

2024 World Service Conference (WSC)

April 18-21, 2024

Our path towards Grace, Unity and Understanding
Nuestro Camino hacia la gracia, la unidad y la comprensión
Notre cheminement vers la grace, l'unité et la compréhension



WSC 64th Annual
World Service Conference 2024

Presented on 7-20-2024

The 64 Year Conversation Continues...

The WSC was an amazing experience. It was a jam packed four day spiritual experience and extended business meeting merged together as one. I was overwhelmed, amazed, and entranced by the love and respect all members offered each other at the Conference. Looking back on it, I can say it was utterly exhilarating and exhausting. I would go back and do it again next week if I could.

Attending the WSC as your Delegate, especially for the first time is like drinking water from a fire hose - similar to being Group Representatives (GRs) but on a different scale. So much information is presented in those four days, it is impossible to share it all. I cannot try to do that - but I will share highlights I think are relevant to our Area.

Al-Anon/Alateen is a worldwide fellowship and as your Delegate this is what I get to bring back and share with you.

From the earliest of times humans have been awed by the power of the sea. Early civilizations declared it the domain of a major mythological deity the god of the sea! To the Greeks Poseidon... To the Romans Neptune.

The statue was cast in bronze by the traditional old lost wax process in Ningbo, China.

- Height: 34 ft
- Heads: 6 ½ ft
- Shoulders: 12 ft across
- Weight: 12 ½ tons
- Dolphins: 17 ft & 15 ft
- Loggerhead Turtle: 11 ft
- Octopus: 8 ft
- Rocks: 100,000 lbs

Casting process required:

- 8 ½ tons of bronze
- 80 tons of clay
- 7500 grinding & sanding disks
- 25 tons of plaster
- 3 ½ tons of stainless steel

The National Search for the artist resulted in the selection of Paul DiPasquale of Richmond, VA. Neptune stands as the protector of citizen and visitor and is symbolic of the City of Virginia Beach and the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival which takes place annually in the month of September.

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Sightseeing the day before
WSC. Located on the
boardwalk at 31st Street.



The Founders Inn

Virginia Beach, VA



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Our days were spent mainly in: The Virginia Ballroom from 8 am - 9:30 pm

Kathi M.,
*Conference Chairperson,
Trustee at Large*

Jayme C.,
*Conference Co-Chairperson,
Trustee at Large*

*68 Delegates
The Board of Trustees
Executive Committee
World Service Office Staff
Total Voting Members Present:
90/91*



