

ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
October 30, 31 & November 1, 2009
Ambassador Conference Resort, Kingston

AMENDED

“Embracing the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future”

Friday, October 30, 2009

The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Sue welcomed everyone to this Assembly and asked those attending Assembly for the first time to stand (so as to see they are not alone) and also acknowledged Alateens in attendance. Introduction of our OSA Executive, Advisors and Coordinators followed, along with the introduction of Mary Lou, Associate Director Group Services, Alateen and Special Services, from WSO, and Sandie, our Regional Trustee.

2009 Assembly Host Committee Chairperson, Sharon R, extended a warm welcome; made some housekeeping announcements which included hours for the Literature Room and the Hospitality Suite, information about the raffle of baskets donated by Districts 25 and 26 and the mask competition to be held this evening.

Sue thanked the Host Committee volunteers for a great job; announced that the LDC Board Meeting would be held in the Frontenac Room at 8:30; and reminded members to review Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) and the Voting Procedures. Sue reminded the members that KBDM is in the pre-registration package and Voting Procedures can be found in the Ontario South Assembly Manual (held by District Representatives) and on our website (www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca – click on Al-Anon Members, then Area Policy Manual, then Section 5 – Assembly). Sue also asked for anyone interested in submitting a resume for the position of Website Coordinator to our Delegate to do so over this weekend and to speak to Claire for more information if needed.

Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Open Speaker Meeting followed: Chaired by Debbie P; Speaker: Neil, DR, Grimsby, ON; Topic: “Embracing the Legacies”.

Evening Meeting: 8:30 pm - LDC Board Meeting.

Saturday, October 31, 2009 (Morning session)

The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties. OSA Chairperson, Sue, again welcomed everyone to Assembly; asked for acknowledgment of those at their first Assembly, in their first service position, Alateens, etc. and introduced the OSA Executive, Advisors and Coordinators.

Sharon R, 2009 Host Committee Chair, made a number of housekeeping announcements and announced the winners of the Mask Competition. The competition raised \$52.00 for donation to OSA.

Seating Arrangements:

Sue explained that all voting members are asked to sit in the designated area. Seating arrangements were established with non-voting members to be seated at the back of the room; voting members seated with their DRs in their respective numbered rows. Sue noted some may need to share a row.

Establishing KBDM Guidelines (also see KBDM details in pre-registration package):

Sue shared on the Knowledge-Based Decision Making which is based on the idea of open communication between leadership and membership; a dialogue *before* deliberation. In the past, we may have come up with a motion and then talked about it, so we were either *for* the motion or *against* it and that's what we spoke to. Now what we like to do, as we were encouraged to do by our co-founders, is to discuss the idea first and then to decide whether we need a motion at all. Everyone hears all of the information and everyone (voting and non-voting) has a voice, an opportunity to speak.

Living in a culture of trust in Al-Anon, we trust you have done the best job you can to be where you are and that you are doing the best job you can today. It's important to remember that who makes the decision comes far below the fact that a good decision is made.

Sue encouraged those who were new to the process to understand they are not alone; that even the members of the Executive are new to their current positions; and that they should feel comfortable and try not to be afraid to ask questions if not clear on any aspect.

To respect everyone's right to voice his/her opinion, and to allow for business to flow in a good orderly manner, the Chairperson said she will use a timer and asked that we adopt a two-minute time limit for speaking at the microphone on any one subject; state your name; speak only once; don't repeat what others have said; and also that there be no applause.

After our KBDM discussion, one of two things will happen: (1) a motion may come forth; or (2) If nobody puts a motion forward, then things stay as they were; our discussion has indicated that we don't need to make a change.

How a Motion is submitted:

A motion from the floor must be submitted by a voting member on a blue Motion Form, which may be obtained from Jacqui, the OSA Secretary; motion to be written legibly and duly signed by the voting member and seconded by another voting member. During the break, our Advisors, Joan and Gail, will assist anyone to craft a Motion.

Voting Procedures (also see notes on voting procedures in pre-registration package):

Sue explained that an abstention is a decision not to vote, so we will consider only yes or no votes when deciding a majority. Sue also explained votes are cast by Group Representatives or by District Representatives who also hold the position of GR; also Sue asked DRs to ensure only one vote per group.

A majority vote (50% plus 1 of the votes cast) is required to pass motions. If an amendment to a motion is made, the amendment takes precedence over the main motion and we will vote on the amendment first.

If a motion is presented and carried, it is adopted by the Area. If a motion is defeated, there is no change to what was done before discussion and vote.

