

S-ANON 2018 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE MINUTES
St Louis, Missouri
July 13, 2018

1. **Sign in, meet and greet**
2. **Opening, welcome and announcements:** The World Service Conference Chairperson opened the 2018 World Service Conference (WSC) with the serenity prayer and announcements.
3. **Credentials Committee report:** The Credentials Committee Spokesperson reported that 33 voting WSC members were present. The number of votes needed to reach a quorum was 23 votes to constitute the 2/3rds required to pass a motion. Attendance list is attached.
4. **Roll call and introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves and identified their areas of responsibility (WSO staff, Delegate or Board member).
5. **Adoption of the agenda:** The Indiana Delegate made a motion to adopt the agenda, as written, and the Northern California Delegate seconded the motion. There was no discussion or objections. Motion to approve the agenda as written: Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Opening comments and program readings:** The Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts were read.
7. **Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairperson's report:** The BOT Chair reported that the transition of the new WSO Executive Director has been running very smoothly and she has done a tremendous amount of work. The transition of the new ICC Chair has also been very smooth. We lost the Finance Committee Chair but our Co-Chair stepped up to cover that position. We have had difficulties addressing the growth of our Fellowship, primarily outside of the US and Canada. It was decided at last year's convention to create a subcommittee, the Global Coordination Committee, and unfortunately nobody has stepped up to lead that committee. We have consistently received requests for translation of material, licensing for printing as well as assistance with groups and Intergroups. The BOT Chair announced there would be a Service Fair and invited everyone to attend and then asked for questions.

Global Coordination Committee (GCC): The BOT Chair responded to a question about the requirements/qualifications needed to serve on the GCC and said the main thing is time availability/flexibility since the committee members will be from around the world. The Midwest Trustee clarified that the GCC would not be a new BOT committee but would be subcommittee under the Public Information & Outreach Committee. The S-Ateneo Committee Chair added that the GCC would not

have to start from scratch and the BOT Chair confirmed that the framework and guidelines were already in place.

- 8. Finance Committee (FC):** The BOT Co-Chair/Finance Committee Designee briefly explained that when the former BOT Treasurer's term ended we did not have another BOT Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair so we created the title of Finance Committee Designee so the committee wouldn't become dormant. Last year we converted to Quickbooks which was really painless due to the WSO Executive Director. The Finance Committee worked on the budget, reviewed motions for financial impact, and reviewed expenditures from the WSO or committee chairs that were outside of the budget. A member of the Finance Committee has volunteered to serve as BOT Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair and this will be confirmed when we vote on the BOT Slate. The Finance Committee Designee reported that, in general, the Fellowship is in very good financial shape even though the Prudent Reserve and Literature Publishing Reserve are maxed out. So we need to be encouraging our groups and areas to be generous when the special appeals come. The Finance Committee Designee asked for questions but there weren't any.
- 9. World Service Office (WSO) report:** The Executive Director (ED) said it has been a wonderful year of growth and getting to know the BOT. The WSO has really focused on evaluating our budget and looking at areas that we needed to trim and adjust and we've accomplished a lot: switched credit card process providers, updated the shipping and handling schedule, decreased some utilities and supplies, switched vendors and printers. The BOT approved the relocation of the WSO and we'll be making that move the end of August 2018. The ED explained that the current location had increased rent and common area maintenance (CAM) fees so the WSO will be relocating to a space that will better suit our needs and reduce our rent by \$300 a month and will not charge CAM. We made a transition from Peachtree to Quickbooks and the efficiency has changed the way our office works and has opened up time for the Accounting Admin to be available for more support to the Board and the Delegates. Over the last year we experienced staff turnover of our Office Assistant. The WSO is coordinating the January 2019 International Convention in Nashville. We have a lot on our plate but we have dedicated people to help us get to the end result and it's wonderful. The ED then asked if there were any questions. The Literature Committee Chair commented that the transition of ED position appeared seamless and thanked the WSO staff for being helpful and positive.
- 10. Delegate report:** The Illinois Delegate shared on behalf of the Delegate Chair who was not present. The WSC Chair did a Zoom meeting with the Delegates in January and it was nice to get that information and see each other's faces. The Delegates have helped each other by sharing information on how to welcome newcomers and keep them at meetings as well as sharing information about problems such as electing Delegates and group finances. We want more Delegates so more states are represented. We also share information about local events. Last year we started

using Google docs and Google drive so there's a lot of learning going on. The Illinois Delegate asked for questions but there weren't any.

