

# Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

December 2010

Vol. 33, No. 4



## Delegate's Report

My name is Claire Duthie 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.

My 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly as Delegate has come and gone. Thanks to all of you who attended. It was a great Assembly.

Thank you District 4 for hosting such a wonderful weekend.

I enjoyed this Assembly as Delegate as my time in which to do my report was longer. It's been difficult to condense 6 days into 45 minutes. I also liked the fact that I was able to open the floor for questions after my report. Thanks to all of you who had questions Saturday morning and to those that have emailed me since and called me with other questions.

The Saturday night Q&A on the Building topic was helpful also even though it was late and we were all tired. You never know at AWSC or Assembly how the timing will go. Thanks to all of you who asked questions about the building. There was some discord on this subject, however, our Program tells us to take what we like and leave the rest.

The evaluation sheets were very informative. Thanks to all who filled them out. The new format worked well as we are looking to ways to improve our time doing business.

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. I have added a new email address for Al-Anon purposes.:  
[ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com](mailto:ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com)

Much Love & Hugs  
Claire

Main St Fellowship AFG  
Wed March 23, 2011 @ 7:15 pm—9:45 pm  
Community Centre 55. AA, Al-Anon and Alateen speakers  
97 Main St. @ Swanwick Ave The Beach.  
Toronto All welcome.  
Contact Cynthia for more information  
[gr.mainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:gr.mainstreet@gmail.com)

### 60 YEARS OF GRATITUDE IN ACTION

DISTRICT 28 Al-anon Day  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa  
439 Queen St, K1R 5A6  
Speakers, Al-Anon Country Store, Fun Centre  
More info in February Open Lines

Ontario Regional Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 2011  
Al-Anon Participation includes speakers from Los Angeles, Quebec and London  
March 18, 19 & 20, 2011  
Fairmont Royal York Hotel  
100 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON  
Register online at [www.aatoronto.org](http://www.aatoronto.org)  
Questions to [orc@aatoronto.org](mailto:orc@aatoronto.org)

The newest meeting in Mississauga invites you to join our Gratitude Meeting  
Wed., Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15 pm.  
Westminster Church. 4094 Tomken Rd. (SW corner of Tomken & Rathburn)

Candlelight Gratitude Meeting 8:00 pm  
Thursday, December 16, 2010  
Coffee and Dessert 7:30 pm  
Learning to Live AFG  
Wilmar Heights United Church, 963 (967) Pharmacy Avenue, Scarborough, ON, M1R 2G5 (north of Eglinton, east side, use rear/east parking lot, basement - wheelchair accessible)  
Bring your own candle and holder.

### Al-Anon Declaration Let it begin with me

When anyone anywhere reaches out for help,  
let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there  
and *let it begin with me.*

### **Alternate Delegate's Report**

Hello everyone on this snowy sunny morning. My name is Heather Paret and I am your Ontario South Alternate Delegate. I am a grateful member of this wonderful worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups. My home group is Love and Hope Angus AFG in District One. It has been a wonderfully busy time this fall with the preparations for Assembly and I send my kudos to the Host Committee and all the members who attended. It was awesome to hear the number of registrations being higher than in the past and this was not a voting year! To me, this shows how strong our Area truly is, and in these numbers, the power to keep Al-Anon/Alateen strong and moving forward.

Saturday at Assembly was a very long day as the coordinators can attest to. We finished our meeting at eleven o'clock that night. Although we were all very tired, there was a lot of sharing of ideas and your Coordinators are highly motivated and want to share with you, the membership. So please invite them to your District meeting or functions as they do have a budget to travel. I invite you to join in Mary Jane's new project underway for celebrating sixty years of Al-Anon/Alateen in Ontario South. Consider how you can help Alateens get to their meetings. There is much more to report with regards to Alateen but I will let Leslie share on their exciting news. Open Lines is getting a make over by Sharon. Michele's Public Outreach project has surpassed our expectations and is still going strong and the term is not yet over. Denyse is keeping busy with adjustments and additions to the web site and just so much more from all of your Coordinators. Simply go to the Area website and click on Coordinators Corner and check out what is happening. By the time you read this, your District Representatives will have received a communication regarding updates to the Area Policy and Guideline manual. This manual is also posted on the web site and is chock full of information and a great supplementary tool to our World Service Handbook, which your Group Representatives will be looking forward to receiving by the end of this year.

