Al-Anon Family Groups

Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

2023 World Service Conference (WSC)

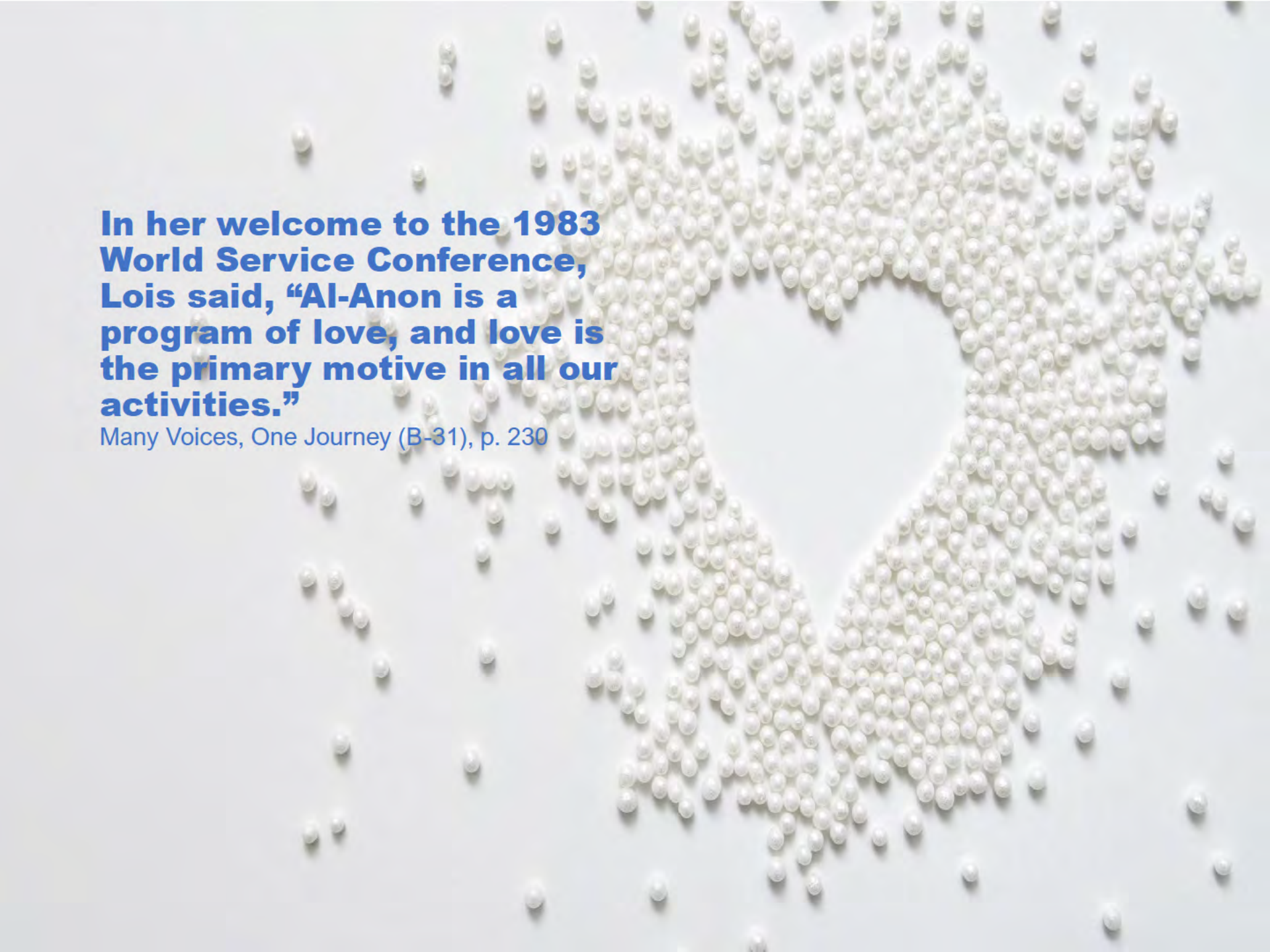
SCWS Delegate's Report

May 20, 2023

63nd Annual World Service Conference 2023

- Love, laugh, and grow together.
- Amar, reír y crecer juntos.
- The first World Service Conference took place in 1961.
- The 2023 WSC took place for 4 days, April 20-23, 2023 in Virginia Beach, VA.

