

**S-ANON 2016 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE MINUTES**  
**Denver, Colorado**  
**July 8, 2016**

1. **Sign in, meet and greet**
2. **Opening:** The 2016 World Service Conference (WSC) was opened by the WSC Chairperson.
3. **Welcome:** The WSC Chair gave a heartfelt welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual World Service Conference members in attendance and began with a reading from *Reflections of Hope* and *Robert's Rules of Order*.
4. **Credentials Committee report:** The Credentials Committee Spokesperson reported that 35 voting WSC members were present: 24 Delegates, 11 Board of Trustees. The number of votes needed to reach a quorum was 24 votes to constitute the 2/3rds required to pass a motion. Attendance list is attached.
  - *Update:* One more Delegate joined the WSC. Number of voting members now present was 36. Number of votes needed to reach a quorum was still 24.
5. **Adoption of the agenda:** The Board of Trustees/Executive Committee Treasurer /Finance Committee Chairperson made a motion to adopt the agenda, as written, and the Georgia Alternate Delegate seconded the motion. There was no discussion or objections. Motion to approve the agenda as written: 33 in favor and 1 abstain. Motion passed.
6. **Minutes of the 2015 World Service Conference:** The WSC Chair informed everyone that the 2015 WSC Minutes had been voted on electronically and were included in the WSC Packet as a point of reference.
7. **Roll call and introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves and identified their areas of responsibility (WSO staff, Delegate or Board member).
8. **Travel expense reimbursement guidelines:** The WSO Executive Director reviewed the travel expense reimbursement guidelines.
9. **Program readings:** The S-Anon Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts were read.
10. **Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairperson's report:** The BOT Chair referred to the published report and commented that it included an updated version of the BOT By-Laws which were amended. One of the BOT's main goals was to fill positions on the board and those have been filled. The BOT Chair then asked for questions but there weren't any.

**11. BOT Co-Chairperson's report:** No report, position vacant

**12. World Service Office (WSO) report:** The Executive Director (ED) referenced the published report. The new Members Only Area of the S-Anon website is in the process of being developed and will have resources for Trusted Servants including the Service Manual. There are two ad hoc committees working on revising the Service Manual: the Content Team and the Delivery Team. The ED also mentioned that there are several service opportunities available and encouraged the WSC members to consider joining a committee, serving as phone support and/or long distance sponsor, and being in the Speakers Pool. The ED then asked for questions.

**Q:** Tennessee Delegate: I heard you say New Members Only and Trusted Servants area. Are those two the same thing?

**A:** ED: It's called the Members Only or Trusted Servants site and is the same thing.

**Q:** Online Progress Meeting Delegate: There was discussion of meeting sometime later today. Do you have an idea of when and where?

**A:** ED: The Policy & Communications Committee Chair is leading the Content Team and will mention that when she does her committee report.

**13. BOT Committee reports:**

a. **Executive Committee (EC):** The BOT Chair referenced the published report and mentioned that one of the Executive Committee's main goals was to fill positions on the board and those have been filled. The BOT Chair then asked for questions.

**Q:** Florida Delegate: The Executive Committee reports says the literature on the Concepts was not approved as service literature but is being considered for conference approval literature (CAL) and I was wondering what makes it CAL vs service literature. Is it going to be more like the blue book with readings on the Concepts and questions?

**A:** BOT Chair: Service literature is a "how to" geared toward service. The writers of the Concept piece tried to do that but the BOT felt this was important enough to go through the CAL process. The CAL process takes more time and more eyes to look at the piece than if it were to be service literature. The Literature Committee Chair may talk more about this when she gives her report.

**Q:** Maryland Temporary Delegate: What is the status of the *Protecting Anonymity Online* piece?

**A:** BOT Chair: That piece is in the hands of the Public Information & Outreach (PI&O) Committee. Unfortunately, the Chairperson is not here so I don't know the status of that piece.

**A:** New Mexico Delegate: I'm on the PI&O Committee and believe that piece is on the S-Anon website. If not, it's very near to completion.

**Q:** Florida Delegate: It says the Members Only Area is pending a funding request. How much does it cost to have the Members Only Area?

**A:** BOT Chair: At the time this report was written it was pending but it now has been approved.

**A:** WSO ED: Very minimal expense: \$249 fee to purchase additional hosting space on a server and \$125 for our website company to install Wordpress.