Display of Flags Countries of Al-Anon Around the World

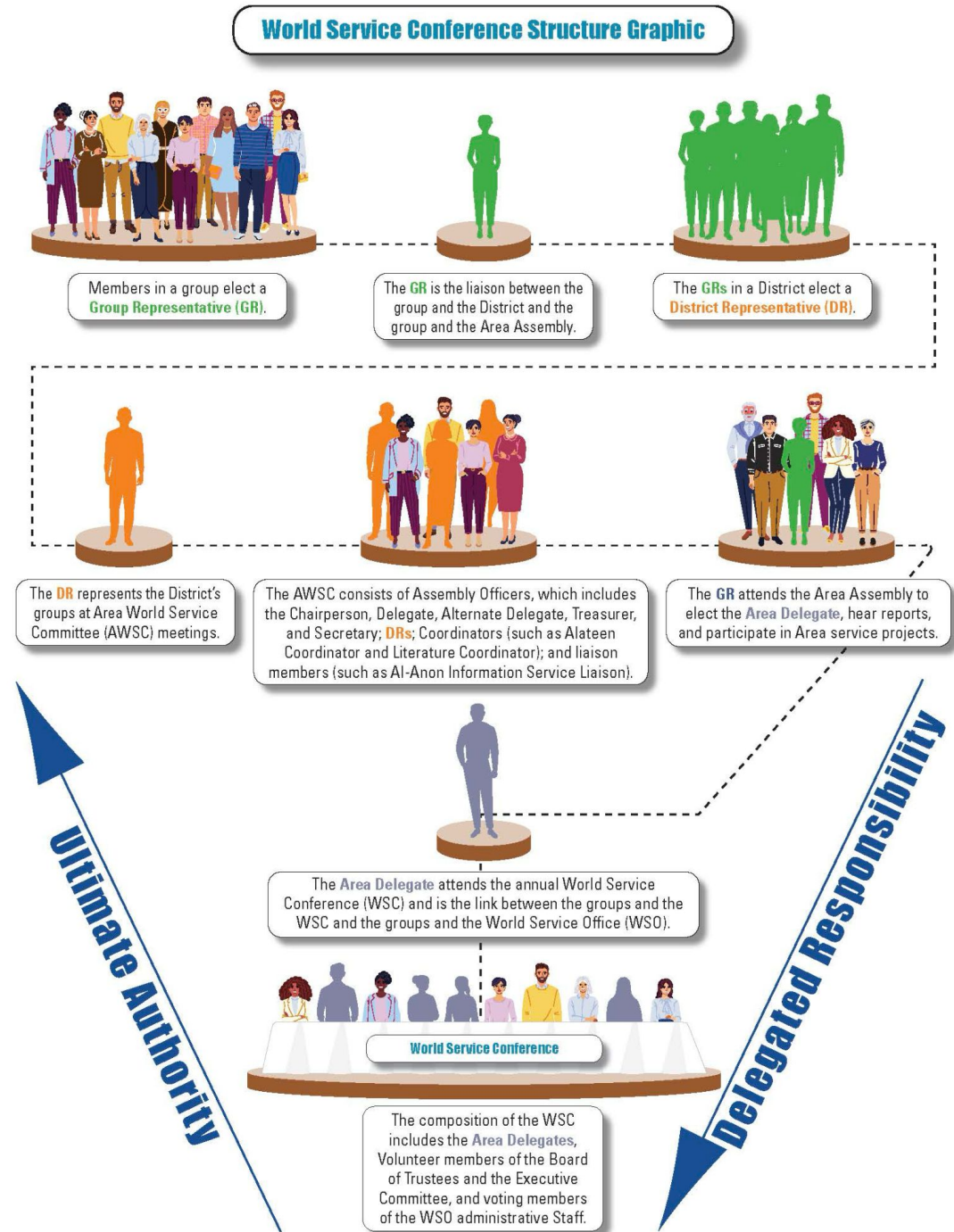


The WSC Structure has 68 Areas. They are represented by Delegates located across the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico.

67 Areas are geographic. 1 Area is not geographic, this Area is the Global Electronic Area (GEA). It was voted in at the World Service Conference in 2022.

The last Area that was voted in to be part of our WSC structure was in 1987 was Alaska.

Diagram from Page 176 Of Our Current Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual



World Service Conference

Purposes

Al-Anon's Tradition Two states, "For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern."

The World Service Conference makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of world Al-Anon and the guarantee that our world services shall continue to carry on under all conditions.

The Conference protects Al-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown; it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters. This makes it the principal guarantor of Al-Anon and Alateen's harmony and survival.

Thank You!

The cards members mailed to Virginia Beach were so appreciated; it helped sprinkle that extra love and support. I didn't need the cards, but I greatly appreciate them. I have them saved, and they fill my heart whenever I need encouragement.

My deepest gratitude.



Some Quotes I Heard at Conference:

“The way we treat each other while doing business is more important than the outcome.”

“We protect and encourage the group conscience.”

From Panel 62 Sharing Highlights from the Spiritual Walk: “Where we are today is exactly where our Higher Power would have us be.” *Courage to Change*, pg 1. “We Each have value, purpose, and equal importance in Al-Anon.” *A Little Time for Myself*, pg 9. “Today I can practice becoming more aware of what my inner voice is trying to teach me.” *Courage to Change*, page 21. “Today I will be gentle with my humanness.” *A Little Time For Myself...*” page 102 (Some samples of the 68 quotes we spiritually exchanged.)

Concept 6 Review

“The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Trustees.”

Key Spiritual Principles include:

- Mutual Trust
- Mutual Respect
 - Authority
 - Freedom
 - Equality
- Participation
 - Goodwill
- Open Mind

Chosen Agenda Items

1. Membership and Unity of Purpose

- When is something diverting us from our purpose and spiritual aim?
- Is Al-Anon able to fulfill its primary purpose going forward?

Chosen Agenda Items (Continued)

2. Service and Leadership

- How do we balance service authority and service responsibility?
- When out of balance, what spiritual principles can we use to bring us back into equilibrium?
- What spiritual principles help define good personal leadership?
- How can I participate and be part of the solution when leadership ceases to function well?

Four Day / Three Year Conference Trial - Discussion

Discussion was on the following questions

- What are the challenges have experienced with a shorter Conference week?
- What are the opportunities enjoyed as a result of the shorter Conference week?
- What are the challenges experienced with having a Conference occur over the weekend?
- What are the opportunities enjoyed as the result of having a Conference occur over the weekend?

No decisions were made in 2024. More will be revealed.

Reflections/Things to Think About

- Look to our Past to Protect our Future
- How are we welcoming newcomers?
- Meeting our members where they are
- Understanding, Respect and Kindness
- Think creatively, ask members what they need.
- Protect and encourage the Group Conscience
- Support our service structure which supports us
- God waits patiently for me to listen

Budget Discussions Concerning Groups

100 percent of groups are using services;
61 percent of groups contributed in 2023

What are the services used?