Also at Assembly, a suggestion was shared regarding *The Forum* that you may want to look into.

It was a suggestion in District 32, that most groups 'adopt' a library and send a "gift" subscription.

District 32 received a renewal notice for *The Forum* subscription that the Alateen group put into one of the libraries. When a follow up was done at the library to see if they felt it was a worthwhile contribution, the library really wanted to keep it and have the subscription renewed. Although the library does not check magazines in and out like books, they still wanted a copy. It was also found out that they will only hold one year of the Forum and then they are recycled to waste paper. So, a plan could be put in place to pick up the old ones and put them somewhere else, while the library continues to have a current copy. How awesome is that?

I could write much more, but I think I had better leave some room for the other reports so will sign off for now.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Alternate Delegate.

Blessings and (Hugs) in Service,  
Heather Paret  
Area 86 – Ontario South

### **Secretary's Report**

Hi All:

Well, here I am, up to my ears in summarizing the Ask It Basket questions and answers, the Items for Consideration and all the responses and suggestions found in the Evaluation Sheets and typing Minutes of Assembly Meetings including the Coordinators' Meeting. It's a challenge to get it all done in time for our next Executive Meeting November 19th and 20th in Guelph, but while it is a busy position, it's also a very interesting one. I get to relive and re-enjoy Assembly as I read my notes, listen to my tapes and hear your voices. I also get to hear and know all about the happenings in your groups and districts when you send me flyers and announcements to forward to our Area 86 Contact List. As well, as the Executive Liaison to Trillium, I'm enjoying attending the monthly meetings of the current Trillium 2011 Committee, and being of assistance when I can. I want to thank all of you who participated, and all who submitted questions, items for consideration, comments and suggestions.

My circle of hope and fellowship grows constantly. May your holiday season be full of warmth, peace, love and joy, and may you feel the blessings of the program 'growing in you one day at a time'.

Jacqui K, Area Secretary and  
Executive Liaison to Trillium

### **Chairperson Report**

Thank you to all who participated in the 2010 Assembly, (participated – played a part in). If you contributed to the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, if you helped elect your GR, if you attend business/district meetings, if you encouraged your GR, if you've read any part of our Al-Anon service manuals then you participated in this years Assembly.

I realize it may seem early to be discussing the 2012 Assembly, however, the bids for the 2012 needs to be in to me (your Area Chairperson) by May 2011. Between now and then, an interested district (or districts), in the eastern part on Ontario South, is encouraged to research various hotels to decide which hotels have the facilities available and are capable of meeting the Assembly requirements. What previous Districts have found is that suitable hotels often have reservations for conferences years in advance. There are many past Host Chairpersons, including myself, that would be glad to offer support and encouragement. Consider making a bid!

For those of us in service positions, 2011 is to be our year of Confidence. I personally know that I have grown leaps and bounds in this service position as Area Chairperson The confidence, for me, comes from the knowledge that I am doing the best job I can with the tools that my Higher Power has given me. I am not perfect and I know I never will be because I am human.

A wise woman in our district says:  
Trust God,  
Trust Al-Anon  
And do the dishes!

Blessings,  
Sue Gaskell  
OSA Area Chairperson

### Treasurer's Report

Hey! Has every group treasurer seen that "Salmon" piece of paper yet?

What a fantastic Assembly, but then again, I'm a little bias as it was my District (4) who hosted it this year. Really it was very productive, was a good example of how the al-Anon Traditions and Concepts are used and showed me yet again how working together to work toward solutions is the way to go in. KBDM really works!

Did you know.....

Did you know that all the Alateen money presently set aside on our Balance Sheet was raise only by Alateen member! Yes, that's right. Alateen's love to get involved and have funded their own projects for years. They are independent, creative and make service work fun and exciting. Good stuff Alateen!!

Well Happy Fall and I hope everyone has a special Christmas season this year!

