

## **Maine Area Spring Assembly 3/20/2021 (Virtual Meeting)**

### **Delegates Report:**

Good morning everyone. To quote a member's posting from June, 2019 from In the Loop – "Many links of service together make a strong chain—not a chain of command, not a chain that tethers, but a chain that connects each of us. The links of service start with me, as a member, contributing to my group. I show up, I help set up, I share, and I serve." The member goes on to say that GRs are part of Districts, Districts (DRs) participate in Area, and the Area Delegate helps members' voices be heard in the world-wide fellowship at the annual WSC. Our Service Manual states that "The Delegate is a channel through which information flows" and that part of the duties are to return with a broader perspective of AI-Anon worldwide." As well as "To be the bridge of understanding that links the groups in the Area with world AI-Anon to help them continue to function in unity." pp146-147 (2018-2021 V2)

Our World Service Conference theme for 2021 is "Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance". Encouraging Unity has always been an underlying principle of AI-Anon/Alateen. Unity requires participation (Concept 4 – Participation is the key to harmony) and a commitment to Tradition 1 "Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity."

So, in the interest of informing, let me begin sharing some information with the hope of it being shared by DRs and GRs and helping to promote Unity.

NERD is the Northeast Regional Delegates meeting which is held annually prior to the World Service Conference (WSC). (Conn., Delaware, Maine, Maryland/DC, Mass., NH., NJ., NYN, NYS, Penn., RI., VT) The group also includes some Canadian Delegate and past Delegate members.

It was held virtually on March 12-13, 2021.

NERD Purpose:

- To Provide an opportunity for all past and current Delegates to discuss mutual concerns.
- To encourage continued interest and participation of past Delegates and provide an opportunity for them to share their knowledge and experience.
- To assist in preparing new Delegates for their first World Service Conference.
- To hear the Regional Trustee's report.

Normally, I would have had the experience in 2020 but NERD was cancelled last year. So, technically, this was my first year "getting prepared". I joined the "NERDY NERDS" which was a volunteer tech support group to facilitate their first ever Virtual NERD conference. For me, it was more of an opportunity to learn more about virtual conferencing from a very talented tech "leader". In the process I learned about Eventbrite – for meeting scheduling, use of the Google App called Jamboard – for submitting questions for the "Ask It Basket", and the Basecamp app

for communicating and keeping each other (the NERDY NERDS) informed. Believe me, I really had to invoke my inner Gumbie!

NERD Agenda items which are similar to WSC include presenting a personal 2-minute bio (service story), each Delegate sharing 2-minute area highlights, contributing to Hot Topic discussions, presentation of ThtForce/TskForce work, presenting of motions, and voting. These were helpful since last year's WSC Agenda was so greatly modified and much of it took place on AFG Connects so the feel and flavor of a "real" conference was missing. The spiritual speaker for NERD was our own Jennie M. The talk was very inspiring. The program also included a power point presentation from the Northeast Regional Trustee which was very informative. I hope to share some of it at Delegates Assembly.

Speaking of Trustees, each year, three Trustee at Large and three Regional Trustee positions become available through rotation of leadership. In 2021 the BOT will seek applicants from US Northeast (that's us!) to begin serving after April 2022 WSC. Regional Trustee applicants must be approved by the Area process and their resumes are submitted by the Area Delegate. Trustees at Large apply directly and personally. Each Area within a Region may submit one candidate for Regional Trustee. The application deadline is August 15, 2021. Contact Sonya or me if you feel a Higher Power nudge and are qualified and willing to serve. There is also an opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM). You can contact me at [Delegate@maineafg.org](mailto:Delegate@maineafg.org) and I will send qualification requirements for any of the positions to anyone interested.

2020 WSO Finances: Literature sales down. Historically 59% of total revenue. In 2020 = 31% However, the Special Appeal letter sent out = \$3,295,721.00 = 56% of revenue for 2020. The members generous response coupled with the decrease of WSO expenses (no travel, hiring freeze, some furloughs, cancelling conference, etc.) helped significantly. The final audited budget report will be shared after the April WSC. Thank you so much for your generous support.