**Getting
your groups
registered**

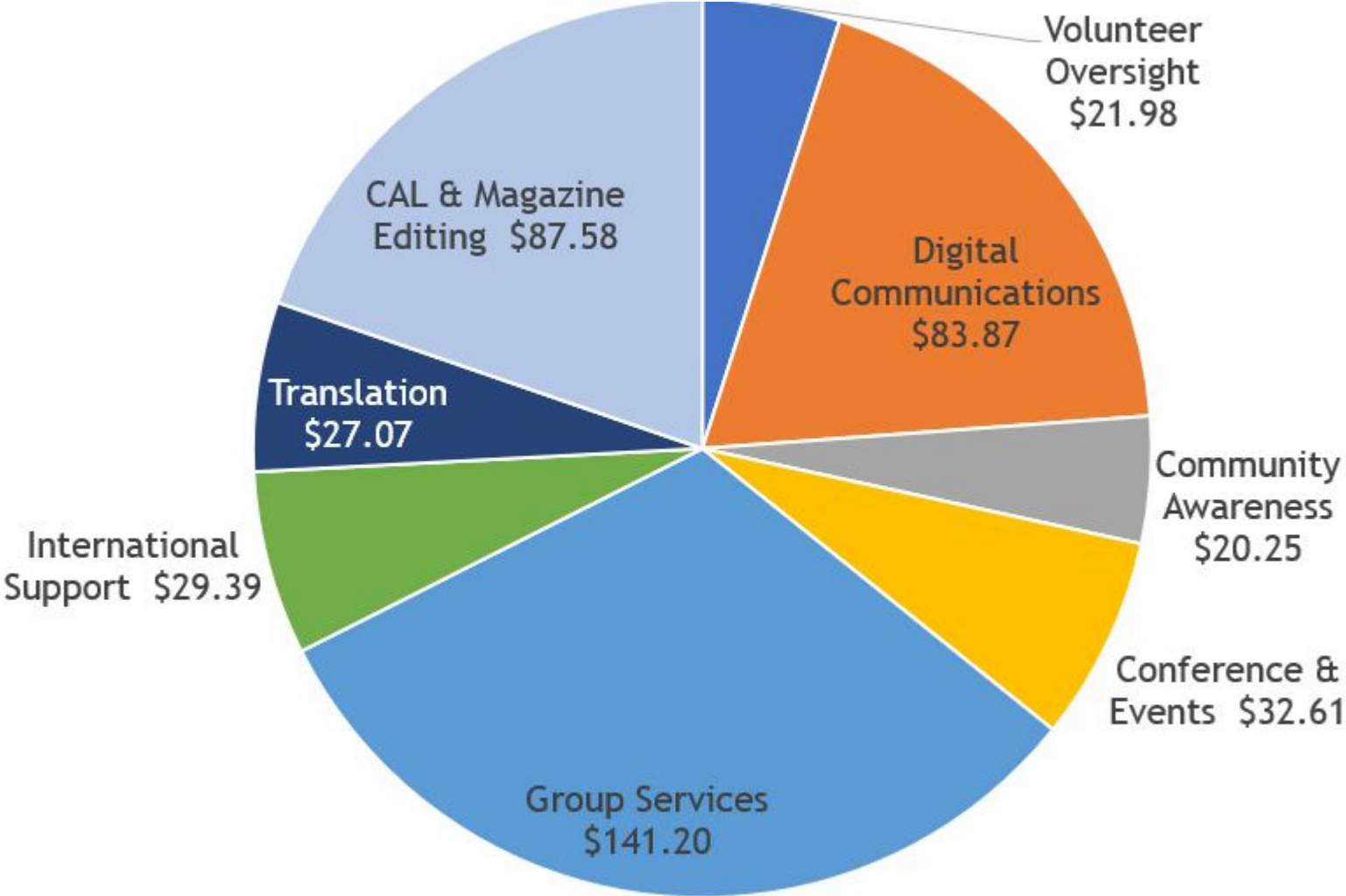
**Reading
from our CAL
at meetings**

**Calling
WSO to find
a meeting**

**Using the
Mobile App
for a Zoom
meeting**

**PSAs
playing on
TV stations**

WSO Cost Per Group Per Year 2023: \$330.09



- How do we continue to carry the message?
- How do we continue to reach new members?
- We do these things by continuing to provide services, such as:
 - Public outreach and community awareness
 - Connecting with our international structures
 - Increasing access through technology
 - Increasing communications in all three languages