Tabling of motions received, other than those listed in the Agenda as Discussion Items, is at the discretion of the Chairperson. If relevant to today's discussions, they will be brought forth for further action. If not, they will go for consideration at the next Executive meeting and, if deemed appropriate, brought to AWSC.

If a motion is to be presented from the floor, the motion is "tabled" when the Chairperson reads it to the Assembly. The "mover" may speak first and she/he may only speak again once all others have had a chance to address the Assembly. Voter eligibility and abstentions were clarified. The stand up/sit down process for voting was presented.

Vote was called on this process, Gwen moved, Veronica seconded, and carried (one against).

Items for Discussion Forms:

Items for Discussion forms (for items at the Area level – beyond group or district autonomy) are found at the back of this room, and should be deposited in the basket provided. Sue reviewed the process and flow of information. For example, if an Item for Discussion is submitted, it will be taken up by the Executive at an upcoming meeting (November & February). These items are clarified as needed, that is, if it is deemed to be administrative in nature, the Executive will deal with it, and if it is a substantive issue requiring a motion to come to a future Assembly, it would be brought forward at AWSC.

Workshop Sign up Sheets:

Sign up sheets are set up on a table at the back of this meeting room. Two sets of two workshops will be conducted at 4:30 and 7:00 pm – (1) Alateen, Nick M, Lisbon Room; and (2) Conflict Resolution, Phyllis D, Regal Room.

Ask-It-Basket & Volunteers:

Questions, where answers have not been found in the manuals, are to be written on the pink Ask-It-Basket form and deposited in the basket provided at the back of this meeting room. Answers will be given on Sunday morning and also published in our Open Lines newsletter when space is available. Volunteers Pat B, Debbie D, Norma and Patrick K will join our Advisors Joan P and Gail C to consider the questions. Sue also mentioned that questions may be emailed to Executive members using the contact information on the back page of Open Lines.

Approval of the 2008 Assembly Minutes:

Errors and omissions were asked for. **It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 2008 OSA Assembly be accepted". Vote was called and motion carried unanimously.**

DELEGATE'S REPORT – Claire D:

The theme of the World Service Conference Claire attended in April was "Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future" and Claire's report, sharing on all of her experiences at WSC, pretty much on a day-to-day, hour-by-hour basis, was in a separate package handed out at the registration table. DRs are asked to copy this report and distribute it to Group Representatives, who in turn are asked to share it with group members.

Claire expressed her appreciation for the love gifts she was given to take to WSC and how she loved receiving mail at the hotel; that she hopes this practice will continue.

She mentioned that the Delegates attending WSC work very hard; and that the three past Delegates, Joan P, Gail C and Ann K, and past Regional Trustee Jo-Anne Larman, all

here at this Assembly, can confirm that. Lots of applause when Claire mentioned that Jo-Anne was celebrating 48 years in Al-Anon.

Claire explained that, as Delegate she is Ontario South's primary communications link to World Service, so she must be familiar with all the issues and vote responsibly, on our behalf. Being familiar with the issues means reading and studying 'tons' of material received from WSO for months before WSC. She also said learning about the structure of WSO has made all three of our Legacies – recovery through the Steps; unity through the Traditions and service through the Concepts – part of her world every day helping her to build a bridge to a better future.

Claire directed our attention to the information in her report about Thought Forces, Task Forces, TEAM, Budget, The Forum, Excess Bequests, Membership Contribution, Abundant Thinking, and Task Force on Anonymity and Diversity and to her contribution as Chair for the 2010 Canadian Delegates meeting and to her position with the Task/Thought Forces.

Goals expressed can be used here (1) the spiritual tone of this Assembly will prevail by demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members; (2) that the members will leave here understanding the purpose of the Assembly and relationships within the world-wide structure of Al-Anon and Alateen; so will be able to explain the decisions and topics clearly and in timely fashion when you return home.

Claire shared that Ontario South, Area 86, is one of the very few Areas that use Knowledge-Based Decision Making and use it well. Also, that we need to be aware not to use our Traditions as barriers and the 'big question' was – As we think spiritually, how can we use the Legacies as empowering tools rather than barriers to expand Al-Anon Family Groups into the future?

Claire suggested finding information regarding the Budget, Appeal Letter to individual members, loss in the Reserve Fund, etc. in the WSC Summary (available from our Literature Distribution Centre). Area 86's contribution to WSO in 2008 was \$20,918.68; about 54% of our groups contributed to WSO. The Conference Summary also has information about the voting in 2010 regarding the WSO building, in Virginia Beach, and also referred us to the blog about the building on the WSO website.