GREETINGS FROM THE
WSC
WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE



In her welcome to the 1983 World Service Conference, Lois said, "Al-Anon is a program of love, and love is the primary motive in all our activities."

Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), p. 230

Road Trip! You And Your Board Connect!

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A Road Trip to Southern California in 2023!

- The Al-Anon Family Groups Board of Trustees will meet in Los Angeles the last week of October, 2023. The Board of Trustees will host a "Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect" event at the LAX Hilton Hotel all day Saturday, October 28, 2023.

- We are hoping that at least 150 Al-Anon members in our Area will be able to attend. The World Service Office will handle negotiations with the hotel and provide registration forms for local invitations. SCWS costs will be minimal. We will let you know when registration will open.

- We are considering whether to reserve a block of rooms at the hotel for guests who want to stay overnight before or after the Saturday event

- Our SCWS Chairperson Vicki attended last year's Road Trip! Event in Cleveland. She said it a great opportunity to meet the entire Board of Trustees and to see how Al-Anon works at the global level.

The 2023 International Convention will be held on **June 29 – July 2, 2023** at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM.

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2023 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation

There is still time to register. The cost is $250—plus additional charges for special events.

There are still hotel rooms available with free shuttles to the Convention Center.

There is a virtual program available for $145 which will allow members to attend several of the Big Meetings, as well as connecting with members who are attending in person.

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Electronic Meetings Become Al-Anon Family Groups – A Review

- In Motion 1, last year the 2022 World Service Conference voted :

- "To admit the Non-Panel Global Electronic Area (GEA) to the World Service Conference (WSC) Structure, whereby the Area's elected Delegate will serve as a voting member of the 2022 WSC as a member of Panel 62."
- The GEA Delegate resigned before the WSC, and the GEA Alternate Delegate attended the 2023 WSC in his place. The GEA has more than 900 Electronic Groups.

Two kinds of Al-Anon Family Groups:

- 1. Physical Groups
- A Physical Group belongs to a geographic area such as Southern California World Service and is affiliated with a physical location. When members seek meetings, a physical group will always be listed with a physical location.
- Physical Groups may allow an electronic "window' into their physical meeting. This permits what we are still calling "hybrid" meetings. Some members might join the physical meeting electronically, but they are joining with members who are meeting in person at a physical location.

Electronic Groups

- 2. Electronic Groups
- Electronic Groups are not attached to a physical location. They do not have an in-person component.
- Electronic Groups who want to attract a global audience can join the Global Electronic Area (GEA.)
- EGs which prefer to belong to a particular geographic area can join that Area once the Area GRs have voted to accept EGs and have a process in place to register them.
- The Southern California World Service Assembly voted on November 19, 2022 to welcome EGs!
- At this time about half of the 67 geographic Areas have voted to admit EGs into their Area.

Transforming Electronic Groups Project – Work Completed and in Progress

- Global Electronic Meeting Search is now available!
- Electronic Groups can transfer to and from the GEA using available online forms.
- Electronic group registration and change forms can only be submitted online.
- Electronic Groups registered with geographic Areas such as SCWS are currently not displayed on al-anon.org. We are listing them temporarily on scws-al-anon.org.
- World Service Office Staff are working now to create the Geographic Meeting Search to list these groups.
- There is still no hard and fast WSO deadline for Temporary Electronic Meetings to register as EGs

Alateen Electronic Group Feasibility

- In 2020 the Board of Trustees of the World Service Conference approved the Strategic Plan Strategy: Alateen Electronic Group Feasibility.
- The objective is to make Electronic Groups available for all Alateen members who wish to participate, ensuring the safety of Alateen and AMIAS members.
- Legal requirements in many international Al-Anon structures are more stringent than in the WSC structure in the US and Canada.
- The conceptual solution is still in the discussion phase.

