

Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Aug 1, 2009

Please pass this issue among the members of your Group.

Vol. 32, No. 3

Question: Somehow it is hard for our Area to think "abundant resources." At the 2006 WSC it was reported the of the 14,952 registered groups in the US and Canada 8,452 (56.52%) of them contribute to the WSO for an average of \$96.21 per contributing group. The estimated total cost of the services provided to the 14,952 registered groups in \$3,519,875. That is an average cost of services per group of \$235.41. Is there a somewhat itemized list available of services that the WSO provides to the groups?

Answer: Every service provided by the WSO benefits the groups. That is our purpose. Lois established us as the clearinghouse to provide the connection between the groups and to provide unity. I'm not sure how to put a price on that.

Every group receives several mailings from the WSO, including a free copy of *The Forum* and *The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* which are mailed to each group; is listed in the World Directory which is utilized when making referrals to newcomers on the toll free meeting lines; benefits from the Public Service Announcements; supplements the costs of the entire Conference which benefits Al-Anon world wide, as the equalized expense only pays a part of the Delegate's costs; supports the growth of Al-Anon around the world by connecting the General Service Offices and groups in those countries still evolving like Iran, Mongolia and Romania. All of the staff efforts in editing and improving our literature, the service tools to improve our outreach efforts including the Public Outreach and Member Web sites, and the translation of our materials into Spanish and French to support our members in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada are part of the costs that each group pays to carry our message of hope.

Its not what the group gets but what the group is part of and what it costs for the group to be a full participant in those efforts that is important. Not every group does its share but we still provide full support to them. On behalf of the WSO, please thank the groups who give tirelessly of their resources so that the Al-Anon/Alateen hand of hope and help is there when anyone, anywhere reaches out.

AL-ANON DECLARATION

**When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help,
Let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there,
And - Let it Begin with Me.**

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Subscribers

If the date on the Open Lines envelope is 01/12/2009 it is time to renew. Please forward your renewal to Sharon R., address on page 10, as soon as possible.

Delegate Report

My name is Claire D and I am your Delegate for Ontario South. I am a grateful member of the Thursday night Southend Discussion Al-Anon Family Group in Niagara Falls, District 12.

Well, World Service Conference has come and gone (April) and I am now "Conference Approved". I survived the mounds of paper and information that I received at conference in Virginia Beach and all that I had to bring home. I was on information overload so I passed this on to your DRs at Area World Service Conference in May in Oshawa. If you have not heard about my report from you DR at a District meeting or from your GR at a Business meeting of your group please ask. The information is for ALL members of Al-Anon. I represent all of you when I go to Virginia Beach for Conference. (Concept 1). You will be able to see some of the Power Points that I brought back from WSO once our webmaster has them posted on the Delegates Corner on the website. You will also hear my report at Assembly in Kingston in October. See you all there.

I am being kept busy by WSO; by Districts wanting me to speak at their functions; concerned members wanting answers and newcomers floundering their way through our website in search of Recovery. I am also keeping my Service Sponsor and our Advisors busy by asking questions when I am not sure of forwarding some of these questions on to WSO. What a concept – we can learn from each other and when we are not sure we ask someone else. We are NEVER alone in Al-Anon.

July 10 & 11th saw your Executive meet in Guelph for a very productive Executive meeting. Assembly will be exciting. Watch for news, updates and Assembly package coming your way soon, through our very efficient Secretary.

I am very blessed to be part of such a wonderful fellowship. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Delegate for Ontario South. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information can be found on the back page of Open Lines.

Much Love & Hugs
Claire Duthie
Delegate Panel 49
Ontario South

Alternate Delegate

Please keep Heather and her family in your prayers as she copes with the passing of her father. She will send her report out at a later date.

Chairperson Report

Hello Fellow Al-Anon Members,

As we enjoy the second half of summer, it is time to begin thinking about Assembly 2009, which is being held this year at the Ambassador Conference Resort, 1550 Princess St. Kingston, Ontario.