Claire showed the new Public Service Announcements (PSAs) (without much sound) and mentioned the video that was done in Markham, the first time WSO has done this in Canada, should come out in January and is geared toward the professionals.

Claire asked us to remember that the Al-Anon business, AFG Inc., has a spiritual product and that product is the Al-Anon fellowship; that Assembly is our Area business meeting and that our meetings are the fellowship.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT – Heather P:

Heather said that one of her duties as Alternate Delegate is to be the Area Forum Coordinator; that she had participated in a conference call with other Forum Coordinators; and that, for the first time in 35 years, Forum subscriptions have dropped below 20,000 (less than 1.4 subscriptions per group). The question presented was "Do we continue to print The Forum if only 5% of the members are reading them?"

Heather presented background information; that WSO sells The Forum at the cost of printing and mailing only. The subscription fee does not cover the cost of the WSO staff who edit and design of the publication. So, if the total cost were taken into account, The Forum operates at a net loss for the WSO.

While WSO wants a higher number of magazines to be distributed, it also wants to see The Forum become an integral part of the fellowship and how we use it in our individual lives; a wonderful way of sharing our experience, strength and hope with one another, one of the basic principles of how we recover. The Director of Communications at WSO, who facilitated the conference call, made this comment: “Is it fair to ask how much longer should WSO subsidize a magazine which engages only a tiny minority of members? Perhaps we must ask ourselves, as a fellowship, will The Forum grow or fade away?”

Those on the conference call came up with several suggestions: (1) Some groups pass a can around at each meeting or have a box/basket on the table and when there’s enough to subscribe for a year, a member’s name is drawn to receive The Forum for a year. (2) Display The Forum on your literature table. (3) Attach older copies of The Forum to your Newcomers’ Packages. (4) Use a topic from The Forum once a month. (5) One of the GR’s duties is to encourage members to read The Forum. (6) Leave older copies in professional offices, etc. (7) At District level, Public Outreach can get 100 older copies of The Forum for \$10 to share with groups.

Heather encouraged members to read, in July 2009 issue of The Forum, pages 14 & 15, “Will The Forum grow or fade away?” Heather said there had been a slight increase in subscriptions ordered following that issue of The Forum. And Heather asked that we take the question back to our groups.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Marianne E:

Marianne first mentioned the new address for Ontario South’s Treasurer has been published in Open Lines as well as being sent to DRs, and Marianne said she is asking GRs to make sure that Group Treasurers are made aware of the address for mailing cheques to the Treasurer; that the address for the Treasurer changes every 3 years; and that a Donation Form which shows the current address can be found on the website (www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca – click on Al-Anon Members, then Area Policy Manual – Section 10, Form D).

Marianne used the overhead screen to show the financials and pointed out these statements were picked up with the registration package (not the financial statements included with the pre-registration package sent out in August). She explained details of the Balance Sheet as of September 30th, 2009, including the new requirement to make an advance deposit of \$2,500 to the DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel for Trillium 2010, in addition to the traditional \$4,000 float advanced to the Trillium Committee. Marianne noted that all of the Assembly costs had not been paid out yet, and that most of our other expense items have been somewhat under budget. She also commented that this is the first year of having the Alateen expense figure of \$5,000 in the budget and that amount has been retained in the 2010 budget because we are still on a learning curve with regard to costs for SAMs, etc. Marianne expressed concern about the Group Donations being only at 45% of budget at this time. Marianne said the Prudent Reserve sits at \$17,380 and that she had been informed by the previous Treasurer that the Prudent Reserve should be accrued to a maximum of \$25,000.

In response to questions, Marianne explained that the Group Donations budgeted for 2009 were higher than 2008 due to the Handover Meeting held in January 2009; and that the amount set for Group Donations is always a hypothetical number based on the estimated expenses for the year. She also pointed out that, in 2008, while we did not

collect the full budgeted amount of Group Donations, we also did not expend the budgeted amount for expenses, leaving us with a 'profit' of \$5,122 which has been added to our Prudent Reserve. The amount per group to achieve the budgeted Group Donations for 2009 would be \$94.93, and in 2010 it would be \$80.39. Marianne said that while not every group can contribute that much, there may be some groups who can do more. Debbie, District 6, asked if we had ever actually been at the maximum Prudent Reserve of \$25,000 – yes, but costs from Trillium 2006 drastically reduced the Reserve and we are now rebuilding.

