

Report to AWSC - District 1 - Muskoka

Includes: **BARRIE, MIDLAND, ORILLIA, PARRY SOUND, BRACEBRIDGE, HUNTSVILLE & SURROUNDING AREAS**

On behalf of District 1 Muskoka I am pleased to present this report to the Area 86 World Conference of 2012. Our District encompasses a large geographical area, stretching from Alcona/Innisfil in the south to Parry Sound in the north, from Angus and Wasaga Beach in the west to Orillia in the east. In total we have 19 Al-Anon and 3 Alateen groups, with the possibility of an additional Alateen group coming soon to Parry Sound.

As a District we meet 4 times a year in April, July, September, and November. We rotate the location of the District meetings and this year they are scheduled to be in Barrie, Orillia, Midland, and Huntsville. During the previous term there were 5 District meetings but issues arising from a lack of facility, the Group Representatives decided to opt for a quarterly schedule for 2012, 2013, and 2014. Presently all of our District positions are filled these include: Alternate District Representative, Treasurer, Secretary, Literature, Public Outreach, Telephone Answering Service, Archives, and Alateen Liaison. I am pleased to report that our District meetings are well attended by both Group Representatives, Alternates and guests, and approximately 15 out of the 19 Al-Anon groups are able to financially support District and its services. Our Alateen groups each have sufficient Supportive Al-Anon Members (SAM) to support them and the re-certification for 2012 has been completed. Potentially we may have additional SAMs as a number of Al-Anon members are considering applying to become SAM certified: one to support the Barrie Tag Alateen group and a number of others in Parry Sound who have an interest in starting an Alateen group in that municipality.

District News

1. Riverside Georgian Al-Anon Family Group celebrated its 60th Group Anniversary on May 5, 2012. Since this was such a wonderful milestone it was agreed that it should be combined with our District Al-Anon Day. The event was very well attended by members of Al-Anon and AA from within and outside of District 1's boundaries. After dinner there was a very touching moment as four members from the earliest days of the Riverside Georgian group gathered around a large cake a blazed with candles as we all sang Happy Anniversary. The members past and present of the Riverside Georgian AFG have carried the message of Al-Anon to countless people and in all that time they have never canceled a meeting in over 60 years. District 1 is truly blessed to have such a shining example of love and dedication.
2. District 1 is very proud of two of our members who are currently serving at the Area level, Heather P. as Area Archivist and Janet T. as Area Alateen Coordinator.

I am looking forward to few years and I am hoping to bring an element of learning and enjoyment to the District meetings by providing workshops, guest speakers and increased participation from the Group Representatives, Al-Anon and Alateen members.

Love in Service

Leslie P.
District Representative
District 1 Muskoka

District 2

We are made up of 9 groups, which is about 70 regular members. One of these groups is Alateen. We are pleased to say that there is a new Alateen group starting in September in Wiarton.

District 2 is L shaped. We start at Lions Head and run down the west side of Georgian Bay and around the bottom of the bay over to Collingwood.

Dundalk is our oldest group. It is 46 years young, and one of it's founding members still attends Collingwood just had its 44 anniversary this month.

Thornbury has celebrated 38 years in March. One of their members started the group.

Then we have two groups in Owen Sound, one group in Wiarton, one group in Lions Head, and a new group, which is celebrating it's first anniversary in June, in Collingwood. Our Alateen group is in Collingwood.

Our district just held it's annual Al-Anon Day on May 5th. It was attended by 40 people.

We hold a blind auction to help raise money for district. This year we had three speakers; an AA, an Al-Anon and an Al-Anon adult child. Our Trillium chairperson also joined us to talk about the importance of Trillium, and what a great weekend we have.

This will be our 3rd summer holding a family day picnic in Aug. It's a way we are trying to bring the district closer.

One of our biggest challenges is that not all the groups support district either financially or with representation. At this point I'm trying to take a car load of people to visit these outside groups more regularly to help them feel more part of the district.

Our 2nd challenge is trying to attract Alateens. They can be very elusive.

This is District 2 success's and challenges.