11. Regional Trustee (RT) report: The Regional Trustees Committee Chair/Southwest Regional Trustee reported that four out of the six positions are filled and encouraged Delegates to step up to fill the open Regional Trustee positions in the Northwest Region and the Southeast Region. Our positions ask us to visit the regional and local events, so we do want you to keep us up to date on what's going on in your area so that we can try our best to be there to answer questions, provide experience, strength and hope to all of you. The Regional Trustees Committee Chair then asked for questions.

S-Ateen Representation: The RT Chair and S-Ateen Committee Chair responded to question about Delegate representation for S-Ateen and said there was the S-Ateen Committee but that there was not S-Ateen representation on the Delegate Body.

SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN

12. Committee Q & A: The WSC Chair asked the Board committees to introduce themselves and what committee they represent: World Service Conference Committee (WSCC), Literature Committee (LC), Public Information and Outreach Committee (PI&O), International Convention Committee (ICC), Policy and Service Communications Committee (PSCC), and S-Ateen Committee.

Service Fair: The PI&O Chair announced that everyone was invited to come to a Service Fair Saturday morning at 9:30am in the Discovery Room. This is an opportunity to learn about the work of all the committees and find an area where they may want to do service. The committees have flyers available with information that they can share with local groups to encourage service on committees. The ICC Chair added that descriptions of committees are also available in the Service Manual, now posted online on the S-Anon website.

Changes to Literature: The LC Chair addressed concern about members not having a say on changes to literature. Questions and concerns can be emailed to the Literature Committee and will be discussed on the monthly call.

Joint IC Guidelines: The ICC Chair responded to question about when the Joint IC Guidelines will be ready and estimated first of next year.

Convention in a Box: The ICC Chair addressed request to have information for Convention Host Committees and said the ICC Committee is working on a document called Convention in a Box.

Traditions Four, Five and Six Booklet: The LC Chair announced that a new piece of CAL is available on the literature table.

Posters: The PI&O Chair announced there are two new S-Anon posters and two new S-Ateen posters available on the literature table.

International S-Ateen Meetings: The S-Ateen Committee Chair responded to question about providing support to S-Ateen meetings outside of the United States when our service structure only includes North America. Currently support is provided to all S-Ateen meetings but guidelines would be developed by the Global Coordination Committee.

Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience: The Finance Committee Designee addressed question about the expected cost of conducting a FWGC and said an ad hoc committee would be formed to determine the process **if** the WSC voted to conduct a FWGC. The WSO ED added that due to technology there wouldn't be much of a cost for postage and that the main cost would probably be the time the WSO staff would have to dedicate towards helping facilitate the FWGC. The ad hoc committee would consider all options. The PSCC Chair responded to additional question about the process and said that research has been done and there is an outline in place if there is a decision to hold a FWGC.

Service Manual: The PSCC Chair announced that the ad hoc committee has been revamping the Service Manual which is located on the Member Site of the S-Anon website. Part One is completely updated and work has begun on Part Two. An invitation was extended to anyone interested in participating on the Service Manual ad hoc Committee.

S-Ateen Committee: The S-Ateen Committee Chair reminded everyone about the Service Fair and extended an invitation to join the S-Ateen Committee as well as serve as S-Ateen Group Sponsor.

13. Brainstorming Session on Motions Processing: The WSC broke into five small groups to discuss how the WSCC can improve the process of preparing motions for consideration and voting at the annual WSC. Alternate Delegates and WSC observers also were invited to participate in the discussion if they chose.

The small groups had three questions to consider:

- What steps can the World Service Conference Committee (WSCC) take to ensure that each motion submitted receives fair processing and full consideration?
- What suggestions do you have for the WSCC to deal with unresolved motions?
- Have you ever submitted a motion to the WSC? What was your experience?

Groups recorded comments and ideas on poster paper. After the discussion, the facilitator brought the WSC back together and read the responses to each question to everyone. The process continued with each WSC member individually placing a "dot vote" by the six ideas that she or he resonated with the most. The raw data

from this exercise will be shared with WSC members in the fall, and there will be a follow up session at the S-Anon Nashville convention in January 2019.

LUNCH BREAK

14. New Business

- **Motion from floor to approve the slate of S-Anon Board of Trustees**
The WSO Executive Director presented the motion with the following amendments: position of Treasurer/FC Chair has been filled with term ending 7/31/21 and the PSCC Chair term has been revised to ending 7/31/19. Motion was made by the WSO Executive Director, with the noted amendments, and the NY Delegate seconded the motion.

Motion passed with 31 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

The WSCC Chair gave a few reminders about this portion of motions consideration. Listen carefully to the comments. Don't just carry the votes from local meetings. Motion consideration is to take that feedback and put it together with what is heard here to vote your conscience. The Parliamentarian then gave an overview of Robert's Rules.