Sue reminded members that the LDC Manager's Report and Coordinators' Reports were in the package handed out at the registration table; Coordinators will not be repeating the reported information but will provide any new information; GRs might want to take notes to pass on to their groups.

LDC Report – Joan P, Past Delegate & LDC Board Chair – Lyn S, Manager: Joan reported last evening's LDC Board meeting was good and interesting; and introduced the five other members of the LDC Board of Directors (BOD): Claire–Delegate; Gail–Preceding Past Delegate; Marianne–Treasurer; Jean McS–Literature Coordinator and Corinne–DR (elected at AWSC) - Lyn–LDC Manager attends all Board meetings.

Lyn spoke to the report and financials handed out with the registration package and said the balance in the red as of August 31st results from our bookkeeping practices and caused from over three months of an enormous amount of backorders from WSO. Lyn thanked everyone who had been patiently waiting for their literature orders which are now on their way. She explained that we operate on a prepaid basis where money received at LDC is posted but the inventory would be at zero. The records are now updated and the balance at August 31st is \$1017.00 in the black and that sales are increasing – sales up \$6500 August 2009 over 2008 – and in September up \$3500 and, while expenses are up, not dramatically. Postage costs will go up dramatically in October due to delivery of the backorders. Lyn said Canada Post increases their rates at the beginning of each year, and, while she will be researching to see if there is another way to do this postage scale, there will definitely be an increase in postage in January. She noted that WSO does the same. The reason being that, hopefully, prices for literature need not increase. To save postage costs, Lyn encouraged Districts to get their groups together to do bulk orders – some do this now – and also pick-ups can be made at various conventions, AWSC and Assembly. Literature Distribution Centre will be closed from December 24th, 2009, through January 4th, 2010.

Trillium 2010 – Lise W - Chair: Lise asked that we pass it on – an exciting weekend June 18th – 20th, 2010 – registrations here at Assembly – early registration \$20 until February 1st – then \$25 for AI-Anon and AA and \$5 for Alateen. Lise said the GRs had done a great job last year passing on the word as the attendance at Trillium 2009 had been over 500 – and she said she needed us to do the same thing this year. New this year is a luncheon to celebrate long-timers –they brought us the message of hope and recovery – anyone is welcome but limited seating - \$35 for 3-course hot luncheon –speakers sharing. Lise also reminded us that the more sleeping rooms we book the lower the costs for meeting rooms. This year's memento is the popular journal, cover showing Trillium 2010's theme "Courage to Change" – two/\$5.00 or one/\$3.00 – and Lise also mentioned that donations help to defray costs.

Archives – Mary Jane McK: “Pass It On”; Al-Anon is coming up to 60 years; challenge to our Area is to get all those group histories up to date and oral histories that long-timers tell. She also explained the new “In Loving Memory” – many Al-Anon members who have died but had wonderful messages, shared their experience, strength and hope – Mary Jane asked that names and districts be written on notepaper at back of room – DRs will be asked to write something about them so they can be included in this new book to celebrate their messages of hope they have left with us.

Group Records – Jane H: In response to the question how do we register a new group, Jane said that the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual states the registration form is to be sent to WSO. however, in our AREA 86, we ask you to send the Registration / Group Records Change Form to our Group Records Coordinator, who sends it out to WSO. WSO then sends the Identification Number to the Group Records Coordinator, who records it and then sends it on to you (the new group). This same process is used for any group changes. This way Group Records Coordinator doesn’t get left out of the loop. Always send ID number and group name. Please note that the Registration / Group Records Change Form can be found online at our Area website.

Jane reported WSO wants clarity regarding the 30 or so groups in Area 86 which have designated themselves as beginners’ groups and has included an envelope in the DR packages being handed out today; amazing opportunity for service.

To file the form electronically, go to www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca , click on Meeting Lists, then click on Al-Anon Registration / Group Change Form, fill out the form and press send. To file by mail, go to the website, click on Area Policy & Guidelines Manual, go to Section 10, then print the form. It is helpful if you can fill in the ‘number of members’ on the form. Changes are passed on to the Website Coordinator and are posted to the website in a timely manner. The Group Records Coordinator does not keep anniversary/start dates; WSO may have these dates.

Literature – Jean McS: Jean said she is working on putting information re Conference-Approved Literature, current literature projects, workshops and skits based on CAL. The deadline for the new history book has been extended to December 31st and a new sharing sheet was developed because most of stories received didn’t describe personal growth with regard to historical events. WSO always looking for new sharings for The Forum, books, etc. CAL is copyrighted and permission to reprint extensively from our publications is not granted to anybody inside/outside the fellowship; except for limited excerpts and the permission form can be found on the WSO website.

