

S-ANON 2014 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE MINUTES
Detroit, Michigan
July 11, 2014

1. **Sign in and WSC Member Meet & Greet**
2. **Opening:** The World Service Conference (WSC) was opened by the WSC Chairperson.
3. **World Service Conference Welcome:** WSC Chairperson gave a brief welcome to the 11th annual World Service Conference was made to all members in attendance, including a short overview of the progress the fellowship has made, along with the Serenity Prayer.
4. **Credential Committee report:** Thirty-five voting WSC members were present. The number of votes needed to reach a quorum was 24 votes to constitute the 2/3rds required to pass a motion. See attached attendance list.
 - *Update:* Three more people joined the WSC. Number of voting members now present is 38 and the number of votes needed to reach a quorum is 26.
 - *Update:* Number of voting members now present is 35 and the number of votes needed to reach a quorum is 24.
 - *Update:* Number of voting members now present is 34 and the number of votes needed to reach a quorum is 23.
5. **Adoption of the agenda:** The WSC Chairperson made a motion to adopt the agenda, as is. There was no discussion or objections.
6. **Approval of the minutes of the 2013 World Service Conference:** The International Convention Committee Chair (ICC Chair) moved to adopt the minutes as written and New Jersey Delegate seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes as written passed unanimously.
7. **Roll call and introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves and identified their area of responsibilities (WSO staff, Delegate or Board member).

8. **Program readings:** The S-Anon Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts were read.

9. **Board of Trustees Chairperson's report:** The Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairperson shared, directing to the published report for more details. One of the BOT's main goals was to fill positions on the board. Treasurer position has been filled, which was vacant for a while. Also, the Policy Study and Service Communications Committee Chair has been filled. Questions?

10. **Board of Trustees Co-Chairperson's report:** No report, position vacant

11. **World Service Office report:** The Executive Director (ED) shared that the WSO has accomplished a lot and are continuing to work toward fulfilling the mission, and also to serve as a clearinghouse of information to anyone who wants it, in the spirit of growth. Things were disorganized, but are not now; we are in a position so that we can grow as a fellowship. The WSO can now handle hundreds of calls, if needed, fulfilling its primary purpose, to support groups.

The ED also announced that the BOT approved an expenditure to add online registration to the S-Anon website for International Conventions, positioning us for better service to members. In another announcement, *Reflections of Hope* is now digitally available in mobile format in the S-Anon store.

12. **BOT Committee reports:**

a. **Executive**

The BOT Chairperson highlighted the successes of the WSO and referenced the Executive committee's published report. Questions?

Q: Southeast Regional Trustee—Could you say who the members of the Executive Committee are?

A: BOT Chair—The Executive Committee is made up of the Executive Director, the Executive Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Committee Co-Chair, which is currently unfilled.

b. **Finance**

Executive Committee Treasurer referenced the published report and the approved budget. We have been able to adapt with economic changes, which is a blessing for this fellowship. Contributions and purchase of literature are our main sources of funds for fellowship. Questions?

c. **Literature**

Literature Committee Chair shared that July is the final month of the six-year term in the position, which was met with a standing ovation. The Literature Committee has eight members who participate monthly on a conference call. It also has twenty-five readers who give input to literature being developed. The biggest project now is the Traditions. S-Ateen literature is in process of being developed as well, and the Blue Book is almost ready to be sold in Spanish; the subcommittee has been working hard on that. The *Information for Professionals* pamphlet has been updated, in addition to other pamphlets. Questions?

SHORT BREAK: Scheduled, but not taken due to being ahead of schedule. WSC Chair suggested to continue with reports. WSC continued with reports.

d. **Convention**

The ICC Chair shared and referenced the published report. Highlights include appreciation of the diverse committee and their input. The committee started working on guidelines to be sure they're clear, and are also working on language to read at the beginning of breakout sessions to be sure recorded meetings are safe. Questions?

e. **World Service Conference**

The New Jersey Delegate spoke on behalf of WSC Committee Chair, and highlighted members of the committee and their hard work. Questions?

Q: Southeast Regional Trustee—Is there an evaluation at the end of this packet?