Thank You.
Donna M

DISTRICT 4

Hi everyone, my name is Donna, incoming DR for Waterloo District 4. I am here today with my ADR, Robyn W.

It has been a quiet year for us, so far, nothing too, too mindblowing.

Our district has 26 (?) Al-anon Family Groups and 2 Alateen Groups, spread out between Guelph, Kitchener, Cambridge, Waterloo, Fergus, Elora, Rockwood, Elmira and New Hamburg. So from one end of the district to the other, we're looking at about an hour's drive.

We had 1 new group start up in 2011 and lost 2 - 1 in Guelph and 1 in Cambridge.

Our annual Al-anon Day is in September and throughout the year we participate with AA at the CWOC in August, St. Jacobs Roundup in April, Interaction in Rockwood in June and we are always available whenever asked to speak at AA birthdays, anniversaries etc., sharing our focus on the family disease of addiction.

I am also informed that we have one of the largest SAM populations in this area.

My outgoing DR is here with us today as well as her outgoing DR. Both are in Area Service, so I have huge sandals to fill, before my 3 years are up.

I am very grateful to be here.
Thank you.

Donna

2012 AREA WORLD SERVICE REPORT
DISTRICT 6
Acting District Representative – Joanne A.S

I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to represent and serve District 6 as the Acting District Representative.

We have in total 25 Al Anon groups in the London, Strathroy Area. District 6 also known as London and Area. We are very strong, active and dynamic District.

We have two registered Alateen Groups.

Attendance is limited, but this term we now have a dedicated SAM coordinator so we are looking for growth in the future. The Tuesday night Alateen meeting runs simultaneously with an Al-Anon Group and on the last Tuesday of the month, they join together taking turns chairing and splitting the 7th tradition.

We have one Open (1) Speaker Meeting group in District 6 which is chaired each week by one (1) of the 25-groups on a rotating schedule.

One (1) of District's group's focus is Adult Children.

We now have Three (3) registered groups for Outreach at an Institution. Last year was the start of a men's group at the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre. District 6 now has One (1) group *each* for male and female offenders at the Detention Centre and one (1) for women, at the second stage housing for the Women's Community House. The Detention Centre has apparently requested a second meeting which will start if we can get enough *male* Al-Anon volunteers.

District 6 has celebrated many anniversaries, including a group in Strathroy that has just celebrated 40 years, and the Genesis Al Anon family group celebrating 27 years.

We have had a very good turnout to our District meetings which we hold once a month. We have recently held a vote and the group conscience have agreed to gather for District meetings 12 months of the year instead of breaking for July and August. In the past there has been a pot luck held at the last meeting in June before the summer hiatus. I am hoping that group conscience agrees to keep the June pot luck at our next district meeting.

District 6 has been working towards establishing a Prudent Reserve in order for District 6 to be financially responsible. We have elected to have a reserve and now we are deciding to set the amount of the reserve including how to report that and document that.

Our District has several Coordinators including Archive, Public Outreach/Website, Answering Service, Friday Night Open Meeting & Speaker List and Supportive Alateen Members (SAM). All of these Coordinators are invited to attend our District Meetings as well.

We started this term and one month in, the Alternate District Representative needed to step down. A couple of months, later our Secretary needed to step down as well. Thankfully, both positions are now filled.

We have the opportunity to have an annual Al-Anon Day which is being held May 12, 2012. It features speakers and cold pot luck. At the writing of this report, this day has not come to pass. The commitment to a great day, and the team of service volunteers that put it together, it is sure to be a very great day.

We have a very strong and active Public Outreach Committee who also maintains and updates our District 6 Website.

Our District cooperates with AA and we have been involved with meetings which have invited Al-Anon speakers to participate.

A number of our meetings have seen an increase in membership but one (1) meeting which was struggling, closed last year. One (1) of our groups has grown to a point where more space was needed to be rented which increased the costs and one (1) of our groups has been in discussions with the meeting rental space regarding the insurance requirements and the possibilities of an insurance policy rider.

District 6 utilizes email to distribute information between meetings and promotes the idea, "When we got busy, we got better."

