



2024 WSC REPORT

Dave Bailey
Delegate, Utah Area

FOUNDER'S INN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA



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AGENDA

- Welcome & Conference Theme
- Conference Etiquette
- **Activity: Spiritual Walk**
- Literature in Recovery - "Finances in Recovery"
- Choosing a Group Name
- Delegate Participation on CLT
- Finances – Audit Report & Operating Budget
- Next Generation AFG Records
- **Activity: Sponsorship Workshop**
- Stepping Stones
- International Coordination Committee (ICC)
- Delegate's Notes from Annual Report Presentation
- Electronic Alateen Validation & Implementation
- WSO Policy Committee Meeting: Unity
- **Activity: Remembering the Future**
- Upcoming Conventions & Road Trip!
- Final Thoughts

2024 Conference Theme

Our Path toward Grace, Unity, and Understanding

Notre cheminement vers la grâce, l'unité et la compréhension

Nuestro camino hacia la gracia, la unidad y la comprensión

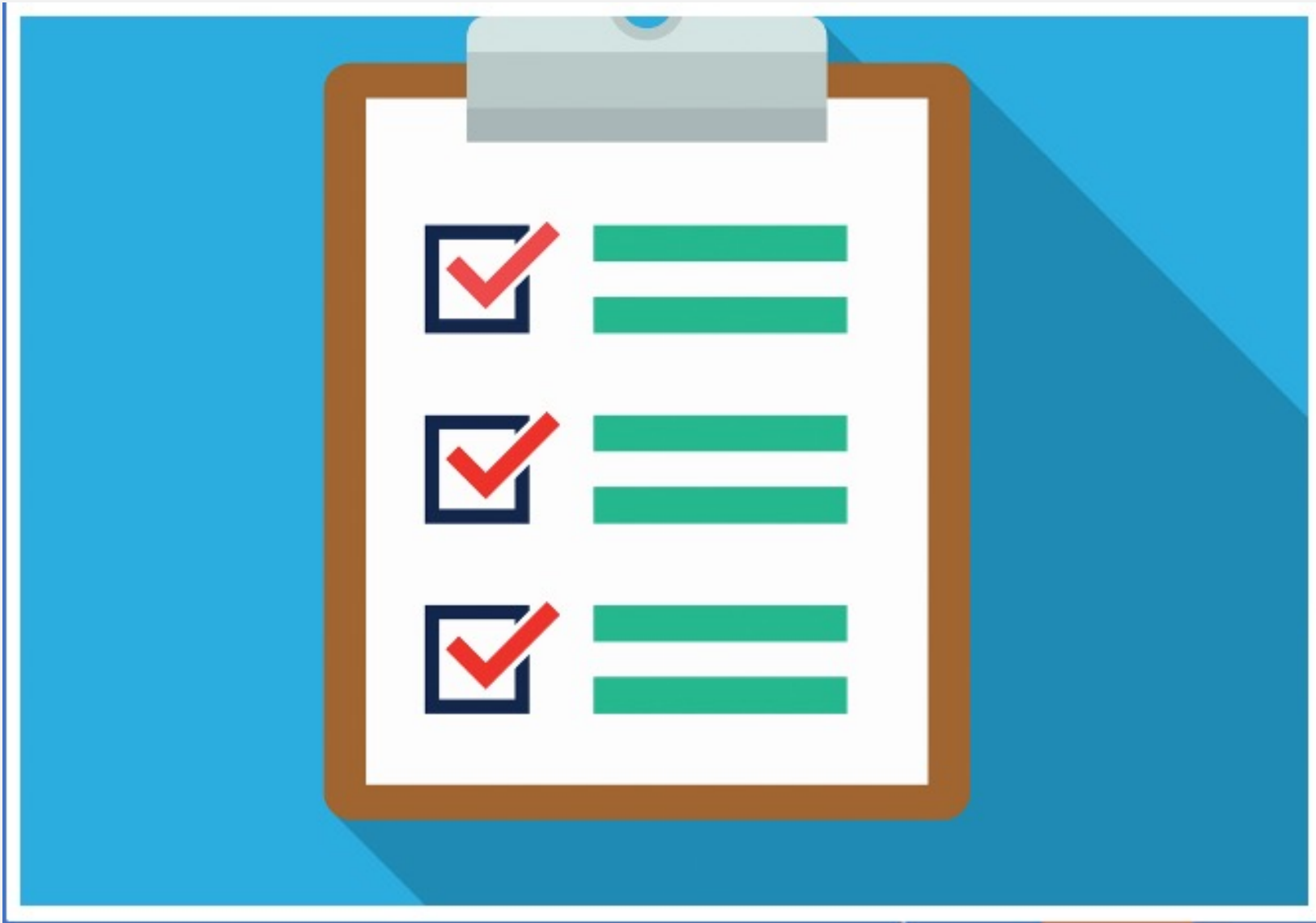




2024
CONFERENCE
ETIQUETTE



Start and stop on time



Stick to the agenda



Two minutes at the mic



Stay on topic



If someone already said it, sit down



No clapping, cheering, booing, etc.

