

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.

AWSC has come and gone. The event was well attended and we always look forward to special skits and fellowship. For a lot of us this was our last AWSC of our current term. Some will return and others will move onto other service positions or even take a break from the service train. There is no right or wrong.

AWSC 2011

ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q - How is an item put on the agenda to be discussed at WSC?
 A- Members submit discussion items to the Delegate, she forwards them to WSO. A committee at WSO chooses items to put on the agenda.
- Q - Why are we using actors in our TV commercials and in the Forum?
 A – To protect the anonymity of the Al-Anon membership.
- Q- Where does the monies come from to pay these actors?
 A - The Public Outreach arm of the WSO.
- Q -How much are they paid?
 A - We don't know, however, there is an actors' union and the information could be found there.
- Q- Who made the decision to move the fellowship monies into a GIC?
 A – An Executive decision.

- Q – What are the Treasurer's guidelines for moving funds?
 A – No guidelines.
- Q - Why was the AWSC asked before the funds were moved?
 A – We made the decision based on facts and it doesn't affect Al-Anon as a whole.
- Q – Where do we find the information on the salaries of all the workers at WSO? Is there a pension plan? If so, what are the details of the pension plan?
 A – Information will be in the 2011 Conference Summary coming out in the Fall.
- Q – International Conference 2013 there is a cruise being planned, not "strictly" Al-Anon but being organized by Al-Anon members (Service Manual page 116 – under "outside fellowship" 2nd sentence beginning "the Al-Anon name ..." ending "...sponsored by others". Not sure the cruise falls under this restriction.
 A- Yes.
- Q – Can we talk about this in our group or district meeting or not?
 A – No.

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 address found on page 7.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Issue 3 July15, 2011	August 1, 2011
Issue 4 November 15, 2011	December 1, 2011

Late distribution occurs occasionally for unavoidable reasons.

All ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on page 7

Delegates' 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, Dist 12.

My 3rd and final Conference (for now) as your Delegate is behind me as well as the Ontario South Assembly AWSC in May. I visited Stepping Stones (the home of Lois and Bill W) in April and found Lois's home to be quiet, elegant and warm. From the kitchen where the coffee pot and cups were on display, to the piano in the living room, to the bedroom upstairs and Lois's memorabilia out on display, the gardens and Whit's End where Bill did his writings; it was all very comforting to me and it's a place I want to visit again. I attended and celebrated Al-Anon's 60th Anniversary in Virginia Beach representing Ontario South and was struck by the warmth and love emanating from the room full of over 550 people who all had Al-Anon in their hearts. The Al-Anon count down was awe inspiring with the oldest member having 60 years and the youngest having 3 weeks. I was so moved by this show of love for our program. People came from every state and province for this event; rented buses, traveled together, stayed together and shared in the "Remember when's".

The new Al-Anon history book celebrating our 60th Anniversary is "Many Voices One Journey" is available for purchase at the low price of \$17.50. I have read mine and again, just mesmerized by the journey and the sharings of members.

May I suggest that you come to Assembly to hear my report and view the photos of Stepping Stones and the Anniversary.

If you don't already know, the vote on the Property Ownership took place while I was at WSC and the Conference voted in favour of ending the 15 year trial and owning the building. Al-Anon has a permanent home. The vote was 95 in favour and 1 against. 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

Much Love & Hugs

Claire Duthie

Delegate Ontario South Panel 49

The theme this year:

"Expanding our community of Hope by embracing:

Yesterday's Foundations

Today's Successes

Tomorrow's Possibilities

Plan to attend the 2013 Al-Anon International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada

Alternate Delegates' Report

Due to a computer glitch this report is not available at

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

Freedom in Fellowship

Aug 12,13,14 @ Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, ON. There will be an Al-Anon/Alateen program on Sat. Please contact Margaret C 519-765-9361 or email cwocinfo@bmts.com for more information or to register.

District 4 is having its 20th Al-Anon Day

Sat., Sept. 24 from 8:30 am till 4pm.

The day will include speakers/food/fellowship/fun.

There will be a pot luck lunch. A continental breakfast will be provided. Registration is \$5.

Location: Trinity United Church

400 Stevenson St N in Guelph.

Please contact Marlene 519-896-1165 or

marbeth1952@hotmail.com for more informa-

Chairperson's Report

Thank you to all the members who have submitted resumes for the upcoming elections of the Area 86's Executive. Positions to be filled are Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The elections will take place at Assembly, October 28, 29, & 30, 2011, which is being held at the Best Western Parkway Toronto North Hotel and the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel and Conference Centre in Richmond Hill (two inter-connecting hotels on one property).

