

DRAFT Area World Service Committee Meeting
June 21, 2008
Salem, Oregon

The meeting was called to order by Acting Area Chair Billie L, at 9:00 a.m. The Traditions were read by John O of District 12, and the Concepts were read by Judy J of District 17.

Roll Call: Paula J.

AWSC members excused: Chair Bette R. represented by Billie L; Secretary Colleen G represented by Paula J; Forum Coordinator Elizabeth B; CPC Coordinator Ginny R; PI Coordinator Gretchen H; District 1 DR Chris K; District 3 DR Teri S; District 5 DR Cat H represented by Mary Ann; District 13 DR; Tedie H; District 15; DR Paul S represented by Carol M; District 17 DR represented by Judy J; Eugene AIS Liaison Lee Ann T

District 11 was represented by Laura N
District 14 was represented by Jerry L-H

Housekeeping: Beth T

The rent for today's meeting space is \$75. District 4 has paid this rent and is not seeking reimbursement. District 4 will submit the invoice to the Area Treasurer just for recordkeeping purposes.

Secretary's Report: Paula J

The February 23, 2008 AWSC minutes were approved with the following changes:

- Page 1, Delegate's Report: Line 2 – change "assembly members" to "AWSC members."
- Page 1, Delegate's Report: No. 8 – change "Delegate's Conference" to WSC Conference."
- Page 2, On-going Motions: Line 1 - add Ad Hoc Committee member Sue B.
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Treasurer's Report: Glen G, copy attached

Glen submitted the 2008 Oregon Area Expense and Income report through May 31, 2008. The checking account balance was \$15,376.92. Glen explained that item 1007 Budget Cash Carried Forward figure of \$19,000 was an estimate as of 12/31/07, and the actual checking account balance is the real figure.

Discussion ensued about how many copies to make of the Treasurer's report. Judy J suggested that enough copies be made in advance for all AWSC members, and for those that are not here, a copy be left in their mailbox.

WSC Report: Billie L, copy attached

Billie attended the April 2008 World Service Conference in place of Roland, who had a family emergency.

She told us she was warmly welcomed by Margo, the WSO Trustee who visited us in Oregon for our March 2008 Assembly.

The theme of the Conference this year is "Build Bridges; Energizing our Spiritual Quest." There was a general discussion of Knowledge Based Decision Making. Billie attended the New Delegate's meeting. There was a skit on Al-Anon's financial independence. Oregon contributes an average of \$94.60 per group, compared with WSO's spending of \$228.33 per group. Only 69 percent of Al-Anon groups nationally contribute to WSO.

Billie attended workshops and breakout groups. She attended the task force group meeting that Roland is a member of. A hot topic was the impact of further division of Areas. That is due to some Areas requesting to be split again after having once been split, such as Southern California. We will hear more news about that.

Nine motions were brought to the floor, and 93 WSC members voted on those motions.

Revisions to the Service Manual were approved. Look for the changes on the WSO website, print them out, and place them in our Service Manuals for reference.

There was discussion about Al-Anon members using their last names when speaking at speaking engagements or when being recorded. Please be aware of anonymity issues and avoid using your last name in these situations.

There is now no limit on how much an individual Al-Anon member can give when donating money in a bequest to WSO.

A new Regional Trustee from our region was elected. Penny R. from Washington will be our new Regional Trustee. Billie attended a Trustees' meeting.

A new book will be out soon called Discovering Choices. This is the book whose working title was Relationships in Recovery that we submitted sharings for.

Billie and other WSC members visited Stepping Stones. Billie mentioned being able to view original correspondence between Bill W. and Lois.

Delegate's Report: Roland W

Thank you to Billie for dropping everything and attending WSC for Roland. Billie stayed in touch with Roland during WSC. Another Delegate that Roland had previously met emailed him daily about the happenings at the WSC. He is grateful to both for keeping him informed.

The topics for next year's WSC start with the division of some areas, mentioned by Billie in her report. Southern California has over 1,000 groups and wants to re-divide. However, the Service Manual says that once an Area has divided, it may not do so again. So this is a topic to be discussed further.

Roland had submitted two Chosen Agenda Items for discussion this year at WSC. One of them was dilution of the Al-Anon program from within, e.g., changing some of the Tradition words in meetings. Another topic was whether dual members should be able to serve above the group level if the position does not lead to Delegate (e.g. Intergroup Service Rep).

Roland is now receiving from some Districts copies of their district meeting minutes, which are very helpful to keep him informed about what is going on in the Area on a local basis. He said that many Districts are struggling with the same issues.