RESPECT



No side conversations



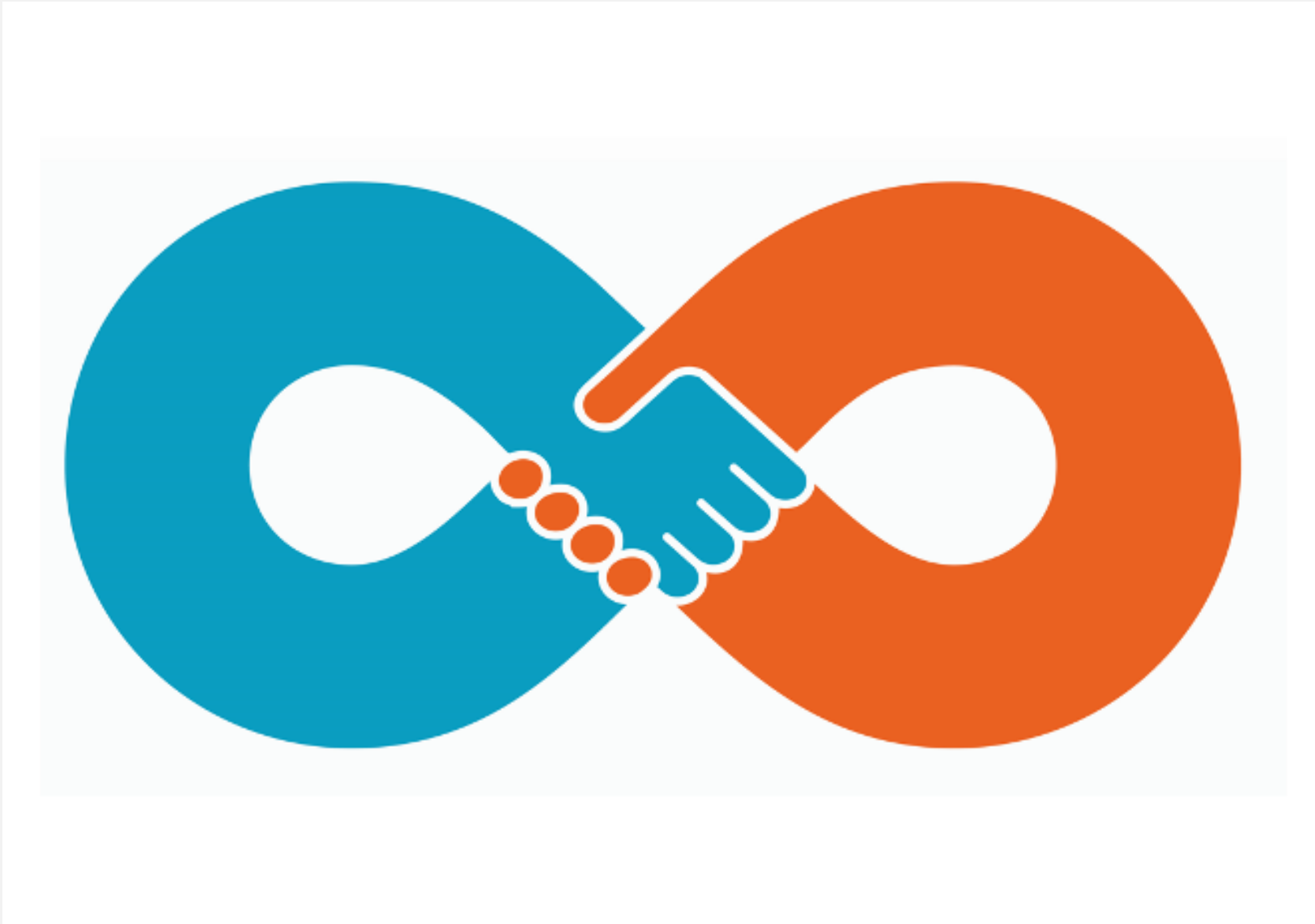
Keep cell phones off



No miscellaneous distractions



No perfume or flowers



Practice spiritual principles & presume good will

Question



What is the WSC 2024 Conference Theme?

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal dune landscape. A wooden boardwalk, made of light-colored planks, starts in the foreground and curves gently to the right, leading the eye into the distance. The dunes are covered in a mix of green grasses and patches of yellowish-brown sand. In the far background, a dark line of trees marks the horizon under a heavy, grey, overcast sky. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

ACTIVITY: SPIRITUAL WALK

LITERATURE IN RECOVERY

- Unanimous support for new piece of literature: “Finances in Recovery”
- Some key reasons why this is necessary
 - Members need foundational support and an understanding that they can do it
 - Important for Alateens to have direction about money
 - When we talk about money, many people only hear fear—need to overcome this
 - Literature needed so that we can open conversation about money
 - Cannot talk about money without talking about abundance
 - Quote from a delegate: “How much money do I need not to trust God?”
- Due to projects currently in process (sponsorship piece) and small WSO staff, won’t start until 2025-2026
- Motion carried to approve creation of a piece of literature, possibly a pamphlet or booklet, about our relationship with finances in Al-Anon recovery

CHOOSING A GROUP NAME

- Concern from some that rejected names when registering with WSO might be affecting specific minority groups
- WSO gets many calls from people questioning if they can attend a specific meeting or not based on the group name
- “It is vital that group names are inviting, attractive, and avoid public controversy. Our spiritual growth has its roots in the principle of anonymity, to enhance the sense of belonging and unity.”
- Motion carried for revisions to the “Choosing a Group’s Name” section of the Policy Digest



DELEGATE PARTICIPATION ON THE CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM (CLT)

Delegates shared their thoughts regarding the following questions:

1. What would having a delegate on the CLT give you that you're not getting now?
2. What is missing on the agenda that the delegates would like to include?

Participation is the key to harmony.

Unanimous agreement by delegates that there should be delegate representation on the CLT. Most agreed with the suggestion that a delegate from each panel should be represented thereon.

Motion carried to form a task force of the CLT and a minimum of three delegates charged with proposing how delegates could be selected and participate on the CLT to contribute to WSC agenda development.



2024 Audit Report

Questions:

1. What was the total revenue for 2023 in the General Fund?
2. How much revenue in 2023 was from literature sales?
3. What were the contributions for 2023?
4. How much revenue was generated from the 2023 International Convention?
5. Where did the most contributions come from?
6. What's included in "other income"?

Answers:

1. 2023 total revenue was \$6,902,851.
2. Literature sales for 2023 were \$4,403,725.
3. Contributions for 2023 were \$2,916,398, which was a \$421,520 decrease from 2022. 2022 had a special appeal, so it was expected that 2023 contributions would be lower.
4. In 2023, total revenues generated were \$995,387. Total expenses incurred were \$807,919. Net income was \$187,468.
5. Groups contributed the most--\$1,216,364 or 41%--followed by individuals at \$468,316 or 16%.
6. Other income includes magazine sales, Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App premium subscriptions, and investment income or loss.

2024 Audit Report (cont.)

Questions:

7. What makes up our expenses?
8. What were some Strategic Incentives and program accomplishments in 2023?

Answers:

7. Major expense categories include: salaries and associated costs (payroll taxes and benefits), office expenses (postage, telephone, stationery, and supplies, printing, Canadian office), occupancy, public service announcements (PSAs), professional fees, travel, Conference costs (including interpretation), and bank/credit card fees.
8. The new daily reader, A Little Time for Myself (B-34), was introduced and sold 69,000 copies in 2023. We hosted the 2023 International Convention in Albuquerque, NM. The code for the Al-Anon Family Groups Mobile App was refreshed, increasing users to over 160,000. We hosted the first Global Gathering for international structures. We translated and updated 24 Al-Anon Guidelines in English, Spanish, and French.

2024 Audit Report (cont.)

Questions:

9. Why did the Reserve Fund increase in 2023?

Answers:

9. The investments in the Reserve Fund fluctuate based on stock market conditions. 2023 saw improvements in the market, as it had positive returns during the year. The Reserve Fund earned \$1,089,174 in investment income. The organization continues to be invested in mature stocks and bonds and has experienced tremendous growth in the prior years.

