discussions, like the recent Town Hall meeting about Alateen online.
- Experiencing first-hand the example of 'welcome and comfort' that our Traditions talk about.
- Gain resources through workshops and presentations from other structures.



- IAGSM Delegates experience, strength and hope can be shared nationally.
- Discover how outcomes and conclusions can be reached in various ways.
- Confirmation that NZ is on track in the way the NZ structure is working.
- Trials, learning we can try something for a year and see how it suits and even change our minds.

## WHERE DID WE STAY?

- Royal Foundation of St. Katharine, London, England!



## IAGSM DAY ONE

- Registration & Orientation
- Host presentation (UK & Eire)
  - Seven staff members from the office were present and the General Secretary presented facts on how the GSO worked and what each staff member did. We were not able to visit their GSO as we might have done as the building was under repair.
  - The UK Eire Office consists of two charities:
    1. Family Groups Ltd (UK). They have a Charities Officer for governance and Company Secretaries.
    2. Al-Anon Family Groups CLG (Eire). No paid trustees, no shares (CLG – Company Limited Guarantee). Trustees and BODs are responsible, NOT trustees.
- Meet and greet dinner & welcome.

## IAGSM DAY TWO

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#### Diane B, Co-chair of the ICC

- The ICC is the International Coordination Committee that coordinates the IAGSM and international Zone meetings.
- The ICC is a workgroup and advisory committee that makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees and participates in the IAGSM.
- It reviews Al-Anon activities and policies as they relate to individual groups and service arms outside the WSC.
- It makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees about issues that affect Al-Anon worldwide, (visits evolving structures, translations, reprint policies).
- Diane talked of being complacent about our recovery when doing service.
- Hearing her honesty being articulated aloud helped us both think about being 'present'.
- We do not need to know all the answers but know where to go to find them.
- We are not alone in Al-Anon service.

### OPENING SESSION

- Welcome and Serenity prayer
- Read Twelve Traditions
- Roll Call (Map and flags)
- Voting procedure explained





## LET'S TALK ABOUT FINANCE

### Madeleine & Utica South Africa

- SA received a bequest and purchased property some years ago (WHAT?).
- They carefully use the word **investment** - instead of expense in their financial reporting.
- The SA Board regularly take a specific financial inventory that they share with their Areas. They teach their fellowship that Money is NOT a dirty word.
- Prudent is the difference between fear and recklessness.
- SA keep a three-month ample reserve (wow, trust!) Switzerland has three years, we have (does anyone remember?) two years and Australia has one (Which is the service manual guidance).
- It was in this session the topic of eBook sales was raised and really escalated. WSO had casually mentioned that through their literature sales, almost 1000 eBook downloads had been purchased, to which WSO received the funds. In their eyes, WSO found 1000 sales to be small fry and inconsequential. The delegate from Ireland mentioned that 500 were from UK and that they had been financially cut out of those sales. I was immediately concerned knowing that Kiwis are quick up-takers of technology and knowing how much we rely on sales to maintain our NZAGSO - the clearing house, as it runs today. How many Kiwis are participating in online purchases?

## FILLING SERVICE ROLES

### Blanca, Switzerland

- This presentation was filled with admiration for Lois. The Delegate was enthusiastic, there was reference to our literature and CAL with many quotes from Lois.
- We heard leaders inspire people, but the word leader has political and corporate connotations in many countries.
- In Al-Anon we need leaders to inspire, they are our trusted servants, but we have a misconception that there are no leaders.
- We need leaders who create, collect and promote the culture in the group, and we lead using the Traditions.
- Sponsor the next person into the role. (They say part of the job description is to sponsor the next person into the role). We can avoid steep learning curves and get better outcomes when sponsored in by a previous person, meaning we don't lose valuable learnings and experience.
- We can all tell our own sponsees' service is a part of your recovery. Not sure about you but literally the moment after I finished my first Step 12 my sponsor said – right now what service are you thinking about?
- I tend to forget to check the wisdom of the past sometimes, and if you haven't yet got a copy - I suggest you read our first book Al-Anon Family Groups - The classic edition.

## REJUVENATING PUBLIC OUTREACH AFTER COVID

### Una, Iceland

- Iceland is an Island nation, and they heavily rely on technology.
- The population of 330,000 mostly has good computer literacy and access to devices.
- This was helpful during Covid, meetings continue now and have been incorporated into their structure.
- There was much discussion from this presentation.
- Finland pays professionals for advertising and radio (they reminded us about the resources on the WSO Website).
- Discussion from the floor reminded us that the *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* Forum is now undated and useable every year.
- Many countries like NZ use their websites as their main portal for PO and have found it sound and wise to upgrade and keep them updated.
- Australia uses LinkedIn very successfully and (for free) have linked with 3,500 professionals. They send around 200 invitations a month and have a 40% acceptance rate. In my math's that 80 contacts a MONTH!
- Poland has an Area for e-Meeting registrations.
- ICC mentioned there is more and more pick-up from You Tube from members & Professionals sharing.
- Australia gave everyone in attendance a copy of their PI Flip-Calendar that is provided to every AFG group.

## TWO VIEWS ON DELIVERING THE SERVICES OF A GSO

### Julie W & Liz A-S, New Zealand

### Helen & Tanya, Australia

- In preparation, before IAGSM we met online with the Australian Delegates a couple of times.
- We shared presentations, structure diagrams, to be able to compare the differences. So much of what we do and what they do is similar, just on different scale.

Major differences are:

- Australia is an incorporated society – NZ has had a discussion in the past on that topic and decided that AFG NZ will not be an incorporated society, too many regulations and personal responsibilities. So, while our laws allow us to, let's keep it simple.
- They have a paid General Secretary that is one of the IAGSM Delegates and sits on the Board (NZ has chosen to only have one paid person for administration duties only with voice and no vote on policy issues).
- Australia has different states like in America, so their structure is very much the same as the WSC.
- They have one GSO in Victoria one ISC in Canberra with Area Offices in each State with paid staff.
- Australia's presentation was chock full of information, much of which is the same as how we do things in NZ, they presented after us and most questions from the floor were directed to Australia. We were both willing to answer questions so didn't make note on the discussions from the floor – but info will be available in the IAGSM Summary.

## IAGSM DAY THREE

### TRADEMARK ISSUES/SHARING AND REPRINTS

#### Lynette K, US & Canada

#### Debbie P, US & Canada

- During the presentation on Trademark Issues/Sharing and Reprints.
- Difference between Copyright and trademark was explained.
- CAL availability globally. Some Structures don't want to print locally, also don't want to buy from WSO. Other structures want to print locally but don't have permission to translate into their given language.

## Copyright

- Protection provided to Authors of fixed “Original works” like books, music, films etc.
- Provides owner with the right to authorise how to distribute and reproduce.
- They covered words and phrases, logo use (explained in the May 2023 Forum) violations, altering without permission.
- Copyright is protection for the author – who owns it if translated etc.

## Trademark

- Work, phrase, symbol, or logo.
- Protects organisations mark.
- Refer to page 117 of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

## Copyright Violation

- Video or reading significant portions (more than 2-3 sentences) of CAL online in media format.

## Trademark Violation:

- Using Logo without permission

## CAL: REPRINT/TRANSLATION PERMISSION PROCESS

### Sarah S, ICC Committee

- We will be able to use WSO’s Instagram posts etc.
- We can use WSO YouTube videos and they will make them more accessible to add in country's details. You can email WSO for the scripts. Do this through your Delegate.
- Printing translation and permission was the problem for International Structures (it's not an issue for NZ as we buy direct from WSO mainly in English and don't reprint).
- Tradition 12 - carry the message seemed to be being forgotten about in the eBook decision
- There were some tough questions asked and there was a feeling from the Delegates that we were not being heard.
- The Delegates asked WSO to remember our primary purpose and questioned what spiritual principles were at play in their decisions.
- WSO have realised their need to formalise their agreements with book shops, LDC (Literature Distribution Centres). Some things are slipping through. They currently sell to Amazon.
- Why wasn't the international fellowship told about the eBooks suddenly being available online – this has caused harm.
- After the points raised in the finance session and this session, the international fellowship reacted and was hurt by the eBooks decision.
- 

### WSO came back stating they owed amends for poor communication and owed amends for the ebook decision.

“They had not acknowledged the international structures and the effect their decisions would have on them and vowed to be more communicative and listen to the needs of the International structures. In response a WSO representative said we (WSO) have become inward focused and learned through their European road trip that they need to change that.”



## WORKSHOPS

We broke into three groups and each group attended two of the workshops. If the structure sent two delegates, then you could cover all of the workshops.

The discussion on these workshops was of course too big to summarise here but will be available in the IAGSM summary when completed.

1. Welcoming and Supporting Al-Anon Family Groups Meeting Electronically
2. Service Structure: Supporting New Membership and/or New Groups
3. Trusted Servants: Delegates Connecting Between IAGSMs

## REVISING AND IMPLEMENTING NEW ALATEEN SAFETY REQUIREMENT

**Johane M., France**

We learned the process of getting an Alateen member verified for an online meeting with the laws attaining to France, it was very involved.

- The motion to make electronic meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups did not include Alateen.
- Alateen online must be within the geographical boundaries and not cross the legal boundaries of different countries.
- US has multiple States and Laws to comply with.
- There are five English plus one Polish speaking online Alateen on the Al-Anon App. All on a trial basis which is extended until 2023.
- The WSO is in the process of creating basic guidelines for online Alateen meetings using the support and participation of international structures. This will allow different countries to add/include their own lawful requirements.

## IAGSM DAY FOUR

### THE BIG QUESTION:

**Marsha W, ICC Committee**

In our changing world, various topics come that may have an impact on Al-Anon as a whole. How can we, as service structures use the principles found in the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service to assist us to support our worldwide fellowship?



- Flexibility with creative e-groups (Trust, step 3).
- Support to ensure serving members do not get burnt out (Tradition 1, Common welfare.)
- Honest communication, trust and unity (Common welfare).
- Responsible, authoritative leadership - let it begin with me (Tradition 2, Concept 4, 6 and 9).
- Listen in order to understand needs - give voice to those without one (Concept 5).
- Allow International GSO's more voice in decisions (Tradition 9. WSO often use special workers, trust them).
- Trust WSO and follow their lead (Concept 1, 9).
- Frequent communications with WSO, schedule a meeting with the International Team (Tradition, and asking for help).
- Reach out to other structures (Tradition 1, work together, share resources).
- When we say worldwide, it has more impact (Tradition 1, Unity, Concept 1, responsibility is everyone's).
- Making mistakes allows for learning to take place. Be kind and presume goodwill.

### WORDS OF INSPIRATION HEARD AT IAGSM...

- In Chinese, the word *crisis*, also bears the meaning of *opportunity*.
- Service does not replace recovery; service is a part of your recovery
- The answer is in the \*%\$# Manual. (World Service Manual, and we're extra lucky to have a NZ Handbook).
- The Spiritual Solution is in the Legacies.
- Qualifier, co-dependant and double winner are not terms in Al-Anon CAL and are not considered AFG language.
- We have investments NOT expenses.
- I represent those who cannot be here themselves.
- Agree to do a role, also agree to be the service sponsor for the next person.
- The same risks are there for online as for face-to-face.
- *Help* is another word for *inclusion*.

## OUR IAGSM TAKEAWAYS

- Flip the coin, place opportunity over fear.
- Don't fear the word help.
- Own up and make amends in service as well as recovery.
- We may be on the other side of the world, but we are united through the love and the desire to keep AFG available and always be there, we are not alone.
- PO is the way forward to increase members and to get members ready for service.
- The idea to pay someone to do the service where no members have volunteered. E.g., A PO Officer reporting to the National PO Coordinator.
- In working my service, I can forget I am a member first.
- Unity through the traditions, we're all SO different but in Al-Anon we have a binding guide - the legacies - our common language.
- It's all been done before, if we reach out, we get help.
- I'm a small fish, a grain of sand and that's freedom.
- Personal growth OMG.