- **Motion 1**
Move that the World Service Conference approve a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience (FWGC), to be implemented by the World Service Office, instructing the Board of Trustees to remove all references to any specific sexual addiction recovery program mentioned in the S-Anon Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and S-Ateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Motion was presented by the Midwest Regional Trustee. The Literature Committee Chair seconded the motion.

Motion writer, Midwest Regional Trustee, addressed concerns that had already come to the motion writers. In the intent it states that the wording mentioning SA (Sexaholics Anonymous) will be replaced. Also work is already in progress by the Policy and Service Communications Committee regarding the implementation of a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience. Anyone who would like to be part of an ad hoc committee to refine that process can contact the World Service Office. As stated in the intent, this motion does not preclude or prevent future cooperation with SA or any other sex addiction fellowship in planning events such as these international conventions or local events.

Motion was open for discussion.

Q: NY Delegate: If the motion is approved, then the Board of Trustees will act to remove all references to any specific sexual addiction program and if this

motion is turned down the BOT will not be. My question is whether the FWGC should instruct whether the BOT should remove all references. We're asking if the BOT should do it or we're telling the BOT to do it? What is the intent of the motion maker?

A: BOT Secretary: The motion is to instruct the Board to facilitate a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience on the question whether we should keep the language as is or remove the language.

A: NY Delegate: Then I think the motion needs to be clarified to include whether the BOT should remove all references.

Q: WSCC Chair: So are you making a motion to add the word "whether" to the motion?

A: NY Delegate: "Whether" and "should".

The WSCC Chair asked for a second to amend the motion to add the words "whether" and "should" and the S-Ateen Committee Chair seconded. The WSCC Chair read the amendment to the motion: *Move that the World Service Conference approve a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience (FWGC), to be implemented by the World Service Office, instructing whether the Board of Trustees should remove all references to any specific sexual addiction recovery program mentioned in the S-Anon Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and S-Ateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.*

Amendment to the motion was open for discussion.

Q: S CA Delegate: I'd like to know what the proposer means by "whether." What is the choice involved?

A: NY Delegate: Instructing should really be asking whether the BOT should...the group conscience is going to be asking whether the BOT should remove or let the literature stay as it is. If I understand the intent of the original mover, it's to remove all references to specific sexual addiction recovery programs in our literature. And the BOT is going to implement the group conscience of doing that substitution or not going forward with that substitution. And that's the intent of my amendment to clarify whether or not the BOT should be instructed to remove or change the language.

The Parliamentarian called for a point of order about the question on whether or not the amendment can be amended and said it can be and would require somebody to make the amended language, make a motion, somebody must second it and then we change that language and move on to that discussion. The Parliamentarian clarified that this is the proposed motion with this new language so we would need to vote this in before we can change it. If there's a question on the intent or how it's written, we have to vote this in and then we make an amendment to make the new change and then we vote on that. Or we can make a motion to go back to the original wording and start the amendment from there.

Q: NY Delegate: Am I permitted to withdraw my proposal and say "asking

whether or not the BOT should remove all references”?

A: Parliamentarian: You are permitted to remove or withdraw and then you would have to start over with your new proposed amendment.

A: NY Delegate: I’d like to withdraw “whether” and “should” and change “instructing” to “asking whether or not the BOT should remove all references”.

Q: WSCC Chair: Are you withdrawing the motion to amend?

A: NY Delegate: Yes.

The Parliamentarian called for a point of order to stop all discussion and asked for clarification on what the intent of the original wording was before moving forward with any other amending language.

Motion writer, West Regional Trustee, read the original motion: *Move that the World Service Conference approve a Fellowship-Wide Group Conscience (FWGC), to be implemented by the World Service Office, instructing the Board of Trustees to remove all references to any specific sexual addiction recovery program mentioned in the S-Anon Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and S-Ateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.* The West Regional Trustee clarified that if this motion passes, it will set the FWGC in motion and the WSO and ad hoc committee will then figure out exactly how to implement the FWGC. If this motion passes, it will instruct the BOT to remove all references to any specific sexual addiction recovery program.

Motion writer, Midwest Regional Trustee, added that the point of the motion is to take it out of the hands of the BOT and give it to the Fellowship because this is a motion that has far-reaching implications and involves changing the wording of our Steps and Traditions therefore we are mandated in the Bylaws and Service Manual to put forth a FWGC. It’s not a motion to say go out to the Fellowship and come back and let the Board decide should or shouldn’t we implement this. No, it’s to direct the Board to implement the FWGC based upon what the members decide.

Original motion was open for discussion and there were some comments about the intent of the motion writers. Parliamentarian called for a point of order asking for more clarification on the intent of the original wording.

