

WSO Delegate Report
Area World Service Committee
January 10, 2021

The 2021 World Service Conference (WSC) theme is a fitting one for our times:

Moving Forward with Unity, Courage, and Perseverance
Avancemos con unidad, valor y perseverancia
Allons de l'avant avec unité, courage et persévérance

We can probably all relate to the courage and perseverance needed to confront year two of the pandemic. But what about unity—why is that part of the WSC theme?

I think of unity as the glue that holds our groups, districts, area, and World Service Conference together. Unity ensures that we all enjoy both the benefits of personal recovery and recovery through service.

In the coming year, let's consider how we can promote unity, courage, and perseverance at every level of service. Please e-mail me examples of what your groups, districts, and AISs are doing to highlight this 2021 Conference theme! mjttxepanel61@gmail.com

WSO News

2021 World Service Conference: The big news item from WSO is that for Panel 60's second year, the WSC will once again be held virtually. What's different this year, though, is that delegates will get the full conference experience...and more. A tentative agenda shows WSC members meeting virtually for five, 8-9 hr. days with optional Al-Anon meetings before or after!

October COB Packet: The trilingual COB Letter is now available at al-anon.org, along with the Finance Update, Policy Committee, and Conference Leadership Team quarterly reports.

COB Letter: During October Board Week, discussions were held on diversity, trademark and copyright, and ideas shared on how to incorporate electronic meetings into the service structure. The Board will continue meeting virtually at least through July 2021.

News item: Because of popular demand, WSO has created an electronic newcomers packet for virtual meetings.

Finances: As a result of WSO cost-saving measures and generous member contributions, WSO's projected deficit in April 2020 of \$1.6 million turned into a surplus of \$375K* WSO is very grateful for the generosity of the fellowship. • **New Board Treasurer:** Cindy M. reported in December that thanks to the outpouring of support by members, we may exceed our original budget for contributions by \$1 million! And while literature sales still lagged behind, there's hope that when face-to-face meetings resume, those numbers will also pick up in 2021.

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*Correction from original report

Cost Saving Measures: In addition to staff furloughs and suspension of all travel for much of 2020, WSO instituted a change in how calls are handled. Beginning in December 2020, callers to WSO can directly reach the team they need through an automated system. There is still the option to speak to a live operator. Both the automated service and the operators are able to communicate in English, Spanish, and French.

2021 Budget: WSO expects to be back at full staff capacity in 2021, and to resume staff and volunteer travel in the second half of the year. Expenses will reflect these changes, and it's hoped that members will continue to support WSO's work through their generous contributions.

Mobile App: The Mobile App team continues to respond to member suggestions. The registration process has now been simplified: Date of birth and cell numbers are no longer needed. Alateen chat is now live. Twenty-two meetings are available, and as of December, 20,000 members have registered for the App!

WSC Equalized Expense: WSO announced that the 2021 Equalized Expense will be \$0. The Texas East Area applied the 2020 Equalized Expense to 2021. I have requested that the \$1,517.35 be refunded to the Area. It is also my suggestion that this be brought to the Spring Assembly for the GRs to vote whether to donate the money to WSO since we did not donate any money in 2020.

Thank you all for your service to Texas East Area 53 in 2021! In this, our 70th year, I look forward to working together in unity, courage and perseverance as we fulfill our primary purpose -- helping families and friends of alcoholics!

Yours in grateful service,
Mattie T
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