A: There is, and you can complete and leave on table and I will collect.

f. **Public Information and Outreach**

The Public Information and Outreach (PiO) Chair added literature to the PiO manual using readers to be sure it is clear and concise. The hope is to be done in six to eight months to share with the fellowship. Also, there are sample letters on the website, which can be used in outreach to professionals. We can be reached at outreach@sanon.org. Questions?

g. **Archives**

The Archives chair shared, highlighting the display documenting S-Anon's history in the Hospitality Area. The committee is small, but active this year, collecting records to add to the timeline. The Archives committee can always use help, if anyone is interested.

Q: Tennessee Delegate—What is your contact information?

A: See me afterwards. I have some flyers with the contact info.

h. S-Ateen

The S-Ateen Committee Chair reported. The position had been vacant on the BOT for eight years. There is currently no local S-Ateen fellowship in the U.S. and we are working hard to change that. It is a great committee, but we are always looking for more members. S-Ateen is available, just not widespread yet, because there is no structure in place to get them connected to work the steps or to each other, although there are possibilities of online or Skype meetings.

This weekend there is also a group sponsor training meeting. Structure is needed to train group sponsors. Currently, Alateen literature and trainings are being utilized. We are getting foundationally ready to experience growth in this program, as people contact the WSO asking about recovery for their children. All are encouraged to get involved; there can't be a meeting without two group sponsors, and it's good to have an alternate. There is a survey in registration packet to gather information about S-Ateen. Our biggest hurdle is parents to be willing to allow their children to find out what's really going on. There is a WSO Direct Appeal, a letter in the Service Update. S-Ateen is something to be of benefit to the fellowship.

Q: New York Delegate—Have you had any success in online or face-to-face meetings with S-Ateen?

A: We have no active face-to-face or online S-Ateen meetings at this time. There has to be someone to step up and say they can lead a meeting. An S-Anon group would take the S-Ateen meeting under their meeting, and the S-Ateen group could pull from the S-Anon meeting for group sponsors and transportation. S-Ateens are welcome to all S-Anon meetings, because they are a part of the S-Anon Family Groups, although there may be a need to adapt sharing content to care for children in the room.

Q: Georgia Delegate—Can you clarify the age for S-Ateen?

A: Twelve to nineteen. Sometimes the sharing can be inappropriate and above their level.

Q: Treasurer—This is a plug for the S-Ateen committee. We need your help. You're the voice of this program for the groups. Encourage local members to get involved in the committee and invite participation.

13. Regional Trustee report:

The Northwest Regional Trustee reported. Four regions are currently represented: the Southeast, the Southwest, Northwest and the West. The Northeast and Midwest regions are open. The Regional Trustees continue to have open communication and support between lone members, the BOT and the WSO. The Trustees are also there to support groups, intergroups and lone members to let them know there is an arm of the board to answer questions and give support to grow healthy fellowship.

In the Southeast, there has been a big outreach effort to lone members. When someone calls seeking help, the WSO can refer to the Lone Member coordinator for their state. Lone members connected and started a phone meeting recently.

In the Northwest, distance is a challenge because it is hard to navigate between Canada, Montana, and Wyoming. We are reaching out to lone members, intergroups and home groups to carry the message that they're not alone. There are growing resources and lots of emails from Seattle and Idaho to help develop intergroups. We are also working to get a delegate from Idaho and one from British Columbia.

In the Southwest, there is a delegate for all states in that region. The Southwest Regional Trustee is stepping down. The former West Trustee stepped down and current West Trustee stepped forward. Although it can be daunting to step up, we are all in it together and there is a lot of support. Questions?

14. Policy and Information Committee report:

PiO Committee Chair shared that there is no report due to the Chair serving the final year's term of the previous chair. The Policy Committee takes issues posed to fellowship or a delegate and runs them through the Traditions and Concepts. Questions?

Q: S-Ateen Chair—Can you give an example of an issue that's gone through that procedure?

A: We've been working on affiliation versus cooperation for eight months now. If there is an event happening in a town hosted by an S-group other than SA, can S-Anon participate? The Committee cannot change bylaws, but just makes written recommendations. S-Anon is not meant to be anonymous, but its members are. If an S-Anon is willing to go to an event and bring Conferenced-Approved Literature (CAL), they are allowed.

Q: New York Delegate—Do members understand that policies are directed by groups and not by WSO?

A: I cannot speak on behalf of the groups. Every group has the right to autonomy, as long as it does not affect S-Anon and S-Ateen as a whole.