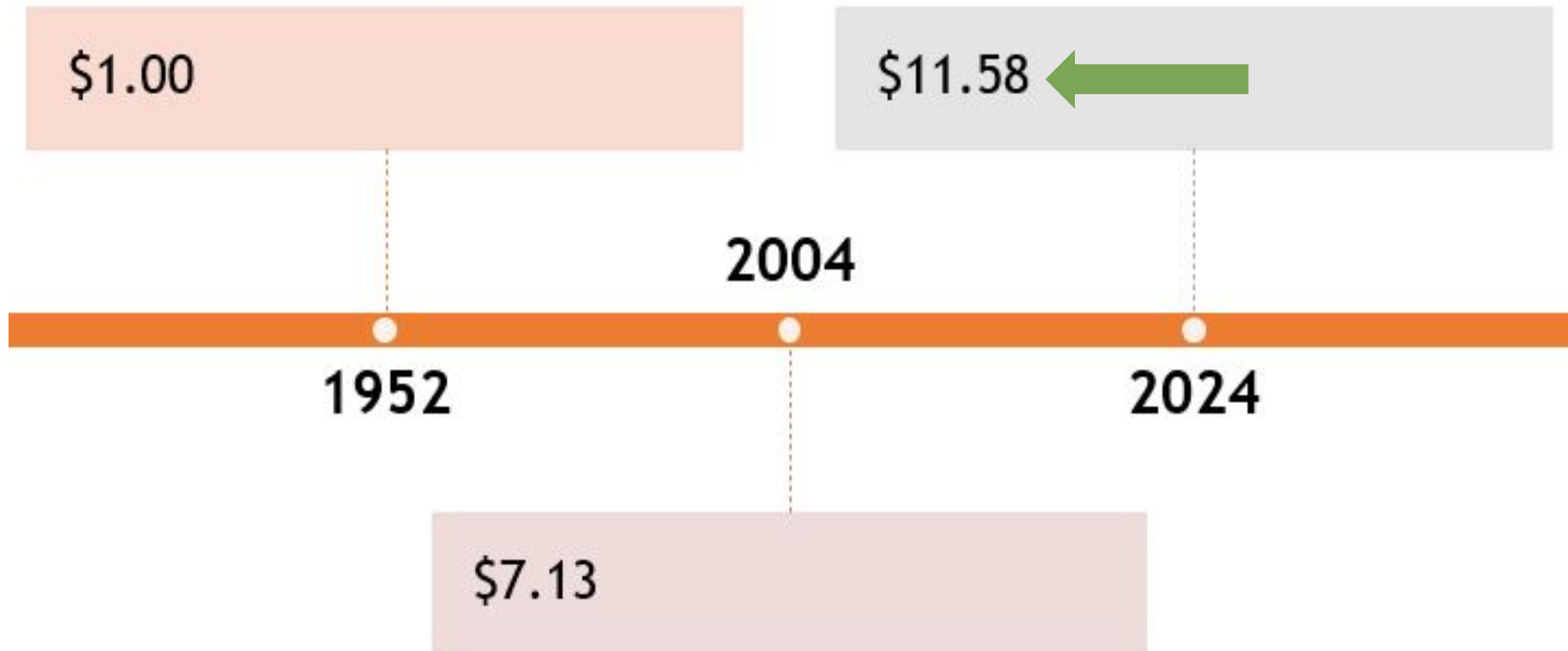


Considerations

If each group that contributed in 2023 contributed the cost per group of \$330.09 in 2024, we would reach our contribution goal for the year for WSO.

The message is that the budget requires consistent continued giving all year in order to provide continuing services.

The Power of \$1



Finance Report

Revenue

We had increased income in 2023 from:

- **The newly launched daily reader *A Little Time for Myself A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences (B-34)***
- **The International Convention was held in Albuquerque, NM**
- **Contributions from members and groups**
- **Sales income from our magazines: The Forum, Le Lien, En Accion, and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) and the Mobile App**
- **Increased value of investments held in the Reserve Fund**

Statement of Activities 2023 vs. 2022

Revenue	2023	2022	\$ Change
Gross profit from literature sales	\$ 3,217,630	\$ 2,099,846	1,117,784
Contributions	2,916,398	3,337,918	(421,520)
Magazine sales	262,050	247,368	14,682
Subscription income	54,634	48,174	6,460
Convention income - net	187,468	-	187,468
Noncash contributions	244,657	125,939	118,718
Investment income	1,109,188	(1,647,728)	2,756,916
	<u>\$ 7,992,025</u>	<u>\$ 4,211,517</u>	<u>3,780,508</u>
Expenses			
Program Services	\$ 3,184,174	\$ 3,333,424	(149,250)
Literature distribution services	890,741	904,405	(13,664)
General administrative services	1,715,345	1,352,031	363,314
	<u>\$ 5,790,260</u>	<u>\$ 5,589,860</u>	<u>200,400</u>
Change in net assets	<u>\$ 2,201,765</u>	<u>\$ (1,378,343)</u>	<u>823,422</u>

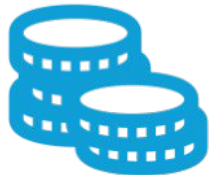
Fun Finance Facts for 2023:



•WHAT WAS THE TOTAL REVENUE FOR 2023
IN THE GENERAL FUND? \$6,902,851



•HOW MUCH REVENUE IN 2023 WAS FROM
LITERATURE SALES? \$4,403,725



•WHAT WERE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023?
\$2,916,398, which was a **\$421,520** decrease from 2022

Fun Finance Facts for 2023 (continued):

- **WHERE DID THE MOST CONTRIBUTIONS COME FROM?**

Groups contributed 41% and individual 16%

- **WHAT MAKES UP WSO EXPENSES?** Major expenses include salaries, office expenses, occupancy, PSAs, professional fees, and travel

- **WHY DID THE RESERVE FUND INCREASE IN 2023?** The reserve fund earned \$1,089,174 from investment income

Expenses Overview



- **Expenses are budgeted at \$6,078,780**
- **5 percent increase over 2023 budgeted expenses**
- **Majority of projects require labor resources**
- **Staff focus will be on the major 2024 projects such as:**
Next Generation AFG Records, 2024 International Al-Anon General Service Meeting, and others
- **Most expense line items are consistent with the prior year expenses supporting the program.**

Revenues

- ❖ Increased revenues from *A Little Time for Myself* (B-34) should continue into the first half of the year
- ❖ *Healing within Our Alcoholic Relationships* booklet will be introduced in the last quarter of the year.

