

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2026

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE

TOPICS

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Al-Anon's 66th Annual Business Meeting

Members of the World Service Conference gathered in Newport News, Virginia, April 21–24, 2026, to continue the 66-years-running conversation that makes the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon Family Groups.

The Conference theme—75 Years, One Purpose—celebrated Al-Anon's founding and its foundation: helping the families and friends of alcoholics.



Choosing a Group's Name

At the 2026 World Service Conference (WSC), members gathered again to talk through questions and ongoing concerns about implementation of the “Choosing a Group's Name” Policy approved by the 2024 WSC. Two sessions were held to hear the voices of Area groups—who hold the “ultimate responsibility and authority” in accordance with Concept One—and to find a path forward in unity.

In the first session, members discussed the three themes that emerged from Delegate reports on Al-Anon Family Groups feedback:

1. Identifiers in Group Names: Helpful focus or risk of exclusion
2. Welcoming: Shaped by both group naming and member behavior
3. Policy Development: Requires clarity about future implementation.

The session concluded with breakouts to gather any additional perspectives not obvious from the original reports.

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The second session focused on how to move forward. Delegate and first session feedback made it clear that substantial unanimity had not been reached on whether to allow or disallow identifiers in group names. In the absence of unanimity, the Conference looked to acceptance—its “ability to compromise cheerfully whenever it can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction.” (2026-2029 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* [P-24/27], “Concept Nine,” pg. 199)

Having reasoned things out, the WSC approved a motion directing WSO Staff to allow community identifiers (such as men, women, parents, adult children, young adults, other gender identification/sexual orientation, etc.) in group names. The motion also directed Staff to notify Area trusted servants when a group registers or changes its name to include identifiers, so the Area can ensure the group understands the principle of welcoming in accordance with Tradition Three, and to develop a plan to share experience, strength, and hope on being welcoming, especially to those who do not match a group’s community identifier.

PASSING IT ON

The Director of Programs gave an update on the project that evolved out of Delegate and Staff suggestions for allocating excess reserve funds and the Growing Future Volunteer Leaders presentation to the 2025 World Service Conference. Passing It On is being funded as a special project from our Reserve Fund surplus. The objective is to capture the experience, strength, and hope of past and present service volunteers to expand recovery and inspire current and future trusted servants through presentations and other support materials.

To achieve this objective, Delegates have been asked to inform members of upcoming opportunities to become *content developers*. Interested members will be asked to share how service experience has been passed on to them and how they have passed on their knowledge. A Task Force will shortly begin its work to define the content scope and evaluate member applications as preparation for future presentations to all WSC Structure Areas.

EAVIP: The Implementation Train Has Left the Station

Following a powerful World Service Conference, **Electronic Alateen Validation & Implementation Planning (EAVIP)** moved from planning to action. Conference members fully participated in a thoughtful, respectful, and spiritual discussion grounded in Al-Anon’s principles of unity, responsibility, and shared leadership.

Using the familiar train nomenclature, Conference clearly recognized that the longrunning *planning train* had reached its destination. With clarity, collaboration, and trust in the process, the Conference punched all three tickets to ride, signaling readiness to move forward together. These actions recognized electronic Alateen groups as Al-Anon Family Groups; approved the World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety & Behavioral Requirements (WSC EASBR) for the WSC Structure; and recognized the Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (Global EASM), which provide a framework for international structures to develop EASBRs that reflect local laws and requirements.

This action marked a historic milestone: formally incorporating electronic Alateen groups into our links of service with voice and vote, expanding access while maintaining the safety and spiritual foundation that guides Al-Anon and Alateen service.

With all tickets punched, the **Implementation Train** is officially underway. Registration of electronic Alateen groups will begin **September 1**. Areas are encouraged to begin or continue conversations to consider if and when they may wish to opt in. Training is in motion, and additional information and supporting resources will continue to be shared through the links of service to support Areas in making informed, thoughtful decisions.

The question now becomes: Is your Area ready to hop on the train?





Chosen Agenda Items Process & Topics

For 50 years, Chosen Agenda Items (CAIs)—previously known as “Open Session” or “Green Light/Red Light”—have evolved into a key component of the World Service Conference. CAIs provide an opportunity for discussion of topics that might not otherwise appear on the agenda, allowing members to freely express themselves about issues affecting Al-Anon worldwide. Inviting Conference members—Delegates, Trustees, Executive Committee members, and voting WSO Staff—to submit and vote on topics prior to Conference is an important tradition. The top-voted 2026 topics, Artificial Intelligence and Public Outreach, were discussed in 45-minute sessions, addressing A.I.’s benefits and challenges and ways to carry the message and improve professionals’ understanding of Al-Anon Family Groups. Interested in learning about past discussions? Visit the Index of Chosen Agenda Items on the website.

Al-Anon’s 2028 International Convention

In 2028, we’ll gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a city that offers both convenience and warmth. And, although July 2028 may feel distant, we’ve learned it’s never too early to start planning!

Registration will open in September 2027, giving members plenty of time to plan their trip to attend the next Al-Anon International Convention July 20 – 23, 2028 and possibly to coordinate vacation and fellowship time before and after the event.

We look forward to welcoming members from around the world to Minneapolis—City by Nature, where recovery, unity, connection, and gratitude will meet once again.



**MORE
INFORMATION**

Highlights of the 2026 World Service Conference provides a brief overview of our abundant and productive Conference. For a detailed account of the many spiritual discussions that took place, we invite you to read the *2026 World Service Conference Summary (P-46)* upon its release. The electronic version is slated for publication in July and the print version in August.