The Assembly package will be sent at the end of August to all District Representatives who will in turn distribute the package to all Group Representatives in their district. All information regarding registration, agenda, Discussion Items, and other pertinent details will be found in the package.

A reminder from **AI-Anon/ Alateen Service Manual 2010-2013**

(page 138) At the Group Level

Election of a Group Representative (GR) and an Alternate

The GR is elected by his group for a three-year term by any election procedure it chooses. An AI-Anon/Alateen member who is also a member of A.A. is not eligible to serve as GR. Since the newly elected GR may be attending the election Assembly, the group's elections should precede the date of the Assembly...

We are hoping to announce the location of Assembly 2012 at this year's Assembly. As of July, the executive had not received any bids from a district or districts willing to host. Please seriously consider this opportunity to serve the Area. I chaired Assembly 2007, held here in London and I am truly grateful for the opportunity it gave me to grow both in service and personally. I also learned that, in program we never do anything on our own. Be assured, that there are many members willing to help – me definitely.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Assembly.

Ontario South Assembly Chairperson,
Sue Gaskell

WHAT SPIRITUAL BENEFITS DO I RECEIVE WHEN I GIVE OF MY RESOURCES?

This statement was part of our Delegate's package at AWSC.
Can you answer this question?

Interim Area Secretary's Report

Hi Friends,

My name is Jean McShane and I'm a grateful member of AI-Anon. I was named the Interim Area Secretary on March 19th after Jacqui K had to step down. Since I was still in Australia at that time, my transition into the position was relatively gradual with Jacqui continuing to send and receive communications from Area members until I returned to Canada on April 8th. Thank you Jacqui for all the help you have given me and for being such an awesome example of our program at work.

And so my adventure begins ... I'm excited, humbled and sometimes a bit scared by the task ahead of me – I have a lot to learn! I made it through AWSC and my first Executive meeting in July. I thought I knew how things would go, but I was more exhausted and feeling somewhat overwhelmed by everything ahead of me and the tight deadlines after each event. I have, however, come through it in good spirits and even exhilarated by the experience. That's the beauty of Service – my Higher Power is with me all the way and I have many AI-Anon resources available to me when I have the courage to ask for help.

I'm looking forward to Assembly in Richmond Hill the weekend of October 28 to 30 – it's going to be a busy time, but it's always interesting and fun for me. Hope to see you there. In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

Love and hugs in Service,
Jean McShane

Public Outreach Coordinator

Hello all,

Michele here, your Public Outreach Coordinator. As the summer rolls on things have slowed down in Public Outreach.

By now you're aware of the NEW DVD that the World Service Office has put out. But did you know that you can combine the clips on the DVD the way that you'd like to have them displayed? How cool is that? Custom DVD for your presentations at Health Fairs, High Schools, Professionals.

The only other thing I have to mention is that this is change over year. Have you given any thought to a Service Position at the Area level?

Hugs in service
Michele
PO Coordinator

ARCHIVE COORDINATORS REPORT

LEAD THE WAY AND CELEBRATE AL-ANON'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

I have heard wonderful stories of how Districts and Groups are celebrating 60 years of Al-Anon. It has been wonderful to visit districts/groups and be a part of their celebrations. Thank you for inviting me to share about Archives and to celebrate with you. Our 60 years of Al-Anon is winding down and I know our area will exceed 2011 celebrations.

Please send me the stories about your celebrations or bring them to Assembly so that our 60th Anniversary Celebrations binder will be really full. It is another way of sharing the message of recovery with everyone in Ontario South and with those who will come after us.

These are some things to think about do before Assembly.

Is your group history up to date?

If you are a new group, go to the website and download the Group History Checklist. It is simple and straightforward and can be done before or after a meeting.

Have you contacted the longtimers in your district/group and filled out the longtimer questionnaire? This form is also on the website and can be filled out by the longtimer or by you or another group member. Take the time to do this as part of a district/group celebration.

Have you read Lois Remembers or First Steps? If you it is never too late. Make that another way of celebrating in your district/group. If you have a copy of First Steps—the first 35 years of Al-Anon—note that this is Archival material as it is no longer in publication. You can celebrate by have a reading evening for First Steps or Lois Remembers.