Jean also mentioned that “As We Understood” is celebrating 25 years in publication, and a couple of workshops were sent out based on this book and Jean asked for reports on using it for meeting topics or anything done to celebrate this book.

Open Lines – Sharon R: Sharon reported the subscription numbers are very stable, varying only very slightly each time; and Sharon apologized for some glitches and hoped to have them ironed out by the December issue. If, as a DR or GR, you are not getting a copy of Open Lines, contact the Group Records Coordinator, who provides the labels for mailing Open Lines. If you email Sharon, she will send you an electronic copy as a short term measure until the Group Records are corrected. Groups’ events will be listed in Open Lines, but she asked that we keep it short (and legible) date, time, place including postal code, contact name or email address.

Public Outreach – Michele D: Michele summarized about her blog called “1000 Acts of Public Outreach”. Any member may do an act of Public Outreach; then just let your the GR know and the GR will then send it to Michele. As more people think about Public Outreach, the more the word gets out; and, as incentive, the group doing the most ‘Acts’ will get literature at the end of each year. As of October 29th, we have 347 Acts of Public Outreach on our blog.

Michele clarified that WSO is asking that, when we deliver Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2010 to professionals, we point out there are guidelines for professionals to submit their stories hoping other professionals will get the idea, read it and pass on the information about Al-Anon. Send an email to Michele for the paperwork if you need it.

Michele asked that a copy of minutes of Public Outreach meetings be sent to her; helps to see what is going on in the Area; helps when on World Service conference calls with other Areas.

Alateen Advisory Committee – Tary: – Tary said she was the outgoing Co-Chair/Incoming Chair of Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC); reported that Unity Conference October 16-18 was a success with 107 in attendance (43 Alateens, 28 SAMs, 24 Al-Anons and 12 AAs); many thanks to SAMs and Al-Anon members, especially District 18, for donations and hospitality; that they had their Advisory meeting and GR meeting; elected a new Co-Chair and Newsletter person; have new ideas, want more leadership, more responsibilities, so we can be strong again; need a SAM who would be interested in stepping up for the Advisor role for 2 years. Tary said they are working at updating and fixing the charter; and asked, please help Alateen grow in Ontario South.

Website Coordinator: Heather reminded us the Executive is accepting resumes for the position of Website Coordinator until the end of Assembly, Sunday at noon, and that the previous Website Coordinator has agreed to continue to post meeting changes and upcoming events; anything else will wait for the new Website Coordinator.

Alateen – Leslie P: Leslie’s theme for her term is “Alateen Rocks”; Alateen rocks the boat as well; very enthusiastic group of young people who want to make Alateen their own again; lots of ideas and, hopefully, positive changes.

Leslie said she had a lot of requests for information re reporting abuse of children. Child Family Services Act addresses the criteria and duties for reporting abuse. Leslie encourages Al-Anons, Alateens and SAMs to familiarize themselves; see brochure published by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services; information is on Leslie’s Coordinators Corner on our Ontario South website. Leslie stressed local Children’s Aid Society is best source for information.

Leslie encouraged support of the Alateens over the next year by going to see/hear an Alateen speaker, etc. and Leslie said she would like to see us bringing Alateen and Al-Anon closer together.

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) – Nick M: Nick remarked on the learning curve involved and the growth experience in order to satisfy the requirements set up by WSO for Alateens. Updates to his report include that when the year started the 134 SAMs was reduced to 110 as some didn’t re-register, but now we have another 50 or so new SAMs for a total of 164. Alateen groups totalled 25 at the beginning of the year and there are now 30.

Nick said that electronic registration is not available for Alateen groups. Any Alateen registration or change must be done on the Alateen form, sent to Nick, then to Jane (Group Records), on to WSO, and finally to the website.

Nick said that Sue (Chairperson) had provided 200 permission letters to be used with recertification and that recertification must be in by March 1st. Nick asked DRs to see him to pick up the letter and a note to deliver to SAMs in their districts.

Saturday, October 31, 2009 (Afternoon session)

Discussion Item #1: Proposed 2010 Budget

Joan read the Background Notes and directed us to refer to the Proposed 2010 Budget (revised August 16, 2009) (on Page 8 of the Pre-Assembly package), Analysis of Calculations and Assumptions and the Profit & Loss Statement vs Actual for January 2007 through 2009. The decision point is: Should the proposed budget for 2010 be adopted.