- b. **Finance Committee (FC):** The BOT/EC Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair referenced the published report and stated that the Maryland Delegate has since stepped down from the committee. The Treasurer/FC Chair also recognized a trusted servant/paid special worker who has served for many years and will be stepping down from involvement this year. One of the main priorities mentioned in the report is to transition the paid special worker role to a local CPA firm in Nashville. Another goal is to add members to the committee and train someone to step into the Treasurer role when her term ends next year. The Treasurer/FC Chair then shared highlights of the budget: 2015 finished at \$8,000 under budget but there was still prudent reserve. The Treasurer/FC Chair explained that the 2016 budget is very aggressive and encouraged the WSC members to promote contributions and literature sales. The Treasurer/FC Chair then asked for questions but there weren't any.
- c. **Literature Committee (LC):** The Literature Committee Chair/Trustee-at-Large referenced the published report and stated that the focus of the LC over the previous year has been the Traditions Book. The LC Chair responded to the question about the Concepts and explained that the LC is seeking a sponsoring editor for that piece and that it will be a booklet. The LC Chair extended an invitation to submit member shares regarding the Concepts. The LC Chair also addressed the status of the blog and said it had approved but the technical piece was being worked out. The LC Chair shared that the S-Ateen piece, *What It's Like to be Me*, passed as CAL and the cover was being discussed. The LC Chair then asked for questions but there weren't any.

**SHORT BREAK:** The WSC Chair decided not to take the scheduled break due to being ahead of schedule and the WSC continued with reports.

- d. **International Convention Committee (ICC):** The International Convention Committee Chair/Trustee-at-Large shared that this was her last year of service as the ICC Chair. The ICC Chair went over some of the things that the committee had accomplished over the previous year such as updating the ICC Guidelines with the timeline and the General Delegate Assembly portion that had not been in it before and mentioned that the committee has begun working on an abbreviated version of the Guidelines. The ICC Chair then asked if there were any questions.

**Q:** Tennessee Delegate: Is the smaller version of the Guidelines like the Convention-in-a-Box that has been mentioned before?

**A:** ICC Chair: Convention-in-a-Box is different and more like templates that can be used at conventions and includes a timetable, program grid, and registration badges. The Convention Guidelines is something that can be turned into service literature so that groups and intergroups can have it.

The ICC Chair mentioned that the committee needs qualified speakers and invited the WSC members to submit Speakers' Pool forms.

**Q:** Was your term extended?

**A:** ICC Chair: My term was up and we did not have a replacement so it was extended one year and will end August 2017.

- e. **World Service Conference Committee (WSCC):** The World Service Conference Committee Chair/Trustee-at-Large stated that the primary mission of the committee was to put on the WSC and navigate through the motions and distribute them to the fellowship. Another mission is to work with the Service Manual and the policies and procedures. The committee has been working on updating the WSC Charter and documenting procedures for working with the motions and what happens to the motions after the committee reviews them. One of the committee's ongoing priorities is to have more members. There is a Delegate serving on the committee and this has increased communication between the WSCC and the Delegates. One of the great things that came from that was the Delegates communicated to the WSCC that they no longer felt that the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for submission of motions was working so the committee changed the motion submission window to August 1—March 1. The WSCC Chair then asked if there were any questions.

**Q:** Policy & Communications Committee Chair: Your term is up. What happens to the WSC if it doesn't have a chair?

**A:** WSCC Chair: My term is not up yet but I'm considering a change in my service role. So if that change occurs and we don't have a chair for the WSCC, there are a couple of options. One is that the committee becomes inactive. Another option is the WSCC could agree to become an ad hoc committee which means that they would continue doing some of the administrative duties without a chair. There is a statement in the WSC Charter which says that if the WSCC is without a chair for six months prior to the WSC and there is a need for a WSC, the Delegates will be responsible for putting on the WSC.

**Q:** Virginia Delegate: I understand the need to have a submission deadline for the motions but I think what would be especially useful to us on the local level is a date when we can expect to receive the motions because often we're trying to schedule business meetings with local groups and intergroup meetings to discuss the motions and the first question we always get is, "When are the motions going to be out?" I know there's a general timeframe but if we could have a specific date as to when we could expect to receive the motions that would be helpful.

**A:** WSCC Chair: Thank you for that question. I have made a note of that and will

put it on the agenda for our next meeting to add that to the timeline.

