

2025 Fall Assembly Delegate Report

Hello Everyone,

I am David C, your area delegate. I represent Massachusetts at the World Service Conference, and act as the link of service to the World Service Office for all of you.

Let's start with the financials of the WSO. The WSO budget has been adjusted a bit after literature sales were lower than expected. The expenses and income result in a deficit budget of close to \$171,000. This is a less than 3% of the budgeted income. There are a lot of projects going on right now, many of which are to modernize their systems and stimulate activities in the fellowship.

Next, let's look at several items that deserve your attention.

The WSO Group Naming Policy has two aspects worth noting:

1. Existing Groups are not required to change their names if the names include population identifiers such as Women, Parents, Adult Children, BIPOC, and LGBTQ.
2. Groups wishing to change their names and new groups are required to not include population identifiers in their names.

There is ongoing conversation about this policy. Groups that feel there are benefits to having population identifiers in their names, please email me so I can record your thoughts in advance of the next World Service Conference. The Policy Committee got an earful of questions and objections about this policy before the last WSC, but I want to make sure I have heard feedback from our area. The WSO is concerned that population identifiers in group names will not be attractive or welcoming to those who want to attend a meeting, but I'd like to hear other perspectives.

Some members report that a group name with a population identifier in it is what attracted them to the program in the first place. This made coming to a meeting for the first time easier for them.

However, some members develop a sense of identity around their personal recovery context, and feel supported by other members with similar recovery contexts, but there is a risk of creating an "in-group" that is not welcoming to some newcomers or other members. There is a basic human pattern of resisting the inclusion of people who we don't already identify with, but breaking this pattern is how newcomers come to the program and discover that they belong in the program. Beyond a group naming policy is the responsibility we each have to make our groups welcoming to all those who come in need of help, which in turn benefits our personal recovery. It is fine for a group to have a population emphasis, but refer to Traditions 1, 3, and 5

for more ideas about our common task of keeping our doors open to all who come to us for help. Our common experience with alcoholism is hopefully enough to encourage us to share the message of the program and its benefits, even with people whom we don't immediately identify with.

The WSO has developed Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements for Electronic Alateen Meetings. We'll talk more about that later during the Assembly.

There will be a 75th Anniversary Celebration in April 2026 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. More announcements to come as the date approaches.

Preparations are underway for the 2028 International Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Many volunteers will be needed, so please think about helping out if you can attend.

Two new publications are collecting submissions from the membership. Please consider submitting shares for the *Finances in Al-Anon Recovery* and *Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship*. You can do so on the WSO website.