## CAN I GO TO THE IAGSM? **YES!**

- Be a Delegate (tick).
- Love service, like, really LOVE it.
- Apply for a Board position.
- Be on the Board for three years.
- Apply and be accepted.
- Go somewhere fancy!

### *IAGSM Delegate Qualifications:*

- Have served at least three consecutive years, and is preferably currently serving, at NZAGSB level.
- Have first-hand knowledge of the service structure.
- Be knowledgeable of NZAGSO's current activities.
- Have been an Al-Anon Family Group member for at least five years.
- Be actively involved in service, preferably a current member of NZAGSB but otherwise as volunteer staff, or a member of a Selected Committee.
- Have leadership qualities and organisational abilities.



## Workshop – Public Outreach – where to from here?

Tina & Renée

At this time of Conference there was no National Public Outreach Coordinator at this presentation. It was run in the hope to encourage Public Outreach and a National Coordinator. The IAGSM delegates brought back a lot of ideas from London.

What are other structures doing?

- UK & EIRE employs PO officer (non-member)
- PR Agency found voice of Al-Anon is KINDNESS & COMPASSION
- AFG included on “are you affected” list, (airs after TV shows)
- SA does webinars with AA
- Search engine optimisation
- AA events
- WSO YouTube getting higher uptake
- Finland pays professionals for advertising including radio
- Australia uses LinkedIn
- Radio Ads
- TV Ads
- Webinars
- Back of toilet doors
- Posters in Recovery centres & hospital wards
- Podcasts
- Immigrant support groups
- Interview with members (keeping anonymity)
- Back of bus (outdoor) advertising
- Social Media
- Press releases
- In-Reach (member by member)
- Letters to medical centres & AOD service
- Presentation to local victim support & police
- Get AFG onto websites like doctors
- Alateen PO chat group – open to all members
- Tell any and everyone what AFG is about
- The local library has funding to help local groups. They can blow up the Al-Anon posters to be larger and to make display stands at the library

Parked Questions

- How does PO officer get feedback of what works?
- Is the PO Officer Full-time?
- Are members just happy to pay rather than donate hours?
- Do local PO initiatives need to be approved? If so? By Whom? NZAGSO? WSO? NZASC?

Discussion:

- Letter to Doctors, Area Seven worked on a campaign to doctors, so the information was alongside AA information.
- Would like to use social media for outreach. I took three years before I heard of Al-Anon. I didn't know how to spell Al-Anon to find Al-Anon
- Paid public outreach person full-time. What kind of investment would be needed?
- I see groups happy to do anything rather than do service. In-reach is important, this is what we are. What am I scared of? Tell people about the meetings you go to.



- It can be good to use paid specialists to get a different perspective and have specialist skills to utilise.
- Reminder when they served as the PO National, they started the National PO WhatsApp. It is a useful tool for in-reach. Orewa group visited the local police station and victim support, 90% of the people they see are affected by alcohol.
- PO is to get the (full) name of Al-Anon Family Groups out there, in the same way that AA is a household name. Talk to everyone you know about Al-Anon, even the man on the bus on the way to Stonehenge.
- Do local public outreach initiatives need to be approved? Answer: It depends, if the initiative is using material already approved (and taken directly from the website) then Area can proceed, but if it is something new then approval has to be sought (and there will be a significant delay).
- They have initiatives to get information to doctors.
- The local library has funding to help local groups. They can blow up the Al-Anon posters to be larger and make display stands at the library.
- There is currently no National Public Outreach Coordinator.

**The Conference was asked to vote on the top three ideas they want NZ National Public outreach to focus on:**

- 9 AA events
- 6 Social media
- 6 Get AFG onto websites like doctors sites
- 6 Australia uses LinkedIn
- 4 Letter to medical centres and Alcohol & Drug services
- 3 WSO You Tube getting higher uptake
- 3 UK and Eire employs a PO Officer (non-member)
- 3 Poster back of public toilet doors
- 2 Web search engine optimisation
- 2 In-reach (member by member)
- 1 Presentation to local victim support and police
- 1 posters in recovery centres and hospital wards
- 1 Finland pays for advertising including radio
- 1 AFG included on “are you affected” list, (airs after TV shows)

# Presentation – NZAGSO Electronic Meeting Registration Trial

Julie W

## Knowledge Based Decision Making - Registration of New Permanent Electronic only Al-Anon Family Groups with the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office

This discussion is to follow-up the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) trial to allow new permanent Al-Anon Family Groups (AFGs) meeting only electronically to be registered with the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO).

### HISTORY

Following the approval at the 2021 World Service Conference (WSC) that electronic meetings are now known as ‘Al-Anon Family Groups’ and all reference to electronic meetings is removed from the World Service Handbook:

*The 2021 WSC approved that the World Service Handbook changes will remove references limiting the formation of an Area to geographical boundaries, allowing the formation of a non-geographical Area.*

*The Policy Digest change is to remove the entire section titled “Electronic Meetings”. This removes the restriction on these meetings being Al-Anon Family Groups. (See motions 2021 WSC Summary page 77)*

### Outcome:

1. That electronic AFGs which permanently meet only electronically are known as Al-Anon Family Groups which can have full representation and service positions filled like all groups.
2. That electronic AFGs which permanently meet only electronically must register with a WSC Area OR a New Zealand General Service Office (NZAGSO) provided the WSC Area or the NZAGSO is willing to register and service them. The WSC includes the newly accepted ‘Global Electronic Area’.

The World Service Office (WSO) has no plans to distinguish groups as face-to-face, electronically only, or hybrid. All groups are Al-Anon Family Groups—the only difference is their meeting location or locations

In 2022 the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) took the WSC outcome to the NZASC for discussion to decide if NZ would accept and action the WSC policy changes. The 2022 NZASC Summary (pages 32-36) has a summary of the discussion. It was proposed that NZ would follow the WSC decisions, and the following motions were carried:

### 2022 NZASC Motions:

*“That NZASC accepts the World Service Conference policy of registering electronic meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups.”*

*“That NZAGSO accepts registrations of permanent electronic groups for a one year trial.”*

### PURPOSE

The one-year trial period from June 2022 NZASC to June 2023 NZASC has come to an end. This paper is not to draw any conclusion but to provide facts and information for the NZASC to be able to have a fully informed discussion so that a conclusion can come from the discussion. This allows for everyone to ask questions, to provide further information from their experiences, strength and hope and to allow for all opinions including positive, negative and minority opinions to be heard so that a fully informed group conscience can take place.

## KBDM QUESTIONS

**Question 1:** *What do we know about our member's needs, wants and preferences relevant to this issue?*

Electronic meetings have been available for many years through the WSO. The need for local electronic meetings has risen due to COVID restrictions and has continued to be desired by many members. Not every town has an AFG meeting so now groups meeting electronically allow for members to attend from anywhere. This allows for constant meeting availability and assists with their recovery.

Members are opting for online electronic groups for a variety of reasons, more convenient, no travel required, cheaper option than face-to-face, fear of socialising after COVID, unwell or unable to travel, in a rural area or no meeting in their vicinity, childcare issues, a loner etc.

Newcomers are welcome to these groups and newcomer electronic information is available. An electronic group would need to determine how they will support the newcomer and communicate in a welcoming and friendly manner.

**2022 Electronic Meetings Taskforce: KBDM paper on electronic meetings and their place within the service structure, including feedback from members of NZAFG on possible future options regarding registration with WSO or NZAGSO.**

Considering the Conclusion from the Survey (completed in 2022) of Electronic Meetings occurring in New Zealand:

- The survey was sent to 20 temporary electronic meetings with 13 responses
- Likely to be two or three temporary groups that will stay fully electronic
- Others will go back to face-to-face or hybrid
- Their preference is to be registered with NZAGSO
- Their preference is to stay in their current geographical Area
- A separate Area may be possible if after a one year trial there are enough electronic groups to make this a viable option and together they propose a new Area to be formed at the NZASC
- The survey was sent to 4 WSO registered electronic meetings with NZ Current Mailing Addresses (CMAs)
- Of the 4 current electronic groups registered with WSO one may request a change to be registered with NZAGSO
- The other three will stay with the WSO Global Electronic Area and have elected GRs

The four electronic groups registered with WSO from the 2022 survey continued.

Three NZ registered temporary electronic groups moved to be registered with WSO.

There are now seven WSO registered in New Zealand Standard Time zone (NZST).

Four NZAGSO registered temporary electronic groups are now only meeting electronically.

Groups which were registered with NZAGSO and meeting face-to-face but chose to provide an electronic platform prior to the 2022 NZASC motion to accept them as an Al-Anon Family Group were not required to be reregistered with NZAGSO.

The four NZ permanent AFGs meeting only electronically registered with the NZAGSO.

- Area 7 x 1 – Area 8 x 1 – Area 3 x 2.
- Have 1-2 overseas members – one has done the tech host duty, others visit occasionally.
- Groups members can range between 9-14 members.
- Two groups have a GR that have attend the Area Assembly in person.
- Two groups have no GR but other service roles are supported.
- Three groups have no dedicated tech person, they all share the Host tech role and help each other.
- One group has a tech host, a meeting leader and a chairperson to run each meeting.
- Two groups share opening, closing, legacies and literature on screen with copyright references.
- One group shares only the opening and closing and the members read from their own literature.
- One group only has members read from their own literature.
- One group has two meetings, one meeting only electronically and one face-to-face on a separate day.
- All groups have been able to participate in their Area hosting duties as most members live in the Area.
- Area Seven has agreed that the group will host the Intergroup meeting online when they are rostered on.

- The groups seem to have stable members as they had met face-to-face before becoming electronic.
- Members share the chair role evenly.
- Challenges mentioned were: desire to use a broader use of literature as not all members have books, how to identify and assist newcomers, setting up banking with online access for payments.
- None had issues with the use of technology.
- Each group is self-supporting doing Tradition Seven online banking, paying for software, Area and NZAGSO donations.

As of 1 May 2023, the NZ Website lists the following AFGs registered with the NZAGSO:

Numbers	NZ Al-Anon Family Groups/meetings listed on the NZ Website
69	Total NZ Al-Anon Family Groups/ <i>meetings</i>
60	Face-to-face only (includes*)
2	Area Intergroup <i>meetings</i> (Area 7 and Area 8) in geographical listing
2	Face-to-face with an electronic component
4	Electronic only (includes *)
1	Alateen listed in geographical listing
7	Listed under <i>Electronic Meetings</i> - registered with WSO in New Zealand Standard Time zone (NZST) PLUS listed in <i>Temporary Electronic Meetings</i>
5	Listed under <i>Temporary Electronic Meetings</i> and in geographical listing 2 are face-to-face with an electronic component 3 are electronic only
1	In geographical listing <b>Now meeting as permanent Electronic Meeting</b> NOT listed in <i>Temporary Electronic Meetings</i>
1*	1 AFG has 2 <i>meetings</i> listed on 2 different days (one electronic only and one face-to-face)

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

There is minimal cost involved in registering electronic groups within the NZAGSO.

There is a need for a registration procedure to be developed and knowledgeable members to work on this. The NZAGSB is short on members, and more need to be recruited to help research and develop the necessary guidelines.

The Areas will need to take time for discussion and determine if they will accept and how they will support electronic groups in their Areas. Area guidelines need to be developed.

The basics that electronic groups will need to decide:

If they will accept overseas members, will they share literature on screen, do they have the members with technical expertise, how Tradition Seven will work, what security measures will be provided, whether the GR can attend Area Assemblies or is an electronic component required for them at an Area Assembly.