Thank you

DISTRICT 7 REPORT – MAY 2012

District 7 covers Sarnia-Lambton area & is comprised of 9 active groups including Alateen.

Our elections took place in September 2011 with all positions being filled except Literature Coordinator. Fortunately, Dilys agreed to remain in the position until such time a new volunteer could step forward.

The year's first celebration was held May 5th Spring Event where Nikki & Jeff S. were able to join us as our Alanon & AA speaker. This was a record attendance for our spring event of over 100 guests. A silent auction helped raise funds for our District with a beautiful hand made quilt donated by one of our very talented members.

Our 22nd ODAAT summer campout will be held the second weekend of August with shared fellowship with AA. It has been a great success with an amazing pork bbq dinner Saturday night. The Alanon panel will take place Sat. Afternoon.

Our next event takes place early autumn to celebrate Alanon anniversary in District 7. The format is similar to our annual spring event with a speakers, lunch, draws & plenty of volunteer fellowship. Each year the committees always pull off a great day.

Our Alateen group is currently pretty vibrant with 8 regular members. The tables have turned in respect to members versus SAM's. Just two years ago, we had 4 SAM's with only 2 or 3 sometime members. Now we are 1 certified SAM with 2 pending certification SAM's. Our Literature profits were put toward an Alateen 4th step inventory book which was introduced to the teens just this week with an immediate positive feedback. In March, we were able to support our Alateen with a donation of \$120.00 for 7 daily readers to give to the new members. A recruitment plea for new SAM's will read: "Calling all Alanon members – if you want a chance to communicate with "the child within" that you have lost touch with, consider this opportunity to be of service to both yourself and young people who need your guidance."

District 7 has just this year, made the decision to re-categorize our AIS as Alanon Public Outreach. The rental of a mailbox has not justified the amount of mail received. District 7 does not compare with the AIS of Toronto or Ottawa for population. We realized that we could continue the function & efficiency of this portion of our Alanon service in Sarnia-Lambton without the expense. The structure will remain as is with bimonthly meetings of the Alternate Group Rep's & Alternate District Rep. Over the past 6 years, we have also had a Special Events Literature Person under the AIS umbrella, but this position currently remains unfilled. This responsibility will be filled by a represent Alanon member for any functions in our district Alanon or AA events.

District 7 is able to keep a very amicable Answering Service with AA to afford us value & quality service to anyone looking for help with loved ones affected with alcoholism & addiction. We are able to welcome anyone looking for help in our area without judgement. It is a sad fact that Sarnia has a high rate of addiction and is full of people looking for compassion. This is why we are here.

Jill & I are looking forward to spending this weekend to network and gain more experience in our service roles to share with our District.

JoAnne S District Representative

DISTRICT 8 - WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY REPORT
Saturday, May 26, 2012

Hi, my name is Gay and I'm the District Representative for District 8, Windsor-Essex County. I'm so glad to be here today, it's my second time at AWSC, I attended 3 years ago when I was the Alternate D.R. and now have been fortunate to have been elected to represent my district.

So let me tell you a little something about the famous District 8. Our district has 14 Al-Anon groups and 2 Alateen groups. We have approximately 170 members. Unfortunately our Alateens are down to about 4 members at this time, although we have 7 active SAMS in our district. On a regular basis we have 13 of the 14 groups represented at the monthly District Meetings, and the one group that doesn't attend does not have a GR but gets the minutes sent to a member so that the information can be shared with group members.

As the new term has started we've been updating the job duties for the District Officer positions so that they accurately reflect what has been happening as well as ensuring that each officer is able to have some meaningful work to contribute to the district. A committee worked on the drafts and they've just been sent out to the officers for input and then will go to the GRs to discuss with their groups. The Officer positions we have are:

Bookstore (we call her our bookstore chick) who gets orders from LDC and then sells to the district groups.

Telephone answering service that the public can call to get information on meetings and Al-Anon. The service is manned by volunteers, and up to recently we had it 24/7 but there were never any calls on the midnight shift so in order to optimize the volunteer resources we will be eliminating the midnight shift effective June 1st.

Website Coordinator maintains our website (www.al-anon-windsor.com) to get the message out in our area.