All Al-Anon members have a voice at Assembly. For those of you who will not be attending Assembly, your voice is heard through your GR. It is your responsibility, as Al-Anon members, to become informed regarding the issues that will be discussed and to voice your thoughts and ideas to your GR, who will in turn relay them at Assembly.

If you are new to the position of Group Representative (GR), I would encourage you to talk to your outgoing GR and your District Representative (DR) regarding your responsibilities surrounding Assembly. Also the Ontario South Assembly Policies & Guidelines Manual (available from your DR or on the Ontario South Assembly (OSA) website) is a wonderful source of information about how and why we do what we do in Ontario South.

As this will be my first assembly, as Chairperson. I am excited for the opportunity I will have to grow in this amazing program.

Blessings to all

Sue Gaskell, OSA Area Chairperson

Secretary Report

Hello Again:

First let me express my thanks for the kind and loving support I received from members during my recent 'medical adventure'. Fortunately, before I traveled that particular road, I had completed most of the tasks resulting from our very enjoyable AWSC meetings at Durham College in May. Since then I've been able to complete the Minutes and they should be posted to the website within a reasonable time. I hope those who attended that weekend enjoyed it as much as I did.

And, as the Executive's Liaison to the Trillium Committee, what can I say? Everyone was thrilled with 2009's 'Journey of Choices', a very successful road to travel. Congratulations to the 2009 Committee and best wishes to Lise W, as she starts her 'journey' as the 2010 Trillium Chairperson.

I feel blessed to have the opportunities for friendship and growth offered by the fellowship and the positions I have been entrusted with.

Love, hugs, blessings in program to you
Jacqui Kennedy
Area Secretary and Liaison to Trillium

Treasurer Report

Well we made it to July and half way through the year - Already! We (the Executive) just had our second meeting, preparing for this year's Ontario South Assembly. Things are well in the works with the packages for the GRs, DRs etc..

As you may know, or if you were not aware, Area is funded by the groups and districts of Ontario South. Looking at our finances at our half waypoint in the year we were able to see that Group and District donations are down. If we are to meet our approved budget, we should be at 50% of the group contributions on the budget.

As it stands **Group Donations as of July 10, 2009 are only at 26.6%.**

So please bring this to your groups and districts and convey to everyone that your support is needed if we are to meet the budget YOU approved.

A donation form for Ontario South can be found on our web site www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

Go to Al-Anon Members, then Area Policy Manual, then Section 10 Form D. The link is www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca/areaManual/pdf/Section%2010%20Form%20D%20Donation%20Form%202007%20may.pdf

Well have a safe and happy summer!
God Bless,
Marianne Embro
Area 86 Treasurer

ASK IT BASKET

RE: Participation in AA Roundups. Does the group in roundup area supply speakers? Does the Al-Anon group buy thank you presents for Al-Anon speakers? Uncertain of Al-Anon District's involvement with AA District. How do other districts handle it. District #26

Response: (1) the District needs to decide whether they want to participate. (2) District can decide. See page 104 of the Service Manual. There is a guideline for Al-Anon and Alateen participation.

Alateen Coordinator Report

A warm hello to all Al-Anon and Alateen members:

Alateen sponsorship and SAM service is not for everyone and we understand this, but there are many ways that we, as Al-Anons can support Alateen.

The summer is a wonderful opportunity to support Alateen!

There are a number of conventions, Al-Anon Days and Round-ups taking place over the next few months, and at some of these events there may be an Alateen speaker. You can help support the young members of our program by attending these meetings as well as encouraging Al-Anon and A.A. members to bring their teens to hear Alateen speakers. Far too often the Alateen meetings at these events are under attended, we can all benefit from hearing the wisdom of an Alateen and the best way to show our support for their efforts is to make it a priority to hear at least one Alateen speaker this year.