2024 Operating Budget

Questions:

1. What is the revenue forecast for 2024?
2. What is the contribution goal for 2024?
3. What is the cost per group for 2024? Is that the recommended amount for groups to contribute?
4. What is the literature sales goal for the year?
5. Does the budget reflect a surplus or a deficit for the year?

Answers:

1. We are forecasting total revenue to be \$6,198,330.
2. We are forecasting contributions to be \$2,643,700. We still need contributions to support operations, as literature sales alone will not.
3. The cost of WSO services allocated across WSC registered groups is \$330.09 per group. You can locate the breakdown of each department's contribution to the group in the 2023 Annual Report, available on the website.
4. We are forecasting literature sales to be \$4,105,600, which is a 7% decrease over 2023. Since the new daily reader, A Little Time for Myself, was introduced in 2023, it is expected that sales will decrease in 2024.
5. For 2024, we are projecting revenues to exceed expenses, and therefore the budget will show a slight surplus of \$119,550.

2024 Operating Budget (cont.)

100 percent of groups are using services;
61 percent of groups contributed in 2023



What are the services used?

Getting your
group
registered

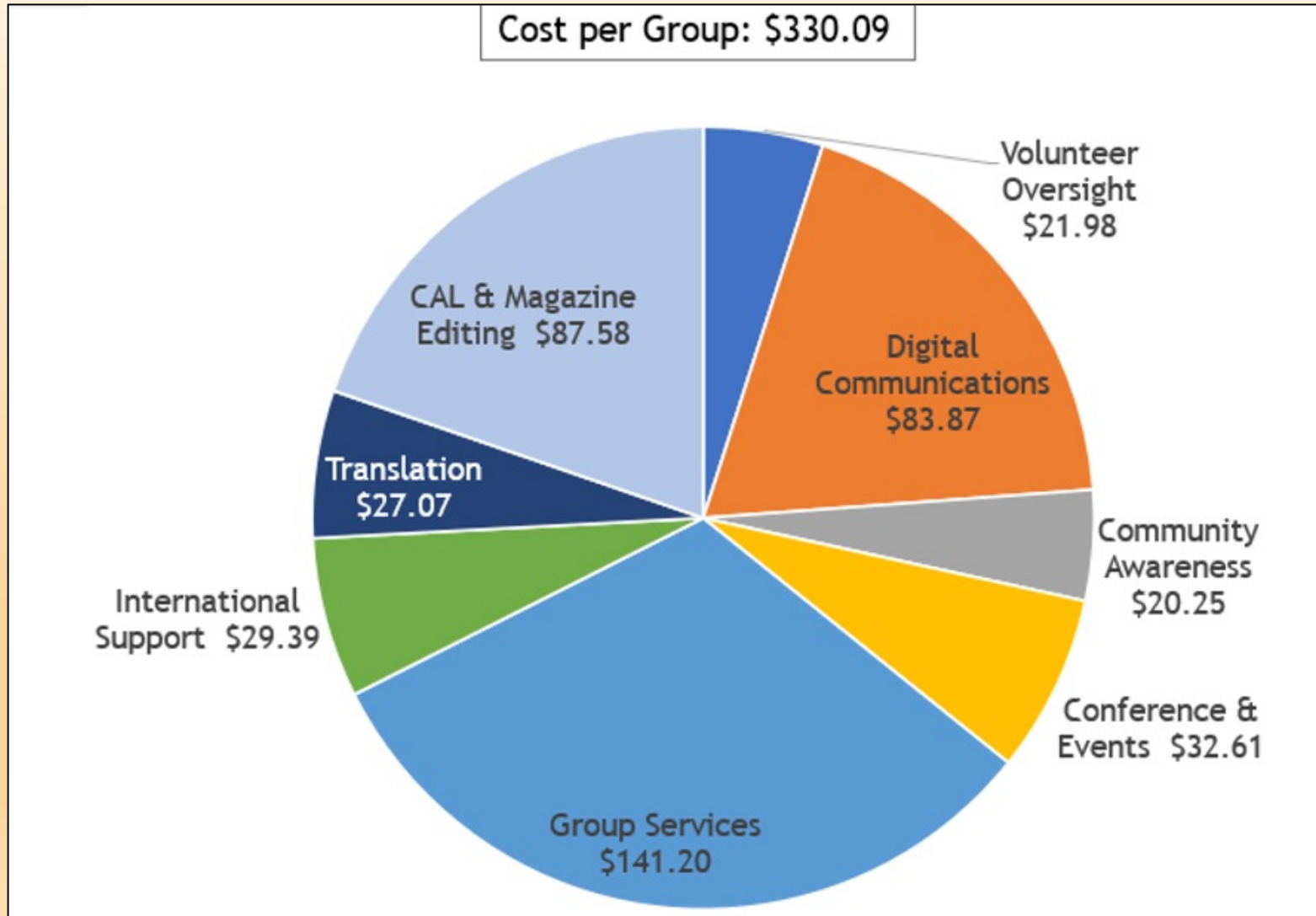
Reading CAL
at meetings

Calling WSO
to find a
meeting

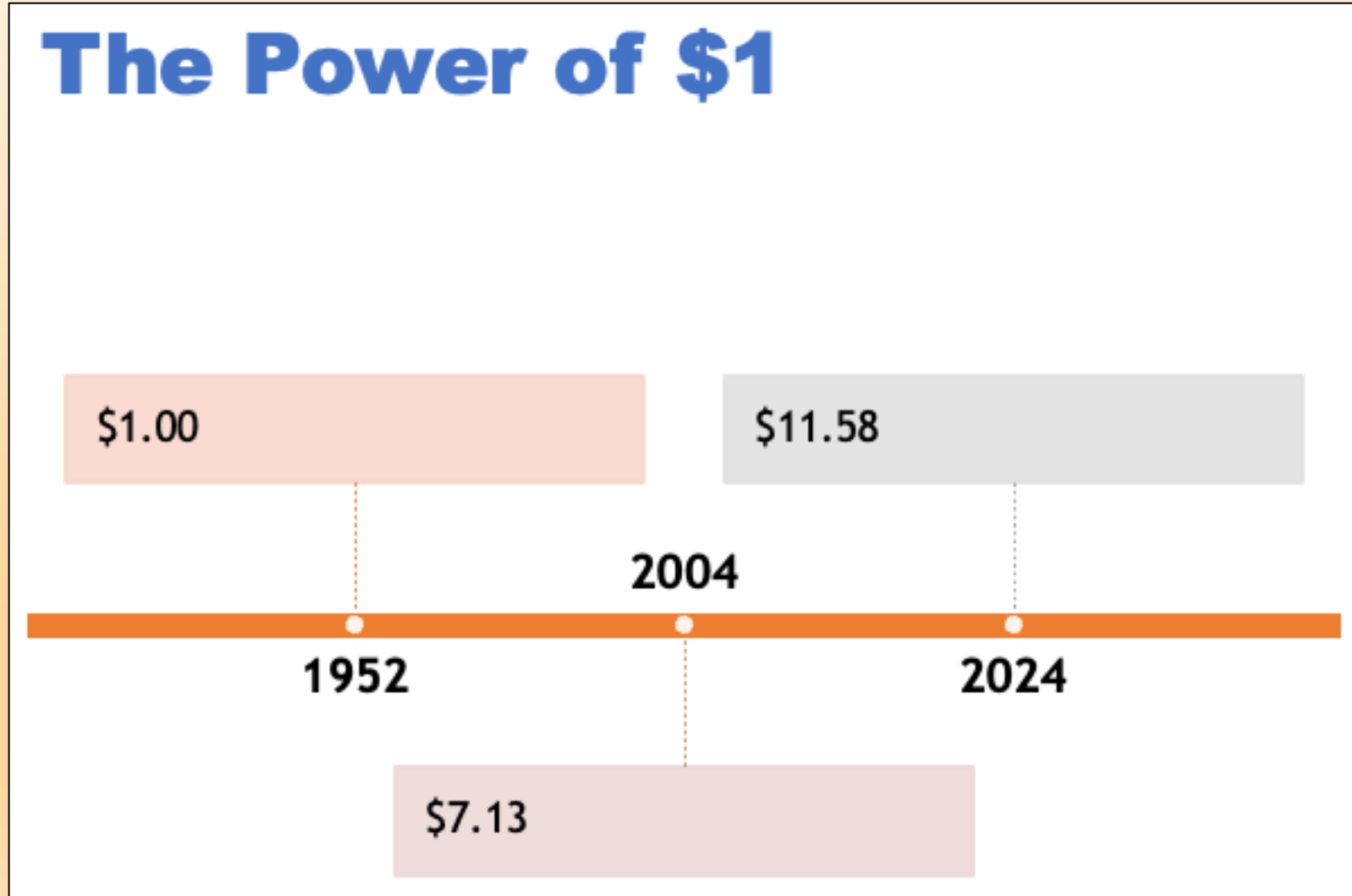
Using the
Mobile App for
a Zoom
meeting

PSAs playing
on TV
stations

2024 Operating Budget (cont.)



2024 Operating Budget (cont.)



2024 Operating Budget (cont.)

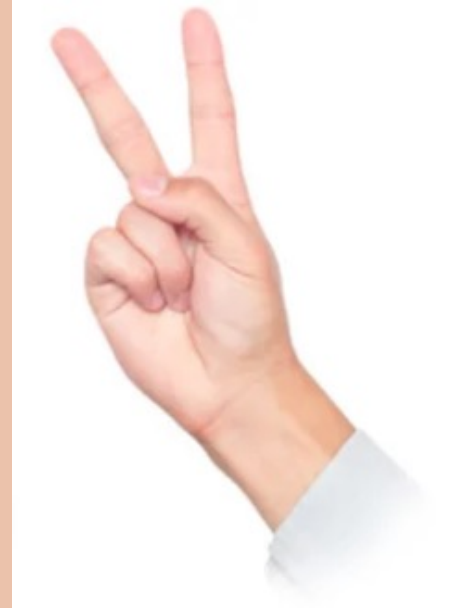
Questions:

6. What are some of the programs or projects for 2024?

Answers:

6. We plan to continue work on the Electronic Alateen Project in an effort to host electronic Alateen group meetings in the future. We will host the 2024 International General Services Meeting (IAGSM) in September 2024. We are making improvements to the AFG Records database and improvements to the Online Store.

Question



What is the 2024 cost per group?

ELECTRONIC ALATEEN VALIDATION & IMPLEMENTATION

- Two types of AMIAS: regular AMIAS and AMIAS-E. Create separate ID for teens after initial government ID proof at first; for subsequent visits.
- After EASBR-E is active, then teens from other areas could join electronic meetings in other areas as long as they meet the minimums required for each area and EASBR. Each area can set up its own pre-interview process, with guidelines from WSO.
- Will be incorporated into WSO training as to whom would be required to be reported in mandatory reporting; still must follow any state guidelines.
- AMIAS-E will handle the chat and requirements of app so kids can focus on experience, strength, and hope.
