

S-ANON
International



Family Groups

WSO UPDATE

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO GROUP MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2019

JANUARY 2019 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

In January 2019, 194 S-Anon members gathered together in Nashville, Tennessee, to participate in the first-ever S-Anon & S-Ateen standalone International Convention.

With the support of over 90 volunteers, the World Service Office successfully hosted this historic 3-day event which held 40 meetings and presented 7 wonderfully-brave and vulnerable S-Anon speakers.

Listen to what a participant had to say... "The ambiance of this convention was beyond my wildest dreams... I was pleasantly surprised to find the whole experience of being so much fun, learning a lot, sharing healthy enjoyable intimacy with a beautiful group of folks in a venue that was relaxing, prosperous, accommodating and beautiful. I really enjoyed myself a lot!!!"

Speaker Recordings

Speaker recordings will be available for purchase this spring on www.sanon.org. These speakers' shares were very inspiring and the availability of these talks on a digi-

tal format will hopefully reach S-Anon members across the world who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to travel to an International Convention. An announcement will be made through the WSO's newsletter subscribers' list—make sure you are [subscribed!](#)

"I loved it! It felt safe, comfortable, and homey."

International Convention in Spain

While celebrating the success of the first standalone International Convention in the United States, we would be remiss to not highlight SA/S-Anon/S-Ateen participation at the SA International Convention held in Madrid, Spain just the weekend prior to the Nashville event. 72 S-Anons and 6 S-Ateens gathered together from 18 countries: Spain, USA, Italy, UK, Germany, Israel, Poland, Slovakia, Mexico, Belgium, Colombia, Holland, Armenia, Ukraine, Czech Republic,

Austria, Ireland, and Peru. What a beautiful display of a growing and diverse fellowship!

So What's Next? Will there be another S-Anon & S-Ateen standalone International Convention?

The S-Anon Board of Trustees is currently evaluating and discussing all possibilities regarding another S-Anon & S-Ateen standalone International Convention. As of right now, there is not a convention planned for January 2020 but if that changes, the WSO will send out an announcement within the coming weeks. In the meantime, check-out the details of the International Convention coming up in July 2019 in Seattle, WA, [Serenity in Se-](#)



Nashville International
Convention Coin

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 12, 2019
*World Service Conference
Seattle, WA*
- July 12-14, 2019
*S-Anon/S-Ateen/SA
International Convention
Seattle, WA*
- January 2020, TBA

For more information or to register for a convention, visit www.sanon.org.

RE-REGISTER YOUR GROUP

First quarter of each year is Group Verification time. Please submit an updated Group Registration Form to ensure that WSO staff members give out accurate information about your Group.

Return the completed Group Registration Form to the WSO by email, fax, U.S. mail, or the online form by April 15, 2019.

[Online Registration Form](#)

[Mail-In Registration Form](#)

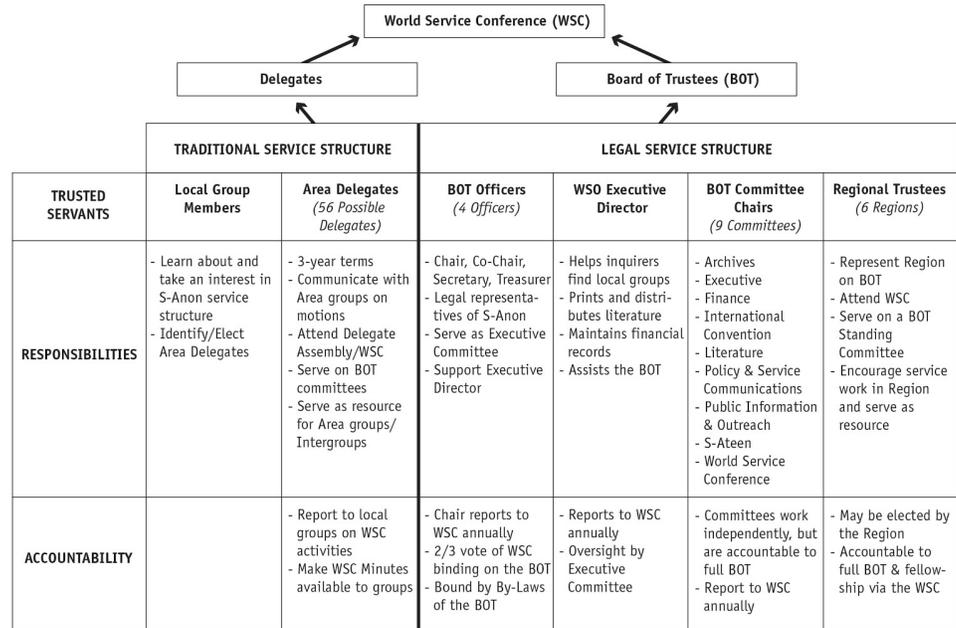
CHAIR'S CORNER



WSO BY THE NUMBERS

As of February 2019...

