

Beginning a Discussion
A Knowledge Based Decision Making Process towards an
Informed Group Conscience -
Property Ownership

To: The Oregon Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and the Oregon Membership of Al-Anon Family Groups

From: Roland C. – Oregon Area Delegate – Panel 47

Date: May 2009

Subj: Property Ownership – The World Service Office in Virginia Beach, VA

I will be sending each of you information concerning the ownership of the Al-Anon World Service Property in Virginia Beach, Virginia in another e-mail or two. Please make this cover letter a part of that packet for distribution.

The reason for this series of packets is that at the 2010 World Service Conference the beginning discussions will take place concerning the continued ownership of our property. I am aware that some discussions are already taking place in the Oregon Area as I have been asked questions about this while visiting different districts. The actual vote on the what to do at the end of the 15 year Trial Period is scheduled to take place at the 2011 World Service Conference. Hopefully, by starting this discussion now, we can avoid the pitfalls that often accompany such discussions. I will be explaining some guidelines for our discussions as these are the same guidelines that will be taking place at the Conference in the next two years.

The information I am sending you in the following few days was information I received at Conference this year at an open meeting of the Policy Committee. The more this information is distributed, the more of our membership will be able to participate in this conversation. Perhaps this would be an area of discussion for a Delegate's Visit to your District???

1st: What are the Conference's options at the end of the 15-year trial?

The discussion at the end of the 15-year trial will be about whether the trial worked or not. See Motion 12, 1994 paragraph 2.

At the end of the 15-year trial period, the Conference can:

- End the trial and keep the building
- End the trial and sell the building
- Extend the trial for another period of years

2nd: The 2010 Conference will discuss whether the trial has worked including:

- What the financial feasibility of ownership has been
- Whether there has been compliance with the spirit and the letter of the resolution

- Whether there has been any negative impact on the fellowship as a whole

The following information is very important for our discussions as these are some of the guidelines being followed at the 2010 WSC:

It is important to remember that the 2010 WSC will not discuss or re-vote on the ownership motion; it will not revisit the original 1994 discussion on whether the purchase is within the Traditions. That decision was made in 1994 and reaffirmed in 1995 after hearing a minority appeal from two Areas.

I have addressed this in previous discussions within our Area, Tradition 6 as it relates to “property”. As a reminder, see the paragraph above but also; please read Tradition 6 in its entirety, as my understanding of this Tradition and its relationship to property is in its relationship to an outside entity and our property is Al-Anon’s not an outside entity. We must continually remember to not take our Traditions out of context. This is also the current view of the majority of the WSC members (Delegates, Trustees, and WSO Staff.)

The minority views (Concept 5) as concerning the original motions have been heard and addressed (see the paperwork that follows in the above mentioned e-mails.) That is why the original motions are not going to be revisited.

Please remember we are guided by an Authority greater than our self. The spiritual nature of Al-Anon advises us to enter these discussions with hope, trust and faith. Hope for Al-Anon’s future. Trust in one another and in our Trusted Servants. Faith that we all want what is in our best interest for the World Wide Fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups.

Please start the discussions and pass along the information you receive. If you are not able to do this electronically, ask someone in your district for help or ask and I will make hard copies available. I’m trying to be prudent with our ample reserves (see Warranty One.)

The final packet should contain:

1. This cover letter
2. Property Ownership – Study of Property Ownership
3. Property Ownership – Motion 12 and Motion 5
4. Property Ownership – Chart – Property Ownership
5. Property Ownership – Chart – Ownership – vs. Leasing
6. Property Ownership – ECRMP Triennial Reports 2000, 2003, 2006

Finally, as questions and or comments come up, let me know. If you need additional information, I will find out what I can. The more we learn before the end of this year, the better prepared our next Delegate will be.

With love in fellowship and service,
Roland