I have received numerous requests for Alateen speakers, so if you are an Alateen or if you know of one who is willing and able to speak at an event please contact me at ontariosouthalateen@hotmail.com and I would be happy to pass along the details of events seeking speakers. But please be forever mindful that young people enter Alateen to heal and recover from the effects of living with alcoholism and public speaking should not be encourage until they have gained the confidence to undertake such service work. After all, we need time to heal, learn and grow strong through the application of the 12 Steps, and this is especially true for Alateens.

The Alateens are planning their Unity Conference, which will be held on October 16 – 18 in Markham. So that gives us all plenty of time to spread the word and perhaps if you know of a young person who has been affected by alcoholism in a relative or friend, then attending Unity 2009 just might be the beginning of a whole new way of life for them.

Alateen Rocks!

Love always
Leslie P.

Area Alateen Process Person Report

Hello. I am Nick M, a grateful member of Al-Anon and the Unity Al-Anon Family Group in Welland and I am the Area Alateen Process Person for Area 86, Ontario South.

The 2009 re-certification process is now complete and I am in the midst of notifying the District Reps and Supportive Al-Anon Members (SAMs) about the status of their certifications in Ontario South. Thank you to all DRs, District Alateen Liaisons, and SAMs, for your help in the process. It was quite a learning process.

For the 2010 re-certification process I hope to get started at the Ontario South Assembly at the beginning of November. All SAMs will then have more than enough time to complete their part in the process.

To any members who are still contemplating the idea of becoming a SAM, please proceed with the process? We welcome new SAMs anytime during the year. Just read Section 11 of the Ontario South policy Manual and follow the process outlined within.

Have a great summer. Be safe and serene!

Hugs
Nick Marischuk
Area 86 AAPP

Archives Coordinator Report

Al-Anon's 60th anniversary is approaching. What a great opportunity to get Oral Histories and Group Histories up to date.

I received the following information from WSO Archives about a new piece of literature on the horizon. The 2008 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for the development of a "piece of literature on AL-Anon's first 60 years. The idea is that it should be a book combining personal recovery with history, since personal recovery is, in essence, our history.

This book will tell Al-Anon's story from the perspective of Al-Anon members, including those whose personal progress involved working in Al-Anon service on the challenging issues of the day. The Working title is TRACING OUR GROWTH My Recovery through Al-Anon's History.

Your Sharings are needed. You are asked to share your recollections about the events you have witnessed since joining Al-Anon—and what you learned from the experience. Your sharing could include the founding of Alateen, the first Conference, the creation of Conference Approved Literature, the influx of adult children of alcoholics, the relocation of WSO, the introduction of Alateen safety requirements, or many other events and achievements. As Ontario South has the beginnings of Al-Anon I am sure there are many wonderful stories of recovery to share to celebrate Al-Anon's 60th Anniversary.

Here are some questions to consider as you write your sharing:

- How did the history you witnessed contribute to your own experience, strength and hope?
- In your time in the program, what innovations did you witness? How did Al-Anon evolve as a program and as an organization? Were you witness to any milestones in Al-Anon's history?
- Which of your experiences in Al-Anon resulted in the most personal growth?
- What in your recollection of Al-Anon at the time you entered the program? What were your expectations when you entered Al-Anon? to what extent did Al-Anon meet those expectations?
- If you were involved in service, what were the major challenges? How were these challenges overcome? If you were a Delegate, what were the issues that your panel cared about most? How have those issues been resolved?
- What brought you to your first meeting? What was your first meeting like? How was that first meeting different from the Al-Anon meetings you go to today?
- If you were a WSO volunteer or staff member, what were the most important issues while you served?

The history book will need sharings from every decade from the 1950's to the present. Even if you think that the mid-1990's or the early twenty-first century is too recent to be history, please share your perspective with us that this book can reflect every stage of Al-Anon's growth.

Please mail, fax or e-mail your completed sharing by October 31, 2009.

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway
Virginia Beach VA 23454-5617
Attn: Al-Anon History Book
Fax: 757-563-1655
Email: wso@al-anon.org

If you have any questions or need information to complete your sharings please contact me. There are also long time members who are not able to get out to meetings but have stories to tell. Bring these stories to Assembly to put in your district binder.