- f. **Public Information and Outreach Committee (PI&O):** The New Mexico Delegate shared on behalf of the Public Information and Outreach Committee Chair/Trustee-at-Large who was not present. The *Protecting Anonymity Online* piece isn't on the S-Anon website yet and that will be brought up at the next committee meeting. The committee report is missing a couple of things. There is service literature on the S-Anon website, *Selecting a Webhosting Service* and *Creating a Local Website*, as well as a packet that contains template letters local groups can use to send to professionals. There is also a template for sending information to newspapers to bring awareness about S-Anon. The PI&O Representative then asked if there were any questions.

**Q:** Florida Delegate: This is crossing over into the S-Ateen Committee report, but I noticed in the S-Ateen report that there's currently no mention of S-Ateen on the S-Anon website. Is that accurate?

The PI&O Representative deferred to the S-Ateen Committee Chair.

**A:** S-Ateen Committee Chair: There's no mention on the S-Anon website about the S-Ateen Online Community.

**Q:** Florida Delegate: Is it a possibility to include that there's S-Ateen in the letter to professionals?

**A:** PI&O Representative: I don't know the legal ramifications of that but think it's something to consider.

**A:** S-Ateen Committee Chair: There are no legal ramifications for sending out letters to professionals or schools saying there's an S-Ateen Program for people who qualify. Alateen has a series of letters that they send out to schools, legal people, medical doctors, pastors. I love your suggestion to include S-Ateen in that information outreach because I don't believe there's any mention of S-Ateen in any of those letters and appreciate you bringing that up.

**A:** PI&O Representative: Thanks for the clarification. I'll put that on the agenda.

**Q:** Tennessee Delegate: The Alternate Tennessee Delegate wanted me to bring up that she got an email with everybody's email addresses showing and we want to protect anonymity.

**A:** ICC Chair: It's an unfortunate thing that did happen and we're working on how to solve that for future conventions. Apparently when the Registration Committee got the information on who was willing to serve, it was all merged together (the S-Anon and SA information) and the SA person working on filling the slots didn't know that and sent it out to everybody. I contacted him immediately and he thought that the next thing he sent was a different list. I received an apology letter from him stating that he's never done a blind cc before and did not know how until after I had sent the email. I cited Tradition 12 and went over other things with him and he is very sorry and understands how we feel.

**A:** PI&O Representative: That just points out that we each have personal

responsibility and people get to be human so we have to individually do what we can to protect how much information about us is out there in the ether.

**Q:** New York Delegate: I have a question for both PI&O and S-Ateen. I see that we have a pamphlet for professionals for S-Ateen and we also have a pamphlet, *Is S-Ateen for You?*, directed to the S-Ateen, but I don't see that we have anything directed to S-Anon members as to whether or not their children need S-Ateen. Personally, as a child of a sexaholic and seeing how S-Ateen seems not to have a foothold that S-Anon has and hearing questions from members in my group, there seems to be a lack of information about S-Ateen for S-Anon members.

**A:** PI&O Representative: Thanks for that great suggestion. I'll take that forward too.

**A:** S-Ateen Committee Chair: I'll talk to your question when I'm up.

g. **Archives Committee:** The Archives Committee Chair/Trustee-at-Large was not present so the WSC Chair referred to the published report. The Archives Committee Chair's term of office ends in August and the committee will become inactive if no one steps into that role.

h. **S-Ateen Committee:** The S-Ateen Committee Chair/Trustee-at-Large reported that one of the biggest things that had happened over the previous year was the launching of the S-Ateen Online Community on 11/1/15. The S-Ateen Online Community is an interactive site separate from the S-Anon website and is a closed and private site for S-Ateens and S-Ateen Group Sponsors only. There is an active but very small core of S-Ateens who participate on the S-Ateen Online Community, which is an informational site with devotionals, a calendar, S-Ateen readings and meeting format, and has a place for S-Ateen Group Sponsors to post messages. The message portion of the site is not being used until we can find a Traditions Sponsor who can always monitor the site and view the posts live. There are two live meetings: a Sunday night meeting for all S-Ateens ages 12—19 and a Monday night meeting for S-Ateens ages 12—13. The S-Ateen Chair stated that there was a change to the published report that said there were no face-to-face S-Ateen meetings because one started in San Diego, CA. There is new CAL, *What It's Like to be Me*, which is a series of quotes from S-Ateens over the years about what it was like to be an S-Ateen. There is also a pamphlet, *Is S-Ateen for You?*, which is the S-Ateen Checklist that has been rewritten. The S-Ateen Chair recommended that groups buy that literature from the S-Anon online store to have available for members who want more information on S-Ateen and start a dialogue with their teens.

**SHORT BREAK:** The WSC Chair announced that the recording disc had to be changed and then called the meeting back to order.