Potential (Conceptual) Solution for Electronic Alateen Groups

- There would be minimum safety requirements appropriate for the global nature of EGs involving minors.
- Currently they are referred to as the Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (Global EASBR.)
- SCWS and other Areas would have the autonomy to decide if they want to host Electronic Alateen Groups. Such groups would be recognized as Al-Anon Family Groups with voice and vote in their service structure.
- At a minimum AMIAS-Es would be mandated reporters and would have to pass a background check.
- Teens wishing to attend a meeting would have to be interviewed, show photo identification, and share parent or guardian contact information.
- This is still very much in the conceptual stage.

Al-Anon Family Groups Copyright & Trademark Protection

- Understanding the new world reality and how members can help protect Al-Anon's name
- This 9-slide presentation will be available on scws-al-anon.org.

Permission to Use

- **Traditional**
- Al-Anon group and registered service arm event flyers
  - Registered service arm websites and social media pages
- Al-Anon Guidelines
- Photocopies created by members, groups, and service arms.
- Al-Anon Guidelines

- **Explicit**
- Excerpts from CAL
  - Members, groups, and registered service arms may reprint limited excerpts with approval.
- CAL in meetings
  - Groups may photocopy or post CAL readings for the duration of the meeting only.

New Conference Approved Literature

- Motion #4 at the 2023 World Service Conference:
- We gave conceptual approval to develop a comprehensive piece on sponsorship and service sponsorship using personal stories from Al-Anon members.

- The new Al-Anon Daily Reader entitled "A Little Time for Myself" will be released at the Al-Anon International Convention this summer. Generally, annual Al-Anon literature sales increase when a new Daily Reader is published.

Trustee Affirmation Process

- The World Service Conference had the privilege of affirming our SCWS past Delegate Jayme C. for her first 3-year term as a Trustee at Large on the Al-Anon Board of Trustees.

- Among other affirmations, the WSC affirmed Cindy M. for her 2nd 3-year term as the Southwest Regional Trustee.

2023 WSC Delegate Chosen Agenda Items

- Each year the WSC invites each Delegate to suggest up to two Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) that they would like the WSC to discuss during the Conference. Delegates vote for their favorites, and two topics are chosen. The topics chosen were similar to those chosen in 2022.
- 1. Rebuilding Alateen Meetings after the Pandemic.
- 2. Open discussion on attracting members into Service. What works? What doesn't work? What are the barriers for new Service members?
- In addition, 5 delegates from the Southwest region, including both California Delegates, succeeded in petitioning the WSC to consider allowing a discussion on including Delegates for the first time on the Conference Leadership Team, the committee which develops the agenda for the WSC. The motion did not pass. However, we have begun the process for adding the discussion to the agenda for the 2024 WSC.

AFG Inc. Finances

Statement of Activities (page four)

		2022		2021	$ Change	% Change
Revenue						
	Gross profit from literature sales	$ 2,099,846	$	1,906,751	193,095	10%
	Contributions	3,337,918		2,623,242	714,676	27%
	Magazine sales	247,368		238,040	9,328	4%
	Subscription income	48,174		33,328	14,846	45%
	Noncash contributions	125,939		136,555	(10,616)	-8%
	Investment income	(1,647,728)		2,062,376	(3,710,104)	-180%
		$ 4,211,517	$	7,000,292	(2,788,775)	-40%
Expenses						
	Program Services	$ 3,333,424	$	2,752,049	581,375	21%
	Literature distribution services	904,405		922,257	(17,852)	-2%
	General adminstrative services	1,352,031		1,540,509	(188,478)	-12%
		$ 5,589,860	$	5,214,815	375,045	7%
Change in net assets		$ (1,378,343)	$	1,785,477	407,134	23%