Mary Jane M.
Archives Coordinator

Group Records Coordinator Report

I hope that all of you are having an opportunity to relax during these summer months.

I am happy to report that at this moment it seems that all of the groups in Ontario South have sent their updated group information. At risk of sounding like a broken record may I remind you that when you want to notify me of any change

I need to know your district number and your group number.

Please **send the changes to me first** and then I will send them to the WSO.

If you are *starting a new group* **send the changes to me first** and then I will send them to the WSO.

For those of you who had to wait a bit for some changes to get made, thanks for your patience.

Love, in service,
Jane

Literature Coordinator Report

Hi Friends!

My name is Jean and I'm a grateful member of Al-Anon. My home group is the Forward Al-Anon Family Group and we meet every Thursday at 8PM at the Westboro United Church in Ottawa. I have the privilege of serving as your Area Literature Coordinator.

Reminder:

the next Sample Chapter Project handout, using *Alateen - Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3) for meeting topics, is due **October 15th**.

I recently sent out a request for sharing for a new Al-Anon history book planned for 2011 to celebrate Al-Anon's first 60 years. WSO is seeking sharings about how specific events in Al-Anon's history had a profound, positive affect on their recovery. Please remember that sharings are due by October 31, 2009.

Hope you are having a great summer! See you at Assembly in Kingston!

Love in Service
Jean McS

Open Lines Coordinator Report

Hi all,

I am Sharon and a grateful member of the Thursday night Southend Discussion Group in Niagara Falls.

As I sit at my trailer where it is usually too hot to think, I am looking for a sweater because it is downright cold tonight. Where oh where is our summer??

I recently had the honour of attending my first AWSC. What a weekend!! New people and new friends. The openness and sharing of information always amazes me. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of. Thank you also to the other coordinators for accepting my character defects and allowing me to vent!

I have included a few of the ask it basket questions in this edition and the remainder will follow in December.

Hugs in service
Sharon R

Public Outreach Coordinator Report

Ahhhh summer. After what seemed to be a long spring, summer has finally arrived in the capital. And I hope that everyone is enjoying theirs.

The 1000 Acts of Public Outreach Blog has taken off and members are being very creative in their participation, and very fertile. To date there have been 238 acts performed. Thank you to all who have sent me their acts, and to those who haven't, or aren't sure of what constitutes an act of Public Outreach please feel free to view the Blog.

The address again is <http://1000actsofpublicoutreach.blogspot.com>

I participated in a conference call with World Service Office and Public Outreach Coordinators around North America and heard a lot of great stuff. We discussed summer projects, and fall projects. Here are some ideas for the summer. Take CAL on vacation and leave it behind. Vacation towns gear meeting lists for specific locations. An example, Meeting lists with meetings that are close by left at campgrounds. CAL left in summer schools, Information Centers, airline seat pockets. Al-Anon posters in bathroom stalls, tables set up at local festivals. Direct the public to our podcasts on the WSO web site. Burn the podcasts to CD and deliver to.....

Fall project ideas. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2010. Libraries, insert meeting lists into returned books. Bus advertisements. Alateen poster with tear-off phone numbers. Get Alateens to help put posters up. Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to Universities. They have their own in house communications. University Health Counselors, Psychology Department, Nurses Department. Fall Fairs.

I hope that some of these ideas can be of some use. Be creative as there is no wrong way to reach out and let people know about Al-Anon. Remember if we don't do our part, how ever small.....who is going to?

Yours in service
Michele

Website Coordinator Report

Bonjour,

AHHH!! Summer is here and with it comes the never ending weekends of round ups, camp outs, conferences to keep our program alive while on Holidays. Don't forget to check Area & local website for information on these events.

The coordinators are starting to submit information on their web page, updates for the Area Manual has been added (you will find a date for when last up dated, to help you track changes.) and the delegates corner will have some changes coming soon.