The S-Ateen Chair continued the report and clarified that the new S-Ateen literature, *What It's Like to be Me*, includes the 12 Steps and Traditions. Service literature on S-Ateen already exists on the S-Anon online store: *S-Ateen*

*Suggested Meeting Format, Information about S-Ateen Meetings and Group Sponsors, Meeting Topics, Parent/S-Ateen Responsibility Agreement.* The S-Ateen Chair responded to the question about any literature being available for S-Anon members that would speak to their situation as a parent of a child affected by this disease and said that there is not anything for the parent's perspective. The S-Ateen Chair extended an invitation to the WSC members to join the committee and serve as a Group Sponsors. The S-Ateen Chair also encouraged everyone to get the word out about the S-Ateen Online Community and invite their teens to participate. The S-Ateen Chair then asked if there were any questions.

**Q:** Georgia Alternate Delegate: Thank you for your service. One of the things I hear from our home groups is, "How do we as S-Anons even bring the subject up to our teenagers?" As you said, it is a shame filled addiction. I have S-Anons asking, "How do I even start the conversation?" Has there been any thought given to guidelines for S-Anons in broaching the subject with their teenagers—bringing it up for the first time—beginning the dialogue?

**A:** S-Ateen Chair: I recommend that you tell people to contact the WSO and that inquiry goes directly to me and then I respond back to the parent. I recommend that people go through the pamphlet, *Is S-Ateen for You?*, with their teen. Younger family members are not oblivious to problems in the home and the parent can address that and say that they want to talk about it with their child. Teens do not want the details of acting out but they do want acknowledgement that there are difficult things they are grappling with in their own right. Young people are not mature enough to process a lot of this crazy chaos that goes on in a home. Acknowledging a problem exists is often very freeing for a teen and for the parent to say it's not your fault but it has become your problem and as your parent I care about you and I want to offer you the opportunity for you to get some help and be around other teens who are experiencing the same things that you are.

**Q:** Virginia Delegate: Those of you who are parents know that when the team needs a coach or the Scouts need a leader, everybody looks at the parents and figures out which one of the parents is going to do it. That does not work in S-Ateen because the S-Ateen parents are prohibited from being in the room when their teen is involved in the meeting. So as much as an S-Anon might want their teen involved in S-Ateen, they cannot sponsor that group. That's why I think there's such a need is because the pool of possibilities has to be expanded to people who are not parents of teenagers. So keep that in mind as you're maybe thinking about people who might be interested in doing this.

**A:** S-Ateen Chair: One clarification: If you have a teenager, you can serve as a Group Sponsor but you can't serve in the same meeting as your teen. I have served with the online meeting at times when my teens were not on the meeting. Also, you can be very active as a parent in getting a local meeting started.

The S-Ateen Chair asked that everyone include S-Ateen in local S-Anon events.

Q: Florida Delegate: Is there any information that S-Ateen exists on the S-Anon website?

A: S-Ateen Chair: Yes, and there has been for some time. It just needs revamping and that's something we'll work on.

**14. Policy Study and Service Communications Committee (PSSCC) report:**

The Policy Study and Service Communications Committee Chairperson/ Trustee-at-Large referenced the published report as well as the report submitted for the recent joint BOT/Delegate call and said the only thing to add was that the committee now has four members as one member left within the last few weeks. One of the members has become a Delegate so there is Delegate representation on the committee. The PSSCC Chair also mentioned that she brought a motion from the floor that was rescinded at the 2015 WSC and apologized for not submitting it as a motion before the 2016 WSC deadline. The PSSCC Chair then asked if there were any questions.

**Q:** Is the Policy Committee taking on the Service Manual?

**A:** PSSCC Chair: The Policy Committee is not taking on the Service Manual but I am taking on Chair of the content of the Service Manual. The ED sent out an email and several people responded. I would very much love for you to please approach me today and let me know that you had originally said that you were interested in being on the Content Team so I can put a face to a name. If you didn't respond to the initial request, you have time today to come see me and let me know you want to work on the content part of the revision of the Service Manual.

**15. Regional Trustee report:** The Northwest Regional Trustee reported that there are two regions currently represented: the Northwest and the West. We have been looking at redistricting because the east coast region is huge but it's hard to add a position when positions aren't filled. We're hoping to get representation in the Midwest, Northeast, Southeast and Southwest. Questions?

The West Regional Trustee reported that there is a typo on the published report. Where it says we're looking for a West Trustee, it should say Southwest Trustee. Each region has a lone member list and it would be great if someone would be the lone member coordinator for the region.

