



WSO: Keeper of Traditions/Concepts

“Questions pertaining to the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service continually arise within our fellowship.”* WSO is our clearinghouse of information and continues to compile the collective experience of our membership into, what was once four booklets, into what is now our *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27).

*(*Service Manual*, Preface)

Changes are first discussed and approved by the World Service Conference, the largest group conscience and/or by the Policy Committee, the second largest. We talk to each other and reason things out.

Carrying the Message: Our World Service Office (WSO)

How often have you thought, “What *does* our WSO do?” and “What are they *doing* with all of that *money* in their *budget*?” Do you find yourself not trusting the ‘organization’ and ‘where the money goes?’

If you have these nagging doubts, maybe it’s time to take a moment to take an inventory of what our WSO actually does. You can start by taking a look at pages 135-146 of our *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*. There is also a wealth of information on the members’ website, under the

WSO tab. There, you will find detailed financial information. There is information regarding the many services each department of the WSO provides to the groups.

When we look, we find we are abundantly supplied with information to make informed choices; we see transparency.

It may be time to take a fresh look at our WSO. I think you will find that our WSO’s role is to carry the message. In the end, you may say to yourself, Thank you Higher Power, for our WSO, staff & volunteers.

Conference Approved Literature (CAL): The bedrock of our program

Without our literature, our program could get diluted, with only verbal accounts to carry the message. Did you know that our WSO serves as a literature clearinghouse, publishing CAL? As its preface states, to create one book—*Paths to Recovery*—“they requested, collected and compiled sharings from members throughout the world.” Then, an “Al-Anon

team, including WSC members, WSO staff, volunteer committee members, a writer, two editors, a designer and indexer, produced, reviewed and revised the manuscript.” So much work goes into *all* of our publications. With literature as our primary method of carrying the message, I hope that you will consider, and financially support, our WSO. It is worth every penny.