**Question 3:** *What do we know about our “culture” and “environment” that is relevant to this discussion? Will our decision be consistent with our principles, policies, and legacies (the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts)? What are the implications of our choices? What are all of the pros and cons?*

Tradition Four says ‘Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.’ The NZAGSO will register any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that the meetings will be open to any

Al-Anon members (Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies). Each NZAGSO registered electronic meeting is expected to follow the NZ structure as laid out in the NZ Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook. Will being registered with NZ security, safety and anonymity be moderated? (Conflicts and inappropriate behaviour.)

A new permanent electronic group may choose which Area they wish to belong to. They will require the Area of accept them to be registered in the Area and be required to abide by any guidelines set up by that Area before the NZAGSO can register them as a NZ Al-Anon Family Group with NZAGSO.

**Reminder of WSC outcome number 2 above:** That electronic AFGs which permanently meet only electronically must register with a WSC Area OR a GSO provided the WSC Area or the GSO is willing to register and service them.

The possible options:

**1. Continue as a Trial for a further number of years.**

This will determine if there is a demand for new electronic only AFGs. Following the pandemic there are currently four electronic only AFG already registered with the NZAGSO in three different Areas.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Allows time to determine if there is a demand. Allows time for a procedure and guidelines to be created to support these groups at Area level and NZAGSO.	

**2. Finish the trial and approve registration of new electronic groups with NZAGSO.**

This will allow new electronic groups register with the NZAGSO. A procedure would be required to be sure these AFGs abide by the NZ structure and are supported by the Area they nominate.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Any new group meeting only electronically will feel welcomed into the NZ structure.	Time involved in a new electronic only group applying to an Area to be registered with them before registering with NZAGSO. Compatible procedure and guidelines can be created to assist the group, Area and NZAGSO. Guidelines are needed to assist with: Will security (including conflicts and inappropriate behaviour), safety and anonymity be moderated if registered in NZ? How will CAL and copyright be maintained. Overseas members participating in the NZ structure. Tradition 7 donations from overseas members.

**3. Abandon the idea and refer new electronic groups requests to register with WSO.**

They will have WSO support and be a part of the WSC Global Geographic Area. Members in service in these groups cannot serve in the NZ structure at the same time. Members from these groups living in or visiting NZ may attend NZ fellowship events.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No administration for the NZAGSO or Areas.	Loss of NZ residents to overseas online groups registered with WSO. Less donations and members to serve in the NZ structure.

**4. Suggest the NZ permanent electronic groups request an electronic Area to be included in the NZ structure.**

The groups that meet only electronically may submit a request to NZASC for permission to do so. This is done through the Conference committee which brings to the NZASC applications for potential new Areas. New Area applications including a supporting Knowledge Based Decision Making paper must be submitted to the Conference Committee by December, if the application is to be considered at the following NZASC. The Conference Committee advises the proposed new Area of the cost it will be required to pay if it wishes to have a representative attend NZASC as an Observer when the application is presented. (Reference pages 65 and 98 in the 2022 NZ Al-Anon/Alateen Service handbook).

Advantages	Disadvantages
This Area can contribute to the NZ structure with donations and service. Donations will come to NZAGSO. The NZ structure would be updated to accommodate an online Area. New procedures and guidelines will be created.	Not know how this work for conference attendance and representation. Extra cost for and additional Delegate to conference. Will the electronic Area be financially stable? The electronic groups need to apply to the conference with a KBDM for a new Area.

**Question 4:** *What are the ethical implications of our choices?*

- There are no legal implications, this is a Traditional decision based on Al-Anon’s Three Legacies.
- NZ has the approval of WSC to register electronic groups.
- Having electronic groups registered with the NZ structure gives an added opportunity to help families of alcoholics and others affected by alcoholism.

**Question 5:** *What do we wish we knew, but don't?*

- How many electronic groups will be created in the future?
- Does NZ need a non-geographical Area to support these groups?
- Will Area Assemblies need an electronic component to support these groups?
- Will the current NZ fellowship be able to support another Area both in service and financially?

**DISCUSSION:**

What needs to be considered for the GSO Electronic Meeting Trial:

- Option 1 – Continue as a Trial for a further number of years.
- Option 2 – Finish the trial and approve registration of new electronic groups with the NZAGSO.
- Option 3 – Abandon the idea and refer new electronic groups to the WSO.
- Option 4 – Suggest the NZ permanent electronic groups request an electronic Area to be included in the NZ structure.

**Discussion:**

- Why would we extend the trial – why not just adopt?
  - Extending would give time to develop Guidelines etc. Also, it can be difficult to know what the groups/areas need and to get this information to the board.
- Area Three Delegate has a lot of experience and knowledge with electronic meetings and is willing to help with enquiries.
- It is up to the groups to let the Board know what they need to help the Board make the decision around this motion.



**Questions:**

- ▲ How can you exclude people from other countries from joining an electronic meeting?  
Answer – we don't exclude, this is the discovery process, we could have an Area 10 for electronic meetings.
- ▲ Did NZAGSO finish the electronic trial?  
Answer – This is the discussion now to decide whether to continue with the trial.
- ▲ In Area 8, we had a group that went to an electronic meeting, and they want to stay only as an electronic meeting. Do they become a part of a proposed Area 10 for electronic meetings?  
Answer – there is no current proposal for an Area for electronic meetings. The Group is autonomous as to where they register with NZAGSO and get NZ support or with WSO and get WSC support. The groups meeting electronically need to submit a proposal (KBDM) to the conference to introduce an electronic Area.
- ▲ Under Option 4 how will groups know this is available?  
Answer – They will find out from Delegates reporting back from conference to the Area. The 2022 and the 2023 Summary mentions this option.

**MOTION:**

*“Extend the trial for NZAGSO to accept registrations of permanent electronic groups for a further year.”*

**Carried**

# Members Outgoing Sharings

## Lucy A, Area Delegate

I can't believe six years have passed! It only seems like the other day that I became a delegate for the first year. I have to admit that first Conference was rather daunting, but I came back. And here I am finishing my second term.

Not sure if there are guidelines for writing these sorts of reports but here goes! So, I have divided it up into two sections – What I have learnt (Highlights) and What I am working on (Frustrations).

### What I have learned:

- The programme works if you work at it! That Al-Anon triangle has Service included in it, so for me, I had to do it and not keep putting it off. Really glad I did as the benefits have been great and I feel I know myself a whole lot better as a result.
- I'm a born organiser but have learnt with my alcoholic about fixing, so I wasn't about to start with Area One. I'm sure I have been there in a positive way as a listener and a guide.
- No question is a silly question, so thank you everyone, for allowing me to ask those questions. I learnt that from my service sponsor.
- I have come to know the Service manual well, especially flicking to the appropriate page when I am asked a question, but also realising that it is OK to say "I'll get back to you" when you don't know an answer.
- I used to agonise over Area Business meetings and Assemblies as there was often conflict. As the years have gone by there have been changes. We are more relaxed and respectful. Don't think the harmony is anything that I've been responsible for but makes for pleasant feelings. I love how Area One has stepped up lately and are putting their hands up to be involved e.g., Convention Committee, exciting Area Camps and weekends, hosting Assemblies, original PO ideas.
- I've enjoyed travelling around the Area to other AFG meetings. Usually that means getting a carload organised, two meetings coming and going in Sparky (my Al-Anon, blue car) and the joy of being in a different place for a meeting, meeting new people and fellowshiping.
- I've loved helping people get a new Al-Anon meeting started. There have been two in Area One with the hope of Balclutha starting again after a three-year closure. As you probably know I have enjoyed the friendship of an ex-Southern Regional Board Member and Service Sponsor during my time as delegate. She has been of huge support to me, and I value and respect this wonderful woman of Al-Anon.
- I love working with the Area committee as we have a lot of fun together and I enjoy organising the annual Serenity Weekend each October with other members.
- I have loved the AA Conventions with Al-Anon Participation as it gives you a big picture of how the programme works all around NZ. I have been fortunate enough to be able to attend Meetings in the USA and Canada and that proves to me that Al-Anon really is everywhere.
- I've also been fortunate to arrive early to previous Conferences. This has allowed for me to sit in on the Board meeting during Thursday afternoon/Friday Morning and experience first-hand the complexity, dedication and amazing service the Board give to Al-Anon FG's. Thank you, Board members.
- At Conference 2022, Jill put her hand up to Chair the Al-Anon Convention in Christchurch this year as long as some other delegates were there to help. After putting my hand up too I came to believe what a privilege that was! So, onto the merchandise table I went along with another Area member. Wow! That was such an awesome experience. We had so much fun, lots of wonderful merchandise and sold a record-breaking total amount. Thank you to the Al-Anon members who supported that and some cheeky AA's who popped in too. Thank you to the convention committee who did a great job, all in the name of AFG's.

### What I am Working on.

- Attendance at Area meetings. This is an on-going frustration and probably always will be. Trying to encourage and inspire the GR's is dependent on how far they are into the programme but also the models they are presented with. Hence that is my reasoning behind the "Fun" approach which lightens everything up and we don't get too bogged down. We've been there and we know that there is a way to change.
- I don't like the glazed eye look or the eye-roll technique, so keeping presentations and reports brief and exciting but informative, has been challenging.
- Continually being "up with the play" as manuals, guidelines, Area contacts, email addresses and info change constantly.
- I am disappointed that Alateen hasn't started a meeting anywhere in Area One but amazingly we have three AMAIS approved still rearing to go.
- Always keeping abreast of information computer technology. I left my full-time employment because of technology frustrations but know I will have to keep working on this, as it is the future. If there are frustrations, I know because of this amazing programme that I have choices. So, I either get involved with service and all the other facets of the programme or I sort it out, and I know that doesn't work, as I've tried it before! Not anymore.
- I do have Little Billy with me as he has been beside me from the start. Much like a HP really. So, you'll have to bear with me as WE finish off.

Thanks for listening everyone! I've really enjoyed my time as the Area One Delegate and I'm sure I will keep learning about myself as I continue on in this amazing programme.

### Let It Begin With Me and We Can Do It!!

1. Service, Service. We know it works for all who try. Just do it. Just do it. You'll learn a lot about yourself.
2. Service, Service. Al-Anon is what we need. Let's keep it.... Lois & Ann would want us to.
3. Service, service. Our service roles will help us thru. Encouragement..... Members are the key so may this grow.
4. Service,... All members please this is for you. Thank you.....I've learnt a lot now time to go.

### Jill K, Area Nine Delegate

---

So, it is with sadness and regret that I'm stepping away from my current role as delegate for Area Nine. I have found recovery from living with the man I love who drinks too much. It has been some nine years since I entered these rooms, until then I had not heard of Al-Anon. This coincided with the end of a long and successful career in the health and education sectors. This was my first try at retirement and I found my situation distressing because I was forced to spend more time at home than I ever had before. I was confronted with his drinking; I could not escape to work!!! Interestingly I too was in denial until at an AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation, a middle-aged AA member described how he was led into the AA rooms. I gained a whole new understanding about the alcohol abuser's thinking and behaviour.

I had for years tried to control the drinking and my basic determination continued to do that! Retirement didn't suit my need to work, achieve and gain satisfaction in my life. But when I found Al-Anon I also found that there were volunteer opportunities available, so I think I have retired three or four times!!!

I have a very nurturing home group who are incredibly patient with me and who actually led me to understand our precious programme over the years. They led me kicking and screaming into service roles. My self-esteem was badly battered and I had no idea how to care for myself. It is through service in a variety of roles that I continue to grow and this realisation has taken years to acknowledge!

This is my third year as the delegate but is only my second conference. Unfortunately, in my first year I had a major health scare and it was wonderful that our Alternate Delegate stepped in my place at the 2021 Conference. Last year at my first Conference I was overwhelmed with the whole procedures, but I am curious so was an observer at the board meeting before Conference. I liked what I saw and heard!