Information in district binders. When you are looking at the binders at Assembly please do not remove original information. This is a crucial part of your group history. Any current information is in addition to the original information and is to be added to your binder.

As my term as Archives coordinator comes to a close it has been one of the most gratifying service positions. I have learned so much and am excited to see how our area has come to life with Archives. Everyone has worked and cooperated to make our area one of the best for Archives. I would like to thank AA Archives for welcoming me to their workshops and helping and teaching me what I know today. Thank you. Thank you to everyone in Area 86 for this opportunity to serve, learn and grow. Thank you for inviting me to your groups and districts to talk about Archives and celebrate our history. I was always welcomed in the true Al-Anon spirit with love, warmth, generosity and always great food and a cup of coffee. Thank you.

Did you know? Our area had the first wives group in Toronto in Jan 1944, Hamilton on 1947 and Leamington in 1949. We do lead the way.

We have early literature that was self-published by the members of the wives groups.

It is called The Little Brown Book. This was the literature that they referred to on a daily basis to help themselves. This led the way for other members to share their stories through what we know today as Conference Approved Literature—CAL. When Lois came to Canada by train in 1948, she was welcomed by the wives as they told her what they were doing to help themselves recover from the Family Disease of Alcoholism. Their slogan was Hands Off and they made sure she knew they were not a coffee and cake group. They were meeting to help themselves just as we do today. Thank you to those early wives who risked doing something different and had the wisdom and courage to see how important it was that they have their own program and fellowship.

Mary Jane M.
Archives Coordinator

Literature Coordinator

Hi Friends.

My name is Jean McShane and I'm a grateful member of Al-Anon. I have the privilege of serving as your Area Literature Coordinator. My home group is the Forward Al-Anon Family Group. We meet at 8PM on Thursdays at the Hintonberg Community Centre in Ottawa.

There are two new pieces of CAL - (B-31)

Many Voices, One Journey. This inspiring book is the story of the growth and recovery of the fellowship and its members over the past 60 years, as shared by those who live it. (B-32) *How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics* is now available as a paperback edition. This edition is ideal for sharing widely with newcomers, to have multiple copies available for group study, or to give to libraries as a Public Outreach activity. Please note the publication number (B-32) is different from the hardcover edition (B-22) to prevent confusion. Both books will be available for purchase at Assembly as well as through our LDC (see contact details for the LDC at the back of this issue of OpenLines).

Four new skits on CAL have recently been developed and are available in the Coordinators Corner of the Ontario South Website (www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca).

How do you work the Steps, Traditions and Concepts? Please help make the new workbook on Al-Anon's three Legacies a reality. This workbook will rely on comments posted on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts blogs found on our Members' Web site (www.al-anon.org/members). Click on "Blogs" from the list on the left side of the opening page. Then click on the blog you want to write in and scroll down past the initial sharing. Click on "Comments" and scroll to the bottom of the comments. Please follow the Guidelines under "Leave a Comment".

Hope you're having a great summer! I look forward to seeing some of you at Assembly in Richmond Hill the weekend of October 28 to 30.

AUGUST 12-14, 2011

Lakeshore District 23 AA Conference with Al-Anon & Alateen Participation

Al-

Anon Theme: 60 Years.....Our Solution

At General Sikorski Polish Veteran's Hall

1551 Stevenson Rd. N. (at Taunton Rd.) in Oshawa

Contact 905-728-1020

Registration & Banquet \$45, registration only \$20, banquet only \$30, Alateen or dance only \$5

A weekend full of great speakers, fun, and fellowship.

All are welcome.

Come help us celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon!

Group Records Coordinator

Yeah, summer is here!

My name is Jane Hurley and I am a very grateful and happy member of Al-Anon. My home groups are Whitby Friendly AFG and YANA AFG.

The message is simple! Our turn-over year is approaching. As soon as your group has its new GR, and CMA (current mailing address) please send this information to me so that your communication with Ontario South and the World Service Office will be seamless.

Sending you blessings!

Yours, gratefully, in service,

Jane Hurley

Open Lines Report

Hi I am Sharon and a grateful member of the Southend Discussion AFG that meets Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in Niagara Falls. Please feel free to join us if you are vacationing in the area. It is always a treat to visit a new group!