- Project team will send out e-mail with compiled responses to questions received. Only electronic groups approved in WSC at this time are five groups in mobile app. Otherwise, other groups now are temporarily electronic but are physical groups.

WSO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

TOPIC: UNITY

Remember when attending meetings to be welcoming to all people and not just specifically newcomers. Be mindful of this.

Remember also that people are in meetings because of the effect of alcoholism on their lives—other ways of connecting are important, but the underlying principle is how alcoholism affects our lives

Unity is the opposite of divided. Special interest groups can sometimes create a sense of safety for those who have been underrepresented.

What can I do as an individual? I can remember my experience and carry it forward. Regardless of age or external identities, we are all part of the whole—part of the community. Be sure to treat all as Al-Anon members regardless of external identities.

Focus on what we have in common in order to grow together. Traditions 1, 3, and 5. Am I focusing on that? What am I doing to be welcoming? Am I being a good example or bad example of the program?

Let it begin with me. The welcoming begins even before you walk through the door.

NEXT GENERATION AFG RECORDS

- **Geographic Meeting Search**
 - In June 2023, we launched the ability to display electronic groups alongside physical groups on the Geographic Meeting Search – you can distinguish the groups by the different pins, and when website visitors select one, they get the pop-up that clearly identifies the meeting as an electronic group.
 - A straightforward solution existed to help members and newcomers recognize hybrid meetings. We could simply include the word “Hybrid” in the group name. Our AFG Records team already adds AFG to the group name. The addition of “Hybrid” requires little additional work and would provide those seeking a meeting clarity on meeting location options. The plan to include “hybrid” in group names was shared with the Policy Committee at its January 2024 meeting.



NEXT GENERATION AFG RECORDS



Area Support – Electronic Groups

- ▶ 56 geographic WSC Structure Areas now support electronic groups
 - ▶ Majority have integrated electronic groups into geographic Districts
 - ▶ Remaining 11 are in progress developing their Area procedures

NEXT GENERATION AFG RECORDS

- Why can't groups in Geographic Areas be listed on both the Geographic and the Global Electronic Meeting Searches?
 - To support members finding a home group where their voice and vote is equal to everyone in the group and where they have a clear path toward service, the WSO lists each group on only one meeting search. In this way, we respect the meeting's group conscience decision about whether they want to participate in geographic or global service. Our approach ensures double-headed management is avoided.



