



Highlights of the 2022 World Service Conference

A Face-to-Face Experience—The 2022 WSC!

After meeting electronically for the last two years, Conference members stepped out of the virtual world and met in person for the World Service Conference (WSC). Al-Anon’s largest group conscience, the 2022 WSC theme was “Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding,” and that we did! Conference members had opportunities to share openly, listen intently, and engage with each other with respect to each other’s choices and preferences regarding masking and physical contact. The face-to-face experience was a safe place for all, regardless of personal preferences, to conduct the annual business meeting of Al-Anon Family Groups. The Conference provides guidance to the WSO in service matters brought to its attention. Many thanks to all who participated and carried the message back to their Area, members, fellowship, etc.

Motion to Admit the New Global Electronic Area

The 2022 WSC made history as it welcomed a new Global Electronic Area to its World Service Conference Structure!

At the January 1996 meeting of the Board of Trustees, a three-year pilot project was approved to list electronic meetings with the eventual goal of full group registration, as per the *1996 World Service Conference Summary* (P-46). This initial decision led to electronic meetings being recognized as Al-Anon Family Groups at the 2021 WSC.

With this decision, members participating in electronic groups were afforded the ability to elect Group Representatives (GRs), elect Area Officers, and create a new non-panel Area to support the growing number of registered groups. With the support of the Non-Panel, Non-Geographic Task Force composed of WSO Staff and Volunteers and active Current Mailing Addresses (CMAs) for the phone and online meetings, a plan was laid out in accordance with the guidance found in the “World

Service Handbook” to put the steps in motion to create a new non-panel Area.

CMAs were instructed to bring this information back to their groups to elect GRs in preparation for a meeting to elect a Temporary Area Chairperson, who would preside over the Assembly meeting to elect the Area Delegate, Area Chairperson, Area Secretary, and Area Treasurer.

Upon the election of the Delegate and other Area Officers, the Temporary Area Chairperson sent a memo to the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) to formally request admission to the WSC Structure. The CLT accepted the request and forwarded it to the Board of Trustees for consideration, where it was also approved.

At the time of the 2022 WSC, more than 800 Al-Anon groups were registered on 18 different online platforms. Following approval of a motion to admit the Area, the 2022 WSC warmly welcomed the 68th Area to join the WSC Structure: The Global Electronic Area!



Area Responsibility and Alateen Recertification

The Chairperson of the Board, along with the Director of Programs and Associate Director—Group Services, provided a detailed update on the status of Alateen in the World Service Conference (WSC) Structure with a presentation focused on a review of the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees, use of the Alateen name in accordance with the Alateen Policy, and the recertification process. The conversation with Conference was prompted by the outcome of the 2021 process: 11 Areas missed the deadline and so were not recertified to use the Alateen name. As the presentation described, the 2021 recertification outcome was universally impactful to teens, Areas, and WSO Staff. The Board of Trustees and Staff were therefore strongly motivated to broaden the conversation and ensure a successful 2022 Recertification process.

WSC members were reminded that use of the Alateen name is a choice: no Area is required to host Alateen meetings and events if they are not

able to support the required certification and recertification processes. However, if the Area *does* want to conduct Alateen groups and events with Alateen participation, the Area *must* abide by the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees and the Alateen Policy as found in the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27).

The presentation concluded by focusing on the shared responsibilities for the annual Alateen recertification process of both the WSO Staff—who have already opened the 2022 recertification window and are committed to providing frequent and consistent messaging throughout the process—and Areas trusted servants—who are encouraged **not to wait** to start the process. After the presentation, Delegates shared their dismay at the 2021 outcome and their strong commitment to getting involved in supporting Area Alateen Coordinators and Area Alateen Process People to ensure a successful 2022!

Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter—Amended

Following the passage of the historic 2022 World Service Conference motion to admit the Global Electronic Area into the World Service Conference Structure, Conference members reviewed housekeeping changes to the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter in order to include non-geographic Areas as part of the World Service Conference Structure.

After discussion, the 2022 World Service Conference members passed a motion to amend the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter. The amended Charter will be posted to al-anon.org in all three languages when it is available in French and Spanish.



Public Outreach Policy in Relation to Social Media

At long last, we have clarity! In 2019, WSO Staff approached the Executive Committee with a concern that our *Social Media Guideline* was not aligned with the “Social Networking Media” section of the 2018-2021 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) version two (2). A motion was made, seconded, and carried to discontinue distribution of the *Social Media Guideline*. The Committee noted that a review of the policy may also be needed.

In 2020, the Policy Committee created a Thought Force to facilitate a generative discussion at the October 2020 Policy Committee meeting, leading to a consensus on two primary points related to this policy:

1. It is the WSO’s responsibility to provide Al-Anon’s singular, consistent message, conveying our primary purpose.
2. Local entities may tailor the message, for example, “to make decisions about volume, distribution channel, cultural appropriateness, and language.”

In May 2021, a Task Force was created and given the following charge:

Review the “Social Networking Media” and “Social Networking—Individual Members/ Groups/ Service Arms” paragraphs of the “Members Continually Broaden the Way They Carry the Message by Using New and Innovative Forms of Communication” portion on pages 125-126 of the 2018-2021 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) version two (2). Suggest a revision to clarify what individuals, groups, and service arms each may do in relation to creating and/or tailoring social media for public outreach, explaining which Tradition, Concept, or spiritual principle may be applicable and why.

Important changes made included:

- Changed the title from “Social Networking Media” to “Social Media” to accurately reflect the broader term not tied to just networking.
- Divided the section into the WSO, Areas/Districts/AISs, GSOs/National Structures, groups, and individual members, and clarified what role each can play in sharing social media.

These changes will allow members and trusted servants to carefully define service authority and thereby avoid double-headed management.

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

Whether you’ll be coming by plane, train, or automobile, Cleveland, Ohio is the 2022 destination for **Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect**. Join current members of the Board and At-Large members of the Executive Committee, as well as local and visiting members, on **Saturday, October 29th** for a day filled with fun, fellowship, and opportunities to inspire each other in Al-Anon service and recovery.





The 2023 Al-Anon International Convention Is Coming!

Start planning now to be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from June 28–July 2, 2023, to celebrate “New Hopes, New Friends, Renewed Recovery” at Al-Anon’s Seventh International Convention! Offerings include book studies, next picks, panel and speaker meetings, table topics, and workshops, as well as Big Meetings and the introduction of *A Little Time for Myself—A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences* (B-34), Al-Anon’s next daily reader! Hope to see you there.

More information

For a more detailed account of the 2022 World Service Conference, see the *2022 World Service Conference Summary* (P-46). The electronic version will be available in July; print copies will be **available for purchase in August**.