Sources of Revenue

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Contributions

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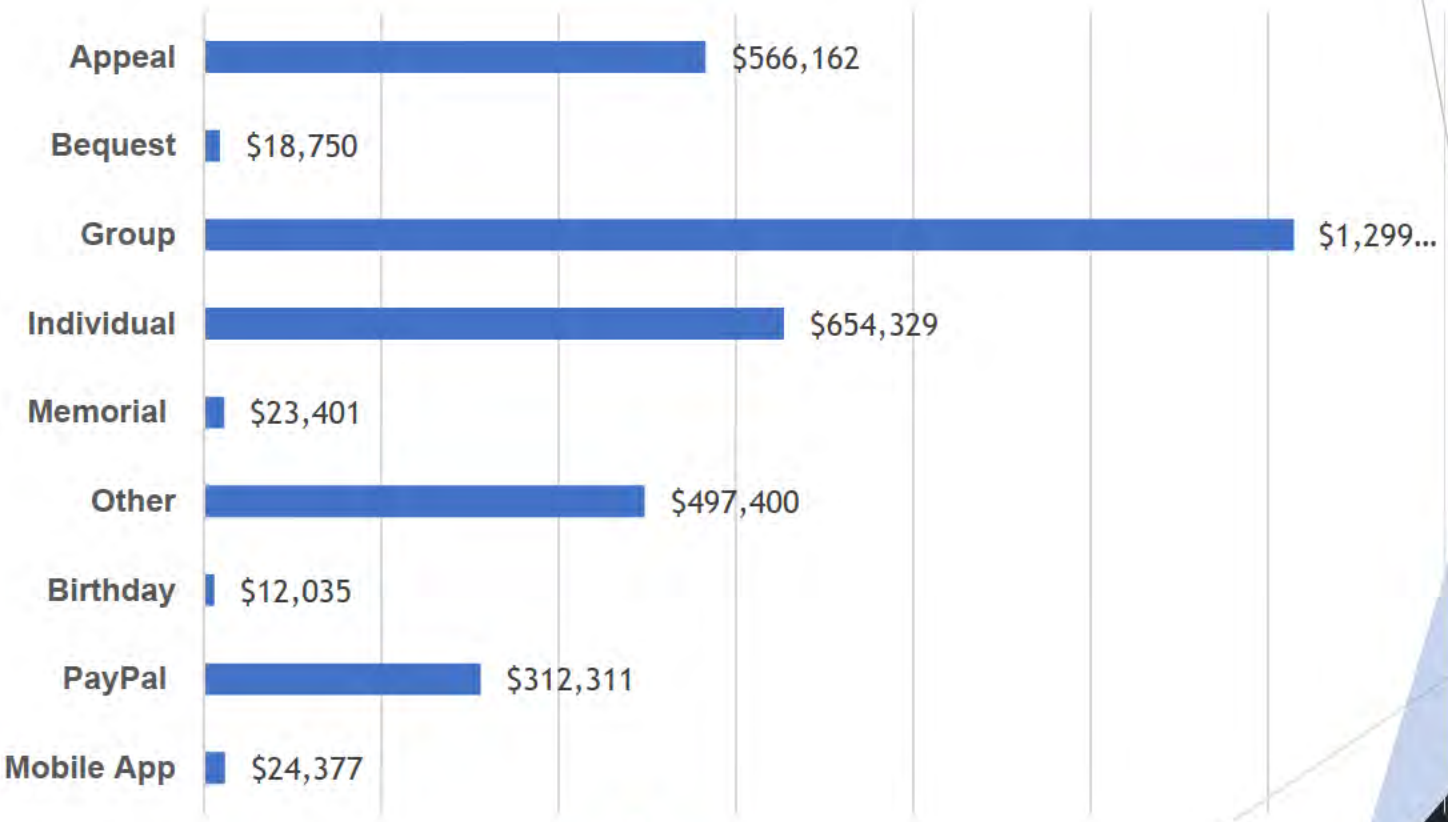
2022 Contributions