I'm not quite sure how it happened but I found myself voted in as the Chair of the 2023 AA Convention with Al-Anon participation in Christchurch. I have always found saying no difficult! I quickly learned that with my Higher Power, the incredible fellowship support, a team of enthusiastic members, and the detailed guidance in the 2022 NZ Handbook as well as learnings from my long career and long life makes meeting most challenges possible.

The time is right for me to pass the baton to Area Nine members who have fresh ideas and fresh marvelous energy to move Area Nine forward into the bright future. It has been a challenge to do service at delegate level as well as be chair of the Convention this year because I have had little chance to visit the groups outside Nelson.

I am particularly sorry that our small rural groups are struggling. In fact, Golden Bay was not able to continue with only one or two members attending meetings. Our electronic meetings and the lone member status has enabled the Group Rep to continue actively in the fellowship. However, I did my best to support the Group Reps and enjoyed our area fellowship at our area Assemblies.

I believe unless experienced members do not step aside others do not have the chance to do service.

Al-Anon has given me so many gifts and opportunities. As I got closer to my Higher Power my esteem and energy has improved. The fellowship of my home group is a beacon of light and love.

I will continue in our fellowship and look forward to the future whatever it might bring.

Yours in love and service

Jill K

## Julie W, IAGSM Delegate

---

I came into Al-Anon a shy, cry-baby with low self-esteem and just wanted to be happy. No-one understood me and I did not feel loved. They accepted me warts and all and there were a few warts that needed removal. My problem was they did not tell me where the warts were, I had to uncover them myself, but they pointed me in the direction of the Steps.

I came into Al-Anon service early in Al-Anon because of gratitude to the program and the warm welcome and appreciation of me as I was, I wanted to give something back.

My first experience at conference was as the Public Outreach Committee Chairperson for five years finishing in 2009. I really enjoyed this experience, and I had a wonderful Committee, and we did some great things. But along came a family situation that I needed to review my service, my work life, and where my responsibilities and loyalties needed to be for the benefit of the whole family and myself.

A lot of sadness, humour and joy occurred during the coming years but with the knowledge I had gained through practicing the Traditions and Concepts in service, I was able to take control of my life in the turmoil while supporting family members as they went through grief and heartache. As my mother always reminded me Life is for the Living so make it worth living.

It is in the rooms of Al-Anon that I learnt to practice this program for living. Taking it outside these rooms and practicing with others was life changing. I learned compassion for those who were unwell, tolerance when others could not accept the responsibilities in their situation, I learned to love and support others unconditionally and mostly I learned about me, I gained confidence and that it is okay to enjoy life, to laugh, to have fun, and to be adventurous even when others are sad.

The service work I had done had given me employable skills in administration, and confidence to complete a university degree, and I was sure I could be of service to the fellowship again.

So, in 2017, I felt a bit lost, and I was needing another challenge in my life. My Higher Power gave me a nudge and I thought, wow!! My experiences of loss have given me strength but there was a hole in my life, and I was hoping for a refill. I was sure I could handle a small role on the Board to be able to help somewhere (after all I had been useful before and so why not try some more service) I needed an injection of get-up-and-go.

I blindly put in a Board Profile form, I did not know at the time what was happening at the Board level, so I ticked what I was interested in and sent it to the Board. When I got a call from the Board Chair asking me to be the Conference Chair, I was very surprised as this was the last position I had ticked. This was in September and only a draft Agenda had been prepared and there was a lot of work to do.

My sponsor had taught me to say yes to service if I wanted my recovery to last. So, I joined the Board in 2017 as Conference Chair for 2018, 2019, 2020 (which was virtual), and 2021 Conferences. I was also Alternate Board Chair in 2020 when, the then Board Chair resigned, I took on the role. I became the IAGSM Delegate in 2020 and with no other IAGSM Delegate and the expected trip to London cancelled due to COVID we had the IAGSM virtually in 2020. I was thankful to have a previous IAGSM Delegate supporting me as a mentor.

That means in 2020 as Conference Chair, I prepared NZ Al-Anon's first virtual conference, I took on the role of Board Chair in the middle of a pandemic, and as IAGSM Delegate I participated in a 7-day IAGSM virtual conference, connecting various timelines around the world. I did these three heavy roles for another year.

Working on the Board has given me plenty of challenges and amazing opportunities for growth in extraordinary ways, it has not been easy, but since when has anything good for me ever been easy?

When I give an opinion or share an idea, I am mindful that others may not agree. The concepts tell me I can have my say, I am allowed to be heard. If the meeting decides on an issue that I do not agree with I must ask myself, did I just go along with this because it is easier, to avoid conflict, regardless of the consequences. It is my responsibility to participate and share my knowledge and experience that will help reason things out and make responsible decisions in my service roles.

To say going to the IAGSM has been the highlight of my last six years on the Board would be an understatement. The travel was challenging, exciting and very adventurous for me. Before going I spent many hours with my Higher Power, battling my unrealistic fears and my personal feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness. Looking deeper I realised that the fellowship trusted me and wanted me to succeed. With Liz by my side, and our Higher Power guiding us we were a team to be reckoned with. Liz was a pleasure to travel with and together we experienced the real joy of service.

Looking back .... My service journey started with a little white book called Groups at Work and I discovered how Al-Anon Groups work by studying this booklet. A little red booklet called Digest of Al-Anon Policies taught me what the Traditions were all about and how to use them in a meeting and personally to deal with conflict, dominance and different personalities. A little white book Al-Anon's

Twelve Concepts of Service taught me how to give back to Al-Anon through serving the fellowship that had saved my sanity.

Yes, these books have evolved into the WSO Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual – Free online .....

I have this idea to share with you. I challenge you to take this idea and see how far you can go with it.... I give you all a P-24 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work and suggest you take this book to your meeting each week and use it instead of the fancy laminated copies and format lists that the group may use.

- Read from it the Steps, Traditions and Concepts.
- Read it when at an online meeting (no copyright infringement).
- Encourage every member to own one - make it a must-have.
- Study how to run meetings, how to do business, manage finances, and learn the history and structure of the Al-Anon fellowship.
- Use the contents as meeting topics – the Four Primary Ideas, Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon, understanding alcoholism, understanding ourselves, and group finances.
- Keep in the car to be prepared to use for a meeting.
- Suggest the group offer it to newcomers, if they come to six meetings, they get this book for free.

It is an easy book that explains so much – show it off, take it everywhere.

Take what you like and leave the rest....

Thank you for your tolerance and support in my service to the NZAGSB.

With gratitude

Julie W

## NZAGSB Traditional Approval

Traditional approval is the procedure whereby the Board (NZAGSB) presents to the Conference the nominees for successors to the Board for approval by vote. Traditional approval gives expression to the principles in Concepts One, Three, Six, Seven and Ten and acknowledges the ultimate authority of the groups through their Delegates and demonstrates the oversight of the Board and the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office. The vote is an expression of general support of the functioning of the Board.

The NZAGSB selects nominations for new Board members and presents them to conference. The NZAGSB elects its own successors; all nominees are subject to the approval of NZASC.

After Conference, at the Annual General Meeting of the NZAGSB, the Board formally makes the appointments by electing the nominees.

### Board Roles

Board Chair - Tracy  
 Alt BC - Vacant  
 Gen Sec - Vacant  
 Treasurer - Tina  
 NRBM - Vacant  
 CRBM - Vacant  
 SRBM - Vacant  
 Delegate Liaison - Paula  
 Conference - Vacant  
 Exec/Budget - Liz

Convention Chair – Di (Non-Board)  
 Public Outreach – Rana  
 Literature – Kirsten  
 Editorial – Vacant  
 IAGSM 1 – Liz  
 IAGSM 2 – Tracy  
 Alateen - Paula  
 Website – Vacant  
 Archivist – Vacant



**MOTION:**

*“That the NZASC give traditional approval of the board member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board.”*

**Carried**

## Questions on Board and Selected Committee Reports

---

**Tracy B**

This was an opportunity for Delegates to ask questions of NZAGSB Board members and their respective reports.

- ▲ Question was raised about virtual groups in New Zealand being invited to join a trial being run by the World Service Office who are trying to formulate some protocol and processes to roll out around the world. This is borne out of a recognition that virtual meetings are here to stay and frameworks and protocol need to be developed to protect the safety of children for Alateen. New Zealand has not yet put their hand up for the trial and if a NZ group wants to go online with Alateen, only way to do it is through the WSO.
- ▲ Question raised about plans for public outreach, discussion around the \$12k that has become available for national efforts.
- ▲ Question around whether the board has any plans to recruit RBMs (Regional Board Members), discussion included that it is not the board’s role to recruit them and that they are nominated by the Areas and approved at the conference.
- ▲ We don’t have any nominations and so that means for the next 12 months we will once again have no Regional Board Members in NZ which is a big hole for our fellowship.
- ▲ To fill the gap Paula has volunteered to be a Delegate Liaison as the contact in NZ to bring the delegates together. That is the current effort to keep everyone connected through the region.
- ▲ Some discussion about what a board member does, some of the stumbling blocks to becoming one, and succession elements such as Delegates usually become RBMs. Use of succession planning in Al-Anon. Delegates be selfish; the next role just gets better.
- ▲ Query around updates on the outcome of the bill sticker campaign 2022 - Lots of positive feedback, very cost effective.
- ▲ Membership survey will be coming out shortly through a number of avenues, will ask members to take part in it as we need to know who our members are so that we can target the public outreach and provide what our members need. Also, for purposes of collecting data on impact of alcoholism on friends and families to be able to present to professionals e.g., like at the Cutting Edge Conference (Cutting Edge is the conference for professionals working in the alcohol and other drugs treatment sector).

# Board and Selected Committee Reports

## Board Chair Report

Tracy B

In this report, please note that The New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) is referred to as the Board.

The Board met virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions in the early part of 2022 and finally in December 2022 we had our first face to face meeting at the NZAGSO which has continued. I wish to thank the dedication and work that all Board members have accomplished this year while covering the General Secretary, Alternate Chair, Conference Chair, Executive Budget Chair and RBM roles along with COVID-19 restrictions.

As Board Chair I have covered the General Secretary's and Executive Budget Chair duties and consulted with Board members as required. We have continued to have a Minute Secretary for each meeting, which has been a great help to ensure details are recorded correctly. A sincere thank you to the Area Seven Delegate who has given up her time to attend each Board meeting. This has enabled the members of the board to be able to participate fully in each board meeting. I would also like to thank the three Board members who made themselves available as Alternate Board Chair on a four-month rotation basis, this was a great support. In the absence of RBMs each Board member has assigned Delegates and report back on Area activities and concerns at each Board meeting.

As with every Conference Goal, the 2023 goal of "*Being fully self-supporting*" is brought to the forefront of all Board meetings, in fact it is on top of all our agenda's. The Board works to have all actions and activities of the Board be transparent to the fellowship. We do this by using the Board Newsletter, which is published after each Board meeting. This enables us to share news, changes, instructions, and activities, so it can be widely read by the whole fellowship. The newsletter is sent to all delegates to share with Group Representatives who can then share to each group and Lone Members. The Board Newsletter is also available on the website under the Members tab.

NZ Al-Anon News (known as the NZAGSO News) contains information for the groups that is necessary for our services to continue and the New Zealand structure to be upheld. This is currently posted to 30 groups, 7 Lone Members and 6 individuals. Emailed to 60 groups and to 93 individuals. We ask members to share this with other members and read it out at more than one meeting. When the NZAGSO does not have each group's current mailing address (CMA) then this communication breaks down.

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) acts as the clearing house New Zealand wide for enquiries from those who need help or want information about Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateen. The NZAGSO meets the service responsibilities of Al-Anon Family Groups daily. The NZAGSO is answerable to the Board through the Executive Budget Chair who is the NZAGSO representative on the Board. The Board would like to show appreciation and give thanks to the former Executive Budget Chair, the Office Manager, the Selected Committee members, and volunteers that have been able to keep the NZAGSO operating during the pandemic and extreme weather conditions early this year, ensuring that information and literature is distributed, our website is updated and meeting information is available for members while being accessible by phone and email for outside queries. Stage one of the upgrade of the General Service Office computer, and office equipment has now been completed.