God Bless,  
Marianne Embro  
OSA Treasurer, Area 86



### Alateen Report

Hello Alateen and Al-non Friends

As 2010 draws to a close, I found myself reflecting back over the year. During the past 11 months I have had an opportunity to visit a number of locations and participate in Alateen focused gatherings and workshops. At this time I would like to extend my deep gratitude to all the Alateens, Al-Anons and Supportive Alateen Members (SAMs) who have worked so hard to help in various Alateen initiatives/events such as: On-line chat meeting, Alateen program at ORC and Trillium, Alateen Unity Conference, and the Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC).

I was especially pleased to see so many Alateen GRs at this year's Assembly and was impressed by their willingness to participate in service work. One of the decisions that was passed by the Alateens at their GR meeting was to set a deadline to receive bids for the 2011 Unity Conference. It was agreed unanimously that if no bid submitted to host Unity by the third week in June 2011 (Trillium Conference) then there will not be an Alateen Unity Conference for next year. There is a group of Alateens who are interested in forming a bid but they are looking for a couple of SAMs (preferably located in the central Ontario) to assist them. I am also hopeful that the bid that we received from the group in Western Ontario this past summer will consider re-submitting for Unity 2011. It would be very sad if there was no Unity Conference next year, but one of the recommendations made by the Alateens who hosted the 2010 Unity, is that there be sufficient time to organize the conference properly.

I am also please to share with you that the Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC) has been very busy working on a number of projects, and will be emphasising the importance of service work. OSAAC hopes to have Service Meetings/Workshops for Alateen members at a number of conferences next year. One of the things we have been considering is offering community service hours for Alateen's who undertake service positions with OSAAC, Unity Conference and the Trillium Alateen program. Since eligibility for community service hours is determined by the individual school boards, some inquiries will need to be made in order to find out if service to Alateen will be accepted. Each Alateen who is interested in availing themselves of this opportunity will also have to decide if they wish to have their association with the program known, but these details can be handled on case by case bases.

On a sad note, it was decided that Ontario South will not be re-launching the on-line chat meeting due to lack of Alateen interest, but since this was a World Service project there are a number of other Areas that are presently hosting chat rooms and Alateens in Ontario South are welcome to visit these on-line meetings, for more information on how to sign up please feel free to contact me.

It is my belief that a strong foundation for Alateen has been completed and that by continuing to encouraging the Alateens to take on leadership roles with the full support of their SAMs, groups and Districts we can look forward to bright future. Look for the results of the Alateen Survey on the Alateen Coordinator's Corner, at [www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca](http://www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca) In 2011 Alateen will really begin to Rock!!!!!!  
Best wishes Leslie P., Alateen Coordinator

#### **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 time for Ontario South's SAMs to re-certify for the 2011 calendar year has arrived. SAMs now require Police Record Checks verifying that they can care for children and vulnerable individuals. This year I have sent letters to all SAMs in Ontario South, except those in District 4, 7, 28. The mailing contains a the re-certification paperwork as well as a note reminding the SAM to obtain a Police Record Check (PRC) for volunteers caring for vulnerable individuals. A Permission Letter from our Chairperson Sue G asking for this check is to be presented to the local Police Station when asking for the PRC. This should ensure that the proper PRC is obtained and minimize the cost of obtaining the PRC.

Also enclosed in the mailing are the papers that need to be completed for submission. Please read Section 11 of the Ontario South Policy Manual. This details all Alateen matters and issues, and is a requirement of re-certification.

Please be sure to complete the AMIAS form on the back of the form letter. Next year I want to supply each Alateen group with copies of these AMIAS forms for all SAMs in each District, stamped by the WSO, signifying who is authorized to participate in Alateen activities. There are many parents of potential Alateens out there who are not willing to leave their children with total strangers. Presentation of these forms could help quell these fears and perhaps open the doors of Alateen to a few more teens and children.

Please try to get your re-certification through as quickly as possible this year? This will prevent last minute emergencies, and allow the Annual re-certification to proceed trouble-free with the World Service Office.

May I wish each and every one of you the warmest of Christmas wishes this year and the happiest New Year.