Motion writer, West Regional Trustee, clarified that the motions writers are both on the Literature Committee and were coming from that point of view. We are writing literature and have realized that the word “sexaholics” is not in all of our literature anymore. So we’re trying to be more inclusive and keep the focus on our primary spiritual aim and purpose which is to help families and friends of sexually addicted people—of sex addicts—whatever we use as long as it’s a general term. We don’t know exactly what terminology we will use but it will not just disappear. It will be replaced with something that is more inclusive and that will be decided by the Literature Committee and BOT after a lot of discussion and agreement. All Conference-Approved Literature

will remain CAL but as we go forward we would like to make some changes if this motion is approved.

Discussion on the motion resumed.

SHORT BREAK: The WSC Chair announced that the recording disc had to be changed. After the Serenity Prayer, discussion continued.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion failed with 15 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstaining.

- **Motion 2**

*Move that the World Service Conference approve a new piece of Conference Approved Literature in book form, to be produced by the S-Anon Literature Committee. This would consist of existing S-Anon stories. It would be similar to the Al-Anon "Forum," and the A.A. publication *Came To Believe: The Spiritual Adventure of A.A. as Experienced by Individual Members* (121 pages.)*

Motion was presented by the Literature Committee Chair and the PI&O Committee Chair seconded the motion.

Motion was open for discussion.

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

- **Motion 3**

Move that the World Service Conference vote to restructure the Regions by removing Canada from the current Northwest and Northeast Regions and creating two new Regions: Western Canada and Central Eastern Canada. Each new Region will have its own Trustee to serve on the S-Anon Board of Trustees (BOT).

Motion was presented by the Regional Trustees Committee Chair/Southwest Regional Trustee. The Northeast Regional Trustee seconded the motion.

Motion writer, Regional Trustees Committee Chair/Southwest Regional Trustee, stated that the background and intent of this motion is that one of the priorities of the BOT has been to look at the regions and how to make them more manageable for the Trustees because we kind of feel like that's one reason people aren't stepping up to service is it just seems like a huge undertaking. And the main idea that we kept coming back to was that with Canada being part of the Northwest and the Northeast regions there would be issues with international travel and calling fees and so by separating them from the Northeast and Northwest regions they would not have that responsibility. But we were concerned that this may make them feel like we're pushing them out and in no way are we trying to make Canada

separate from the rest of us. We're just trying to make it more manageable for the Trustees.

Motion was open for discussion.

WSC Chair called for a point of order asking for clarification from the motion writer to address concerns about filling Delegate and Trustee positions and Canada feeling more separate if they were broken off.

Motion writer, Northeast Regional Trustee, clarified that as Regional Trustees we would not be separate because we sit at the same table with the BOT and likewise with Delegates.

After discussion, the question was called. Motion passed with 28 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstaining.

WSC Chair announced that when a vote is taken and there is a minority vote like there was on Motion 3, time is allowed for the minority to have a voice and asked if there was any further comment from those who were opposed to the motion.

The minority voiced concerns about adding more Regional Trustee positions when there are currently Regional Trustee positions that need to be filled. Another concern was the principle behind having two Regional Trustee positions for not very many meetings. The final concern was about finances and adding two more positions that would need reimbursement to attend the WSC.

15. Adjournment with the Serenity Prayer

WSC VOTING MEMBERS (in attendance)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- BOT/Executive Committee Chair
- BOT/Executive Committee Co-Chair/ BOT/Executive Committee Treasurer
Designee/Finance Committee Chair
- BOT/Executive Committee Secretary
- WSO Executive Director
- Literature Committee Chair
- International Conventions Committee Chair
- World Service Conference Committee Chair
- Public Information and Outreach Committee Chair
- S-Ateen Committee Chair
- Policy and Service Communications Committee Chair

- Midwest Regional Trustee
- Northeast Regional Trustee
- Southwest Regional Trustee
- West Regional Trustee

DELEGATES

- Arizona Delegate
- Northern California Delegate
- Southern California Delegate
- Eastern Canada Delegate
- Colorado Delegate
- Florida Delegate
- Idaho Delegate
- Illinois Delegate
- Indiana Delegate
- Kansas Delegate
- Maryland Delegate
- Missouri Delegate
- New Jersey Delegate
- New York Delegate
- Oregon Delegate
- Tennessee Delegate
- Texas Delegate
- Utah Delegate
- Virginia Delegate

ALTERNATE/TEMPORARY DELEGATES

- Arizona Alternate Delegate
- Illinois Alternate Delegate

WSC OBSERVERS AND SPECIAL WORKERS

- Credentials Committee
- Parliamentarian