- 348 Registered Face-to-Face Meetings
 - 8 Registered Phone & 11 Skype Meetings
 - 1 S-Anon & 3 S-Ateen Online Meetings
 - 2 S-Ateen Face-to-Face Meetings
 - 14 Long Distance Sponsors
 - 12 Phone Support
- 2018, Looking back...
- The WSO received 1,168 Calls
 - 8,600+ emails received at sanon@sanon.org
 - 950+ emails received at phonemeetings@sanon.org requesting phone meeting schedule
 - 44,335 unique visitors to www.sanon.org
 - 1,513 *S-Anon Twelve Steps* sold
 - 1,507 *Reflections of Hope* sold
 - 1,359 *Working the S-Anon Program* sold



Welcome to this edition of the Chair's Corner. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to provide service to the S-Anon community and certainly a privilege to share my experience, strength, and hope. It always amazes me how fast three months can go by, it feels like yesterday when I was writing my first segment for the WSO update and here I am writing again. Speaking of time—we are in a new year! I hope that this year brings everyone joy, serenity, prosperity and freedom.

In the previous WSO update I started sharing about how service at any level is essential to S-Anon recovery. In this segment I will try to explain the Service Structure hoping that you can have a better understanding of how it works and what it does for S-Anon as a whole.

As our Service Manual mentions: "...wherever you find yourself on this continuum today, a well-informed fellowship is better able to make decisions for the good of S-Anon as a

whole. Understanding how our fellowship works is part of being well informed..."

As you can see in the chart, everyone has an opportunity to provide service at any level. So let's start with the Traditional Service Structure. As a newcomer it can be overwhelming. In my case I could not think about anything else other than learning how the program was going to solve my problems and save my relationships. But soon after, maybe after the third, or fourth meeting, I started to help set up the chairs. I did not know it at the time, but I was providing service to the fellowship. It was my first responsibility, and the members trusted me to take care of it. I was becoming trustworthy, "a trusted servant," which helped me start rebuilding my self-esteem, one step at a time, in my own rhythm. Doing for others made me feel a part of that group. Doing simple tasks such as setting up chairs and attending and sharing during the meetings was the first step towards my recovery. After that, other opportunities became

available. The group I attended was there for me when I needed it the most. The members present at that time provided me with many services free of charge. Service was the only thing I could give in return, but it was not asked for or expected. The group trusted that I would carry my share of responsibility towards the group when I was ready, so the group could continue to function for those of us present and for those yet to come. With time, and based on my curiosity—wanting to know more and understand more—I moved across the columns of service structure.

Next update I will continue on our Traditional Service Structure and have one of our Delegates give us some insights.

In peace and in service,
Fatima B.
S-Anon Board of Trustees Chair

WHO CAN ATTEND THE S-ANON WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE?

YOU!!!!

Have you ever wondered how S-Anon decisions beyond the group level are made? How those motions (that we hear about once a year) are debated and resolved? What *do* delegates, committee chairs and trustees *do* at those annual World Service Conferences?

Truthfully, I didn't know the difference between an S-Anon International Convention and an S-Anon World Service Conference when I first came into S-Anon, *nor did I care!*

Those questions were the *last* thing on my mind as I navigated my early years in recovery. Yet, as the gentle healing began for me, I wondered where *did* my "Reflections of Hope" come from? What does "S-Anon Conference Approved Literature" even mean? Who's in charge of the S-Anon World Service Office that sends out these periodic appeals for donations? Who's paying the bills to keep this fel-

lowship afloat and available so that the *next* S-Anon newcomer finds what I have been privileged to receive?

Well, I discovered that there are a whole lot of amazing, ordinary people who step up to service beyond the group level to keep the S-Anon organization chugging along. The S-Anon World Service Conference is also one place where you can see our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service practiced in real time.

So, here is my invitation to you...