**16. Delegate report:** The Canada Delegate referenced the published report. We continue to have monthly calls and be supportive of each other. Our challenges are ensuring that we have Delegates. Many Delegates are interested in moving S-Ateen forward. We recognize a need for better coordination with Regional Trustees and the two meetings we have every year are very helpful. Questions?

The Massachusetts Delegate mentioned that she will be taking on the Secretary position starting in September and asked that the BOT Chair let her know anything she needs to know. The MA Delegate plans to use a Google drive for us to organize



documents more efficiently. We talked about creating anonymous emails so that there isn't an issue of our sharing personal information publically on a Google drive.

**Q:** PSSCC Chair: Do the Delegates talk about service beyond when your term is up and would you consider moving forward? The current BOT has quite a few former Delegates.

**A:** Canada Delegate: We talk about it very generally. There are some Delegates who are considering moving to the Regional Trustee position.

**A:** Online Progress Meeting Delegate: If any of the BOT have openings that they're specifically thinking about, please contact the Delegate Secretary so we can add an appeal to our Delegates.

**Q:** BOT Chair: Regarding anonymity in emails, you might think about creating a generic email that is a specific position like [sanonfdelegate@gmail.com](mailto:sanonfdelegate@gmail.com) that could be passed on to the next Delegate when they step into that position. That way the email remains the same without personal information.

**A:** Canada Delegate: We had that conversation at the Delegate meeting and decided to do that by the September meeting.

**A:** Georgia Alternate Delegate: We also plan to reach out to the WSO to see if there were any general email addresses available that we might use.

**A:** WSO ED: There are dedicated email addresses connected to the sanon.org domain for Trustees and for members of the BOT—so for members of the legal structure but not for members of the traditional structure. The best alternative would be to establish what was just mentioned.

**Q:** BOT Treasurer/FC Chair: I noticed in the Delegate report something about divisiveness in response to serving on committees and I'd like to understand more about what that is. Also, twice a year we have the BOT and Delegate meetings and I'm not sure that's as well attended as it could be and maybe we need to address some of these types of things through that forum because the meetings tend to go quick and there's not really a lot of meat that's discussed in that regard.

The Arizona Delegate read what the BOT Treasurer/FC Chair was referring to in the Delegate report and asked if anyone wanted to speak to that.

**A:** Online Progress Meeting Delegate: When I became aware that we had a Delegate who was willing to serve on a committee and was denied that opportunity, I asked for a list of all of the committees and all of the people who were on the committees so I would have an idea where the gaps were—which committees didn't have any Delegates. I hit a wall, which surprised me a lot, when I was told that was not something that some of the people who were serving on committees felt that they wanted to do—to disclose their service. I thought we were at a level of service where our anonymity is protected. So that confused me in addition to being confused about someone who was willing to step forward and serve was told, "No, we don't want you." Those were concerns I had and when I hit that wall I was just incredulous. We want unity but what's wrong with knowing who we all are in our

service?

**A:** BOT Treasurer/FC Chair: I know the topic about who's serving on what committee came up and I don't think it's a lack of transparency so much as we would hope that the Delegates could come up with that information from within the Delegate organization. I'm not sure why a word like divisive would be used because that's a judgement statement and from my perspective serving on the board, that's not at all where the board or committee chairs are coming from. I know my committee has never turned down a participant so I'm not sure what specific instances you're talking about and I think maybe we need to address these types of things on the semi-annual meetings so that we can resolve them as quickly as possible.

**A:** WSO ED: I will speak directly to that question. When the question was raised, the board had never received that question before. So what we did was send that out to the committee chairs and asked them if they would be willing to disclose the members. The chair is a member of the board but every chair has members on that committee who are not members of the board. So given the committee's right of decision, we wanted them to decide if they would disclose their membership. I think it was unanimous that it would not be disclosed in this way. However, if every Delegate is participating in at least one committee, as is suggested, then the committee's membership would be known that way because that Delegate would come back and say who's on the committee and here's how Delegates can step into those roles. I also want to speak to every committee's right to determine who serves and who doesn't serve. A committee is well within its right to vote whether a new member is to be accepted. Willingness to serve is an important factor, but also the candidate's ability to help the committee forward its objectives. Every committee gets to decide that for itself.

**A:** Online Progress Meeting Delegate: In response to the comment on there not being much meat in the joint meetings that we have twice a year, my feeling was we didn't have enough time. Is it possible for those meetings to be longer?