Marianne answered questions from the floor.

(1) The budget (pre-registration package) is sent out to the DRs to distribute to GRs in August, after the Executive Meeting which is held in July where we consider all the information brought out at AWSC, etc. DRs are encouraged not to delay sending the information to GRs and to send it by email so they can start discussions in their groups.

(2) 'Group Donations' is a hypothetical number based on the estimated expenses and known and estimated income. If we receive more in group donations than we spend, the overage would be put into our Prudent Reserve. If group donations fall short of actual expenses, the difference would have to be taken out of the Prudent Reserve. Budgets are estimated and adjusted based on the Actuals over the past couple of years and whether it is an election year or a handover year, etc. Assembly, AWSC, Delegate going to World Service Conference are all events that have been voted on at Assemblies in the past.

(3) Group Donations for 2010 are about \$5,000 less than 2009 and the extra costs in 2009 are based on it being a handover year.

(4) The 'profit' or overage of \$5,122 deposited to our Prudent Reserve was as a result of receiving more group donations than was actually spent in 2008. Marianne said she will revise the spreadsheet formula to show the total net income.

(5) Marianne said she was not sure the HST will apply to hotel costs which already are taxed at about 13% and there will be no change to our mileage costs which remain at \$0.25 per km. 2010 hotel costs are estimated with 21% added to cover taxes and gratuities.

(6) We are not eligible for a GST exemption as we are a fellowship, not a charitable organization.

(7) Separating Cash in Bank into Cash on Hand from amount in Prudent Reserve could be done but would be more cumbersome.

(8) Advance of \$4,000 paid out to Trillium and \$500 to Alateen for Unity Conference will be returned after the events. The \$2,500 deposit paid to the hotel for Trillium is a new requirement, probably due to economy, and will be reflected in the Trillium accounting. Trillium 2009 profited \$3,900 (over and above the \$4,000 advance) and the \$3,900 was paid into Ontario South.

(9) Total Income Line to be adjusted.

It was moved and seconded That “the proposed budget for 2010 be approved with the amendment to the ‘Total Income’ line”

There were some further questions and discussion and Marianne explained that the vote was only on the Proposed 2010 Budget, not on the spreadsheet which was provided as background material; also that the Total Income line is included in the Proposed 2010 Budget, and that the Budget shows as ‘revised’ because she had added ‘TEAM’ to the ‘RSS’ expense (so RSS/TEAM) no number changes.

Vote called, majority against. Motion defeated.

It was moved by and seconded That “the 2010 budget be approved as presented.”

Vote called, majority in favour. Motion carried.

Discussion Item #2: Requirement for elected positions on the Ontario South Assembly Executive

Heather read the discussion item regarding the election of Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary and the background material.

The question has been brought up because the motion passed in 2007 is not clear as to whether one or more resumes may be submitted by one person for one or more positions. There were many comments or group conscience reports brought forward as to whether there should be any limit to the number of positions a person could apply for, many comments for only one position to be applied for, some for a maximum of two or three positions and many in favour of the freedom to submit a resume for any or all the positions; discussion about the need for experience that would qualify a candidate for a position; the need for trust; concern about ambition and dominance; lack of clarity; conscious thought before applying for any position.

Three motions were submitted (two of which were similar) re members being able to submit resumes for more than one position and the other limiting it to one.

First motion put to the floor. It was moved and seconded by That “the motion brought forward at AWSC ‘members can apply for more than one Executive position, submitting separate resumes for each, however, no member may occupy more than one Executive position at a time’ be approved”. Vote called, majority in favour. Motion carried. There was no need to present the other motions as the majority had been in favour of this one.

Ontario South Policies and Guidelines Manual

Heather informed the members that a new Section 12, Records Management, has been completed and may be printed from the email sent out by Jacqui, Area Secretary. It will be put on the website when the Website Coordinator position has been filled. She also indicated that this Section should be read over before Districts/Groups send their archive material to Mary Jane, Archives Coordinator. Heather said she is also working with Nick, AAPP, to complete the section on Alateens and the Police Records Checks.

Central Canada Regional Trustee’s Report – Sandie D.

Sandie said this was her first visit to Kingston and thanked us for the opportunity to participate. She mentioned that last March she had met Jean, our Literature Coordinator, at an AA Rally in Australia. Sandie shared how she qualified for Al-Anon; how she got here and how it is now.