Take care, all. I love you,

Nick Marischuk  
Area 86 AAPP

#### **ARCHIVES REPORT**

Archives invites all members to get involved in celebrating Al-Anon's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### **PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE**

Does your district have an Archivist? What materials do you keep and how do you store them?

Streamlining the process of documenting and preserving Al-Anon's history in Ontario South.

Look for future info/ workshops in your districts.

#### **PROJECT PASS IT ON**

Group Histories completed;

Oral Histories/Longtimer Questionnaires completed

In Loving Memory Book—members who have died are honored and recognized

#### **LEAD THE WAY AND CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF AL-ANON**

#### **2011 ways to celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon. Ontario South/Area 86 challenge**

Ontario South has 32 districts; Each district chooses 60 ways to celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon

$32 \times 60 = 1920$  celebrations.

Ontario South has 347 groups. Each group chooses 6 ways to celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon.

$347 \times 6 = 2082$  celebrations. Either way we will reach over 2011.

You may think—how can we do this?

**The Challenge:** How many ways is your group/district celebrating Al-Anon's Anniversary? Can your group/district come up with 6 (group) 60 (District) ways to celebrate Al-Anon's Anniversary? It could be reading from Lois Remembers and/or First Steps, each week. That is two celebrations each time you read. If every group in your district does this, how many celebrations would that be? How many histories of long time members will be completed? How many IN LOVING MEMORY stories will you write? Each member could write something that celebrates his/her experience in Al-Anon/Alateen. It does not have to be elaborate. If each member in Ontario South did that and put them in a binder, we could have one huge binder with wonderful stories. This is how Lois captured our hearts with her stories. This how we carry the message—telling our stories. .

#### **Some ways to celebrate checklist:**

Group History is completed and up to date.

Create a visual display of your group history.

Long time member's history—oral or written—is completed.

In Loving Memory Book: each member writes what he/she remembers to celebrate the member who has died.

Each group member writes or draws something about his/her experience in Al-Anon. This is put in a binder which will then be put into a large Area 86 binder by districts. Remember each entry counts as a celebration.

Read from **Lois Remembers; First Steps ; Lois Story (pamphlet)** Each time you read is a celebration

Visit a member who cannot get to a meeting; Celebrate the meeting with tea and cookies.

Hold a special meeting to talk about the history of Al-Anon in your group; district; area.

There are many ways to celebrate. Send your ideas to me and I will pass them. We will send this into the Area Highlights and to WSO Archives and challenge other districts around the world to see how many ways they have found to celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon. Since our area has the beginnings of Al-Anon with the early wives groups, we can lead the way. We are a large area. We can reach 2011 celebrations. Each time you read, write, visit—that is a celebration.

#### **ONTARIO SOUTH/AREA 86 LEADS THE WAY**

Our founders Lois and Anne found time to celebrate; to tell stories and to record these stories that we read today. Let's make sure Al-Anon in our area is vibrant and alive for those who will come to their first meeting.

**All forms for Archives are on the Ontario South Website. Go to Coordinators Corner and click on Archives. Look for Al-Anon 60th Anniversary on Coordinators Corner/ Archives.**

Mary Jane M. Archives Coordinator

#### **Group Records Report**

Hello, my friends! My name is Jane Hurley. My home groups are the Whitby Friendly AFG and the YANA AFG.

It was such a great opportunity for me to have the opportunity to talk with you during Assembly. I greatly appreciated both the questions that you asked and the concerns that you expressed in using the on-line group record form. Denyse and I are in the process of making changes to the form in order for it to be clearer. These changes will also be reflected in our Area Guidelines binder. Expect to see these changes early in the new year. As for the actual problem in sending the form electronically that, I think, will take longer to be remedied. In the meantime, if you are unsure whether or not I have received your changes, please feel free to just e-mail me and I will let you know.

**Of particular note to DR's** who have groups which have recently changed their CMA's or are in no mail status.

**CMA's and the new service manual:** A number of groups have recently updated their CMA (current mailing address). Please be aware that if this change took place *after October 18*, the new service manual will be sent to the previous CMA. If a group was in "no mail status" prior to October 18 it will not receive a new service manual. Groups that have since acquired a CMA can obtain their service manual by directly contacting the WSO. If you are unsure of the status of any group please feel free to contact me at [grprec@hotmail.com](mailto:grprec@hotmail.com).