Our Conference Summaries are another valuable resource for members to be aware of what is happening within the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Group's and are FREE on the website for members to view. These are not just for the Conference attendees. The summaries contain wonderful workshop and presentation ideas, news from other Areas, Board and Selected Committee reports. All this information is collated and put together by a dedicated Conference committee so that these resources are available to the

fellowship. I wish to thank the former Conference Chair and her committee for their hard work over the last year in getting the 2022 Conference Summary completed and sent to the fellowship.

The Literature Chair and committee have continued to work on the updating of our literature after the monumental task of incorporating the KN-17 into our Service Handbook. Many resources are available free of charge, from the NZ Al-Anon website through the members tab. Many thanks to the Literature Chair and committee for their consistent and valuable work done on behalf of the Al-Anon Family Groups.

The 60th Annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous with Al-Anon Participation in January 2023 had the theme of “Happy, Joyous and Free”. The Convention was held in Christchurch. This was the first face-to-face AA Convention since the beginning of the pandemic, and it was fantastic to see so many people from around the country in attendance. This was a very successful event, and the Board wish to give a huge thanks to the Area Nine Delegate for stepping into the role of Al-Anon Convention Chair in the absence of a Southern Regional Board Member. With the assistance of her committee of volunteers and the National Alateen Chair they made this Convention such a wonderful experience. Thank-you everyone for all your hard work and dedication.

At present, Alateen activity is still occurring in Area Seven with AMIAS being approved in many Areas throughout New Zealand waiting for Alateen meetings. Alateen was available at the AA Convention in January, sadly there were no Alateens attending. Those AMIAS in attendance took the opportunity to engage in some valuable training.

Currently there is a virtual trial for Alateen Groups being conducted by the World Service Office. Any Alateen Groups in New Zealand who wish to have a virtual presence have been invited to join this trial. Thank you to the National Alateen Co-Ordinator for her continued and passionate effort to encourage Alateen awareness at Al-Anon meetings and gatherings.

The financial state of New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups continues to look good, with donations continually coming in from Areas as well as personal contributions. Our annual audit has also been successfully completed. Our thanks go out to the Board Treasurer for her diligence and commitment to ensure careful wisdom is applied through the Traditions and Concepts on behalf of the fellowship.

Sadly, there has been no National Public Outreach undertaken this year, due to the absence of a National Public Outreach Chair. Public outreach is essential for the growth of Al-Anon Family Groups. Some areas and Groups have started to focus on doing some public outreach once again now that there is more sense of normality in the Groups.

As Lois W commented at the 1984 IAGSM “God has worked through Al-Anon, Alateen and AA. If we stay open to Him we will continue to have reason to be optimistic.”

Yours in fellowship and service  
Tracy B

### Financial Year & Audit

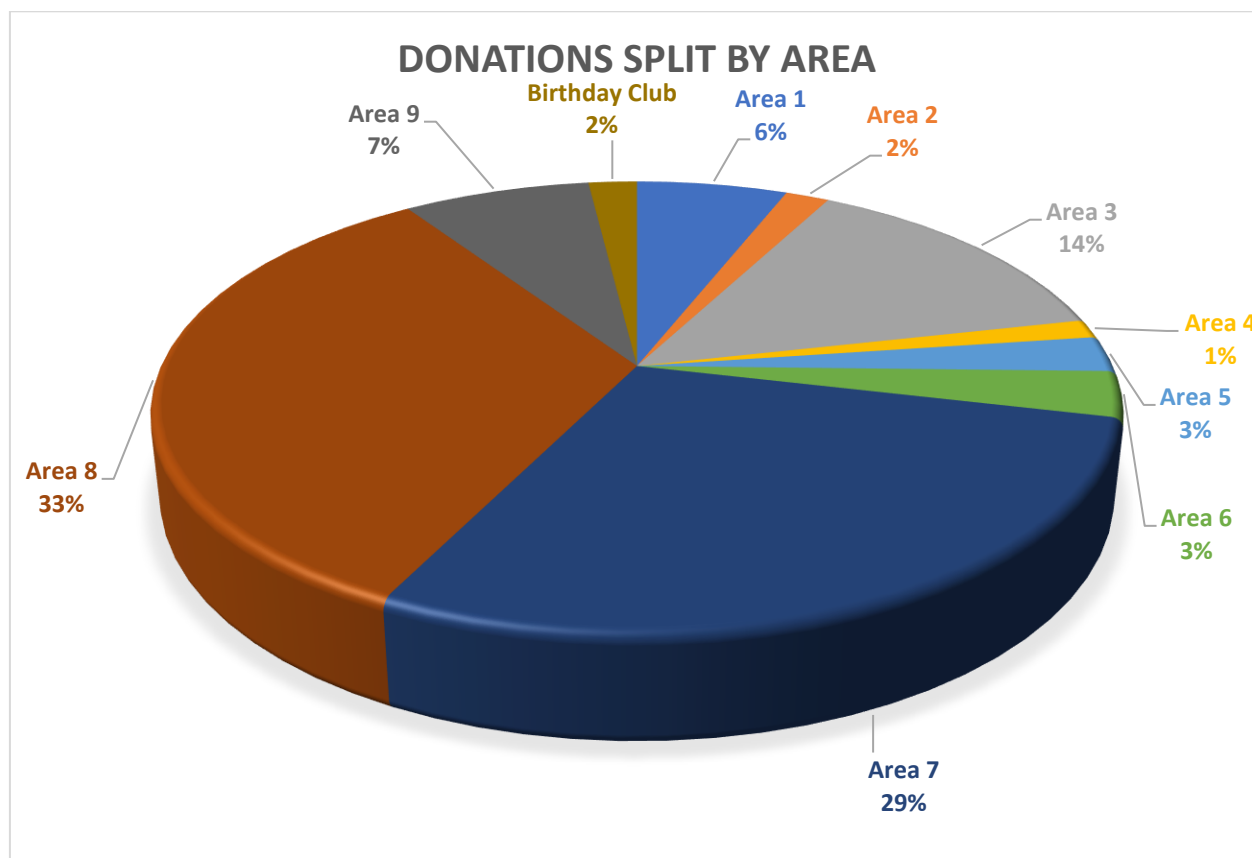
Our financial year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to the following March 31<sup>st</sup>. As this report needs to be completed in time for inclusion in the Conference Brochure, it means the accounts have not yet been finalised at time of writing as they await audit. If the audit is completed in time, the final audited accounts will be provided at the 2023 New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC). It is assumed that there will be no material difference to the results currently provided.

### Donations

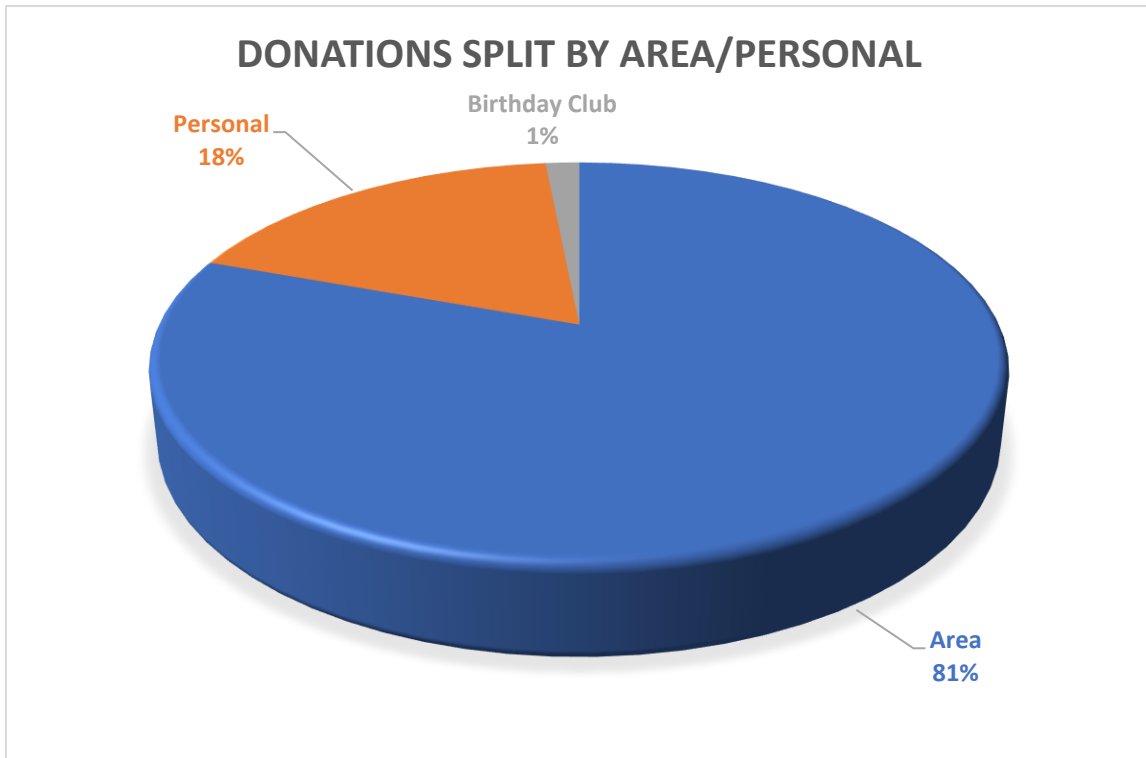
Al-Anon’s Tradition Seven states we are “fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”. This makes us financially dependent on the contributions we receive from our members. Members donate through their groups, through their fund-raising efforts, and through personal donations made directly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

The approved budget for group donations for the year 2022/2023 was \$50,789 and in total we have received \$50,806 combined group and personal donations. This total is right on the budget that was set at the 2022 NZASC and the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) remains extremely grateful for members contributions and all the initiatives and events that groups have organised to add to this. Although we are meeting our budget for donations this year, the total donations for the 2023 financial year have reduced by around \$14,000 in comparison to 2022. In the current economic climate and with membership declining, it is important for NZAGSB to maintain the request for financial donations to enable us to work towards sustainability as a fellowship and ride out the inevitable fluctuations in our cashflows.

The split of donations by area, is as follows:



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 – 2022 group registrations (2023 registrations are not available until after this report has gone out). For the 2022/2023 year we budgeted to receive \$1.70 per week, per member. This gives the following breakdown:

Area	No. of Meetings	Approx. Total Members	Budget 23/24
1	9	57	\$ 5,039
2	7	50	\$ 4,420
3	12	108	\$ 9,547
4	2	14	\$ 1,238
5	4	26.5	\$ 2,343
6	6	34	\$ 3,006
7	10	94.5	\$ 8,354
8	13	98.5	\$ 8,707
9	7	38.5	\$ 3,403
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>\$ 46,056</b>

Comparing this budget to the 2022/2023 result, (including personal donations) some areas are struggling to make the budget. However, there are other areas who have tracked above budget, so this has brought the overall total received to align with budget set. The graph above shows that 18% of donations received are personal donations.

### Other Income

We generate a small amount of income each year from our ample reserve held in term deposits. We continue to hold \$100,000 in term deposits of \$50,000 each, rolling off at three-month intervals to avoid potential cash flow issues. We have seen around triple the interest earned this year in comparison to last year as interest rates have seen an increase. This has helped to offset some increases in expenses as detailed below.

## Literature Sales

We sell our Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to provide a service to our fellowship and for Public Outreach, the goal is not to produce income.

Any profit seen in our financial statements from literature sales is to help offset any overhead costs incurred in fulfilling this service to the fellowship. Examples of expenses incurred:

- Rent paid for our NZAGSO
- Paying our Office Manager
- Travel reimbursed to volunteers

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 settled back to pre-COVID averages but is still prone to fluctuations at times and has been trending on the low side. In the 2022/2023 financial year the rate has varied from as low as \$0.57 to now sitting around \$0.62.