She said she started her service journey over 30 years ago in Alberta when she gave her sponsor, an Alternate Group Representative, a ride in her car to Assembly and since has been hooked on service, in different positions, at her Group, in her District, in the Area, and at the WSO; mostly in the Alberta and Northwest Territories Area. In 1996, she was on The Forum editorial committee, reading and grading over 250 sharings every quarter and meeting quarterly at WSO for discussions. She had volunteered and was the only one from Canada, other than the Trustees, giving tours at the Office when it opened in 1996 to all those local people. Back then the Committees all met at WSO. Just over 2 years ago was the first time an Alateen Advisory Committee met away from WSO, and it was held here today – pretty awesome. Today, most of the Committees meet through conference calls and emails.

Sandie said she felt honoured to be nominated to be Central Canada's Regional Trustee; nomination was formally approved at the last WSC; and she immediately started receiving emails and reading material and had to read all the binders and materials given to the Delegates before the next Board Meeting in July.

Duties of a Regional Trustee are the same as for a Trustee-at-Large, i.e. a Regional Trustee represents Al-Anon as a whole rather than the Region but brings the flavour of the Region to the Board; nine Regions in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico; Al-Anon members living in various geographical areas of U.S. and Canada provide a wide range of facts, ideas, beliefs, attitudes and lifestyles giving the Board the diverse input necessary for making confident inclusive group conscience decisions for AFG Inc. In addition to the Regional Trustees, there are six Trustees-at-Large; currently two Trustees-at-Large are from Canada; Edmonton and B.C. and there is a vacancy for Canada East.

AFG Inc. is a non-profit corporation, established in 1954, before the World Service Conference was created; functions with a Board of Trustees, self-electing, and according to the by-laws of the corporation the Trustees shall control and manage the affairs of the corporation and fulfil other responsibilities as stated in Article 2 and Article 5 of the by-laws. The Trustees are guardians of Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service; must be skilled, competent, committed, team players, communicators, who can articulate the vision and goals of the corporation and for the benefit of world-wide Al-Anon. Board has many Committees, Task Forces and Thought Forces. Sandie said she chairs the Literature Committee, and is on the Alateen Committee, and all of the Board members are on the Policy Committee.

Sandie said she is also on a Thought Force called the Universal Understanding of Recovery, attempting to establish a definition of family recovery, and asked for our thoughts on this. She has been added to three more Thought Forces since completion of the survey in The Forum in March.

Time commitment is approximately 20 to 30 hours a week, and in the past five weeks it has been a lot more than that due to attending Assemblies and the Board Meeting in Virginia Beach.

In September, the Policy Committee had its first-ever conference call meeting, and the jury is still out on how well it worked. The Policy Committee is made up of the 15 Trustees, the Executive Committee and a couple of staff members; a large number for a conference call.

The Literature Committee Sandie chairs is comprised of the Delegates and members at large and we review various pieces of Conference-Approved Literature. Whenever a

request for a change in literature is sent to WSO, regarding existing literature or requesting different literature, this Committee reviews the request and then works on changes if they are deemed necessary. Even a simple change has to go before WSC for approval.

As a Trustee, Sandie said she was required to become an AMIAS (our SAM), because, she may be required to attend many events which involve Alateens.

One of the projects the Board is working on now is reviewing the process for nominating Regional Trustees. One idea being discussed is having two candidates from each Region attend part of the January Board Meeting, giving the Board a chance to evaluate the nominated Trustees and also to give the candidates a chance to see what attending a Board of Trustees Meeting would be like. Different areas of the candidates' resumes will be scored and where some form of training may be required.

Sandie asked how many of us have completed the Skills Inventory on the WSO website and encouraged us to do this as there are many task forces that can be joined for short periods of time, and that almost everyone has some expertise to offer.

There is still an opening at WSO for an Associate Director, Group Services, who is bilingual – English/French or English/Spanish.

She also mentioned the podcasts on the public Al-Anon Alateen website; great for newcomers and many different topics, similar to old beginner tapes. Also asked how many had completed the membership survey on the WSO website.

TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) replaces the Regional Service Seminars (RSS); no longer limited to a 3-year rotation; may target the interests of the local members; can span a minimum of 6 hours to a full weekend; can be attached to another Area or Region service event; may be hosted by one Area, multiple Areas or Regions, and the Delegate has the details and necessary forms; request forms can be found on the members website.

Sandie spoke about Public Outreach and the need to spread the message about Al-Anon to local AA meetings.

Conference theme for 2010 WSC is “Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope. 50 years of the World Service Conference”.

Associate Director Group Services, Alateen and Special Services' Report - Mary Lou M.