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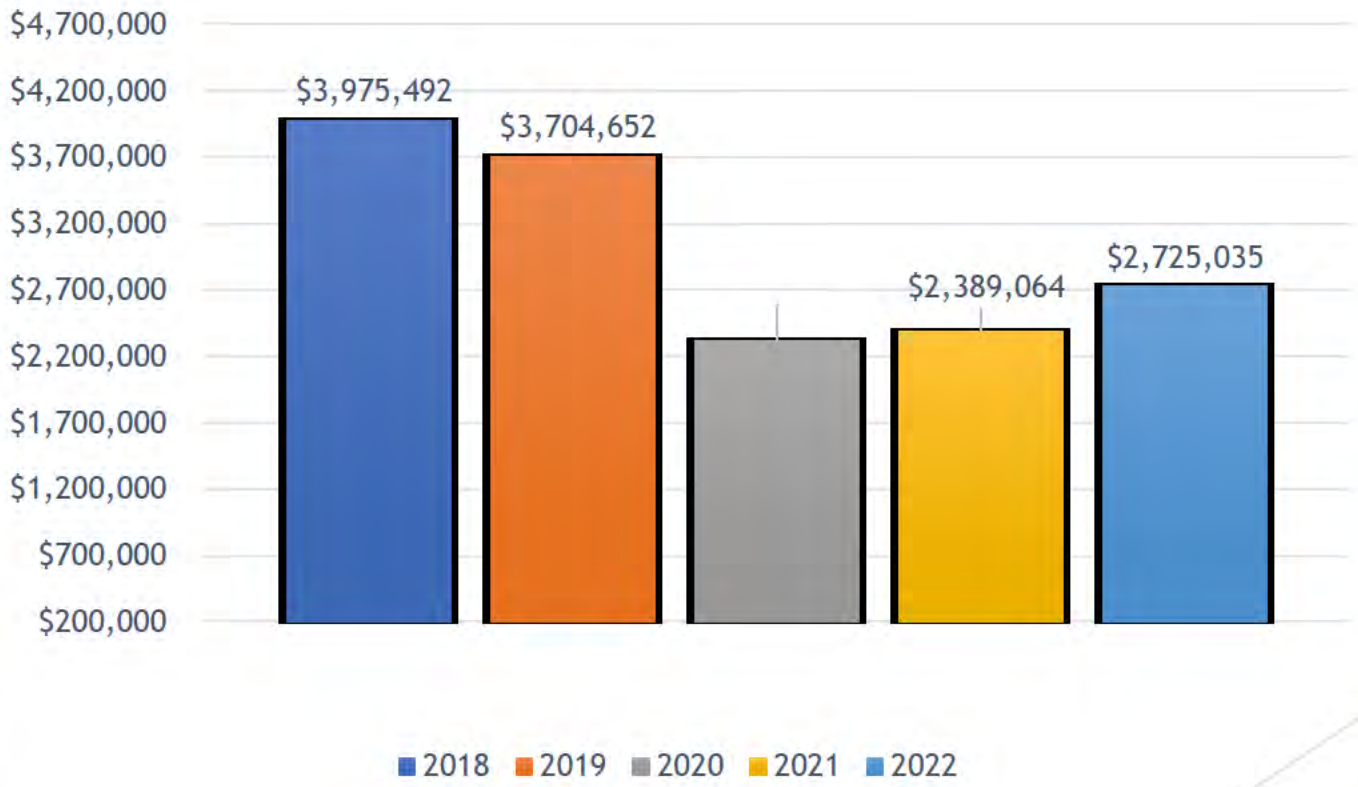
Literature Sales



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Program Services

Registers new groups

Supports international structures

Maintains and updates meeting locations

Produces exciting new literature

Prepares program and staffs the World Service Conference (WSC)