The literature was repriced in December from a conversion rate of \$0.67 to \$0.57 to reflect the downwards trend of the market at the time. So far this calendar year the market has recovered somewhat but is currently not improving enough for us to consider a re-price. We continue to monitor the rates every month.

Overall, the gross profit from literature sales is \$8,909 which is similar to last year as our total sales are also in line with the last financial year. This is a great result in the face of our declining membership.

## Expenses

In the 2022/2023 financial year we have incurred the highest expense total we have seen for a number of years. With many in person events returning and a continued increase in inflation, it was budgeted that our expenses would total \$92,750 for the year ending 31 March 2023. We have managed to keep well under this with a total of \$80,073 but this is well up on last year's total of \$62,151. Contributing factors to these increased expenses have been increased travel costs faced for Board member expenses and volunteer travel costs also the expenses associated with the IAGSM held in 2022. We also used more of our public outreach budget with the Billstickers campaign in 2022.

As the economy continues to struggle post-COVID and inflation is currently high, we expect to see increased expenses in the coming year ahead. We need to continue to be prudent in our management of expenses to ensure that we can make the most of what we have.

In conclusion, NZAGSO's financial results for the 2022/2023 year show its first deficit experienced in a number of years. There are a few factors contributing to this including external ones, but it is important to keep reminding our groups and areas to support NZAGSO when they can so we can sustain our fellowship into the future. We are thankful for our reserves as they have allowed us to continue on in a tough economic climate with a reduced membership.



NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS					
Balance Sheet					
Assets	FY 2023		FY 2022		
Cash at Bank					
ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$	6,707	\$	3,879	
ANZ Term Deposit	\$	100,000	\$	100,211	
ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver	\$	1,853	\$	6,773	
ANZ-01 Online On Call	\$	36,089	\$	769	
ANZ-Ample Reserve Account	\$	2,336	\$	45,439	
Total Cash at Bank		\$ 146,985		\$ 157,071	
Other Assets					
Sundry Debtors	-\$	260	-\$	63	
Literature On hand	\$	5,596	\$	5,335	
Total Other Assets		\$ 5,336		\$ 5,272	
Total Current Assets			\$ 152,321		\$ 162,343
Fixed Assets					
Office Equipment over \$500	\$	2,810	\$	3,224	
Total Fixed Assets		\$ 2,810		\$ 3,224	
<b>Total Assets</b>			\$ 155,130		\$ 165,567
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Sundry Creditors	\$	15	\$	702	
GST					
GST on Purchases	-\$	301	-\$	684	
GST to/From IRD					
Total GST		-\$ 301		-\$ 684	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			-\$ 286		\$ 18
<b>Net Assets</b>			\$ 155,416		\$ 165,549
<b>Equity</b>			\$ 155,416		\$ 165,549

NZ AL-ANON GENERAL SERVICES									
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2023									
Funds at Bank	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
ANZ-00 Cheque Account	\$6,707	\$3,879	\$3,933	\$7,032	\$6,943	\$3,603	\$2,781	\$2,781	\$4,985
ANZ Term Deposit	\$100,000	\$100,211	\$50,000	\$50,000					\$23,750
ANZ -01 Online Call account	\$1,853	\$769	\$2,698	\$11,986	\$5,715	\$1,341	\$3,391	\$3,391	\$2,453
ANZ eSaver Ample Reserve Acc	\$36,089	\$45,439	\$81,121	\$44,882	\$86,686	\$81,881	\$63,678	\$63,678	\$25,987
ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver Account	\$2,336	\$6,773	\$5,927	\$4,156	\$4,260	\$7,210	\$1,019	\$1,019	\$750
undeposited cheques/cash									
	\$146,985	\$157,071	\$143,679	\$118,056	\$103,605	\$94,035	\$70,869	\$70,869	\$57,925
<b>Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation</b>									
<b>For the Year Ended 31 March 2023</b>									
ASSET	Date	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation 2022	Book Value 31-Mar-2022	Additions/ (Disposals)	Rate	Accumulated Depreciation 2023	Book Value 31-Mar-2023	
<b>Office Equipment</b>									
Projector	Apr-12	1,128	-	-		17.50% SL	-	-	
HP Laptop	Dec-17	882	-	-		40.00% SL	-	-	
Brother Printer	Jun-20	781	234	367		30.00% SL	234	132	
HP Desktop Office Computer	Dec-21	1,759	196	1,563		40.00% SL	704	1055	
		2,791	431	1,929	0		938	1,188	
<b>Office Furniture</b>									
Furniture	1988	2,791	-	-		10.00% SL	-	-	
Shelving	1990	241	-	-		10.00% SL	-	-	
Furniture	1991	344	-	-		10.00% SL	-	-	
Moveable Shelving	1996	872	-	-		12.50% SL	-	-	
Refrigerator	1996	199	-	-		15.50% SL	-	-	
Office Desk Agile Winder	Mar-22	729	-	729		10.00% SL	73	656	
Office Chair Luna	Mar-22	565	-	565		10.00% SL	57	565	
Credenza Cabinet	9/06/2022	817	-	-	817	8.50% SL	56	565	
		6,558	0	1,294	817		186	1,786	
Total Assets			431			Total Depreciation	1,124	2974	
<b>LITERATURE STOCK on Hand</b>									
at US dollars before freight	31/03/2023	31/03/2022	31/03/2021	31/03/2020	31/03/2019	31/03/2018	31/03/2017	31/03/2016	31/03/2015
	\$3,511.23	\$3,721.25	\$2,966.85	3,144	2,361	3,358	2,799	2,434	3,050
Exchange rate at 31 March	0.63	0.70	0.70	0.60	0.68	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.75
at NZ \$ Cost Price excluding GST	5,595.59	5,335.13	4,249.89	5,279.10	3,469.44	4,640.62	3,995.50	3,527.54	4,082.76

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

**NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS**  
**AUDIT FINANCIAL POSITION FY 2023**

<b>Profit and Loss</b>	<b>FY2023 Actuals</b>		<b>FY2022 Actuals</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Donations				
Area/Personal Donations				
Donations Area One	\$ 2,416		\$ 4,107	
Donations Area One Personal	\$ 266		\$ 10	
Donations Area Two	\$ 699		\$ 1,496	
Donations Area Two Personal	\$ 1,722		\$ 418	
Donations Area Three	\$ 5,526		\$ 7,398	
Donations Area Three Personal	\$ 1,240		\$ 1,655	
Donations Area Four	\$ 530		\$ 1,161	
Donations Area Four Personal	\$ 20		\$ 70	
Donations Area Five	\$ 2,560		\$ 1,991	
Donations Area Five Personal	\$ 1,019		\$ 688	
Donations Area Six	\$ 1,315		\$ 575	
Donations Area Six Personal	\$ 711		\$ 936	
Donations Area Seven	\$ 11,534		\$ 13,263	
Donations Area Seven Personal	\$ 3,007		\$ 7,770	
Donations Area Eight	\$ 13,353		\$ 16,424	
Donations Area Eight Personal	\$ 193		\$ 1,309	
Donations Area Nine	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,552	
Donations Area Nine Personal	\$ 920		\$ 1,090	
Donations - Birthday Club (ex Personal)	\$ 777		\$ 815	
Total Area/Personal Donations	<u>\$ 50,806</u>		<u>\$ 64,727</u>	
Other Donation Income				
Equalised Conference Contribution	\$ 5,097		\$ 6,234	
Convention Donations	\$ 3,018		\$ 1,266	
TEAM Donation				
Messenger Donations				
Total Other Donation Income	<u>\$ 8,114</u>		<u>\$ 7,500</u>	
Other Income				
Other Income	\$ 225			
Literature Profit	\$ 6,355		\$ 8,019	
Interest/Dividend Received	\$ 773		\$ 360	
Received Interest - Term Deposit	\$ 1,687		\$ 421	
Total Other Income	<u>\$ 9,040</u>		<u>\$ 8,799</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>\$ 67,960</u>		<u>\$ 81,026</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
ACC Levy	\$ 65		\$ 66	
Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 1,500		\$ 431	
Assets <\$500	\$ 136		\$ 575	
Archives				
Bank Charges	\$ 71		\$ 27	
Board Member Expenses	\$ 3,636		\$ 1,438	
NRBM Expenses				
CRBM Expenses				
SRBM Expenses				
Computer/Office Equipment	\$ 1,209		\$ 1,566	
Donation to WSO	\$ 4,225			
Accum Depreciation	\$ 1,124		\$ 431	
Conference Payments	\$ 7,392		\$ 8,443	
Conference Travel Delegates	\$ 1,453		\$ 1,055	
Convention Expenses	\$ 146		\$ 70	
IAGSM Paid Expenses	\$ 5,461		\$ 2,916	
Postage (less recovered)	\$ 913		\$ 1,358	
Charities Commission Fee	\$ 44		\$ 44	
Printing & Stationery	\$ 1,720		\$ 991	
Public Outreach Expenses	\$ 3,061		\$ 1,040	
Rent & Rates	\$ 12,596		\$ 10,315	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 880			
Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)	\$ 94		\$ 35	
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,694		\$ 2,149	
Volunteer Travel Fund	\$ 1,074		\$ 300	
Office Administration	\$ 29,204		\$ 28,113	
TEAM Expenses				
Stock Adjustment	\$ 156		\$ 256	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$ 77,852</u>		<u>\$ 61,619</u>	
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>		<u>-\$ 9,892</u>		<u>\$ 19,407</u>

Statement of Equity		
	2023	2022
Opening retained earnings	\$ 165,549	\$ 147,227
Current year earnings	-\$ 10,133	\$ 18,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 155,416</b>	<b>\$ 165,549</b>

Tina Mc  
NZAGSB National Treasurer



Audit Plus Accounting Services Limited  
P O Box 51  
Eketāhuna 4940

P: 0275 705 696  
E: [info@auditplus.nz](mailto:info@auditplus.nz)

26 October 2023

The Board  
NZ AI-Anon General Services  
PO Box 68124  
Victoria Street West  
Auckland 1142

Tena Koutou katoa,

### **NZ AI-Anon General Services - Audit Management Letter**

We have completed the audit of the financial information in your performance report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The primary aim of our audit is to form an opinion as to whether the financial information in your performance report fairly reflects the results of your organisation's activities for the reporting period and its financial position at balance date. The audit report expresses this opinion. We were not engaged to audit the entity information or statement of service performance and accordingly these statements, representing other information, were not included in our audit.

In forming our audit opinion we conduct detailed tests of selected transactions and review the key controls in place to ensure the effective operation of your accounting systems and internal controls. As a service to ensure you receive maximum benefit from our audit we note our evaluation of your systems and highlight areas of possible weakness or where we believe improvements can be made. Our motive is to offer objective and constructive advice so that the accounting function and related control issues can be improved in the future.

We inserted two paragraphs into our Independent Auditor's Report as follows:

## Required Communications

As required by the Auditing Standards we affirm that:

- We have had no disagreements with management during our audit nor have we had any serious difficulties in dealing with management.
- We have not identified any instances of fraud involving senior management or any other frauds that have caused a material misstatement in the financial information in your performance report.
- We have not noted any significant risks or exposures that are required to be separately disclosed in the the financial information in your performance report.

We reaffirm we are independent of your organisation, and that we have no relationship with your organisation that impairs our independence.

## Specific Matters

There are a number of matters arising and observations from our audit work which we now bring to your attention. We bring these things to your attention and ask that you reply to this letter with specific responses to the issues raised, as ultimately you are responsible for your financial systems, internal controls and Performance Report.