15. Delegate report:

The New Jersey Delegate shared and referenced the published report. There have been four new delegates added and several alternates. However only twenty-five of fifty-six areas are represented; we are still trying to get more delegates and alternates. Hopefully there will be no lapses between delegates. An accomplishment we've had is meeting with BOT two times per year, and we are also meeting with the Executive Director to be updated on what the WSO is doing. A challenge is finding members to fill positions. We don't have to be perfect; this is a "we" program, and it's important we're all a part of it.

SHORT BREAK

REOPENED WITH SERENITY PRAYER

16. New Business

a. Motion from floor to confirm the S-Anon Board of Trustees

Motion was made by the BOT Chair, and no second was required. One amendment was made to the list of members: the Policy and Information Committee Chair added. Also, the Executive Committee Treasurer's term was not correct on paper. The New York Delegate made a motion to table this motion until other the motions have been discussed. No second. Motion failed. The Board was approved by majority, with one opposed.

b. Motion 1

"That the WSC approve this motion to establish December 1983 as the official founding start date of S-Anon International Family Groups"

Motion was made by the Archives Committee Chair. No second required.

Motion open for discussion. No discussion, and the question was called. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Motion 2

"Motion to approve in concept the joint effort of both the Archive Committee and the Literature Committee to publish a booklet, through the CAL process, the history of the S-Anon Program"

Motion was made by the Archives Committee Chair. No second required.

Motion open for discussion. After discussion, the question was called. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Motion 3

"Move that the WSO post meeting schedules for special S-Anon meetings (e.g. Women Only meetings, Men Only meetings, and Couples' meetings) on the Meeting Locations page of the sanon.org website and all links that direct potential members and members to locate S-Anon meetings, when the city already has a S-Anon meeting open to everyone affected by the sexual behavior of another person."

Oregon Delegate read the motion. Tennessee delegate shared it was submitted from a Memphis group. New York Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion.

Oregon Delegate moved to amend the motion to read: *“Move that the WSO post meeting schedules for special S-Anon meetings (e.g. Women’s meetings, Men’s meetings) on the Meeting Locations page of the sanon.org website and all links that direct potential members and members to locate S-Anon meetings, when the city already has a S-Anon meeting open to everyone affected by the sexual behavior of another person.”*

Literature Committee Chair seconded the motion to amend the motion.

After more discussion, the question was called. All opposed. The motion amendment fails.

Original motion open for further discussion. After discussion, the question was called. 6 in favor, 26 opposed and 1 abstain. Motion fails.

e. Motion 4

“Motion that the recorded S-Anon meetings at an International Convention be limited to only the keynote speakers, the panel members’ sharing at panel meetings and business meetings”

North Carolina Delegate read the motion. New Mexico Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion. After discussion, the question was called. 4 in favor, 28 opposed. Motion fails.

f. Motion 5

“Motion to update the S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Manual to include policies regarding the anonymity with electronic media as well as other forms of evolving public media”

Oregon Delegate read motion. New York Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion. Literature Committee Chair moved to amend the motion that a piece of Service Literature be written to give guidelines to protect anonymity with media and evolving forms of public media.

New Mexico Delegate seconded the motion to amend the motion. After more discussion, the question was called. 2 in favor, 30 opposed. Motion amendment fails.

Southwest Regional Trustee moved to amend the motion to read: *“Motion to create S-Anon/S-Ateen Service Literature to include guidelines regarding the*

anonymity with electronic media as well as other forms of evolving public media.”

Motion to amend the motion was seconded. After discussion, question was called. 33 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion amendment passes.

g. Motion 6

“To approve in concept the formation of an ad hoc committee to research the impact, on S-Anon as a whole, of removing specific references to an outside program in S-Anon Traditions Four, Six and Eleven.”

Literature Chair read the motion. West Trustee seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion. New York delegate moved to amend the motion to add the words “and other programs” to Traditions 4, 6, and 11. No second.

Question was called for original motion. 22 in favor, 10 opposed. Motion fails.

Treasurer moved for revote due to count confusion. 23 in favor, 11 opposed. Motion passes.

SHORT BREAK

h. Motion 7

“1. That S-Anon Family Groups and S-Anon Service Groups, including the WSO, be allowed to list, direct to, refer to and otherwise service Couples’ Meetings. This exercise providing services to S-Anon members shall not result in the practice of being delisted from the WSO website, or any other adverse action on the part of the WSO or service arms.”