Expenses

- ❖ Continued efforts in reducing variable costs
 - Overall salary budget is expected to increase to handle potential workload redistribution
 - Overall expenses higher than 2023 but in line with anticipated revenues
- ❖ Projecting a surplus in 2024



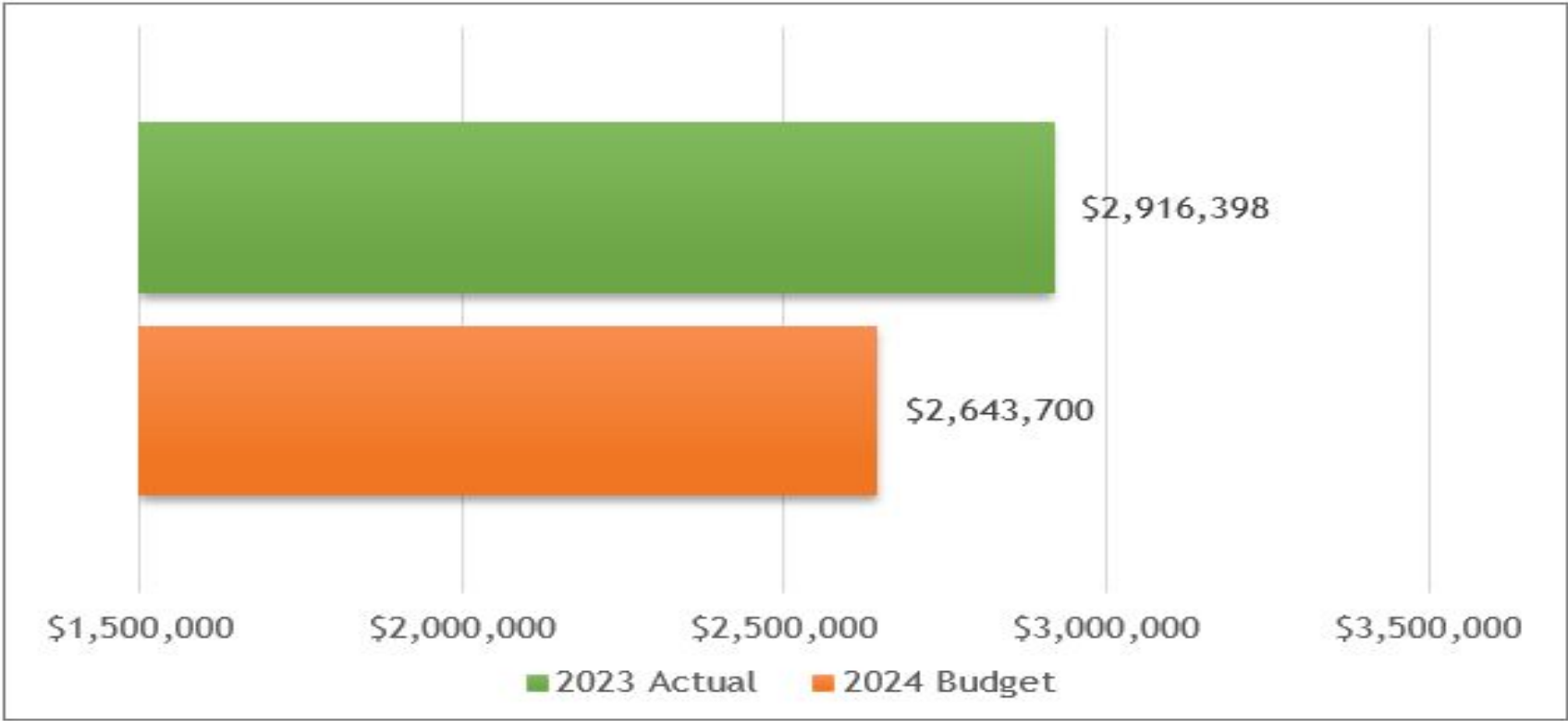
2024 Operating Budget

What's the Bottom Line?

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC. 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

	2024 Preliminary Budget	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Audited Actual
Total Estimated Revenue	6,198,330	5,860,430	6,902,851
Total Expense	6,078,780	5,795,664	5,825,227
Net increase(decrease) from Operations	119,550	64,766	1,077,624

