

Chair's Report
October 20, 2021

CHECK YOUR LISTING—ISRs should ask their groups to carefully review their listings in the Meeting Directory on our Web site to ensure (1) that both the groups' WSO and Orange County identification numbers are the same as those in groups' records and (2) that meeting information is current. Ben P, our Web master/technical services volunteer, and our Chair-elect, Laura B., have been working with Teresa F., Southern California World Services Area group records coordinator, to ensure that information on our AIS Web site directory and on the WSO Web site is the same. If ISRs find any information that is incorrect, they should email Teresa, grouprecords@scws-al-anon.org.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING—The Service Board will meet in a special session at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 27, to (1) to discuss feedback from our Town Hall Listening Session and (2) to begin planning for permanent staffing of our AIS office.

WHAT WAS THE TOWN HALL?—The Town Hall was a Listening Session at which Board members heard how Al-Anon members believe the AIS can be most effective. The topic was "Serving Our Members in a Changing Environment," which noted the effects the pandemic has had on how the AIS does business. Members got background information before sharing their opinions on office schedule, the ways members will shop for literature in the future, expected COVID precautions and ways to encourage service at the ISR and Service Board levels. The background information included (1) an update on our Al-Anon Information Service office by Sarah G., treasurer; (2) an update from Roxane S., Southern California World Service AIS/LDC coordinator, on how other Southern California AIS Offices and Literature Distribution Centers are operating during the pandemic and (3) a report from Eddie D. on how the Los Angeles AIS has followed the World Service Office model in reorganizing for more effective office oversight to benefit both members and provide more continuity for the office staff. He is a former LA Intergroup chair and a member of the current Board of Directors.

Here is what Sarah G. said in her report on our AIS office today:

- ◆ A former Board chairperson, Kevin O., has been coordinating office operations on a part-time basis with the assistance of volunteers since September 20
- ◆ Office hours follow the schedule adopted several months ago: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- ◆ Phones and emails are monitored and mail collected Mondays and Fridays.
- ◆ A Board member receives phone calls on weekends and holidays.
- ◆ Expenses have been exceeding income for much of the pandemic.

- ◆ Our base rent is \$1,711 per month. Taxes and common area fees bring the total monthly fee to \$1,844.64. The lease expires at the end of 2024, when base rent will be \$1,870. We don't know what taxes and common area fees will be then.
- ◆ We have reserve and operations funds of \$135,000.
- ◆ Because 2019-2020 taxes were filed late, we learned at the end of September that the IRS is assessing a \$5,760 penalty. We are appealing the penalty and have been told that we have a good chance of having our appeal granted.
- ◆ We do not know the details or financial implications—if any—of a pending labor board complaint. *Note: Since the Town Hall, details have been received. They are included in the report Kevin O., office coordinator, is presenting tonight (October 20).*

COOPERATION INITIATED—The need for cooperation between the AIS and World Service Districts is emphasized in Al-Anon literature. So our AIS turned to District 63 with a request for volunteers when the AIS was asked to provide panels at a residential facility that is within the District's geographic territory. In another example of cooperative effort, an ISR, Gary G., stepped up when our AIS Institutions chair needed someone to coordinate the panel.