Maintains our website, mobile app, enhances communications, and develops PSAs

Attends professional conferences to share the Al-Anon message

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2023 Projects

- Electronic Group Transformation
- *Mobile App* Upgrade
- International Structures Meetings
- 2023 International Convention

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2022
Operating Budget

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.
2022 OPERATING BUDGET

	2022 Preliminary Budget	2021 Revised Budget	YTD Audited Actual
Estimated Revenue			
Literature Sales less cost of printing	**2,057,461**	1,993,000	1,906,751
Contributions	**2,850,000**	2,543,535	2,623,242
Magazine sales	**235,000**	255,000	238,040
Subscription income	**32,000**	28,000	33,328
Investment Income/Transfers	**285,600**	280,600	235,693
Total Estimated Revenue	**5,460,061**	5,100,135	5,037,054

2023 Operating Budget

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.
2023 OPERATING BUDGET

	2023 Preliminary Budget	2022 Revised Budget	2022 Audited Actual
Estimated Revenue			
Literature Sales less cost of printing	**2,768,930**	2,156,210	2,099,846
Contributions	**2,532,900**	2,917,980	3,337,919
Magazine sales	**235,000**	235,000	247,368
Subscription income	**48,000**	46,000	48,174
Investment Income/Transfers	**275,600**	265,600	(173,743)
Total Estimated Revenue	**5,860,430**	5,620,790	5,559,564

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What's the Bottom Line?

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP HEADQUARTERS, INC.
2023 OPERATING BUDGET

	2023 Preliminary Budget	2022 Revised Budget	2022 Audited Actual
Total Estimated Revenue	**5,860,430**	5,620,790	5,685,503
Total Expense	**5,860,430**	5,953,520	5,729,985
Net increase(decrease) from Operations	**-**	(332,730)	(44,482)

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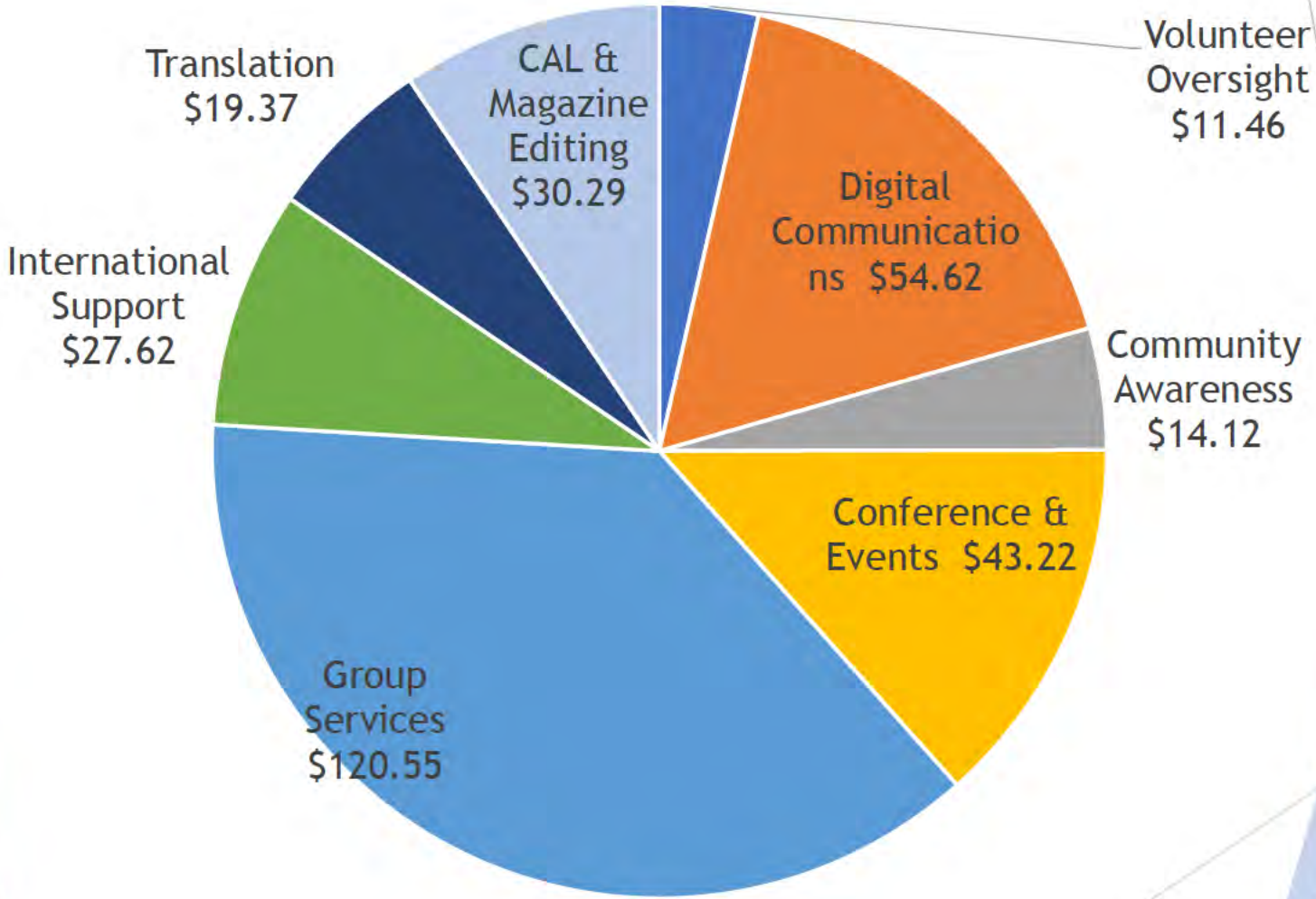
Cost per Group: $321.25