Contributions 2023 Actual - 2024 Budget

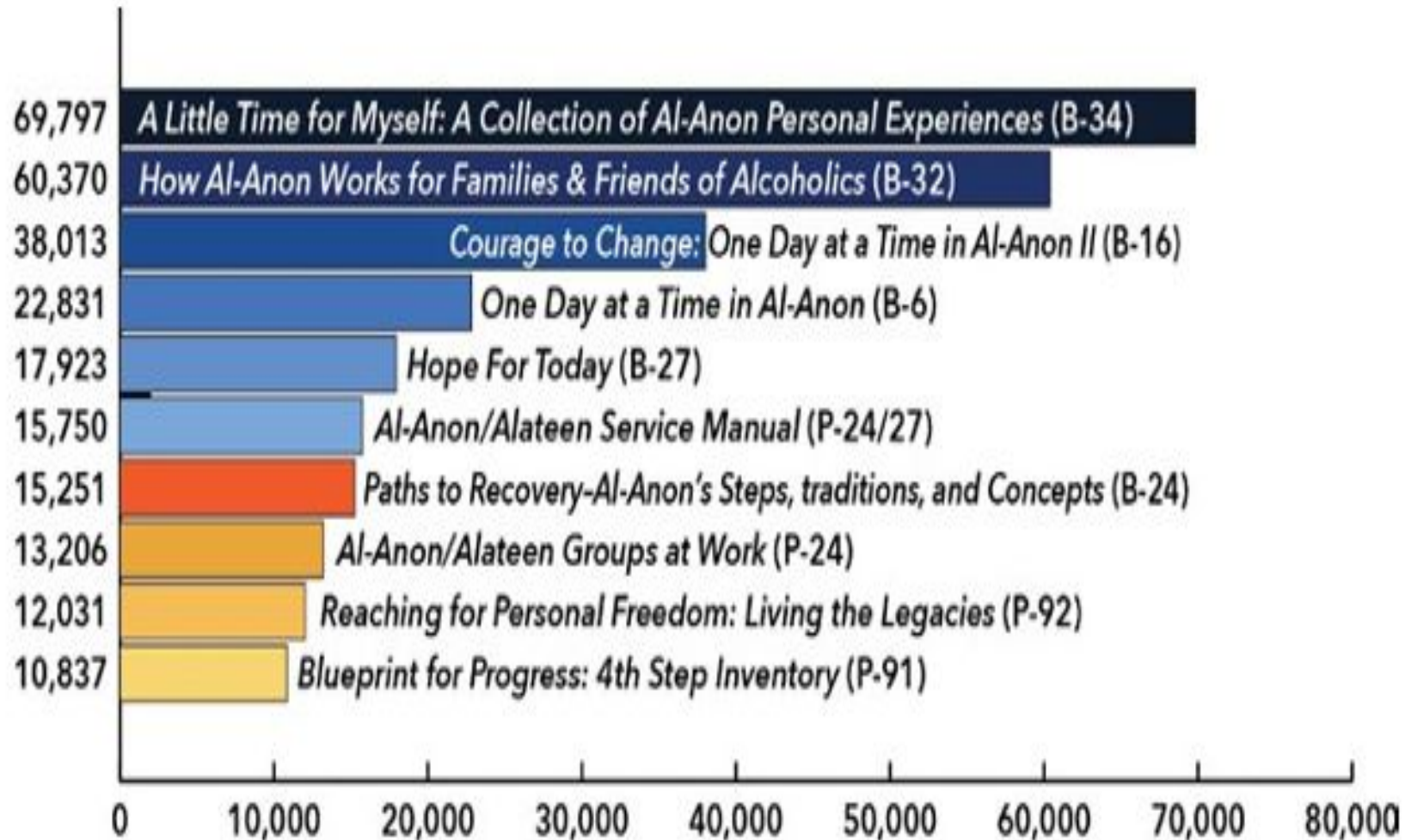


2023 Literature Performance

2023 was the highest grossing year for sales on record

- The surplus for the year in 2023 stemmed from the unexpectedly high excitement generated by the new book *A Little Time for Myself - A Collection of Al-Anon Personal Experiences* (B-34)!
- The new reader sales of **69,747** books bringing in a total of approx. **\$940,000** additional dollars, greater than originally budgeted—without it, no surplus would have occurred
- Overall positive performance for 2023 is consistent with literature sales in a year that a new book is introduced. The following year, sales tend to reset.
- Consistency in contributions and literature sales is still needed to maintain operations and provide support

Top 10 Selling Books/Booklets of 2023



Literature Sales

- *A Little Time for Myself* (B34) continues to provide an increase in revenues for 2024.
- Even though we are budgeting a decrease in sales over 2023, literature sales are projected to be above pre-pandemic levels.
- Inventory supply is improving, and ongoing efforts are being made to keep books in stock.

Literature Updates

We have a new piece of literature that is near completion!

Healing in our Alcoholic Relationships: A Collection of Insights From Our Collective Journey

- 48-page booklet and will sell for \$4.00
- Will be released this fall.

SHARINGS ARE BEING ACCEPTED - Writings on Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship...

**Consider taking the risk to send in to
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters a
sharing on this topic.**

**THE FASTER WE SEND OUR SHARINGS IN,
THE FASTER THIS BOOKLET GOES TO
PRINT! See fliers for how/where to
contribute your writings on our website.**

2024 Membership Survey: Another Service Opportunity

Open now through July 31, 2024

This is an **act of service** that is incredibly important.

- It provides crucial information to WSO.
- The data is used in Outreach efforts especially the efficacy data.
- PLEASE take the small amount of time it takes to complete it.

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/wso/research-and-surveys/membership-survey/> or just search al-anon.org and in the search bar type in “Survey”

CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL FOR NEW PIECE OF LITERATURE

Finances in Al-Anon Recovery

- 1) Al-Anon literature states that the disease of alcoholism impacts us physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially**
- 2) While the topics of personal and group finances are discussed throughout Al-Anon's Three Legacies, Al-Anon does not have a single piece of CAL exploring our relationship with finances in recovery**
- 3) Financial responsibility is often not taught in alcoholic homes, but it can be learned.**
- 4) We practice these principles in ALL of affairs**
- 5) Member's Experience, Strength, and Hope helps other members**

Five Skits Available:

Personal and Service - Sponsorship Task Force

These are for Groups, Districts, and Areas to use to increase awareness and benefits of sponsorship among all members.