The 2020 WSC Summary will be reviewed at WSC so information from that 42-page document will be shared later this year. It contains some exciting information. Stay tuned!

In addition to some pre-conference preparatory virtual meetings, I attended one of the 4 Virtual Town Halls that the WSO presented. In 2020 there were an additional 209 permanent electronic meetings established with 17 being within the newly launched Mobile App. The total number at the time of the VTH was 489 electronic meetings. The Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) will be presenting their task force work and recommendations at conference. They are working toward being able to register as groups with GRs and becoming part of the WSC Structure. There are many unanswered questions to be discussed and worked through as they move forward to try and meet their goal.

The conference reading material is being provided on a weekly and sometimes daily basis – there is a lot of reading and preparation but the scope of work being done in working to fulfill

Al-Anon's primary purpose of reaching out to anyone, anywhere who is affected by the family disease of alcoholism is truly amazing. I am in awe of the energy and dedication of those many volunteer and few salaried WSO workers who serve all of us.

This year's WSC is a 5-day noon to 8 or 9 PM (with breaks) virtual conference—along with additional AFG Connects work – more like the real thing!

I have met my Delegate mentee – she is Peggy D from East Texas. We have emailed and had a Zoom “in person” meeting.

I have my Thought Force assignment for 2021— Diversity Today. We have our charge and the list of resources to use and will begin our work after the April WSC.

My 2020 Task Force presentation is on the last day of conference – Conflict Resolution – which I will be able to share at Fall Assembly (or perhaps before). We created what we think are some useful skits as a resource for Groups, Districts, and Areas. Can't wait for you to see our work. It was a wonderful experience getting to know and work with the Task Force members. The nearest and dearest to me is from California and was the spiritual speaker at my recent home group 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting.

I have included some additional highlights from the January COB letter FYI but will request that you look them over and contact me with any questions at [delegate@maineafg.org](mailto:delegate@maineafg.org).

My Hope for our Area in 2021 is that we can work together to strengthen our links of service and “Move Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance.”

Well, that's all for now. I want to thank you once again for this precious opportunity to serve the Maine Area.

Rae Lane

Maine Delegate/Panel 60

### **Highlights from January 2021 COB Letter:**

The Purpose of the COB letter is to update with some information from the January Board Week meetings. Included are updates from the Policy Committee, Conference Leadership Team, and a Financial Update from the Treasurer. Some of the information will be discussed and more revealed after the April 2021 WSC. Stay tuned for Delegates Assembly in May.

- In the unprecedented year of 2020, Literature sales were exceeded by donations for the first time, thanks to the membership's generosity. Donations were “overwhelming” and “beyond what (WSO) had imagined”. Contributions amounted to over \$3 million – an unaudited \$3,295,720 resulting (along with WSO's decrease in expenses) a revised budget surplus of \$509,190 (again unaudited).
- 2020's cancelled 'Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect' event will be held on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> in Cleveland, OH. I hope to attend to join the BOTs and the Executive Committee

members for a day of “fun and connecting with each other.” I would welcome company if plans work out for this year. Could our Area consider hosting the 2022 Road Trip? Perhaps if we “Dream Big with 2020 Vision!”

- The 3-year trial to offer professional interpretation to support our French and Spanish members will be up in 2021. This will be discussed further at the 2021 WSC.
- The Strategic Planning process continues year round and currently includes these Goals: **For Members**-Increase visibility of all AI-Anon groups worldwide; for **the Public** – Increase awareness of competition and AFG differentiation; and for **the Organization** – Increase international representation within our global structure and Conference. The specific strategies to accomplish these goals are included in the COB letter which I will post on the [maineafg.org](http://maineafg.org) website for download.
- The Electronic Meeting Work Group continues its’ work of moving forward to work to incorporate Electronic meetings within the WSO/WSC structure with GR representation. There will be a presentation by them at the upcoming WSC.
- This years’ Regional Trustee and Trustee at Large candidates were interviewed virtually in January and their selection will be traditionally considered and hopefully approved at WSC in April. BTW---

If you have questions about anything I’ve shared or that you read please contact me for clarification answers at [delegate@maineafg.org](mailto:delegate@maineafg.org).