1. All meeting minutes should be signed by the Chairperson on approval by committee/board. We have audited electronic copies and these do not indicate any signing by chair.
2. As we mentioned last year; The Charities Register may require updating with the current office holders of the society. We recommend that with every change of officers, that the register be updated as soon as practicable after the change and/ or appointment.
3. There is significant stock held at year end. If this is indicative of the normal levels of stock carried throughout the year, we would recommend that the Board reviews its insurance needs to ensure that the organisation's asset are adequately protected.

## Audit Adjustments

There were a number of disclosure errors in this year's draft performance report, which took a bit of work to get remedied. We thank Tina for her efforts, and we are all hopeful that next year will go even more smoothly.

## Financial Reporting Qualitative Assessment

Whilst the Charities Services template is a little cumbersome we are pleased that the Board chose to use it, as it ensures that the organisation is in good stead for reporting compliance.

## Accounting Systems and Controls

As with all small organisations, it can sometimes be a challenge to maintain effective segregation of duties. We recommend that the board continues to have robust oversight over the financial controls in relation to stock control, and payments, as well as independence checks over bank reconciliations by someone other than the preparer.

## Conclusion

These points are not necessarily exhaustive as they arose from our audit of the financial information in your performance report, rather than a specific systems audit. The report is prepared solely for the use of the Committee and senior management of NZ Al-Anon General Services. It may not be provided to third parties without our prior written permission.

Thanks to Tina and Tracy who assisted us in the completion of our audit work. Please contact us with your proposed responses to our recommendations and if you have any questions on any issues raised. Wishing you and all your members the very best for the remainder of 2023.

Ngā mihi nui



Adrienne Dempsey

**Audit Plus Accounting Services Ltd | Qualified Auditor | Eketāhuna - Wairarapa**

*Moving forward with Unity Courage and Perseverance.*

### Concept One

The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belong to the Al-Anon groups. As a National Alateen Coordinator I ask how are we supporting our Groups to become stronger and more resilient? Events over the last year have shown how quickly things can change. By preparing and communicating well we can reduce bumps in the road to be less challenging. We as ambassadors for New Zealand Al-Anon / Alateen have an obligation to keep Alateen alive in New Zealand.

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.

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

The AA Assembly with Al-Anon and Alateen is a great way for us to co-operate and can be a great source of public outreach and attracting of new members. Many dual members attended our meetings. We recently held two Alateen meetings and attracted two new members along with the member who attends Sunday Sharing Alateen. The Assembly is a great way to improve awareness and attraction of what Al-Anon and Alateen has to offer.

**Conventions** are a way to celebrate our recovery in Al-Anon. At the most recent 2022 AA Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation there were two Alateen meetings with two AMIAS who were verified by the Convention Committee in the absence of an Area Two committee. We were able to share our ESH with two new interested AMIAS from Area Three who were new to holding an Alateen meeting. We also were able to give two interested members an idea of what Alateen offers. Prior to Convention we had a virtual meeting which included familiarisation on safety policy when working with Alateens. We delegated the room setup, literature, and signage amongst our small group of four. Our meetings were a great opportunity to set up and discuss how Alateen works. In the second session a “mock” meeting was held in the absence of Alateens. Following Convention we now have an Alateen Coordinator for Area Three and Area Nine plus two new members who are interested in becoming AMIAS.

Area Seven Alateen Coordinator recently asked the GR's - Is your group able to set up an Alateen meeting alongside your meeting? Is there a space adjacent to your meeting space that would be suitable for Alateens to meet? Do you have members willing to help make this a reality with support from Area Seven Alateen Coordinator and other volunteers for this service? Let me know, and let's help Alateen grow.

### Starting an Alateen group

There has been an Alateen Information zip file provided to all Delegates.

Request to use the video that was presented at Conference 2022 as encouragement for others to join.

### How to support Alateen.

Encourage awareness.

Explain what AMIAS are and what they do.

Shoulder tap people.

Having Alateen/Al-Anon meetings at the same time and venue as AA.

At Conventions make people aware of two rooms.

Keep on reminding Al-Anon members that their children and teens can go to Alateen.

School councillors and school staff are a place to introduce the idea of Alateen.

All Areas to have an Alateen coordinator.

Use the free Alateen Literature on the WSO website.

Have an area Alateen budget to support a new Alateen group.

Paula B, National Alateen Coordinator.



## AA Convention Report

Jill K

Alcoholics Anonymous 60th Annual Convention with Al-Anon Participation was held at St Andrews College campus Christchurch from 20-22 January 2023.

**Al-Anon and AA Theme:** Happy, Joyous and Free

### Introduction

At the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Conference (NZASC) on 18 June 2022 I was invited by the General Service Board to chair the 60th AA Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen participation to be held on 20-22 January 2023 in Christchurch.

I felt this was a privilege and a rather daunting prospect. I was reassured that all the information and support was available to me. For example the NZ Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook 2022 pages 21-30; the 2022 Board report for the 2022 AA Convention; previous Convention Committee Board reports and a hot line to the previous chair. I am grateful for all this invaluable support.

My first task was to invite several members to form the Convention Committee.

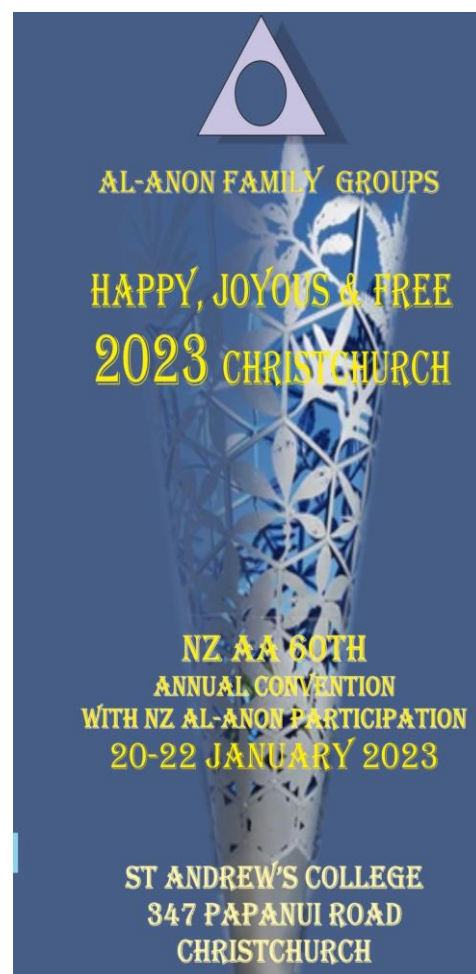
In the absence of a SRBM and as the Area Nine Delegate, based in Nelson, I needed to have a member from the Area Two team who could be a key local liaison person. I approached the AA convention committee and was advised that they would like to work with Jess ex Area Two Delegate because they had worked successfully together at previous Conventions in Christchurch.

I am very grateful that Jess agreed even though she had recently resigned as delegate, and she gained the Boards support. Jess was a vital and extremely valuable link for the whole planning process and actual Convention. I also invited members from Areas 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9 to participate whilst keeping in mind: *Concept Four Participation is the key to Harmony.*

For each position I provided the member with the position description in the NZ Handbook 2022. They were fully informed before they agreed to join. I followed this up with a telephone conversation to answer any questions etc. All the members I asked accepted their role.

### The Convention Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Jill K	Area 9
<b>Co-chair</b>	Paula B as required	Area 7
<b>Secretary</b>	Claire	Area 9
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alison	Area 2
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jess and Robbie	Area 2 and Area 9
<b>Fund raising</b>	Lucy and Colleen	Area 1 and Area 1
<b>IT support &amp; experienced advisor</b>	Jason	Area 3
<b>Publicity &amp; flyer</b>	Jill K	Area 9
<b>Experienced advisor</b>	Melda ex SRBM	Area 1
<b>Literature and registration</b>	Jess, Alison, and Area 2 rostered group members	





The next major task was to design and publicise this Convention. I worked with a graphic designer and our flyer outline was based on the AA flyer. The programme of sessions, the session topics and finding a Chairperson for each session proved to be very time consuming. We had to get copyright approval from WSO because our flyer designer had sourced an excellent cartoon from an Internet search. I sought advice from the Board Chair and our NZAGSO Office Manager.

So, I formally requested WSO Permission using their online system. I had no response for two weeks so I went ahead and removed the cartoon and replaced it with an excerpt from a CAL approved book. This enabled me to go ahead with a print run for NZAGSO to distribute the printed version to all Group Representatives in the monthly mail out from NZAGSO. It was done under an extremely tight time frame.

I also publicised the Convention at the Delegate's electronic meetings and the Public Outreach chat room meetings. I would say that the flyer caused the most challenges overall! If I had started the flyer earlier, it may have been less stressful.

As a newly formed Committee we needed to get together to form a functioning team. We had nine electronic meetings for the planning process every 2-3 weeks. Our secretary gave extraordinary service.

We have comprehensive meeting minutes which are available on request. Each meeting was on a Saturday morning 9-10 am. The team worked very well together, and I felt confident that everything would come together at the actual Convention.

The St Andrews College site visit with the AA Planning Committee was left to Jess and Alison from Area Two. The Facilities were excellent. Personally, this meant that I could not visualise the AI-Anon rooms but I arrived at the venue in time to do that!!

### **Alateen**

We planned two Alateen sessions so that we could support Alateen members. The requirements for the Alateen hosts and meetings are very well documented in the 2022 AI-Anon/Alateen Handbook. I worked closely with the National Alateen Coordinator which was a great help. We needed to have two different hosts at each of the two sessions. We had some difficulty in securing this requirement. Because the qualified AMIAS members can only work with Alateens in their own Area we needed to come to an agreement for who could approve them from out of Area 2. After discussion with the Convention Committee and National Alateen Coordinator we agreed to enable the Committee to give approval. This worked well and we have clearly documented the process in our meeting minutes.

The outcome of this was that we had for each session one experienced AMIAS and one qualified AMIAS but seeking experience. It was disappointing that we did not have any Alateens come to our sessions. The hosts used the time to have a "mock meeting" which they found useful.

The four AMIAS had coordinated, planned their sessions and produced colourful posters. The two experienced AMIAS came from Area Seven and the two seeking experience came from Area Three. My understanding is that we currently have only one face to face meeting in NZ and that is in Area Seven.

Consequently, we have a shortage of experienced AMIAS. It could be useful for AI-Anon NZ to address this issue again as we cannot offer hope or support to many Alateens.

### **Participant numbers**

AI-Anon Preregistrations 48 and most attended.