- **WSO felt that Sponsorship was not being used as much as in years past**
- **Workshops could raise awareness and provide forums for discussion**
- **The work product includes:**
 - **Handouts**
 - **Formats for full day, half day and 30 minute workshops**
 - **4 minute skits**
 - **Powerpoint introduction of materials**

Currently Area Delegates have these materials - ask for them to share

ELECTRONIC ALATEEN GROUPS

World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavior **Requirements** different from minimums

The WSO formed a Project Team to address electronic Alateen groups; Alateen has had electronic meetings on the Al-Anon app **ONLY**; how could Areas expand this?

The Project Team has met with both National and International structures because the safety and behavioral requirements are more stringent outside of the US and Canada

ELECTRONIC ALATEEN cont.

Electronic Alateen
group meeting links
are not published on
public facing
website

Only the group name,
meeting day, time, and
group emails may be
displayed

Two Sponsors are
required for each
meeting (same for live
meetings)


WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL AREAS ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- All AMIAS-E will be mandated reporters
- All AMIAS-E must pass a background check (no different than live meetings)
- Each Alateen group must conduct a pre-interview of any new teen
- Pre-interview (registration) must be facilitated by the registered AMIAS-E for that group

ELECTRONIC ALATEEN REQUIREMENTS, cont.

- Teen must show proof of age with photo ID; provide contact information to receive the meeting link; share emergency contact info of custodial parent/legal guardian before being admitted
- AMIAS-Es maintain a list of info on Alateens in their group
- Alateens must show a photo ID to enter each meeting, verified by the AMIAS-E for that group



The goal is to protect the Alateens and keep electronic meetings safe

The WSO feels that safety in electronic meetings requires stringent requirements

Gender Neutral Discussion

- We started an in-depth discussion during Conference.
- The content is confidential as this is an ongoing conversation.

International Structures



40 General Service Offices (GSOs) aka national structures



One evolving structure



14 Al-Anon Information Services (AIS)



12 groups— individual or collective

Maintaining Global Connections—

Current Zones

- Europe
- South America / Spanish-speaking
- Central America

Delegates from 40 General Service Offices, ICC and Selected WSO Staff will meet in Virginia Beach, VA in September 2024. Their Theme: “**Nurturing Communication, Cooperation and Connection Worldwide.**”

Policy Changes: Choosing a Group's Name - Improve Clarity of Wording Carried

- Vital to be inviting, attractive and avoid public controversy
- Can have a lasting impact
- The name is widely publicized - al-anon.org and local listings
- A Group name should promote common welfare and unity
- The only membership requirement is a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend
- The name should not imply outside affiliation

2024 Projects

Next Generation AFG Records

2028 International Convention Site Selection

eBooks Globally

Electronic Alateen Planning

Online Store 2.0

International Al-Anon General Services Meeting
(IAGSM)



OGR - Electronic Group Management

Electronic Groups in Geographic Areas

- **60** geographic WSC Structure Areas now support electronic groups
 - ◆ Majority have integrated electronic groups into geographic Districts
 - ◆ Remaining **7** are in progress developing their Area procedures
- Any frequent challenges?
 - ◆ Groups temporarily meeting online are registering new meetings

Electronic Group Listings / Links of Service and Areas

Why can't groups in geographic Areas be listed on both the Geographic and the Global Electronic Meeting Searches?

WSO's approach results from wishing to achieve unity by honoring the principles of mutual respect and autonomy contained in the Twelve Concepts of Service, particularly Concept Ten. Practicing Tradition Five, Al-Anon Family Groups decide through group conscience whether they want to participate in geographic or global service. The WSO honors these decisions by listing the group on the appropriate meeting search.

If we were to do otherwise, members from around the world might unknowingly join groups who had decided to participate in local service. When these members decide to begin practicing Al-Anon's Third Legacy of service, they might be unable to participate fully because of geography. Instead of creating unity, listing on both searches might then cause harm and confusion.

So, to support members finding a home group where their voice and vote is equal to everyone in the group and where they have a clear path toward service, the WSO lists each group on only one meeting search. In this way, we respect the meeting's group conscience decision about whether they want to participate in geographic or global service. Our approach ensures double-headed management is avoided.

Time to Dream Big

- ▶ Can you imagine how your trusted servants and groups might benefit from a simplified group records process?
- ▶ How would it help your groups and members if Area Group Records Coordinators could spend less time entering data and more time supporting group members?
- ▶ What else do you envision?

Let's all dream! AI-Anon Information Services (AIS), DRs, and Group Representatives (GRs), share your dreams with your Delegate - I will send them in.

Group Records - Geographic Electronic Groups / Physical Groups

How many *temporary electronic* Geographic AI-Anon Groups do we still have in Southern California World Service (SCWS)?

28 (as of 7/17/2024)

Let's phase them out. Can we inspire our AI-Anon Information Service (AIS) Offices to a small friendly competition? DR's we know you can help them.

How many *temporary electronic* Alateen Groups do we have?

0

...