NEXT GENERATION AFG RECORDS

- **Addressing Undecided Groups**
 - A challenge Areas are facing is addressing situations where groups remain undecided about whether to meet electronically, go hybrid, or return to a physical location once the deadline for groups meeting temporarily online in an Area has passed.
 - Eventually, after each geographic Area has voted on supporting electronic groups, their 6-to-12-month timeframe will expire. At that time, groups still listed at a physical location but only meeting electronically will need to be addressed. Failing to update the groups' meeting information could cause harm to the newcomer who comes to the physical location desperately seeking help only to discover no meeting.



NEXT GENERATION AFG RECORDS



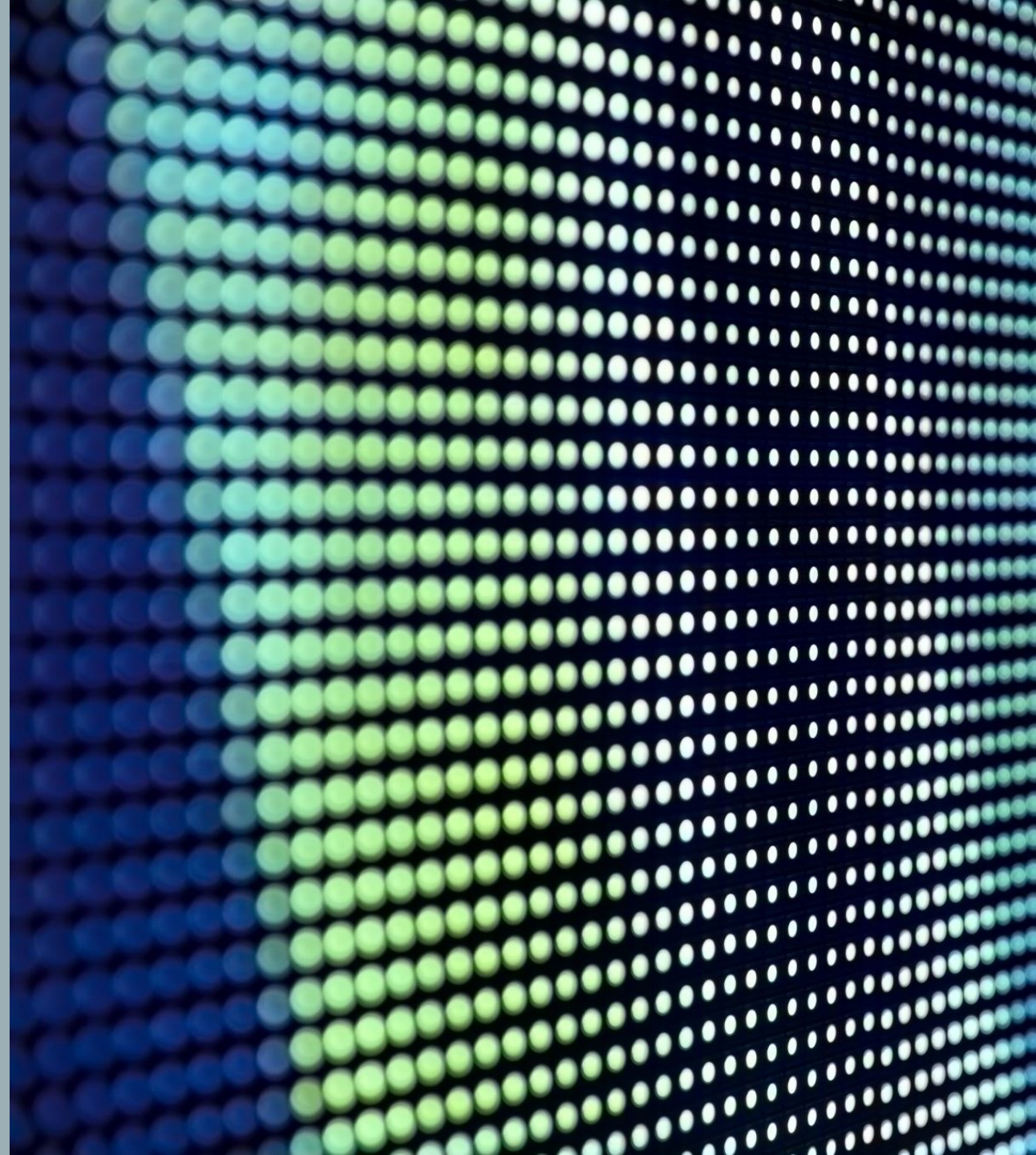
COMPLETED

Online Group Records – Training

- AFG Records Staff trained AGRCs in navigating Online Group Records so they could better support both electronic and physical groups in their Areas.
- The recording of this training is available in the AFG Connects community for trusted servants to return to when they have questions. WSO also made a PowerPoint and the flow charts in a printable format available to AGRCs to share with the groups.