Blessing in service,  
Jane

#### **Literature Report**

My name is Jean and I'm a grateful member of Al-Anon. I have the privilege of serving as your Area Literature Coordinator.

As I write this in mid November, I am reminded of two spiritually uplifting events that I attended in the past month. The first is Assembly. I love going to Assembly and what happens when I am there. I see Al-Anon members who care deeply about this program. They give their time and energy to this God inspired program. On the ride to Geulph, I was in a fabulous carpool with GRs from my District. How inspiring to hear their enthusiasm! The closer we got to Geulph, the more uplifted I felt – it wouldn't be long until I was there and would see and hug all my Al-Anon friends. By being involved in service, I've met some incredible people who have become important to me in my recovery. Thanks to those of you who came by my Literature display and checked things out. It does my heart good to see others interested in what our CAL has to offer.

And then last weekend, I attended an Al-Anon Women's Weekend in Ottawa. For me it was a wonderful weekend of sharing and soaking in my Higher Power's love for me and the other 27 women who were present. Again I saw members using CAL in their sharing. I know how important CAL is – it is where I go to find serenity in troubling times and inspiration in living my program one day at a time. I am profoundly grateful to all those members who over the years have shared their experience, strength and hope and submitted their writing to WSO so that it could be included in some of the CAL that has been published.

The holidays are fast approaching. Just a reminder to take some Al-Anon literature with you if you are traveling – just a moment of reading from it can set the tone for your day.

Blessings and love in the program.

Jean McS



### Public Outreach Report

I want you to think about when you first came into Al-Anon.  
How did you hear about it?... How were you feeling? ...  
How were you thinking? .....  
What do you think your life would be like today if you hadn't  
heard about Al-Anon? .....  
How would you be doing? .....

### How much time does it take to do Public Outreach?

5 levels of public outreach.

- Personal level      Step 12, a conversation length of time  
                            Leave a pamphlet behind, 5 seconds  
                            Talk to you Doctor, 2 minutes during  
                            your appointment
- Group level         Order Al-Anon faces...for group distribut  
                            ion, 5 minutes   Distribute to group mem  
                            bers to leave behind, 5 minutes  
                            Members drop off Al-Anon faces...2  
                            minutes
- Public Outreach    Monthly meeting, 1 hour  
                            Put as much effort as you wish into the  
                            position
- Area P.O. Coord    Conference call, 1 hour 3/year.  
                            Read memos from World Service Office  
                            (WSO) .5 hr/mo  
                            Channel information to members  
                            through DR's and Public Outreach  
                            Groups. Approx. 1 hr/month  
                            Put as much effort as you wish into the  
                            position.
- World Service Office  
                            Public Service Announcements  
                            Podcasts

### What stops me from participating in Public Outreach?

- Time
- Fear of.....
- Low self esteem
- Shy
- Lack of Confidence
- Lack of trust
- Anonymity ....tradition 11 pg 227 "Paths to Recovery"
- Lack of Knowledge....service sponsor, ask questions, ser-  
vice manual

### What benefits could I receive from participating in Public Outreach?

- Build confidence
- Trust
- Seeing the Traditions and Concepts in action
- Practicing the Traditions and Concepts
- Knowing that Al-Anon is there for us and for newcomers
- Learn to set boundaries, how to say yes and no
- Personal growth, who I am, what I can do

- Safe place to grow
- Discover my abilities
- Step 12 reaching out to others, putting the program into  
practice. Pg 55 "When I Got Busy, I Got Better"
- Increased self esteem
- Learn to take risks
- Fellowship
- Develop talents and explore interests

Yours in service  
Michele  
PO Coordinator

### Website Report

Hi again! My name is Denyse Kurn and I am your Website  
Coordinator. First of all I want to thank everyone for all  
the positive feedback encouragement and the suggestions  
that I have received after and during Ontario South As-  
sembly. Your comments were helpful and greatly appreci-  
ated. If you have anymore comments or questions, my co  
ordinances are on the last page of Open Lines.  
For October the visits on the website have declined a lot.  
In September, we had 7064 visits and in October the num-  
bers have dropped to 3600 visitors. Hopefully those num-  
bers will increase in November. If you don't have a com-  
puter, there are Libraries, Internet Cafes...or you can use  
the Ontario South website as a meeting topic. It's a won-  
derful way to keep in touch with Al-Anon.