For our information, Roland advised that when he receives AI-Anon questions from members about various issues, he first checks the Service Manual to see if there is an easy answer. When there is not a reference in the Service Manual, he gives his personal opinion.

Ask It Basket: Judy J

Q. What does "in-town members" mean on pg. 76 of the Service Manual?

A. "In town members" are AI-Anon members who live locally (within a 300 mile radius) in the Virginia Beach, VA area. They are sometimes asked to serve on some selected committees. Now, with the advent of email, the WSO is getting away from the "in-town members" participation. Some of the selected committees have members who volunteer. Applications for participation in those are available from the WSO.

Ask It Basket: Bunny G

Q. Is there a difference between the wording in Tradition 3 about there being a "problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend" and the wording on pg. 77 of the Service Manual that states, "Anyone who feels his personal life is or has been deeply affected by close contact with a problem drinker?"

A. This is just different wording. In addition, some problem drinkers do not call themselves alcoholics, so it clarifies that we welcome all that have been affected by problem drinking, whether or not the word "alcoholism" has been mentioned.

SSM 2008: Mary Ann, District 5

The SSM was a success, and the dessert auction especially was a financial success. The speakers were absolutely great. For future SSMs, District 5 suggests adding a "suggested donation" line on the registration form. Also for the future, they suggest that the speakers be decided on before the flyers go out.

International 2008: Judy J

There will be a parade at the International, and there is a form for those attending to complete a registration form. The first 500 completing a form will be accepted for the parade. These notices have been sent to all registered for the International. There will be a Thursday program as an extra, and workshops that day will be focused on service.

More program information is available on the WSO website.

July Assembly 2008: Jerry L-H

Klamath Falls welcomes us. For those who have not yet made reservations, she recommends the Town House Motel as a good place to stay.

They have not received many registrations and asked that all send in their registrations as soon as possible.

The flyer is available on our Oregon Area website.

Suggestion: Bunny G

Sometimes when there are side conversations going on at the same time as someone is speaking to the gathering, it is hard to hear. A suggestion is to write notes to communicate with others when necessary rather than to talk or whisper.

November 2008 Assembly – Newport: Marilou K

Flyers are in all mailboxes. Marilou is not able to be at the July Assembly: District 16 is co-sponsoring the Assembly, and Willy, DR from that District, will present the November Assembly Report at the July Assembly.

- Room rates are good only until November 8.
- District 6 will be selling literature
- Rooms at the beach will be inexpensive
- Registration will be at the door.
- We're on our own for meals.
- *The sharing meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Friday.* This is earlier than usual, so please make a note of the earlier time.

State Speakers Meeting 2009 April 24 – 26, 2009: Judy J

- The location has been decided – the Milwaukie Center in Milwaukie.
- The theme is "Happy, Joyous & Free."
- One of the speakers will be Donna L. from Texas.
- We have our seed money and are spending it.
- We have already had a junk sale to raise money and raised \$400 from it.
- Our goal is not to have a registration fee.
- Please start your fund raisers to help with this important fund raising event. Send fundraising checks (payable to SSM 2009) to SSM 2009 C/O, 13550 SE Oatfield Rd, Milwaukie, OR 97222.
- We are asking districts, groups, and individuals to donate items for us to raffle.
- A quilt will be raffled the day of the SSM.
- A meeting room will be available for Spanish speakers, and a Spanish speaker, Magdalena, from Washington, who is the Alternate Delegate/Alateen Coordinator, will speak.

Ad Hoc Committee on Motions: Bunny G

There are several old, ongoing motions that need to be cleared up so that the ongoing motions in our Oregon Area Handbook will be up to date. At the last AWSC, we were given a list of them and the Committee wants us to vote on some of the backlog today. This is strictly a cleaning house task, not involving any changes that the Assembly should be voting on.

Discussion ensued regarding what these old motions are and whether the Assembly body indeed needed to vote on them. – The Committee advises that this is strictly a cleaning house task, not involving any changes that the Assembly should be voting on. After these motions are approved, they all can go into our history records.

MOTION # 1: (ongoing)

To accept the Motions in their entirety as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Yes - 20
No - 11

This Motion did not pass, as it did not have the 2/3 majority needed. The discussion will be continued this afternoon.