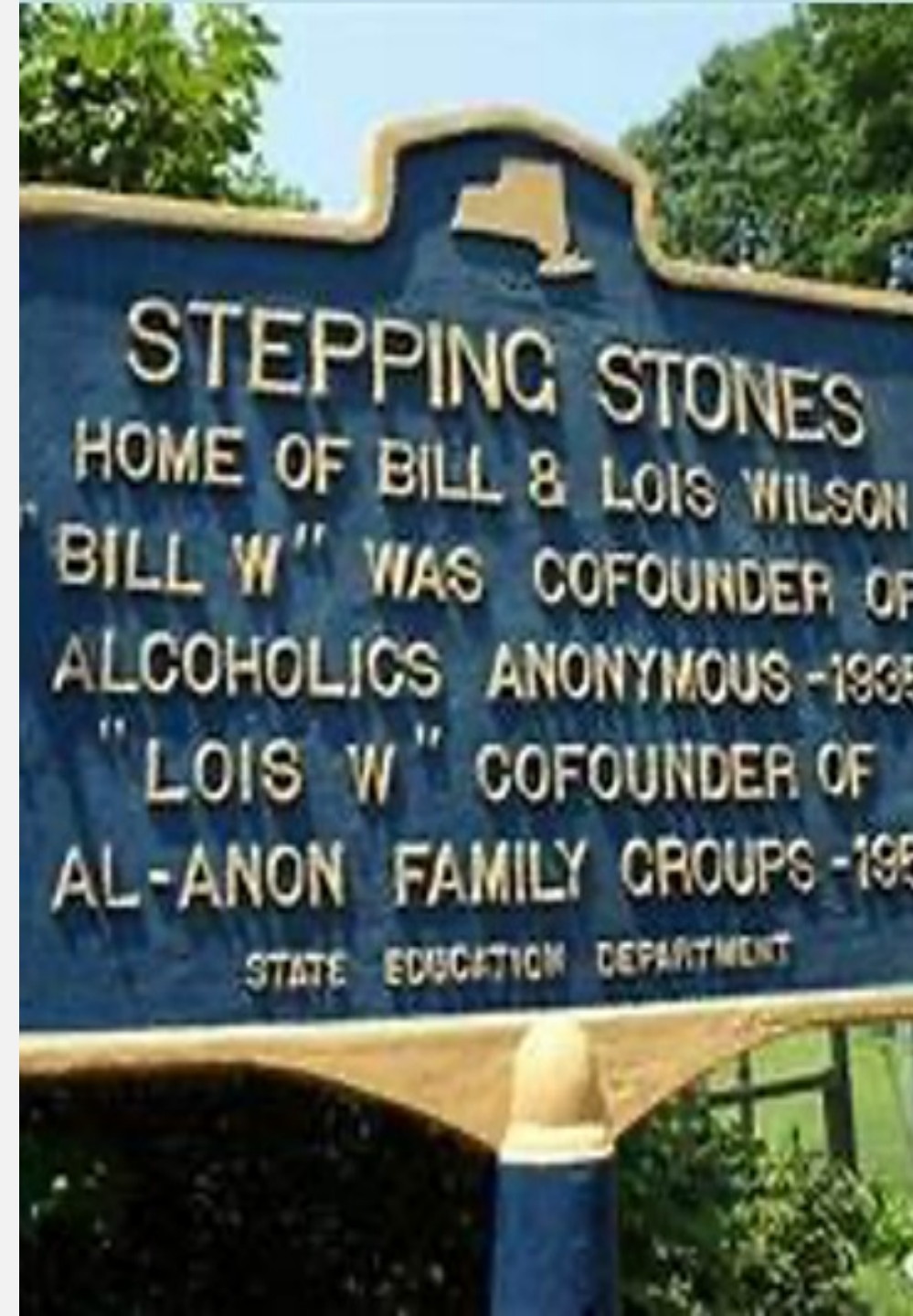
NEXT GENERATION AFG RECORDS

- Takeaways
 - Recorded training is available to support Area Group Records Coordinators (AGRCs) understanding what Online Group Records functionality exists and how to use it.
 - Combined reports and searches for physical and electronic groups in geographic Areas are being developed.
 - All Groups by District Report
 - All Al-Anon Groups Search Results

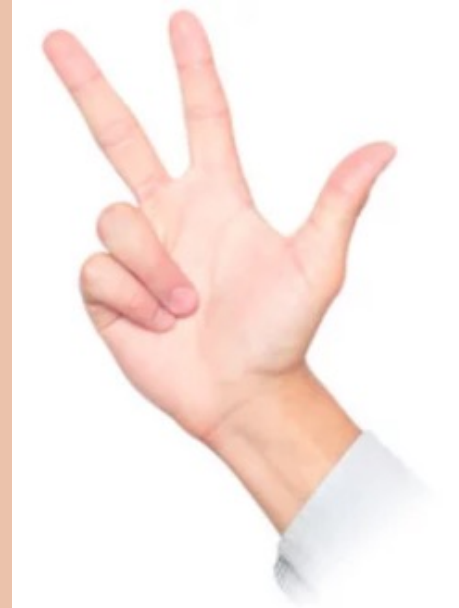


STEPPING STONES

- Equalized expense only pays for part of conference expenses; remaining costs, called net conference costs, are covered by general fund (these costs cover trustees, WSO staff, and board).
- Delegates unanimously in favor of keeping visit to Stepping Stones.
- Remember about abundance—costs have increased, but we must still look forward abundantly.
- 3-year budget to cover this cost, etc. If we are saving money two years at Virginia Beach, why not use savings for third year in New York. Many variables are in play.
- Stepping Stones visit will happen in 2025; vote to determine future of visit will occur in 2026
- Task force will assess the comments received at conference and more information will be forthcoming



Question



How will hybrid meetings be identified in the Geographic Meeting Search?

Why is our connection to the international community important?



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

The World Service Conference Charter charges the WSC to be the senior structures to the international communities, which means the decisions the WSC makes affect members worldwide. It is important that we gather these members' input. Our view is greatly expanded when we seek out the input from members outside of our structure. As stated in Tradition One, "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity." And this is not just unity for the WSC—our fellowship is bigger than that. In order to ensure common welfare for all members, it is imperative to communicate with all international structures worldwide.

Information Source



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

The International Coordination Committee (ICC) carries the voices of the international structures. This year, the ICC had a special meeting to review the WSC agenda from the perspective of our international structures. Through the ongoing work of the International Team conversations, the ICC members are regularly informed as to the successes, challenges, and needs of the structures. The International Team informs the ICC of conversations with the international structures, so ALL members of the ICC bring forward the voices and concerns of our international members at the WSC.

International Team



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

The International Team supports members and groups, but they also support International Service Committees and General Service Offices who provide support to their entire service structure *and may operate according to different guidelines than used by our WSC Structure.* This requires the members of the International Team to be well-versed in the specialized knowledge of all WSO teams and to have the ability and willingness to collaborate with others. Why, is this? Unlike service arms within the WSC Structure, International Structures have autonomy to define the composition and links of service that best supports their individual structure. All international structures are different and vary in size, knowledge, resources, membership. As a result, the International Team is often supporting the development on brand new international structures requiring the team to have a fundamental knowledge of all processes throughout the WSC service structure, so they can offer guidance and clarity to these international structures as they create their links of service which often differs from ours.

Global Connections



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

Global Gatherings offer a new method for collaborating with all international structures. Meetings are held every two months on a specific topic. Structures are encouraged to send in topics for consideration as well as questions on the next scheduled topic. To date, the International Team has held three Global Gatherings.

The topics were:

- Board of Trustees: Composition, Jurisdiction, & Responsibilities
- Public Outreach & Social Media
- Alateen – Understanding & Implementing the Safety & Behavioral Requirements and the Alateen Policy.

On average, over 100 members and 40 International Structures are represented at the Global Gatherings. We are looking forward to our next Global Gathering which will be held in May 2024, when we will be presenting a report from the World Service Conference.

First-time translation requests

Al-Anon deklaracija

Tegul viskas prasideda nuo manęs

Kai kas nors ieško pagalbos,
tegul *Al-Anon* ir *Alateen* visada ištiesia pagalbos ranką,
ir tegul viskas prasideda nuo manęs.