## Session Participation

Time	Topic	Chaired by	Attendance
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January			
7.30pm to 9.00pm	Happy Joyous and Free	Tracy B	27
Saturday 21 January			
8.30am to 10.00am	Doubting your sanity	Colleen	41
10.30 to 12noon	Takes some getting used to	Robyn D	43
10.30 to 12noon	Alateen	Julie M & Liz A	0
1.00pm to 2.30pm	Long Timers Experience and Hope	Arnold	49
3.00pm to 4.30pm	One day at a Time	Marguerite	18
3.00pm to 4.30pm	Alateen	Paula B & Jason T	0
3.00pm to 4.30pm	Workshop: Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon	Renée	25
4.30pm to 4.45pm	Serenity Roll call	Marguerite	~35
Public Meeting			
7.30pm to 9.00pm	Al-Anon speaker Kylie	AA	~390
Sunday 22 January			
8.30am to 10am	Freedom from Despair	Claire	29
10.30 to 11.30am	Spiritually	Jill & Colleen	25

## Farewells



## Finances:

### AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation 20-22nd Jan. 2023

Treasurer's Report 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023			
Income		Expenses	
GSO Float (11 Oct)	\$ 200.00	Freight Merchandise 17 Oct (to Susan)	\$136.00
Sales Table	\$1219.00	Freight Forwarded to Di	\$181.58
Literature (includes \$409.75 EFTPOS)	\$1092.35		
AA% of takings	\$1024.74		
Tradition 7	\$ 448.70		
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$3984.79	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	\$317.58
<b>Less Expenses:</b>	\$ 317.58		
<b>Available Funds</b>	\$3667.21		

## Highlights

- Joining the AA members for a very moving warm and welcoming powhiri at St Andrews College.
- Meeting Jess with huge hugs and seeing the Convention Committee pulling together.
- Having the first face to face Committee meeting!
- Seeing the magnificent display of stunning Al-Anon merchandise provided by Lucy and Colleen from Area One.
- Being greeted by a beautiful blue and white floral display in the building foyer and in each room made by Robbie, Jess and flowers from Area Two members gardens. A team effort!
- Main meeting room walls with banners of our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. Pale blue bunting and flowers were appreciated.
- Informing members at the first session how to evacuate in case of an emergency which was soon followed by an actual alarm and full evacuation! Our HP chose to continue the session outside under a beautiful large tree. It was a warm windless inspirational place to be! So far so good I thought and the coordination between Jess, and AA coordinator worked extremely well.
- All sessions started and ended on time with the Serenity Prayer and or the Al-Anon declaration.
- Display of CAL literature in the large registration area, close to the AA literature table.
- Registration table with both Al-Anon and AA members working beside each other. Thanks go to Alison and the roster of Area Two members. Another great team effort!
- Inspirational session chairs and speakers.
- Al-Anon roll call for number of years in Al-Anon with solid attendance and with serenity.
- Attending the large combined public meeting of about 380 people. Kylie C, an Area Nine member gave an outstanding account of her experience, strength and hope in Al-Anon.
- Positive financial outcome (see below).
- Enjoying the excellent facilities at St Andrews College, modern Accommodation blocks, excellent fully catered meals, tea, coffee and sweet nibbles always available at the registration area.

## Challenges

- Beware copyright issues in flyer design.
- Session chairperson replacements. We needed to make several last-minute session chairperson replacements, but we had planned for this thankfully and all went smoothly.
- Convention committee needs to plan for this situation. For example, our Public meeting speaker was unable to attend so I called on my HP to get the replacement member. I'm grateful!!
- Registration desk and session plans. AA had their session programme on the back of the registration card information. We had our session plans (flyers) beside the registration information. A group of our Friday evening latecomers only saw the AA session plans. So, suggest our Al-Anon session information should be on the back of all the Al-Anon registrations.
- Session Chairperson information. The role of the session chairs is in the NZ Al-Anon-Alateen Service Handbook 2022 page 30-34. Some chairs were not aware that the sharing speakers should be approached by the chairs before the session to start and finish the session sharings.

I have connected with the Area Four Delegate for the 2024 Convention in Hawkes Bay and I'm happy to continue to support her to share this service experience.

Finally, I wish to thank you for this service opportunity as the Chairperson of our Al-Anon participation in the Alcoholics Anonymous 60th Convention, Christchurch 2023.

Yours in Service, Jill K  
AA Convention Chair

## Literature Committee Report

Kirsten W

We currently have four members of the Literature Committee, including the chairperson.

The Literature Committee was asked by the Board to draft a survey to go to the membership. The Board considered it was again time to find out who our members are and how they come to Al-Anon, in order to focus our public outreach and plan for the future.

The last survey was done in 2006 and was reported in the 2007 Conference summary, with a brief reference to 1991 and 1995 surveys. The 1991 and 1995 surveys were only done in District 7.

The current membership survey covers similar questions as the 2006 survey, so it will be possible to compare results. It includes some questions from an Area Three public outreach survey from 2021. It also includes questions from the 2021 World Service Office membership survey which is conducted every three years.

<https://Al-Anon.org/pdf/2021-MembershipSurvey.pdf>

The New Zealand survey is set up as a form in Google documents and responses can be easily gathered by the Literature Committee from the same place and turned into a spreadsheet. The information remains anonymous. The survey was drafted with the help of the Area Seven Public Outreach Coordinator.

Keeping the survey as brief as possible will encourage members to take the time to respond, but a range of information will help focus public outreach.

Membership survey link: <https://forms.gle/JNad31jGsRqpHqtGA>

### Handbook:

The Literature Committee is keeping a list of minor edits which will be required next year to the New Zealand Service Handbook.

Kirsten W.  
Chair, Literature Committee



Scan me to view live survey!

## NZAGSB Selected Committees

Selected Committees are created by NZAGSB in terms of Tradition Nine to take care of various elements of our programme and are directly responsible to NZAGSB through their respective Chairpersons. Points taken from the NZ Handbook 2022 (pages 95-98).

- While NZAGSB holds final administrative responsibility for NZAFG in terms of Concept Six, it should always have the assistance of the best possible Selected Committees, executives, staff and consultants. This means careful consideration of these Selected Committees, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their introduction into service, the way in which they relate to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staff and consultants, together with a proper basis for financial compensation of our special workers.
- The term of a Selected Committee Chairperson begins immediately following appointment at the Annual General Meeting of NZAGSB and continues until the Annual General Meeting the following year.
- A Selected Committee Chairperson serves for a three-year term and may serve two consecutive terms.
- NZAGSB Chairperson and General Secretary are each ex officio members of all Selected Committees.
- The Selected Committee Chairperson recruits not more than five proposed members of the Selected Committee including not more than one NZAGSB member additional to the Selected Committee Chairperson and the ex officio members.
- Proposed Selected Committee members are considered and if appropriate approved and appointed by NZAGSB at the September NZAGSB meeting.
- The term for a Selected Committee member begins at the conclusion of the September NZAGSB meeting and continues until August 31 the following year.
- Each Area Delegate serves on a Selected Committee selected by them at NZASC:

<b>NZ AI-Anon Selected Committees</b>
Conference
AA Convention
Editorial
Executive Budget
Literature
Public Outreach

- NZAGSB service positions available as at May 2023:

<b>NZAGSB Vacancies</b>
General Secretary
Executive Budget Chairperson
Conference Chairperson
Editorial Chairperson
National Public Outreach Coordinator
National Archivist
Northern Regional Board Member
Central Regional Board Member
Southern Regional Board Member



Liz and Julie attended the IAGSM in London in October 2022. Since then, they have given a full report to the NZAGSB in December 2022, reviewed the NZ IAGSM presentation content for the 2022 IAGSM Summary, received WSO correspondence through AFG Connects, and participated in two WSO International Team meetings. An IAGSM presentation is planned for the June 2023 NZASC.

It was a pleasure to be able to meet with Allison from WSO at the IAGSM Conference who will put the IAGSM Summary together and be able to keep in contact with her to review how our presentation will be presented in the Summary.

AFG Connects has been more active since the IAGSM with more updates for the international fellowship through the *IAGSM Delegates* Community after the discussion at the IAGSM that the international structures were feeling left out of discussions and decisions. Correspondence received:

- Announcement of the WSO WhatsApp (7575906382).
- Interpreters for French and Spanish speaking Delegates will be available at the WSC in April 2023.
- Announcement of a virtual component of the Albuquerque Convention 2023 and discount codes for international structures.
- Request for national service structures to use the provided language which was revised in March 2022 on their respective Group Registration and Annual Update Forms, respectively. Text was provided.
- Request for international structures to participate in the WSO Alateen Project – that will evaluate the implications of and gain agreement on a cohesive approach for expanding online Alateen meetings (not including Alateen events) availability through the AI-Anon Family Groups Mobile App and other electronic platforms. The objective is to make electronic groups available for all Alateen members who wish to participate, ensuring the safety of Alateen and AMIAS members.

The two of us met with the WSO International Team in November 2022 and the discussion was around Board Road Trip ideas, WSC conference procedures explained, (the Chair of the Board appoints the Conference Chair each year at the April Board meeting), there are six members that form the WSC Committee – Associate Director of Staff, Chair of the Board, Trustee Chair, Trustee Co-chair, Executive Director, and a staff recording secretary. Lack of members in service was also commented on and for the Board to be flexible but still using the current structure to get others involved in service.

The second WSO International Team meeting in February was attended by five of the six NZ Board members which was very encouraging for us to meet with five WSO staff members. Discussion was on these points:

- Dates are coming for the 2024 IAGSM which will be in Virginia Beach.
- WSO are willing to announce or showcase any international structures special events, anniversaries, celebrations in The Loop for others to see and participate if appropriate.
- The WSO has a WhatsApp number for members to ask questions that require a quick response from the WSO (7575906382)
- In the absence of a General Secretary NZ can opt to have the NZAGSO email as a contact in AFG Connects in the Announcements – International Structures Community instead of relying on the IAGSM Delegates to relay the communication to the NZAGSB.
- Albuquerque Convention virtual registration and discount code for NZ due to come out the following week. Also, an invitation will come to those attending either in person or virtually to participate in the Love Parade. There will be four slots in the virtual programme for international structures to participate, and a Meet Up App for registered attendees to chat with each other.



- How donations work to WSO or to NZGSO for registered WSO Electronic AFGs. They can choose to donate to both (not a good option) but just because they donate to NZAGSO and not registered with NZAGSO does not mean they can expect NZ structures support.
- This topic then provided us with the challenge of creating a procedure for registering new electronic meetings that includes some clarification of how they fit into the NZ structure, how they are supported by the Area they choose to belong to, do they wish to be international or only within NZ geographical boundary, must their Delegate be able to physically attend an Assembly and must reside in the Areas geographical Areas - groups need to decide these things and Areas need to decide if they will accept electronic meetings and how they can support them.
- Alateen Project explanation and request for the Board to discuss and respond to by 10 March.
- How to support an Area with no serving members. We can dissolve/combine Areas.

We are both incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be the voice of New Zealand at the IAGSM and look forward to sharing our experience, strength and hope at the 2023 NZASC and with members around the country as we continue to serve.

Julie W and Liz A-S  
 NZ IAGSM Delegates

Acronyms explained:

IAGSM	International Al-Anon General Service Meeting
NZAGSB	New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board
WSO	World Service Office
NZASC	New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference
WSC	World Service Conference
AMIAS	Al-Anon Member in Alateen Service
NZAGSO	New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office
AFG	Al-Anon Family Group

## National Website Coordinator Report

Tracy B

This last year has been quiet as far as our website is concerned. The website has been running smoothly with small changes or updates that have been made by the Office Manager throughout the year.

### On-line Store functionality

We have received verbal feedback from members that the online store can be difficult to use for placing orders. Suggestions have been given to increase the functionality of the on-line store through a direct payment function for orders, and the ability to include a donation when ordering. This is something that we can look at outsourcing through our current website service provider to allow for continuity of support when in need of servicing the website.

Thank-you to members for their ongoing feedback regarding the website.

Tracy B  
 National Website Co-Ordinator

## Conference Members 2023

### Board Members

Service role	Name & Address	Term
Board Chairperson	Tracy B	1st year - 1st term
Website Coordinator		1st year - 1st term
Board Treasurer	Liz A-S	3rd year - 1st term
IAGSM Delegate 2		2nd year - 1st term
Literature Chairperson	Kirsten W	3rd year - 1st term
Alateen Coordinator	Paula B	3rd year - 1st term
IAGSM Delegate 1	Julie W	4th year - 1st term
Board Member	Tina McC	1st year - 1st term
Board Member	Rana S	1st year - 2nd term
Conference Host	Robyn D	1st year
Technical Assistant	Clark T	1st year

### Area Delegates

Area	Name & Address	Term
ONE	Lucy A	3rd year - 2nd term
TWO – OBSERVER	Amanda W	
THREE	Renée S	1st year - 1st term
FOUR	Di (Dianne) V	2nd year - 1st term
FIVE – OBSERVER	Teena H	
SIX	Helen P	1st year - 2nd term
SEVEN	Julie M	1st year - 1st term
EIGHT	Angie (Angelina) M	1st year - 1st term
NINE	Jill K	3rd year - 1st term

# *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