Thank you  
  
Hugs in Service  
Denyse Kurn  
Website Coordinator

### Open Lines Report

Hi friends I am Sharon and a grateful member of Southend  
Discussion AFG in Niagara Falls District 12. As noted I am  
changing up the format of Open Lines. This makes it more  
fun to read even though it consists of a lot of reports and  
stuff that some find "boring". There is a lot of information  
from assembly in this edition please take the time to read  
through all the reports and then pass it on to another group  
member.  
Hugs in service  
Sharon R

Open Lines New Subscription or Renewals	
If the date on your envelope is highlighted it is time to renew!	
Please check applicable box	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year 4 Issues \$4.50	Please make cheque payable to Sharon Reeb and send to: 5224 Bridge St. Niagara Falls, ON L2E 2T3
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years 8 Issues \$8.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Subscription	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift Subscription	

### Trillium 2011 Report

My name is Jo-Ann M and I am your 2011 Trillium Chair. I am a grateful and blessed to be a member of two groups, the Monday night Newmarket Friendship AFG and the Wednesday night Keswick Freedom AFG.

Phew, Assembly has come and gone, the first "outing" for Trillium 2011. We received over 60 registrations at Assembly so thank you to all that did register early.

**A reminder that if you register for the convention before February 11<sup>th</sup> you will receive the early bird price of \$20.00.**

After February 11<sup>th</sup> the price increases to \$30.00. (Alateen cost is \$5.00). The Registration form and mailing details are on the bottom of the Trillium flyer. Think about buying an extra registration or two to be used at your upcoming events as a raffle prize.

All registrations are eligible for the upcoming draws for a free registration (your payment will be reimbursed) and the draw for one night hotel accommodation. Our first draw was held at Assembly and was won by Nola M from Keswick. Congratulations Nola!

I would like to encourage everyone to book your hotel room early as well.

**The early bird cut off date is February 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 and the cost is \$115.00 single/double and \$115.00 + \$20 for triple/quad plus taxes.**

The price increases to \$125.00 after February 24<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**As always remember to mention "Trillium Convention" when booking your rooms to get the reduced rate. Also please use the direct line to the hotel (on flyer) to book your room.**

In keeping with Tradition 7 I am pleased to announce that this year we will be offering a fundraiser for Trillium 2011. The committee has decided on an 18 month calendar which will run from January 2011 to June 2012. The calendar will be filled with beautiful images and we are including the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and slogans along with some words from Lois W. These calendars would make a lovely gift (the holiday season is right around the corner) for yourself, sponsor, sponsee, Al-Anon/Alateen/AA friends and family. They can also be used at your meetings for members to sign up to chair or used for any raffles you might have at upcoming events. The cost will be \$10.00 each. Stay tuned for availability.

So to all of our members in the world wide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups I am extending a big warm invitation to come and be a part of the:

#### 2011 Trillium Convention

**June 24 – June 26 2011**

#### Doubletree International Hotel

Mark the date on your calendars and plan to make this a family weekend. We will have full programs for all three fellowships and encourage you to attend meetings from all of the fellowships. After all together we can make it. Knowledge is a powerful tool in recovery!

### 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  
On the last page

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Issue 4 November 14, 2010	December 1, 2010
Issue 1 January 14, 2011	February 1, 2011
Issue 2 April 14, 2011	May 1, 2011
Issue 3 July 14, 2011	August 1, 2011

Late distribution occurs occasionally for unavoidable reasons.