LUNCH

2008 Budget Questions:

1. Cindy E. asked if extra money in the budget be given to Public Information. She has a billboard idea for PI. Discussion was held regarding whether there is money to be given to PI, and whether there is actually money available. It was decided that extra money for PI needs to be a budget item to be discussed when the annual budget is drawn up.
2. There was a question from Roland as to whether the balancing of the books from the 2007 SSM had been completed. Sue in Audit Budget responded that there is more money that had been taken in than was reflected on the Treasurer's report ending 5/31/08. There is some money whose District origin is not yet known.

Northwest Delegate's Report: Bea J

Past Delegates Bea J, Bunny G, and Eileen B traveled together by car to Helena, Montana for the 24th Northwest Regional Delegates' Meeting. The mountains and scenery on the way were beautiful. The four in the car had 108 years total in the program.

Eileen gave the history of the NWRD, which started in 1984, with Alaska joining in 1998. Bunny did a presentation of "Your Job as Delegate." Roland C. presented "Change to World Service Conference Charter" regarding pg. 153 in the Service Manual, Section 3, par. d and f, to add "Alateen", since they are a part of AI-Anon.

Bea did a report on fund raising (pg. 86, Service Manual) regarding events open to the public.

There was a motion (which later was approved by WSC) to change bequests to AI-Anon to accept any amount on a one-time basis provided its use is not restricted by the donor. Zelda R., Regional Trustee, gave a report outlining a week of being a Trustee. She also gave a report on how the number of AI-Anon groups: US – 12,946; Canada – 1,393, and overseas – 9,107. For Alateen: US – 925; Canada – 79; overseas – 770.

Bev A, from Nebraska, the spiritual speaker, started in Alateen at 10 years of age, then went to AI-Anon, and got into service and became a Delegate.

There was a workshop for the new Delegates on "What to Take to WSC."

There were many speakers, many workshops, and lots of people who are excited about service.

Ask It Basket: Loretta P

Q. What is the age for Alateen? How can we help our children that are too young for Alateen?

A. The minimum age to attend Alateen meetings is not specified in the Service Manual. Al-a- Tot has worked in some Districts. Generally, meetings are composed of teens 13 – 21.

There was discussion of Alateens of the age of 18 or 19 because they are considered to be adults, and there could be some safety considerations that need to be thought about.

Ask It Basket: Bea J

Q. When a person is a GR for a group, may he/she also serve as an alternate GR for another (different) Group?

A. Pg. 79, Service Manual, end of 2nd paragraph. – “No member, may, however, be Group Representative of more than one group at the same time.” As a practical matter, if a person attends Assembly as representing more than one group, he or she is still only one person and has only one vote. So one group would not be represented in voting.

Ask It Basket: Eileen B

Q. Would it be helpful to the Assembly if there is an Al-Anon member present who is also a past coordinator to have voice at the Assembly on a level the same as a past Delegate? It seems as though someone who had past experience as a Coordinator would be valuable to Assembly.

A. Service Manual, pg. 149. One has to ask what the ramifications of that would be. Yes, it is possible to do that, but the prior holders of the Coordinator positions should give all the pertinent information to the new position holders. In addition, the expense of paying for additional people at AWSC and Assembly would be substantial.

Assembly Location Selection Process: Cindy E

Cindy had been confused about this Assembly location determination process, so she researched in the Oregon Area Handbook and used Knowledge Based Decision Making for this report.

Her questions were: Why travel far? Why go to the furthest location? Why travel in groups? In past Assembly selections, some of the questions considered were a) How many Assemblies has one District or city had; 2) Where are the AAs holding their Assembly? 3) How long has it been since this particular location had an Assembly?

On the other side, having an Assembly helps the hosting District learn and work together.

GRs are not as likely to go to Assembly when the distance is far away from their homes.

One suggestion was to have the Eastern, Central, and Western portions of the State have designated times of the year that they would host.

Further discussion followed. Some GRs participate, and some don't. Perhaps we should take turns with the whole state. Sometimes smaller Districts that have difficulty getting enough people together to participate can sometimes host an Assembly together.

Ask It Basket Options: Marvalee M

Marvalee submitted a proposal to have the Ask It Basket: questions handled differently at Assemblies. Rather than have one Past Delegate answer questions submitted in writing, it was proposed that more than one opinion might be sought. Perhaps giving the Assembly membership an opportunity to study the questions might be more enlightening.

There was discussion following. The history of this came from RSS, when past Delegates some years ago would answer questions from the other attendees. This gave the past Delegates an opportunity to share their experience.

There was additional discussion. There was a suggestion to perhaps use break out groups at the next Assembly to answer Ask It Basket: questions and report back to the Assembly.