*Al-Anon šeimos grupės**
Viltis alkoholikų šeimoms ir draugams

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

Another significant responsibility of the ICC is to consider requests from international structures to translate and print literature. Internationally, even a single group registered with the WSO can request to translate literature into a new language provided no other service structure exists in their country. More typically though, new language translation requests are made by AISs.

If granted permission, the group or AIS becomes the *only* legal distributor of the translated CAL in their country, and they may only sell this literature within their country boundaries. The WSO usually grants permission once the group or AIS has built adequate membership to financially sustain the translation and publication processes.

Have you ever wondered how many languages we have translated Conference Approved Literature into? The answer is 37 unique languages!

First-time translation and reprint permissions

- ▶ Bulgaria (Bulgarian)
- ▶ Latvia (Latvian)
- ▶ Mongolia (Mongolian)
- ▶ Romania (Romanian)
- ▶ Thailand (Thai)
- ▶ Paraguay (Spanish Reprint)

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

After it has been determined that a structure has met the requirements discussed on the previous slide, the ICC will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to authorize first time translation and reprint permissions. This year the Board has granted first-time translation and reprint permissions to Bulgaria, Latvia, Mongolia, Romania, and Thailand. Paraguay was also granted first-time *reprint* permission as they are a Spanish-speaking country, so translation permission was not required.

International Structures



40 General Service Offices (GSOs) aka national structures



One evolving structure



14 Al-Anon Information Services (AIS)



12 groups—individual or collective

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

There are four types of international service structures with whom the ICC collaborates, including General Service Offices (GSO) also known as National Structures; Evolving Structures—which are those that have established an AIS and are on their way to becoming a GSO; Al-Anon Information Services which sometimes include a Literature Distribution Center; and groups or a collective of groups.

As of March 2024, the WSO supports:

- 40 General Service Offices (GSO) aka National Structures
- 1 Evolving Structure
- 14 Al-Anon Information Services (AIS)
- 12 Groups – Individual or Collective

Like the WSC, GSOs have established a General Service Board, Board of Directors, or Board of Trustees with committees responsible for policy, public outreach, finance, literature and/or other needs that arise. And they each have a General Service Conference where elected Delegates or Group Representatives meet annually with the Board, its committees and personnel of the Service Office to establish and maintain strong links of service.

Zonal Meetings



▶ Maintaining Global Connections— Current Zones

- Europe
- South America / Spanish-speaking
- Central America

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE (ICC)

In the years between International Al-Anon General Services Meetings or IAGSMs, international structures in all stages of developments—from groups to Al-Anon Information Services to evolving structures to General Service Offices—connect through Zonal Meetings. These meetings are formed by structures across a geographic area, although some extend beyond one geography based on language. Each Zonal Meeting has a unique flavor or approach, but at all these meetings, structures discuss common issues; share experience, strength, and hope; and offer each other mutual aid.

There are currently only three zones although the idea of forming a fourth zone in the Asia-Pacific area has been and may again be discussed.

In 2023, all three Zonal meetings were held and the WSO was invited as a valued guest to share information, listen to concerns, and continue building strong relationships with our international partners who are equally responsible for ensuring the Al-Anon message of hope is available when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help.

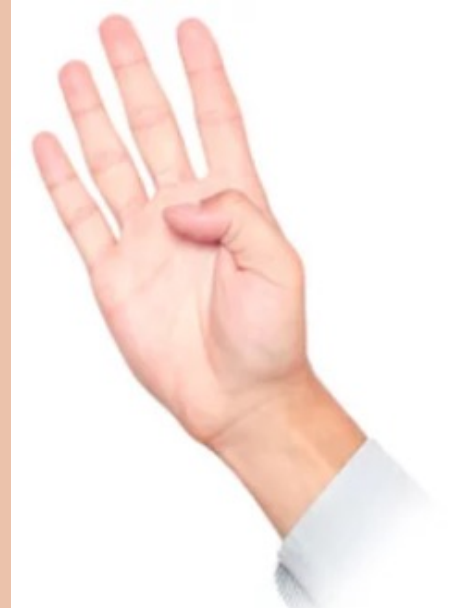
DELEGATE'S NOTES FROM ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION

- At-large member role position to executive committee, including new application (instead of resume). Will include trustee application questions. Alanon.org will include update to trustee application.
- Removed limit on executive director's tenure. Working on and considering succession planning for executive director and WSO staff.
- New positions will be open at WSO: International assistant (non-member/in-person), part-time legal assistant (member/remote), and group services specialist (member/in person).
- Looking at electronic e-books across all structures.
- Because of promotions in Literature (Carol Cowan) and International Services Manager (Traci Smith), their previous positions are now open (magazine editor and ???). Contact Sue Perez, Group Services.
- 28 new Alateen groups since January—now have 524 registered Alateen groups.

DELEGATE'S NOTES FROM ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION

- Share with area treasurers the importance of regular payments; note on check when it is for equalized payment.
- Conference Summary will include summaries of conference presentations, which will make the summary better; however, the presentations will be included completely as given.
- *Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships* (P-95) will be available in the Fall for \$4.00—a 48-page document.
- Forum 70th anniversary will include special tidbits throughout the year.
- Alanon.org sharing for sponsorship sharing piece.
- Contact international team if have language ability to help in independently reviewing documents that have been translated for accuracy (must be Al-Anon member).

Question



How many registered Alateen groups are there?

