

Area Public Outreach Coordinator Report – Ontario South Assembly Area 86 – October 2014

I stepped into this service position in late 2013 to fill a vacancy. Key tools in this position are the reports sent by the various districts regarding their local activities, and thanks to all of you who sent those in, maintaining the email account alanonpublicoutreach@yahoo.ca, and communication with World Service Organization (WSO), through email, conference call and the online e-communities.

I admittedly did not pursue any active projects this year, though did respond to requests. I travelled to Barry's Bay (200 km west of Ottawa) to participate in a public outreach to professionals evening organized by the local AA's. The professionals who attended greatly appreciated the presentations by me and the AA public outreach representative. They were grateful for the literature (provided by local Al-Anon groups) and the opportunity to have a conversation about the Al-Anon and AA programs.

As part of National Recovery Day in September, Canadian cities hosted various events, including Ottawa and Toronto. Districts may want to mark September 2015 as National Recovery Day and see what is happening in your local communities.

The WSO emailed in late August when they heard about the event and provided this explanation: *"Although Al-Anon does not endorse or affiliate with outside entities, Al-Anon can cooperate with them by providing information about our program. The WSO is making this information available to support and encourage members' efforts to inform more families and friends of alcoholics about Al-Anon and Alateen."*

Here is a sampling of activities and ideas for public outreach across our District:

Literature packages for churches, medical clinics and local organizations, literature displays at AA events (D 31)

Pizza night (Alateen), donations of literature for Al-Anon Day and to Alateen groups, participation in AA Cooperation with Professionals event, pamphlets in hospitals and shopping centres, spaghetti dinner fundraiser, donations of books to schools and advertising in post-secondary intuitions (D23)

Bus ads, including a new Alateen ad, in local transit, participation in post-secondary service fairs and speakers at addiction awareness events, tabling at community and workplace events, weekly speaker at rehab program, literature displays at AA events, participation in Recovery Day Ottawa (see above) generated requests from 25 community organizations for literature about Al-Anon, as well as some requests for speakers. (D28)

Check out [Open Lines August 2014](#) for a fun word search that will give you some other public outreach ideas and resources.

My term ends at the end of this year. I hope some of you will consider serving in public outreach whether with your group, at your District or at our Area level.

Yours in service,

Marthanne R.