

Patti Watson
East Texas Area Archivist

I knew by serving a half term my time as an Archives Coordinator was going to be shorter than normal. It seems 2020 was brought to a standstill by the pandemic and consequentially the lockdown. I feel many ideas and plans were put on hold never to be realized. As East Texas Area Archivist I did however get a brief glance into the world of the AWSC and all that it entails. While some people get to jump in with both feet, I just barely dipped a toe in the water. I did get a chance explore through many tidbits from the past. I came across a very old IP. I actually had it on display at the Victoria Area Assembly. It was a reproduction of Bill W's speech at the very first World Service Conference of Delegates in 1961 held in New York. This is a short excerpt of how he closed it out.

'Sometimes you delegates will come here to give advice and indeed it is in your power to give active directions because the ultimate authority is yours. Then again you will offer new suggestions not thought of here that which will make for greater progress . Sometimes you will face momentous questions in which your guidance and collective wisdom will surely manifest itself and save you from grievous error.

At other times you will come here and find internal troubles and you will correct these, At still other times you will attend conference meetings which will be so boring, so dull that some of you will say "why in Heaven's name go to New York just to say Yes to what our public accountant has already verified? This is a lot of nonsense". But no matter what happens, your presence will insure the maintenance of the linkage. Each one of these yearly meetings, be they dull, be they controversial, is really an insurance policy which can guarantee the future unity and functioning of your society.

May God bless and keep you all. May He set his special favor upon this auspicious beginning . You will surely look back upon this day as a great one the annals of the Al Anon Family Group.'

-Bill Wilson
WSC, 1961

So especially today we cannot lose our connections even though right now it seems harder than ever, our meetings are important because it's that very connection to each other that keeps Al Anon together.

And even though my time was short- thank you all for letting me be your Area Archivist.