Ask It Basket: Judy J

Q. A suggestion has been made at our group to use the medallion system to observe year dates in the program. What is AI-Anon's policy about medallions?

A. This is group autonomy. Medallions are not issued by AI-Anon, but by private vendors. They cost money for groups to buy. What would your group rather do with the money? Perhaps thinking about supporting the various levels of service, such as local AIS, Districts, Areas, and WSO might be another use for the money.

July Assembly 2009:

No one has yet bid on sponsoring this Assembly. Take this back to your Districts and we will have selection of the location at our July 2008 Assembly in Klamath Falls.

March 2009 Assembly will be in Eastern Oregon

Coordinators and AIS Liaisons: Verbal (and copy of Written Report to the Secretary) Reports due at the July 2008 Assembly.

There will be a DR Workshop at the Upcoming July Assembly

Ongoing Motions Discussion (Continuation from the morning session):

More discussion was held regarding whether the Assembly body needs to vote on these old Motions. Mention was made about KBDM and whether the Assembly body would prefer that we take care of them as they are primarily housekeeping items.

Rita B. made the following motion:

Motion # 2: (ongoing)

AWSC will decide about the old Motions (Operational 9), here, at AWSC, per Concept 3, that AWSC has the right and duty of decision making. Also in this Motion, the Secretary shall place all Motions in the minutes and will submit all ongoing Motions to the Alternate Delegate for inclusion in the Area Handbook.

Yes – 29

No – 1

Abstain – 0

The Motion passed.

Motions Ad Hoc Committee, continued: Bunny G

Boundary Motion - MOTION # 3: (ongoing)

It is moved that the graphic map of the current District boundary lines, and the accompanying narrative in the Oregon Area handbook describing these boundaries, be accepted as the base map and narrative of the Oregon Area District boundaries. This motion takes place on June 21, 2008. This motion supersedes previous motions concerning District boundary lines for Oregon Area. This motion remains in effect until subsequent boundary maps and changes go into effect by a subsequent motion.

Yes – 27

Abstain – 2

No - 0

The Motion passed.

Treasurer Reports MOTION # 4: (ongoing)

Motion to have the Oregon Area Treasurer Audited Approved Yearly Report kept in paper copy forever. One copy to the Oregon Area Archives and once copy to be maintained by the current Treasurer and passed on to future treasurers.

Yes – 30

Abstain – 0

No – 0

The Motion passed

Bidding for Events – Motion # 5: (ongoing)

To allow Districts to put in a bid for the State Speakers Meeting in March, approximately two years prior to the event. SSM Guidelines to be updated in Oregon Area Handbook. This Motion supersedes all motions pertaining to SSM.

Yes – 30
No – 0
Abstain – 0

The Motion passed

Charge for extra Assembly minutes copies. - **Motion # 6: (ongoing)**

To remove from ongoing and move into history the following September 89 (b) motion (that Assembly minutes other than those normally distributed, be made available to other members by subscription only at a cost of \$5.00 per year, currently future subscription price will be suggested by the Audit/Budget Committee and approved by the Assembly).

Yes – 30
No – 0
Abstain – 0

The Motion passed

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Paula J (Acting Secretary)

Area World Service Committee Meeting
June 21, 2008 - Salem, Oregon

Motions:

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Yes – 29 - No – 1 - Abstain – 0

The Motion passed.

Motions Ad Hoc Committee, continued: Bunny G

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Yes – 27
Abstain – 2
No - 0

The Motion passed.

Treasurer Reports MOTION # 4: (ongoing)

Motion to have the Oregon Area Treasurer Audited Approved Yearly Report kept in paper copy forever. One copy to the Oregon Area Archives and once copy to be maintained by the current Treasurer and passed on to future treasurers.

Yes – 30
Abstain – 0
No – 0

The Motion passed

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To allow Districts to put in a bid for the State Speakers Meeting in March, approximately two years prior to the event. SSM Guidelines to be updated in Oregon Area Handbook. This Motion supersedes all motions pertaining to SSM.

Yes – 30
No – 0
Abstain – 0

The Motion passed

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Yes – 30
No – 0
Abstain – 0

The Motion passed

AWSC Reports

WSC Report: Billie L, Alternate Delegate

Let me tell you that there is nothing like the whirl wind trip I was just on. Less than 72 hours after receiving the call from Roland I was sitting in the Portland airport waiting for what turned out to be quite an adventure. Things did not get started well but ended with a lot of growth and understanding of the program that you can get no other way.