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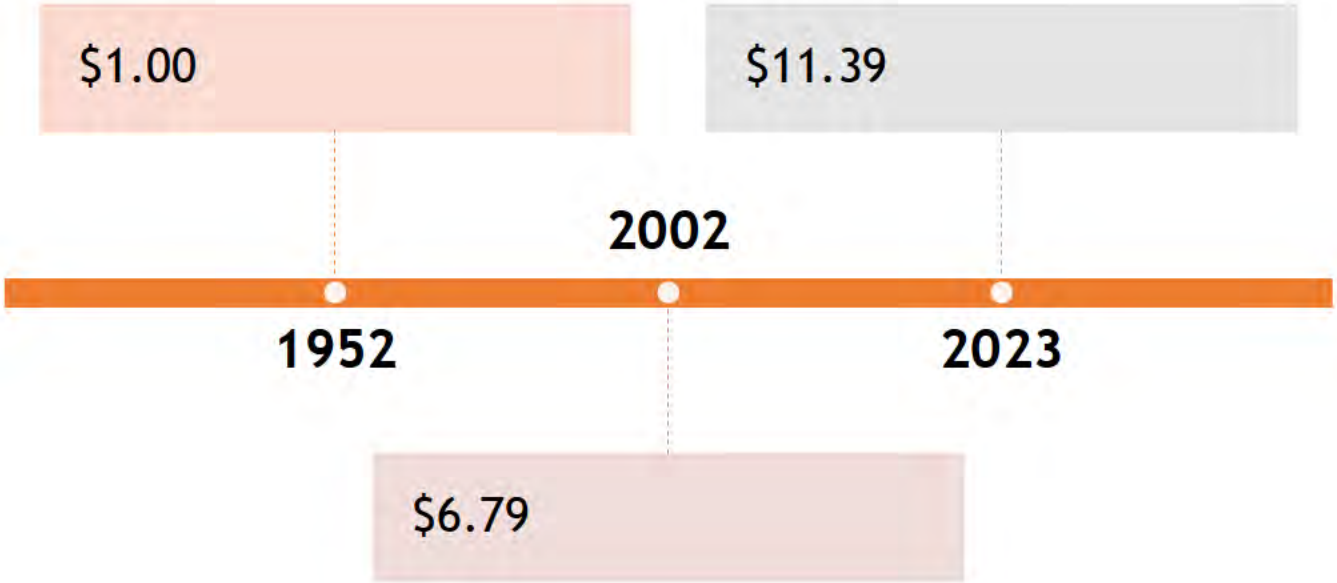
The power of $1