Public outreach coordinator who distributes information in the community and arranges presentations where requested.

Archivist who keeps track of our local history and historical Al-Anon literature and brings it to be displayed at events throughout the district.

Alateen Coordinator reports to the district on the alateen issues and coordinates with the SAMS in the area to ensure coverage at alateen meetings and discuss ways to reach out to the teens.

The Annual AA Convention with Al-Anon participation has its own Al-Anon Convention Committee chairperson who attends our district meeting to report on the convention. In the last year of the term of office we hold a district Al-Anon day to get the message out about service at the district level and encourage participation for the following term. So you can see we do have an active district.

Our district is so excited about Al-Anon service, that we want to show everyone in Area 86 how Al-Anon works in the "sunny south". So we've put in a bid to host the 2013 Ontario South Assembly. If we're successful it will be the first time it has been held in the Windsor area. We have a lot of experience in hosting events, we have been participating with the area AA convention for the last 37 years, which draws 400-500 members from Ontario and the United States. The convention has a reputation for having one of the best hospitality rooms and that is due in large part to the contribution of Al-Anon, so we know we can make the assembly a wonderful experience for all who attend! We are waiting with baited breath for the executive's decision.

Speaking of the Windsor/Essex AA Convention, I have brought flyers and we welcome all of you to attend. There is going to be awesome Al-Anon speakers - our new delegate Jane is our main speaker on Saturday so consider coming on down and supporting her it's a wonderful weekend filled with great messages and fellowship. We also participate in an annual AA roundup which is an all day program with Al-Anon speakers, lunch, dinner and a dance and I just happen to have flyers for that as well.

Our district isn't without challenges, one of the biggest ones is the declining membership. We have had groups that have closed and several that have less than 10 members. We know that a big part of that is groups that stray from the steps and traditions and allow other affiliations into their meetings. I know this is a problem all over which is why I was interested to hear what happened at the World Service Conference when this was discussed. When I look at our membership the largest groups are the ones that stick to the steps and traditions and the ones that don't are struggling. This issue has been brought up at the district many times over the years and as recently as March. GRs are reminded to ensure that Tradition 3 is followed and encouraged to use the "Al-Anon Spoken Here" table cards, but not everyone agrees. We'd love to be able to help everyone who has a problem, and I know the 12 steps can help with many issues but we have to keep our focus on "our primary purpose" to help family and friends of alcoholics.

We are making some inroads with the Alateens at the high school level. We just finished a presentation at the two French catholic schools and there was a request from the school to do this once or twice a year. We're purchasing a promotional DVD to send out to all the area high school guidance counsellors and then we'll be following up with them to see if they'd like a presentation. We know there are many teens out there suffering from the effects of someone else's drinking and we're trying to do what we can to reach out our hand.

The majority of our GRs and some of the district officers will be attending the Assembly and we've chartered a bus to go to the Ottawa so it makes it easier so we can all sit back and enjoy the ride. We've put out the offer to London and Chatham areas to see if they are interested in jumping on along the route. We're setting up an entertainment committee for the bus ride so you know our journey is going to be just as much fun and rewarding as the assembly.

I feel very blessed to be given the opportunity to serve my district in this position and am looking forward to working with my fellow DRs in the area as we all grow in service.

Yours in service,
Gay L

District 10

District 10 encompasses a much larger area now as we have absorbed some of 'no man's land' and now include all of Oxford County as well as Elgin County and all the way to Port Rowan.

We have 8 active Al-Anon groups and 2 Alateen groups in the district. St. Thomas attempted to have a group during the daytime hours, even though there was interest, the numbers and commitment of the people were not there, so it has closed.

Group members have been busy compiling Al-Anon and Alateen packages and have distributed them to middle and high schools, to the Guidance Departments.

Last year one of our St. Thomas groups celebrated their 50th Anniversary. What an accomplishment and celebration to our program and its co-founders.

AA is very supportive of Al-Anon - encourage and include us in their Marathon of Unity, held each year in Woodstock, as well as the 'Run-Up' held in St. Thomas.