Mary Lou said she is a grateful recovering member of Al-Anon Family Groups; always includes Alateen; and works at WSO in Virginia Beach; that she and Sandie came this weekend so that we might have the Alateen Advisory Committee Meeting alongside our Assembly; and that she had been invited to qualify and to share on her work with WSO.

Mary Lou said she still hasn't figured out why the knight on the white charger has never come to sweep her into his arms and ride off into the sunset; that she found out about Al-Anon through a public service announcement in a newspaper; that she had got involved in service early on; learned that she didn't have to be perfect and just to do her best.

WSO has about 10-12 staff members, Directors, Associate Directors, that are conference members and members of the Policy Committee, and Mary Lou had expressed interest in a position when she was a Delegate; eventually was asked if she wanted to apply; came to an agreement; moved to New York in 1994 doing the job of Administrative Coordinator (assistant to Executive Director). Mary Lou said the best advice she got when she started

was to remember that WSO is an office, with jobs to do, not an Al-Anon meeting, and she shares that with Al-Anon members who come to work at WSO. .

In 1996, Mary Lou moved with WSO to Virginia Beach, taking on the position of Associate Director, Literature, for four years; then on to Public Outreach, also a great experience. Two and a half years ago, she moved on to become the Associate Director, Group Services, Alateen and Special Service, and in her first year attended our Alateen “Re-Unity” conference in Markham.

Mary Lou saluted the re-growth of Alateen in Ontario South; and said in the 67 Areas in North America, there are 1,089 Alateen groups, an average of 16 per Area; and that Ontario South has 29; more Alateen groups than any other Area in Canada; standing 11th in the 67 Areas; more than New York South, New York North, Texas East, and 56 other Areas; and that, relatively speaking, we have very strong Alateen here. Having Alateen Advisory Committee meetings regionally now allows Canadian Alateens to be involved; second year of a 3-year trial; next year hopefully Canada East. Mary Lou thanked Claire and all who were involved for the work done to make this AAC meeting a success.

Sue invited all to attend their workshops and enjoy dinner.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration and the Serenity Prayer.

Workshops presented @ 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm: - (1) Alateen (2) Conflict Resolution

**Evening meetings @ 9:00 pm: - Ask-It-Basket Committee
Alternate Delegate with Coordinators
Alateen GRs Meeting**

Evening Entertainment (organized by Host Committee) Snow White, the Dwarves and the Wicked Queen skit @ 8:15 pm

Sunday, November 1st, 2009 (8:30 to 11:30 am)

Meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Sue made some final announcements; stressed that the Evaluation Forms are important to the Executive in making decisions about Assembly and requested they be completed and left in the designated box or mailed to the Secretary.

Claire made an amend to anyone who may have been offended by her costume worn during the Mask Competition.

Marianne responded to a question asked yesterday about the number of groups who have made donations to OSA to the end of September – 170 groups and 5 districts.

Ask-it-Basket Answers:

Questions and answers will be published in upcoming Open Lines issues as and when space is available; also attached to these Minutes as a schedule.

Delegate’s Update:

Claire first shared a funny little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

Claire also shared regarding how Al-Anon's name came about and referred us to the Conference Summary, page 26, second paragraph under Nominating Committee; also that a new Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual will be issued next year; encouraged us to go on-line to do the talents and skills survey on the WSO website; that some task force positions can be accomplished on-line; TEAM presentation may be coming up next year; that the 2013 Al-Anon International Conference will be held in Vancouver (U.S. July 4th long weekend) '*save your pennies*'.

Our next Area Assembly will be October 22nd to 24th, 2010, in Guelph, hosted by District 4.

Next World Service Conference in Virginia Beach April 11th to 15th, 2010, and Claire said she will be attending the Board Meeting on the morning of April 16th. Theme is 'Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope and 50 years of the World Service Conference'.

Ontario South is one of the biggest Areas geographically and has close to 400 groups. Claire's new email address is Ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com.

Host Committee Announcements:

Sharon R passed on her personal thank you to everyone who participated in this weekend and that her personal aim was that we enjoy doing service work so that we can take it back to our groups that service is fun. Sharon introduced all of the volunteers and Sue thanked the Host Committee for a job well done.

Open Mic:

Those who wished to, shared their thoughts and feelings about attending this Assembly.

Meeting adjourned with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration, Break & Checkout

Open Speaker Meeting

Topic "Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future"

Chair: Linda S.

Speaker: Jean McS.

Speaker meeting closed with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration and The Lord's Prayer

THANK YOU for your participation.....