Things are busy as usual during the summer. I am preparing more information to continue the discussion that took place at AWSC as to the electronic distribution of Open Lines. As I investigate I am finding out so much about this amazing program and learning some computer skills that increase my personal potential as well.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Assembly and wish you all another day of serenity.

Hugs

Sharon R

Trillium 2012

Ontario South Al-Anon will be celebrating the 20th Trillium Conference in June of 2012. Having been to Trillium as my first meeting, I was greatly honoured to be asked to chair Trillium 2012. The planning committee has room for 2 more members - a treasurer, and someone to handle Al-Anon members interested in being part of this momentous event can contact me at afg.gregm@gmail.com. It'll be great!

TWENTY TRILLIUMS OF TWELVE-STEP RECOVERY TRILLIUM 2012

Greg M

Final Trillium 2011 Chairperson Report

Hello everyone!

Well I am now 2/3rds of the way through my journey for this service position. The first year I got to be an observer and give some input. I also served on the 2008 committee as Media, Voice of the Convention. So I have had the pleasure of watching 3 past chairs work this position. Can I just say...they made it look so easy! As far as I could see they remained calm, cool and collected throughout their terms! I am just glad I have a dependable deodorant. LOL.

It has been a journey of learning about me. Just as our main Al-Anon speaker said on Saturday night. Service work is learning about ourselves. I now know I am a micromanager (who knew! ... Okay who knew for sure!) I learned to Let go and trust in my committee(no not the one In my head!) Too many lessons to list here. I had a great time and am very happy with the terrific job the 2011 committee did this year.

Special thanks as well to the 2012 shadow committee for their support and input. I am looking forward to being the silent partner in Greg's journey as the 2012 Trillium Chairperson.

I want to thank all of the members who came out to support our Trillium convention. We cannot do this without all of you. The more people who support us by attending, being part of the committee, volunteering, purchasing the fundraiser, memento etc the stronger our fellowship becomes and the more we can share our experience, strength and hope. For those that did attend this year (especially if this was your first time) please pass on how great the weekend was, from the incredible speakers, presentations, workshops and of course the priceless gift of fellowship. We still have calendars and pins available for sale. The calendar is 18 months long and started in July 2011. Please contact Neil at neil.stuart@oldcastleapg.com to place an order. Encourage others in your groups to attend next year. I am sure Greg and the 2012 committee will have some great things planned for you. Three things that stand out in my mind and made this a memorable and joyous weekend was meeting with the woman who won the free room night in our draw, the woman who won "How Al-Anon Works" in the countdown and the fact that both the Stepping Stones presenter and the main AA speaker both made a point of mentioning the Alateens. Alateens are in my heart and to have them acknowledged by these two people made my heart swell with love. The book winner was attending her first Al-Anon meeting on this weekend and her sister had paid for the weekend for her birthday! How awesome is that, she will always have a physical reminder of her first meeting which also happened to be her first Trillium.

Having the opportunity to meet our room winner and see her enthusiasm and anticipation also meant a lot to me. These are the people we want to reach. The ones who are our future and the ones who are our present...do you belong to one of these categories? Come on out and join the fun and fellowship next year!

Thanks to all who supported me in this journey and who made a point of telling me in person how much they were enjoying the convention. Of course special thanks to all the 2011 committee members you were amazing, you remind me that "Together we can make it" We pulled together, we supported each other and we managed to throw a great party!

Yours in service

Jo-Ann Mayo
Past Trillium 2011 Chair

Website Coordinator

I'm still Denyse your Website Coordinator. I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer weather. Well the events for the fall are starting up again and so if you want your event posted please send them to me at least 2 weeks in advance and please fill out the events form located on the website, it makes my job easier and it's easy to fill out too. Just a reminder that if you need to have some information changed on your meeting time, date... You need to fill out the group record change form online or paper format and send it to the Group Record Coordinator, I get the information from her once the changes are made and then I put them on the website.

The website has done a little leap for June with an average of 6928 visitors for the month. Those statistics are really great! Keep using the Ontario South's Website, it's a great way to find out what is going on in Al-Anon, where to find meetings, any special events, there are some great reading material, skits and more. I hope everyone has a great summer and hope to see of you around soon.

Yours in service
Denyse Kurn

Open Lines New Subscription or Renewals

If the date on your envelope is highlighted it is time to renew!

Please clip and include this section with your cheque. Please check applicable box

- 1 year 4 Issues \$4.50
- 2 years 8 Issues \$8.00
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