Come and get a "front row seat" to see your trusted servants in action at the upcoming 16th Annual S-Anon World Service Conference in Seattle on *Friday, July 12, before* the S-Anon World Convention begins that weekend.

The World Service Conference is open to all S-Anon members, even though only Area Delegates and the Board of Trustees will be allowed to vote. Hear what the committees have been doing

(Finance, Literature, World Service Office, Policy, S-Ateen, etc.). Experience firsthand how we debate the motions under the guidance of Robert's Rules, our Traditions and the Higher Power of our understanding.

I promise you will not be bored, and you will come away with a deeper understanding of what can be accomplished when like-minded people gather to build a worldwide fellowship of S-Anon recovery for all who seek it.

Who knows?! You may be drawn to join those passionate members of S-Anon who humbly come together to provide the essential, remarkable support that we receive every day. We welcome you to join any committee that 'calls' to you. There is much we can accomplish together.

Grateful S-Anon,
Kathleen D., Portland, Oregon
World Service Conference Committee member



Trusted servants are needed to fill a variety of positions in the S-Anon service structure. The following roles are available now:

Delegates

Alabama
Alaska
Delaware
Florida
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Mississippi
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Mexico
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
West Virginia
Western Canada
Wisconsin

Online Progress Meeting
Phone Meetings
Skype/Zoom Meetings

Board of Trustees

Archives Committee Chair,
Northeast Regional Trustee,
Northwest Regional Trustee,
Southeast Regional Trustee,
Western Canada Regional Trustee

S-ATEENS IN ACTION

January provided two great opportunities for S-Ateen members to meet face-to-face. Six S-Ateen members from Spain, Italy, and Peru attended a convention in Madrid; the following weekend seven S-Ateen members from across the U.S shared a fun-filled weekend of recovery at the Nashville S-Anon/S-Ateen International Convention.

During the Nashville event, S-Anon members were invited to write a gratitude message on colorful strips of paper. As a part of their convention experience, S-Ateen members took those little gems of encouragement and creat-

ed a beautiful collage, soon to be on display at the WSO's new location.

S-Ateen members continue to meet via the S-Ateen Online Community for weekly voice meetings, Sundays at 8:00 PM EST, covering the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of S-Ateen plus a variety of recovery topics. Contact the WSO for information about the S-Ateen fellowship, S-Anon service as a certified S-Ateen Group Sponsor and/or a member of the S-Ateen Committee.

New members are always welcome.



S-ANON

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Family Groups

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WSO Update is a publication of S-Anon International Family Groups, Inc. designed to build awareness about the activities of the S-Anon World Service Office, Board of Trustees and Board Committees. Send comments and questions to sanon@sanon.org.

BUY LITERATURE OR MAKE
A DONATION ONLINE AT
WWW.SANON.ORG



CARRY THE MESSAGE: JOIN THE SPEAKERS' POOL

The World Service Office is recruiting members to be a part of the S-Anon Speakers' Pool, a listing of members who are willing and able to share their experience, strength and hope at S-Anon events at the local, regional and international level. To learn more about the requirements or to register, review the [Speaker's Pool Guidelines](#).

BRIEFS

WANTED: Long Distance Sponsors



We're down to just 14 female and 2 male Long Distance Sponsors. More are needed. Please consider volunteering for this important service role. Sign-up forms are available at www.sanon.org or from the WSO. Email sanon@sanon.org or call (800) 210-8141 to request a sign-up form.

Locating the Service Manual

Why can't I find the Service Manual in the online store?

We get this question often! Here's the short answer... the Service Manual is going through some much needed updates, so until these are completed, the Service Manual will only be accessible through an online platform.

[Click here to access the Service Manual.](#)

If you find yourself without the above link, visit the Member Site and under the "Member & Group Resources" tab, select "Service Manual."

Updated Meeting Posting Policy

New in 2019, the WSO will now publish meeting locations on www.sanon.org and distribute addresses to inquirers who call or email the WSO for all groups that chose to have their meeting locations posted. All WSO Group Representatives will receive a request to update, included with the Special Appeal email. If you are not sure if your group has a WSO Representative, please contact the office. We suggest that all groups take a group conscience before deciding if publishing meeting locations on www.sanon.org is right for them.



WANTED:

Copyright Attorney

Are you a member of S-Anon who works as a copyright attorney? If you are in this legal profession and are open to a pro bono service arrangement with the WSO, please contact the WSO at (800) 210-8141 or sanon@sanon.org.