The site has up to 6000 visit per month. If you have any suggestions for the site please feel free to send in your comments. Have a great summer.

Webdudette in service,

ASK IT BASKET

RE: Does a SAM, who is not a GR, get a vote at District Meetings? District #26

Response: No, One vote per group

RE: 1. Why do we not have an AWSC/WSO knowledge portal accessible by/from the internet? 2. Why not make the Forum available electronically i.e. internet? District #28

Response: 1. In place—have a meeting to learn how to navigate. 2. Permissible parts are, permission goes to WSO—meeting in your pocket, to carry with out—internet does not serve that purpose.

RE: 1. Why don't we have greeters at registration desks? Can't get into an open AA meeting without being greeted. Ths! 2. In reports, put phone # or email address of each delegate. They keep saying contact me- but need fast & easy access! Or on Power Point—with the exception of Lyn Sowden. District #16

Response: 1. Request that via motion and group conscience. 2. See list—See area 86 Contact List, Open Lines Contact List—confidential.

Trillium 2009 Coordinator Report

"A Journey of Choices"

Trillium 2009

A huge thank you to Ontario South!

You have made this convention a wonderful success. You supported it by your attendance. 550 of you came and many of you for the very first time. Can you imagine how wonderful the turnout could be for our next convention if each of us brought just one new person for Trillium 2010. Let's think about it and do it.

You supported Trillium 2009 financially. 27 of our 31 districts supported us with donations. This certainly made planning much easier for us and it was greatly appreciated.

One more time, I would like to thank each of the committee members. You were amazing to work with. Your commitment to Trillium was always evident. I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know all of you better and to have increased the size of my recovery family.

I look forward to Trillium 2010 and on behalf of all of Ontario South wishes them many blessings as they plan for us.

With much love and gratitude,
Jane Hurley

Trillium 2010 Coordinator Report

Hello to all Ontario South members. For those of you that had the opportunity to attend Trillium this past June, you might have already heard that **Trillium 2010 will be held on June 18, 19, and 20th 2010 at the Doubletree International hotel** as in previous years.

Our committee has had the pleasure of shadowing their positions with 2009 in preparation for the year ahead. Everyone worked very hard this year to make Trillium the success that it was, full of interesting recovery topics, speakers to share their experience, strength and hope and great fellowship to hopefully leave you wanting to come back again next year for more. The Doubletree hotel and their staff continue to work with us to provide a venue offering good service, comfortable meeting rooms and accommodations for your weekend stay. Please consider making a weekend of it and staying over next year.

Thank you to all of those who attended and took the time to fill out the evaluations. The ratings certainly reflected how much the conference was enjoyed. Our committee has made note of the areas in which you would like improvements for 2010. We value your feedback and suggestions for theme and topics, which will be considered for the program. Also thank you to those who submitted their names for service as chairpersons, speakers and helpers for the weekend. We appreciate your willingness to be of service.

As in previous years we will be selling early registrations at Assembly in Kingston the weekend of October 30, 31st and November 1st. I look forward to meeting some of you there. It was found that the majority of members heard about our conference in their groups which means that our District and Group representatives are passing on the information to the fellowship. Thank you in advance to those who will be sharing with someone who has never heard of our area convention or even better offering to bring them along for their first experience.

It is an exciting time looking to the year ahead in preparing to welcome you all to Trillium 2010. Feel free to contact me at lise.woollam@sympatico.ca should you be interested in being of service for the weekend.

Much love in service,

Lise Woollam

Statement of Purpose

Open Lines is published quarterly by Ontario South Assembly. This newsletter presents service related news and information to Al-Anon groups in Ontario South to help keep them informed. Personal sharings of recovery should be sent to the Forum.

Send submissions to: Open Lines Coordinator
See address on page 10

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Issue 2 April 14th, 2010	May 1, 2010

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Send NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS to:
Open Lines Coordinator, Address on page 10

All ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on page 10

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Calendar of Ontario South Events

District 24 Haliburton Highland AFG is now meeting on Sunday @ 7pm at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church (downstairs) Haliburton. We welcome all cottagers in the area.