I would like to thank all of you who sent cards and supported me and Roland during this tremendous week of growth. Roland put the word out on the Delegate's hot line and I was received with open arms and lots of support. I even got 2 cards from a past delegate from Georgia that I have never met giving me her support.

The theme of this years conference was **“Build Bridges – Energizing Our Spiritual Quest”** I arrived Saturday in time to grab a bite to eat and head for the Orientation Meeting for New Conference Members where it was comforting to know I was not alone. There we learned about the roles of the Board of Trustees, staff, Executive Committee and Delegates and how basically these links of service work. It was comforting to see us brainstorm just like we do here at assemblies and then report back about the duties of each and how they come together for Unity.

Every morning we started at 7:30 for breakfast together and we were together all day including lunch and dinner for the 5 days. Most nights we ended sometime after 8:00 but one night we got to go to a Board of Trustees meeting so that was a really late night.

Sunday morning at promptly at 8:30 Mary G pounded a shoe on the podium opening the 2008 WSC. She opened each day with a quote, that first day it was “I ask myself, am I ready to make a difference.” from When I Got Busy I Got Better page 21.

Now to the business: The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members – Presume Goodwill. We are a program of equals.

The goals for the conference were to:

- Understand our purpose
- Our relationship with in the structure
- Be able to articulate Conference discussions

Discussion or training on Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM):

- Open communication between leadership and membership
- Dialogue before deliberation
- All decision makers will have common access to all information (not everyone)
- We exist in a culture of trust

Quarterly Appeal Letter (trustee’s did a skit)

Since 1952 the group/members have not contributed enough to the WSO so it can be self supporting. Most groups don’t understand that the appeal letter is to members for contributions not the group.

- Most groups think it is a reminder to the treasure to send in the group contribution
- 1951 is the only year we have been fully self-supporting
- since 1960 the number of contributing groups increased by only 1.5%

Since I am talking money I’d like to share that Oregon groups average \$94.07 each for the 69% of our groups that do donate. US/Canada average is \$98.14 each of the 56.45% donating. WSO spent an average of \$228.33 on each group. Remember money is your messenger in places where you can’t be. It can show the gratitude you have for the program and a desire to share it.

Build Bridges – Energizing Our Spiritual Quest: (workshops)

How can we, as WSC members, expand, renew and strengthen our connections with the fellowship.

- We are the leadership of the fellowship, be good leaders, transmit information to areas and groups
- Remind every level of service they can do what we do at the WSC
- Educate, educate, educate

The outcome will be better trained leaders.

Considering today’s technology and imagination for the future, how can we more effectively use the skill and talents of our WSC members to energize their spiritual growth?

Skills and talents developed through service to the fellowship.

- Ability to love even though some are unlovable
- See the good in people not dwelling on the negative
- If I show emotion it gives others permission to have emotions too
- Run a meeting and keep it on track
- Be OK with lack of resolution

There were breakouts much like we have here at the assembly on Selected Committees and Task Force meetings. I got to attend the task force that Roland has been on and found it very interesting, I also had the opportunity to be the note taker for the meeting. Another growth opportunity.

I learned the phrase 'Hot Topic' one of which was the Impact of Further Division or Consolidation of Areas. A petition was made to change the last paragraph of page 128 of the Handbook from 400 groups to 700 and that an Area may divide when the number of groups is over 700 in the area rather than only dividing a state. There was much talk because some areas have so many groups but have already split as a state, also there was talk of combining the more rural areas but the vast distances would also be a hardship to a delegate trying to represent them. In the end it was not know what they were suppose to do with the petition so for now it is on hold.

Chosen Agenda Items: (one hour KBDM format discussions on the floor)

1. "The importance of Principles above Personalities." Creating & maintaining healthy groups focused on our Spiritual Principles & free from program dilution. What do we know about our fellowship's needs, wants & preferences? What do we know about the resources & "strategic position" of our fellowship? What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of our fellowship's environment? Do we become ridged in a program that urges flexibility? We need to educate on why we do things the way we do.
2. Are we adequately preparing our future Trusted Servants for their positions? Do we spend enough time training the future leaders of AI-Anon for the responsibilities of service in AI-Anon? Could training material be developed? Notebooks, handbooks, shadowing positions. Does it matter how people get into service? Is it wise to trick someone into service? Are Past Delegates an under utilized "bridge" to the fellowship.
3. How can the AI-Anon/Alateen message reach families of active A.A. members and attract those family members to our meetings? Most AA's actually know very little about AI-Anon. When current dual members want to get into service are they the perfect people for outreach to AA. Families in recovery help AA's stay sober, 30% better chance if family is in recovery too. Helps heal communication in family to help relationships grow.