Next Generation

AFG Records

(expect great things to come)



SCWS BONUS INFORMATION

How Many Groups/Meetings Do We Have in Our Area: Southern California World Service

This data is from July 16, 2024 courtesy of our Cathy W., Area Group Records Coordinator (AGRC):

**1,027 registered Al-Anon Groups (2 more pending registration)
(1,223 meetings - some groups meet more than 1x/week)**

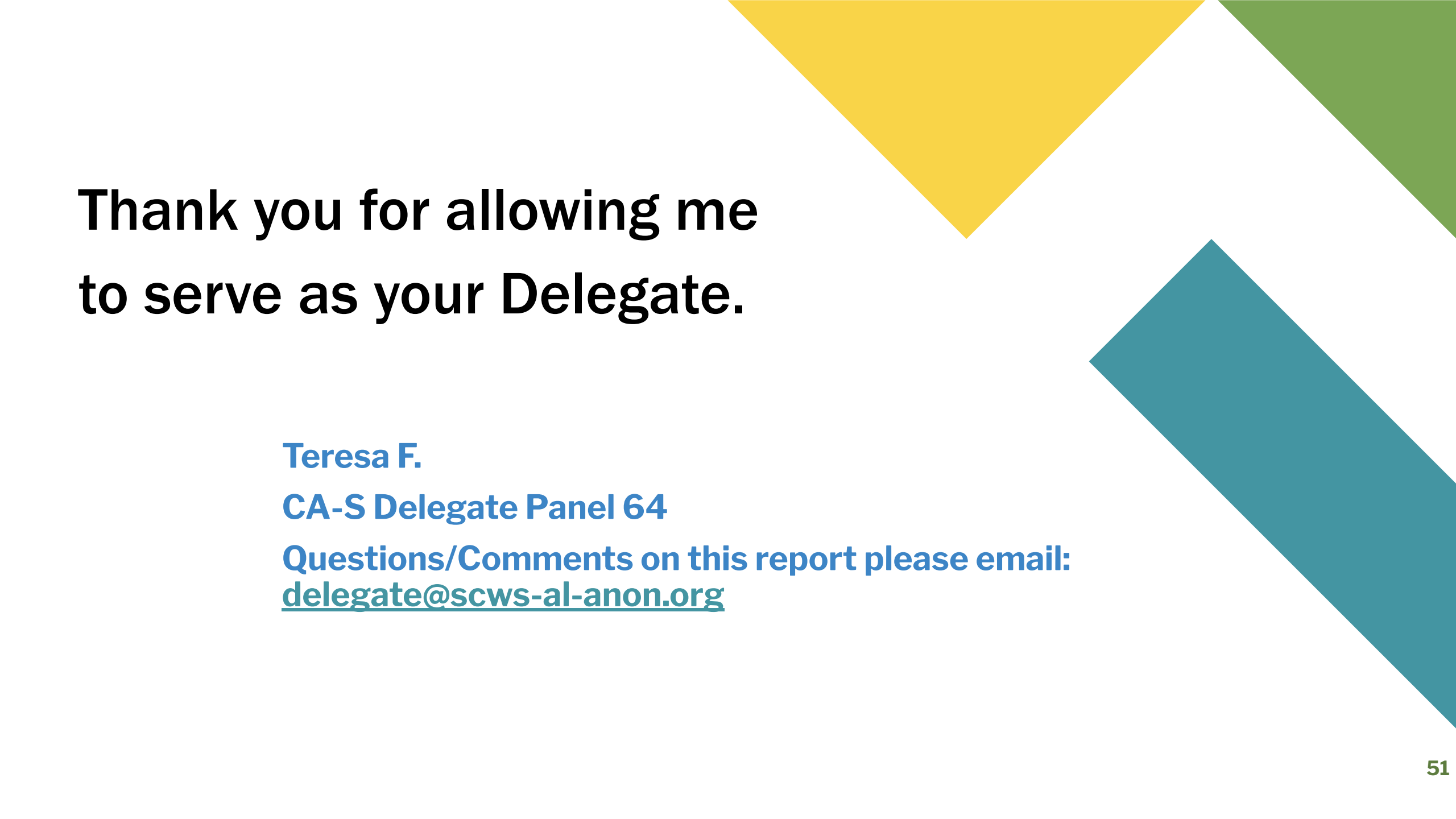
42 registered Alateen Groups (1 more pending registration)

Group/Meeting Count by AIS / LDC

Status: Active and No Mail

AIS / LDC	Physical		Electronic		Total		Groups	
	# Mtgs	# Groups	# Mtgs	# Groups	# Mtgs	# Groups	# w/GRs	% w/GRs
Desert	31	21	10	10	41	31	27	87.1%
Electronic Overlay	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	100.0%
Inland Empire	116	101	7	7	123	108	47	43.5%
Kern	30	27	11	5	41	32	21	65.6%
Los Angeles	235	218	118	116	353	334	187	56.0%
Orange Co/GLB	137	132	30	30	167	162	86	53.1%
San Diego	151	125	34	34	185	159	94	59.1%
Santa Barbara	16	14	9	9	25	23	13	56.5%
SLO	38	31	4	4	42	35	23	65.7%
Spanish Overlay	179	85	2	1	181	86	61	70.9%
Ventura	43	42	20	13	63	55	35	63.6%
Total	976	796	247	231	1223	1027	596	58.0%

SCWS - Cathy W. Area Group Records (AGRC) Data from 7/16/2024
(questions email grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org)



**Thank you for allowing me
to serve as your Delegate.**

Teresa F.

CA-S Delegate Panel 64

**Questions/Comments on this report please email:
delegate@scws-al-anon.org**