Subscription Rates:

In Canada \$4.50 (1 year) \$8.00 (2 years)

Send NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS to:

Open Lines Coordinator, Address on page 12

All ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on page 12

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### 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, Oakville
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

**ASK IT BASKET Questions & Answers  
Submitted at Assembly 2010 (as written)**

Q: Why is the word Al-Anon removed from Tradition 6?

A: It is just to avoid repetition. It was change between 2000-2003.

Q: 2 of the GRs in our district have received phone calls at home identifying us by 1st name, inquiring asking for about our Al-Anon mtgs time, location. I know that telephone answ. serv. would not pass on our 1st names & Phone #'s. How is this information being passed on? In some situations it might not be appropriate for members to receive calls such as these. This was brought up at our GR mtg, & we were referred to the Ask It Basket process. Thank you.

A: See P.32 [Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual] 'Telephone Contacts' ... or your service sponsor.

Q: Our Al-Anon Day Committee got a chance to advertise in a publication (free ad) which also advertises spiritual and holistic healing resources. Our Committee was split on whether we should accept this type of outside publication. Is advertising in this type of publication acceptable?

A: No. It is an outside issue.

Q: Is there a complication to using a chartered bus: as a place to locate a Mobile Meetings for Alateen? IDEA \* Public Outreach at Schools, A Regular Route! Pickups and Drop offs While having an on Board Meetings? Bus Company "Insured", Driver as Sponcer, SAMs on Board. Travel Pick route, Meeting while stationary. Drop off Route. This provides less time per Individual Travel, and More Unity. Through – county Health Services – Charter Companies – School Bus Companies. Open as discussion . suggestions . OPTIONS ETC.

A: See pg 32 Service Manual "Where to hold group meetings?"

Q: Our District understood that baskets designed for Al-Anon fund raising are supposed to be filled with Al-Anon related items or conference approved items. Have we misunderstood? (The baskets at Assembly were lovely)

A: Yes, you have partly misunderstood. They can be filled with anything, see pg 86-88. See page 86-88 in Service Manual.

Q: By writing my name on this page I have now lost my anonymity. Why is this information important. Within the group you are not anonymous, and this information does not leave the group. If there is a question, we would like to be able to address that person directly.

Q: What can we do to reach out to minority communities? Do we need to attract minorities?

A: Yes, it is a good idea to attract minorities. Literature is a good way to do outreach work. Check at WSO if literature is available in the language of the minorities you are addressing.

Q: Why are there so many levels of leadership throughout Al-Anon? It feels like another form of bureaucratic government.

A: It was the way it was established by WSO.

Q: Alanon is supposed to be a fully self supporting group not relying on outside sources. This being so if AA intergroup answers phone calls for Alanon does it not make us responsible to help fund intergroup and allocate to AA our share of the cost of running intergroup.

A: We are self-supporting to co-operate with AA to share their answering service. It is up to the individual groups & areas to arrange a financial contribution to intergroup to help pay for the answering service.

Q: Are there "Books on Tape" Al-Anon CAL for the blind/illiterate. There is a need.

A: Yes, Braille, Courage to C is on tape/CD. Check Literature order form from US / WSO Website.

Q: When a member consistently does not share on topic or use any Alanon in sharing, who is responsible for helping the member to realize she is not sharing Alanon solutions. Sponsor? GR?

A: Any member may speak to this in a meeting esp. Chair, or GR (if available).

Q: What is the criteria/funding formula for Ontario South Executives, Delegates & Co-Ordinators to speak at A.A. or Al-Anon conferences in regards to compensation , reservations & travel.

A: See page 88 in Service Manual.

Q: Someone in our group is interested in sending (Alanon) literature & books to Iqulat, Nunavut. What is the address or who do we send it to?

A: Ask Claire [OSA Delegate]

Q: Was the decision to invest part of the Area 86 Prudent Reserve Fund discussed at A.W.S.C.? If not, why not?

A: It was an Executive decision.- based on a suggestion by DR at an earlier AWSC.

Q: Could a podcast or recording of an open Al-Anon meeting be listened to on-line at OSA website or played at a remote meeting even though it has not been specifically approved as CAL

A: We have no authority to copy a podcast or recording. This is stipulated on the WSO website. Listen to the podcasts on the WSO website.