Aug 7,8, 9th is the 39th Annual Central Ontario West Convention of AA with Al-Anon participation on the 8th. Location University of Guelph in Guelph ON. Theme is Steps to Freedom. Sue G from London will be the main Al-Anon speaker. Contact Royetta S. @ 519-821-9293 for further information.

Aug 12th @ 8pm, Tranquility AFG in Barrie, ON is celebrating its 28th Anniversary. Please join the celebration at Central United Church on Ross Street in Barrie. For further information contact Bruce @ 705-790-9889.

Aug 14, 15 & 16th Lakeshore District AA Conference with Al-Anon participation with the theme of Miracle of Hope will take place at the General Sikorski Polish Veteran's Hall 1551 Stevenson Road North in Oshawa, ON. Registration and Banquet \$45 Registration only \$20 Banquet only \$30. Registration begins at 6pm on Friday and 8:30 am on Saturday.

Aug 18th Cobden New Way of Life Group, Renfrew County District 30 is celebrating its 7th Anniversary @ 8pm @ Grace United Church (side doors) Main Street, Cobden, ON. For further information please call Maurleen @ 613-628-2741.

Sept. 11, 12, 13 will be the 43rd Annual Dunnville AA Convention and Campout with Al-Anon participation. Theme "You Need Not Stand Alone" Convention will be held at Byng Island Conservation Area. Al-Anon will have a panel on Saturday. Contact dunnconvention@hotmail.com for further information.

Sept 19th Fall Into Recovery @ the 4th Annual Halton Peel Al-Anon / Alateen Day. Eden United Church 3051 Battleford Road (at Winston Churchill) Mississauga, ON L5N 5Z9 for more information call 905-271-5576 or email mpgbarnes@hotmail.com. \$10 registration for Al-Anon, AA and guests. Alateen will have a 7th Tradition. Cold Pot Luck lunch. Registration starts at 8:30 am and the first meeting starts at 9:30 am. Last meeting will end at 4pm.

Oct 3rd Steps to Transformation. District 4 will host its 18th Annual Al-Anon Day @ St. Agnes R.C. Church 75 Bluevale Ave. N. Waterloo, ON \$5 registration begins at 8:30 am. Meetings will run from 9am till 4pm. Breakfast and beverages will be provided. Potluck Lunch NO NUTS PLEASE. Please support this event by donation food/gift table items. Contact Veronica 519-748-4819 or Carol 519-954-3316

Oct 16, 17 & 18 Unity Conference will be held in Markham at the Howard Johnson Hotel. Please see flyers for details (copy is attached)

Oct 30th, 31st and Nov 1st. OSA will be held at the Ambassador Conference Resort in Kingston. Please watch for your packages.



Districts in Ontario South

- District 1.....Muskoka
- District 2.....Georgian Bay
- District 3.....Bruce County
- District 4.....Waterloo Region
- District 5.....Huron Perth
- District 6.....London Region
- District 7.....Sarnia Region
- District 8.....Windsor/Essex
- District 9.....Chatham Region
- District 10.....Elgin Region
- District 11.....Brantford
- District 12.....Niagara Region
- District 13.....St.Catharines
- District 14.....Hamilton West
- District 15.....Hamilton East
- District 16.....Mississauga
- District 17.....Upper Peel-Halton
- District 18.....Dufferin, York, Simcoe
- District 19.....Toronto North
- District 20.....Toronto West
- District 21.....Toronto Central
- District 22.....Scarborough
- District 23.....Lakeshore
- District 24.....Kawartha
- District 25.....Quinte
- District 26.....St Lawrence Region
- District 27.....Seaway Valley
- District 28.....Ottawa
- District 30.....Upper Ottawa Valley
- District 31.....Loyalist
- District 32.....Kawartha South