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Interpretation into Spanish and French at WSC

- The 2021 WSC completed a 3-year trial period using interpreters for Spanish- and French-speaking Delegates so that they can participate fully in the World Service Conference. At the 202 WSC one Delegate from Quebec had French interpretation for the full Conference. There were 2 Delegates present whose native language was Spanish. The new Delegate from Puerto Rico had Spanish interpretation.

- This is important for our SCWS Spanish-speaking members. It is no longer necessary to be fluent in English to become a Delegate to the World Service Conference!

Al-Anon Longitudinal Study

- Every three years Al-Anon conducts a Member Survey on the Al-Anon website. The latest Survey took place last summer from June 16 to July 27, 2021. We had a record-breaking response from over 16,000 members, a 28% increase from the previous survey.

- The 2021 WSC approved Al-Anon's first Longitudinal Study. Many members who completed last year's Member Survey indicated their willingness to participate in the 5-year annual study which will look at the effects which continued membership in Al-Anon has on members' health and well-being. The first survey will take place this summer.

- The results are already providing important "scientific" evidence to the professional community on the benefits of Al-Anon membership

International Service Meetings

- International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM)
  - Coordinated by the WSO
  - Held biennially (even years)
  - For national structures
- Zonal Meetings
  - Coordinated by international structures
  - Held biennially (odd years)
  - For national and evolving structures

Stepping Stones and the WSC in New York

- At the 2021 Virtual WSC we had a virtual Stepping Stones visit that was deeply moving. In 2022 the WSC was held in Tarrytown and WSC members visited Stepping Stones—the home of AA founder Bill W. and his wife Lois W. Al-Anon's first office and Clearinghouse was at Stepping Stones.

- This year at the 2023 WSC we had a discussion about the feasibility of continuing to have the WSC in the New York every third year. Holding the WSC in New York is considerably more expensive than having it in Virgina Beach.

- Many Delegates described the spiritual impact of visiting Stepping Stones and witnessing this Al-Anon history.

- No action was taken and the discussion will continue.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Workshop

- At their January 2023 meeting, the AFG Inc. Board of Trustees participated in a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion workshop with Debby Irving, author of a book entitled Waking Up White, based on her own journey of discovery into how racism works, from the perspective of a privileged white woman.

- WSC members participated in this workshop during a three-hour session at the Conference.

- Three African American women Delegates objected to a DEI Workshop led by a white woman. The conversation was emotional at times. Many of us agreed that the session would be merely the first of many discussions

2022 Annual Report

- In our 6th and final motion, the World Service Conference approved the 2022 Annual Report.

- The Annual Report will be published this summer and available on Al-anon.org.

A Visit to the World Service Office in Virginia Beach

- A highlight of the 2023 WSC was a visit to the WSO.
- Here are the Panel 61 Delegates—attending our 3rd and final WSC.
- All Al-Anon members are welcome to tour the WSO.

Photo redacted per the Policy Section on Anonymity' of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual under Anonymity and the Media, which includes web postings

2024 World Service Conference April 18-21, 2024

- The 2024 World Service Conference will be held in Virginia Beach, VA, from April 18-April 21, 2024.
- As reported in the 2021 World Service Office Annual Report, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to approve reducing Conference Week to four days effective in 2023 on a three-year trial basis. Opinions were mixed at this year's Conference.
- I look forward to working with the SCWS Delegate who will represent us at the 2024 WSC!

Questions

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