LET'S PREDICT THE FUTURE OF
AL-ANON TOGETHER

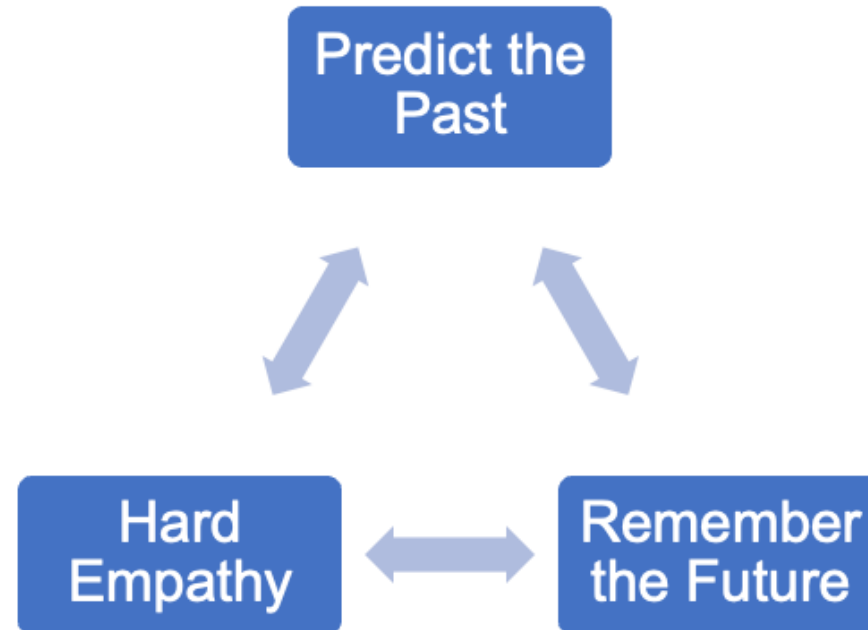
FUTURE

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REMEMBERING THE FUTURE

**Can you remember how we
changed the future of AI-Anon?
Magical Triangle of "What If"**



REMEMBERING THE FUTURE

Remembering the Future X-Y-Z Method

X = What you love to do

Y = Person you care about

Z = Favorite place you have been at least once

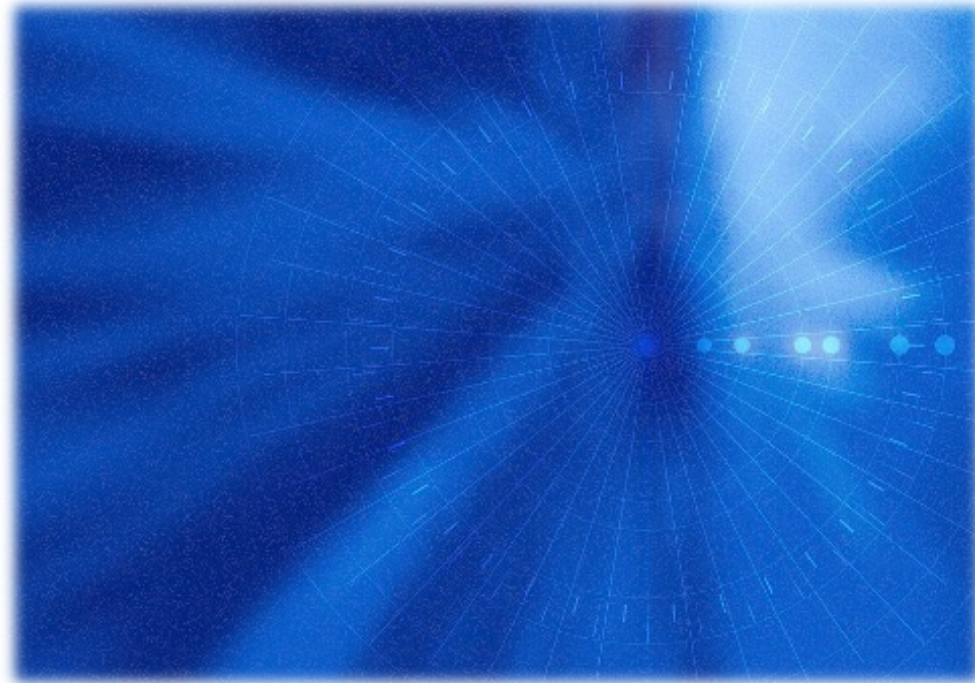
X = Al-Anon
activity

Y = Important
member (e.g.,
Sponsor)

Z = Home
group or
Assembly
meeting place

IMAGINING YOUR FUTURE

Imagine...



See it. Feel it. Taste it. ... Enjoy it!

EXPLORING YOUR IMAGINED FUTURE

Explore...



What logical turns and events did you have to face to get there?



What steps did you take?



What needed to be changed and how was it done?



What was familiar?



What doubts did you have when you started, and did you overcome them?

THE FUTURE REMEMBERED



Upcoming EVENTS

2025 AA International Convention with Al-Anon Participation

- July 3-6, 2025 in Vancouver, BC
- Registration opens Sept. 2024 for \$160
- Al-Anon will have meetings/workshops in English, Spanish, & French
- Approximately 60,000 will attend

2028 Al-Anon International Convention

- 14 bids were submitted
- 400 volunteers are requested
- Soon all the bids will be reviewed
- May 23 three cities will be selected
- June visits to these cities will begin
- October a selection will be made
- A location announcement will be made at the 2025 WSC or before!!!

Road Trip!

ROAD TRIP!

- ▶ Current members of the Board and At-Large Members of the Executive Committee will travel to a new Area each October for Board Week and host a day full of fellowship, engaging activities, lively table topics, interactive presentations, and a delicious lunch.
- ▶ Encourage your Area to be the **October 2025** destination unless **Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect** has been previously held in your Area.
- ▶ Mail or email the completed application form and the two hotels' responses to the RFI by **Friday, September 20, 2024** to the World Service Office.

ROAD TRIP!

▶ **City Requirements**

A city with an airport that supports the major airline carriers serving the US and Canada.

▶ **Hotel Requirements**

A full-service hotel with affordable airport transportation.

▶ **Meeting Space Requirements**

The event space must be large enough to comfortably **seat up to 200 attendees**. Meeting space for Board Week must accommodate up to 22 Board and Executive Committee At-Large members.

ROAD TRIP!

- ▶ **Road Trip!** is an opportunity for members, WSO Volunteers, and WSO Staff to connect through fellowship and share leadership skills required for trusted servants in a creative and engaging manner.
- ▶ Share the **Request for Information** (RFI) directly with the hotel staff. These requirements must be met by the hotel for the event to be held in your Area.
- ▶ Fill out the application form; be sure to include two hotels that meet RFI specifications and **signatures from both the Area Delegate and the Area Chairperson.**
- ▶ Mail or email the completed application form and the two hotels' responses to the RFI by **Friday, September 20, 2024** to the World Service Office.

ROAD TRIP!

- ▶ The **Board of Trustees** is responsible for hosting the event and developing the agenda and content for the program.
- ▶ The **World Service Office** Staff is responsible for the hotel logistics, registration, and publicizing the event in AFG Connects, *In The Loop*, and WSO website calendar.
- ▶ The selected **Area** and its **Area Welcome Committee** are responsible for encouraging attendance and sharing information about the event with local members.

ROAD TRIP!

▶ **September 20, 2024**

Deadline to apply to be the 2025 destination

▶ **October 2024**

Board chooses three potential sites

February 2025

Areas will be notified of final Board selection

▶ **August 2025**

Event details published in AFG Connects communities and *In The Loop*

▶ **October 2025**

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect event



FINAL THOUGHTS

- Thank you to everyone who sent me notes at conference, whether they got there or not! LOL! Thinking of me and supporting me means so much to me. The Utah Area is THE BEST!!!!
- Lots of wonderful things are happening in Al-Anon. Al-Anon always continues to move forward, providing experience, strength, and hope to all who come through our doors. We are so blessed to be part of such an extraordinary program!
- Panel 63, service is the key! 😊