“2. That policies with far-reaching implications, such as allowing or disallowing Couples’ Meetings, be made only by the express conscience of the fellowship through their elected delegates and then as directed by the Board of Trustees (BOT), through a Fellowship Wide Conscience (FWC). Such policies may not be decided on by the WSO alone or Executive Committee Members therein.”

New York Delegate made the motion. PiO Chair seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion. After some discussion, New York Delegate moved to amend the motion to separate items one and two within the motion, and to discuss item one now, and table item two for another time.

Colorado Delegate seconded the motion to amend the motion. Question was called. 19 in favor, 9 opposed. No quorum needed, just procedural.

Motion amendment open for discussion as voted upon: *“1. That S-Anon Family Groups and S-Anon Service Groups, including the WSO, be allowed to list, direct to, refer to and otherwise service Couples’ Meetings. This exercise providing services to S-Anon members shall not result in the practice of being delisted from the WSO website, or any other adverse action on the part of the WSO or service arms.”*

No further discussion. Question was called. 10 in favor, 22 opposed. Motion amendment failed.

New York Delegate made the motion for item two. PiO Chair seconded item two of the motion.

Motion open for discussion: *“2. That policies with far-reaching implications, such as allowing or disallowing Couples’ Meetings, be made only by the express conscience of the fellowship through their elected delegates and then as directed by the Board of Trustees (BOT), through a Fellowship Wide Conscience (FWC). Such policies may not be decided on by the WSO alone or Executive Committee Members therein.”*

Motion ruled out of order due to there already being a procedure in place for a Fellowship Wide Group Conscience when changing Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

New York Delegate appealed out of order ruling. PiO Chair seconded the appeal.

Question was called to uphold decision of motion being out of order. 19 in favor, 11 opposed. Motion out of order.

17. Motions from the floor

a. Motion 8

That the WSC approve the discontinuance of the CAL pamphlet “Information for Professionals About S-Anon and S-Ateen Family Groups.”

Literature Committee Chair made the motion. No second required.

Motion open for discussion. After discussion, question was called. 34 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passes.

b. Motion 9

Move that the S-Anon fellowship discontinue any and all references to and recognition of “special meetings” including, but not limited to “couples’ meetings.”

Southeast Regional Trustee made the motion. Northwest Regional Trustee seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion.

Chair moved for a five minute recess to allow delegates time to read and consider this motion from the floor. Recess allowed.

Motion reopened for discussion. After discussion, the question was called. 8 in favor, 21 opposed. Motion fails.

c. Motion 10

Move that the WSO link the New York/New Jersey Intergroups to its website.

New York Delegate made the motion. New Jersey delegate seconded the motion.

Motion open for discussion. After discussion, question was called. 10 in favor, 20 opposed. Motion fails.

18. Adjournment with the Serenity Prayer

WSC VOTING MEMBERS (in attendance)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- BOT & Executive Committee Chair
- BOT Secretary & Executive Committee Secretary
- BOT Treasurer
- WSO Executive Director & Trustee at Large
- SE Regional Trustee
- SW Regional Trustee
- NW Regional Trustee
- West Regional Trustee
- Policy Study & Service Communications Committee Chair & Trustee at Large
- Archives Committee Chair
- Literature Committee Chair & Trustee at Large
- Public Information and Outreach Committee Chair
- International Conventions Committee Chair
- World Service Conference Committee Chair
- S-Ateen Committee Chair

DELEGATES

- Arizona Delegate
- Colorado Delegate
- Florida Delegate
- Georgia Delegate
- North Carolina Delegate
- Oregon Delegate (voting alternate)
- Illinois Delegate
- Maryland Delegate
- Massachusetts Delegate
- New Jersey Delegate
- New York Delegate
- New Mexico Delegate
- Northern California Delegate
- Tennessee Delegate
- Texas Delegate
- Virginia Delegate (voting alternate)
- Washington Delegate
- Eastern Canada Delegate
- Kansas Delegate

WSC OBSERVERS AND SPECIAL WORKERS

ALTERNATE DELEGATES

- Washington Alternate Delegate
- Colorado Alternate Delegate
- Arizona Alternate Delegate

WSC SPECIAL WORKERS

- Parliamentarian & Tennessee Alternate Delegate
- Parliamentarian
- WSC Secretary