**A:** ICC Chair: On the last call I felt like the BOT spent a long time going over all the reports and discussing them. This morning we went through them rather quickly and I'd like to see that on the call where we put it out and expect that you've read it or when you give us your report you expect that we've read it, and only give you additional information that's not on the report and then ask for questions based on the report. I do feel like that took up a huge portion of the last call and there were other things we didn't get to discuss and we either needed more time or find a way to consolidate the report portion.

**Q:** WSO ED: The issue of anonymity in email addresses regarding service is a result of a poll that was taken a couple months ago asking what method the BOT and Delegates would be most interested in taking this group conscience: talk about it on a joint call, schedule a special call, discuss it by email, or anonymously by Survey Monkey. The vast majority of respondents preferred Survey Monkey but we may not even need to take the group conscience because it sounds like that might have been addressed at the Delegate meeting. Is that right?

**A:** Canada Delegate: As the liaison, I sent out a note to everyone asking for their

preference but didn't hear back from that many.

**A: WSO ED:** The response from the Delegates was relatively slim. I heard from most of the BOT members. The majority was to use Survey Monkey. But I'm wondering if we even need to do that?

**A: New York Delegate:** I want to respond to the Online Delegate's question and the BOT Treasurer's response. Generally, we have a report in our Delegate meeting every month and theoretically we should have a report from each committee and typically do not for the majority of the committees. So when we hear from various committees that yes we all have a Delegate on the committee and don't need any more Delegates on the committee and then at our meetings nobody seems to be on the committees. If there's a Delegate on a BOT committee and they don't bring it back to the Delegate group for their report, the rest of the Delegates do not know what's going on with that committee. There was also a question about what information could be shared that was gained from the BOT committee that couldn't be shared with the rest of the Delegates. So there were some concerns brought up about those two issues.

**A: Online Progress Meeting Delegate:** I think this really points out for us Delegates that we are sometimes struggling to function and we're trying to connect better. Anything that can be done to help us function better would be so appreciated.

**A: ICC Chair:** I know my committee was one committee where a Delegate requested to be on the committee a couple years ago and we did say no because we weren't taking any new volunteers. It's very difficult to get through the call with as many people as we have on it now. We do have two Delegates on the committee so I made sure that there was that representation. As soon as we have anybody that is stepping off, then we would definitely put it out to the Delegates and I appreciate the interest.

**A: Illinois Delegate:** In response to the question if we still needed a Survey Monkey, the Delegates passed a motion earlier that some of us do not have an email that does not maintain our anonymity. We can't make people change their email but it was suggested that we change our email if it gives away our identity.

**A: BOT Treasurer/FC Chair:** The Delegate report also says that struggles included a large portion of the Delegate body not participating in monthly calls and I affirm from a committee standpoint that has been a struggle too. Participation is the key to harmony so if you're not seeing harmony and you think it's divisive, each of us needs to look in the mirror first and ask if I'm doing my part. I signed up to participate on a committee, am I showing up? We have board calls and we have to show up. Each of us has to look at our own self first.

**Q: Indiana Alternate Delegate:** I'm pretty new to this and I would find it very helpful to know how many total members each committee is looking for. If I'm trying to recruit people it would help me to know how many more people each committee needs.

**A: WSO ED:** The report that was compiled for the most recent joint call had exactly

that information. It showed the total number of the committee members currently and how many Delegates and Trustees and how many desired members and Delegates.

**A:** Canada Delegate: When that document is put together and goes into our Google drive, everyone can look at it and download it when they want to.

**A:** WSO ED: The BOT/Delegate joint calls are a relatively new process and we are working toward continuous improvement in making these reports more meaningful, user friendly and accessible.

**Q:** WSO ED: Regarding the Survey Monkey, there were several issues in addition to the personal email not being anonymous. The other components were: personal titles, use of last names, and any outside information like religious affiliations or professional titles. Did the Delegate group address that during the group conscience?

**A:** Canada Delegate: Not specifically, but we did ask that the email addresses be as a delegate to that area with no other information.

**Q:** WSO ED: Another concern was the signatures at the end of the email and I'm trying to figure out if we need to have a Survey Monkey survey about that.

**A:** Canada Delegate: When we say it's anonymous, we mean completely—the name of the email and the salutation.

**Q:** New York Delegate: The Delegate meeting notes I read say you do not have to create a separate email but that a Delegate could use a separate email address.

**A:** Canada Delegate: We did talk about that and we can't enforce somebody's choice to be anonymous but we encourage it.