"The future of Chosen Agenda Items:

Considering changes in the Chosen Agenda Items format and process to promote shared leadership and in-depth discussion of important topics."

The Big Question: Is the WSC fulfilling the purpose of Chosen Agenda Item discussions?

They have been called: Red Light/Green Light, Green Light, Green Light Open Discussion, Timely Topics/Open Discussion, WSC Chosen Agenda Items, & Agenda Items, Repetition of Topics, Most discussed: Dual Members and Specialize Groups have been discussed 7 years each, Alateen, pre-Alateen groups, literature and services for pre-Alateens, and Alateen Group Sponsors and WSO finances and how to increase contributions from members 5 years each.

- Are we sharing leadership in our WSC Chosen Agenda Item sessions
- Do our current Chosen Agenda Item discussions help the WSC to achieve our goals of in-depth conversations about: 1) AI-Anon as a whole? 2) Our vision for the future
- How do we apply Knowledge Based Decision Making to our WSC Chosen Agenda Item discussions?
- How can WSC members identify topics that concern worldwide AI-Anon and a vision for our future?
- Do WSC members need more background information on how to frame topics or questions using the KBDM process?
- Is there a need to discuss the same or nearly the same topics at more than one WSC, e.g. consecutive years or various intervals

The WSO Conference Leadership Team will be using our comments to help with planning for future WSCs.

There were 9 motions brought to the floor and you can bet all 93 voting member voted on every one of them. There are very strict rules about voting.

To me the most exciting and interesting part of the whole WSC was being in on the process that changes our Service Manual. There were several this year. I have full copies of these changes and as soon as they are ready they will be put on the web so you can print them and put them in your Manual.

1. To move the paragraph titled "Introductory Meetings" from page 78 to page 80 between Open/Closed Meeting and Electronic Meetings.
2. To amend the text on page 78 to cover meetings where access is limited due to a facility's entry restrictions. These groups meet at such places as military bases, industrial plants or schools.
3. Amend the text on pages 83 -84 on "Anonymity" changing the text to include all forms of publication now including the web and email. Also a caution was mentioned that we need to remember not to use our last name if we are speaking and it is being taped. If the taper has a web site and sells to the public which he would have know way of knowing your anonymity would be broken.
4. Text on page 85 was changed on Bequests. This one cause a big stir for now an AI-Anon member may give any amount to the WSO as long as its use is not restricted by the donor. Anything over 10% of the total revenue of the WSO General Fund will go into an Excess Bequest Fund, the WSC next year will iron out how the money will be taken from the Fund for special projects.
5. The last one was the discussion on protecting the Alateen traditions. After much debate and several rough drafts of what could be done in the end it was decided to send it back to the policy committee to try again next year.

One of the other things we got to do at conference was to vote for Trustees for the different areas. I am happy to say that Penny R from Washington is our new Regional Trustee.

I would like to end by saying that most of you know that Discovering Choices our new book will coming out and will be distributed the first time at our international in Pittsburg what you don't know is that at the WSC we gave conceptual approval to develop a new piece of literature about AI-Anon's first 60 years. They have no idea what it will look like but will start on it soon to have it ready for our 60th anniversary which is not all that far off.

I almost forgot, I had mentioned that I got to go to a Board of Trustee meeting. Well, there were a several things that really surprised me. The first was that when they called role, it was done by first name. No ones position or anything was mentioned. Second was that

Margot and Loraine had to give a report on their trip to Oregon. Listening to them you would think we walked on water out here. They talked about how much involvement and enthusiasm there was from the floor when they did the workshop. They even mentioned riding in sports cars to go to lunch. All in all they think Oregon is a great place to go. The third thing was a demonstration of how the minority voice is heard. They had discussed an issue and even voted on it. Then they went around the table and asked for more discussion. One person did not agree with the vote so she responded and it ended with the decision to table the vote and come back later and discuss it again.

The other thing I forgot to say is that the trip to Stepping Stones was great. I got some pictures to share but I have to admit that the part that moved me the most was reading some of the letters that were written by Lois to Bill. It made it all so real that they had the same problems that I had had in my marriage to an active alcoholic. But the one thing that really showed was how very much they loved each other.

Thank you for letting me be of service.
Billie L, Alternate Delegate