The memberships range from 3 to 4 members to 12 to 24 members per group. We have had many new members plus some returning to re-find the Al-Anon program. Membership numbers in some of our groups fluctuate.

District 11

There's been a lot of changes this year in our District. Our former DR, Aimee had a baby a couple of weeks ago, so I'm filling in for her. We have currently 3 groups in our District - 2 in Simcoe and one in Brantford. Last year we added a second meeting to our Brantford group. It functions more as a discussion based group and it's become quite successful. As a District we're working really hard on our Public Outreach we contacted victim services and gave them Al-Anon literature. We contacted the local women's shelters and gave them some information. A number of members have contacted hospitals in the area and we've placed adds in our local newspapers. We have no one person taking on Public Outreach so we're taking it on at the group level. We're also having a round up in October . I'll get information out to everyone once we get closer to the date of the event.

Greater Toronto Al-Anon Information Service

Report to A.W.S.C.

May 27, 2012

By Wendy L.

DR for District 17

The GTAIS is financially stable, able to maintain an ample reserve.

We are looking for members from the districts to come and represent at our meetings.

The Telephone Answering Service is looking for volunteers for this service – 3 hours a day – once a week – and spares. (9-12 – 12-3 – 3-6 – 6 – 9) currently Mon. to Fri. This can be done from your home.

Our Public Outreach has been very active in getting posters etc. for the buses and subway stations: doing informative sessions with the local police: going into treatment centres – and are also looking for Public Outreach minded volunteers.

Our Public Outreach is also looking for a Chairperson. Al-Anon service is based on rotation of leadership. Please – anyone interested contact gtais.po@gmail.com ???or 416-410-3809. A wanted poster is on line.

Anniversaries:

JUNE 9 7:30 PM BUFFET DINNER MEETING AT 8:15

Saturday Night Open: 39th

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church

1498 Avenue Road (at Lawrence.)

Toronto

JUNE 6 7:15 PM 2nd Anniversary

Coffee Time AFG

Westminster United Church'

409o Tompkin Road (at Rathburn)

Mississauga,

Or it is worth the drive to ACTON

JUNE 6 – 8:00PM 21ST ANNIVERSARY

Acton Wednesday Night Al-Anon

Trinity United Church

70 Mill Street East, Acton

Wendy L.

Ottawa AIS Report

Public outreach projects in 2011:

- **Bus Ads:** Over the December/January holiday, we repeated the purchase of bus ads for a period of one month, using the same Crying House theme as last year. These ads often remain longer (if the space is not needed) and a member reported seeing one as recently as this past month!
- **1000 Acts of Public Outreach**
- We launched an “**Adopt-a-Library**” initiative whereby groups adopt a public library branch and agree to donate literature to the collection. We belatedly became aware of the Library's donation policy which prefers one donation centrally, rather than at a branch level. AIS will be collecting the remaining donations and will deliver them to the Library collections office by the end of June 2012.
- We held an “**information evening event**” for professionals in November. While we had a very modest turn out from professionals, we learned important feedback. Three Al-Anon members shared about how a professional suggested (or didn't) Al-Anon. Those attended said they would have liked more information on how Al-Anon works. We hope to repeat the session, perhaps at a different time of year.
- In 2012, we began participating in **Service Fairs** held by employers and other agencies, through co-operation with the local AA Public Information Committee, who has been participating in these events for many years. These events give us the opportunity to connect with other groups and agencies to spread the word.
- **At Al-Anon Day** in March 2012, we hosted a **workshop** on public outreach to generate ideas, identify which tools of public outreach members have used, and how members might themselves do acts of public outreach. See Annex for summary of results.
- In 2012 we launched **Adopt-a-School-Library** project, encouraging local groups to identify approach schools at all levels (elementary, secondary and post-secondary) to offer literature for the library or counselling office.
- As well, in 2012, we hope to expand our public outreach efforts to post-secondary institutions, targeting service fairs and other opportunities to provide information and literature.

Finances

AIS income comes primarily from the 7th Tradition from the weekly open speaker meeting. As well, in 2011, we once again had a significant increase in donations from groups and district. In 2012, we plan to begin to set aside a “prudent reserve”.