**A:** Online Progress Meeting Delegate: What I understood from the Delegate meeting was that if we can create an email address that is specific to our responsibility, then that email address would be passed to the new person.

The Northwest Regional Trustee read "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation..."

**A:** Illinois Delegate: Remember to not put your last name on the profile when you create the new email.

**A:** BOT Chair: I have set up several emails for the groups in my area and what I did was put the city and S-Anon for first and last name.

## **17. New Business**

### **a. Motion from floor to approve the slate of S-Anon Board of Trustees**

Motion was made by the BOT Chair, and no second was required. Four Regional Trustee positions are vacant. We have two committees that will not have chairs.

New York Delegate opposed this motion for three reasons: 1. Committees on the BOT have engaged in governing and rule making, rewriting the entire Service Manual, creating service literature, updating it, creating new rules and policies—47 pages of rules to the International Convention Committee. I don't think that is the carefully defined service authority (Concept 10) that was given to the BOT which is the routine management of the WSO (Concept 8). 2. A lot of the work they have been doing is not allowed to be shared with

the Delegates even when there's one Delegate on the committee. I was involved in a BOT ad hoc committee and was not allowed to share the information, general consensus that was created at that ad hoc committee with the rest of the Delegate. We can't have an informed group conscience if we're left in the dark. We can't say the groups are exercising the authority of S-Anon if they don't have information. 3. I think the assurance is that this year discussions and motions will be conducted with Robert's Rules of Order. In the past couple of years I've seen Delegates coming to the WSC and could not speak on the motions and could not vote on the motions. If we're not going to have a voice and vote for the members, we can't engage in a fiction saying that the S-Anon groups are controlling the conference or running this thing if they don't have a voice and a vote. I appreciate all the work the BOT has done for us in the past and I appreciate all my character defects that I've had in the past. Now we have the Steps, Traditions and Concepts and we can do it a little better.

Virginia Delegate: These people have come forward and offered to serve and I think we should let them.

The WSC Chair reminded speakers to state if they are for or against the motion.

Online Progress Meeting Delegate: I'm in favor of accepting the motion. However, I want us to find a way to address the additional issues that have been raised. I don't feel like three minutes is enough time to discuss it so when can we discuss it?

Georgia Alternate Delegate: I'm in favor of this motion. It's clearly written. It does not involve the topics that were brought up in the opposition. That is something that may be brought up in the discussion.

BOT Treasurer/ FC Chair: I'm in favor of the motion. We have a legal obligation in support of the fellowship to continue with certain board members, at least the officers. I don't know what the concerns were exactly, but we have lots of vacancies so lots of opportunities for the Delegates to be heard specifically by stepping up to fill these vacancies.

Tennessee Delegate: I need a point of clarity. If we pass this motion, we will have these servants serving us. If we don't pass this motion, we will still have these servants serving us—right?

WSO ED: There's a provision in the BOT By-Laws or in the WSC Charter that says that the Delegates can vote against the BOT Slate but they have to have a replacement slate.

Canada Delegate: I'm in favor of this slate of BOT but I am concerned about the 4 out of 6 Regional Trustees that are vacant and what the process is for filling those vacancies.

WSC Chair: There is an application process. Some regions have created a voting process where the region would vote their own person in. Those regions that don't have that process already established would put forward a volunteer who would then send an application to the BOT and then the BOT would vote on that person to become a standing member or Trustee-at-Large and then they would serve for a three-year term but next year at the WSC they would be on the slate and be voted on as a whole.

Missouri Delegate: I'm for the motion. I wanted to express my gratitude to all the time, energy and gifts of service we are receiving as an organization to these trusted servants.

**SHORT BREAK:** The WSC Chair announced that the recording disc had to be changed and then restated the motion.

33 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passes.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

## **REOPENED WITH SERENITY PRAYER**

### **b. Motion 1**

*Move that a fellowship-wide group conscience (FWGC) be conducted only at the direction of 3/4 of the members of the annual World Service Conference (WSC), and only in order to consider changing the language of any of the S-Anon Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, or Twelve Concepts of Service. All other issues will be debated and decided by the WSC.*

Motion was presented by the Policy Study & Service Communications Committee Chair. No second required.

Motion open for discussion.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion failed with 13 in favor, 20 opposed and 2 abstaining.

### **c. Motion 2**

*Move that the S-Anon Board of Trustees conduct a fellowship-wide group conscience (FWGC) to determine whether couples' meetings should continue as a part of the S-Anon Fellowship.*

Motion was presented by the New York Delegate. The Northern California Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion.

The Northwest Regional Trustee moved to amend the motion to read: *Move that today, the World Service Conference (WSC) determine whether couples' meetings should continue as a part of the S-Anon Fellowship.*

There was no second and the original motion was reopened for discussion.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion failed with 3 in favor, 31 opposed and 1 abstaining.

**d. Motion 3**

*A. Move that a section be added to the WSC Charter, Section XI. Conference Procedure, that would read as follows: "In any vote taken by the WSC, the number of voting members will always be composed of at least 2/3 Delegates and no more than 1/3 other Conference members." B. If Motion A. passes, further move that the S-Anon BOT review, revise, if necessary, and approve a process for choosing "other Conference members" to abstain each time the question is called if "other Conference members" consist of more than 1/3 of WSC members present when the question is called.*

Motion was presented by the New York Delegate. The ICC Chair seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion.

**SHORT BREAK:** The WSC Chair announced that the recording disc had to be changed and then discussion continued.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion failed with 10 in favor, 25 opposed and 0 abstaining.

**e. Motion 4**

*Instruct the BOT Executive Committee to delete the line in the S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual under "Special Meetings" that currently reads: "An S-Anon Couples Meeting is one example of a special meeting, at which attendance is limited to "Couples Only." Add the following statement to the S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual under the section titled Closed Meetings: "S-Anon Couples in Recovery meetings are considered closed meetings. These groups, when registered, have all the rights of any other closed meeting. All the attendees are members of S-Anon. Most of the people who go to these meetings are couples in a committed relationship. Sometimes people attend without their partner. Sometimes single people attend the meetings. Each group is autonomous.*

The New York Delegate read the motion. The Indiana Alternate Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion failed with 3 in favor, 32 opposed and 0 abstaining.

**f. Motion 5**

*Move that the following changes be made to the WSC Charter:*

- 1. Add the following to the end of the Introduction paragraph: "Certain countries of the world, for language or geographic considerations, have established or may desire to establish their own General Service Office and national conference. This WSC is now the senior conference."*
- 2. Remove item 2.b. (Composition), which states "Representatives from other countries, when these countries as well as the Conference may be ready for their participation;"*
- 3. Replace item 2.b. (Composition) with the following statement: "Representatives from other countries may attend the Conference with a voice, but not a vote."*

The WSO Executive Director presented the motion. The New York Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion passed with 33 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstaining.

**18. Motions from the floor**

Policy Study & Service Communications Committee Chair presented a motion from the floor to reclassify *Recovering Together* as service literature. No second required.

Motion open for discussion.

The Northern California Delegate moved that the motion be tabled until the 2017 WSC. The New York Delegate seconded.

**SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN**

The Northern California Delegate reworded and moved that it be postponed until the 2017 WSC. The Tennessee Delegate seconded.

Motion open for discussion.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion to postpone the main motion passes unanimously.

**19. Adjournment with the Serenity Prayer**



## **WSC VOTING MEMBERS (in attendance)**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- BOT/Executive Committee Chair
- BOT/Executive Committee Secretary
- BOT/Executive Committee Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair
- WSO Executive Director/Trustee-at-Large
- Northwest Regional Trustee
- West Regional Trustee
- Policy Study & Service Communications Committee Chair/ Trustee-at-Large
- Literature Committee Chair/ Trustee-at-Large
- International Conventions Committee Chair/ Trustee-at-Large
- World Service Conference Committee Chair/ Trustee-at-Large
- S-Ateen Committee Chair/ Trustee-at-Large

### **DELEGATES**

- Arizona Delegate
- Northern California Delegate
- Southern California Delegate
- Eastern Canada Delegate
- Florida Delegate
- Illinois Delegate
- Kansas Delegate
- Massachusetts Delegate
- Michigan Delegate
- Missouri Delegate
- New Jersey Delegate
- New Mexico Delegate
- New York Delegate
- Oklahoma Delegate
- Online Progress Meeting Delegate
- Oregon Delegate
- Tennessee Delegate
- Texas Delegate
- Utah Delegate
- Virginia Delegate
- Washington Delegate

ALTERNATE/TEMPORARY DELEGATES

- Colorado Alternate Delegate
- Georgia Alternate Delegate
- Indiana Alternate Delegate
- Maryland Temporary Delegate

**WSC OBSERVERS AND SPECIAL WORKERS**

- Credentials Committee
- Parliamentarian
- WSC Secretary