

ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
AWSC – May 27, 28, 29, 2005
Centennial College, Scarborough, Ontario

FRIDAY, May 27, 2005

Welcome: The OSA Chairperson welcomed everyone, introduced the Executive and the Coordinators and passed on announcements regarding the facilities. A Special welcome was extended to our 3 Trustees from WSO Jo-Anne L. Mary G. and Gen. B. The “Motion” basket and “Ask It Basket” were introduced to the group and 4 DR’s along with Ruth and Rick (Advisors) were chosen to deal with the Ask it Basket questions Saturday night. The meeting was opened with a moment of Silence, the Serenity Prayer and the reading of the Traditions and the Concepts.

The Secretary completed roll call.

Rick chaired an Open Forum on how we were feeling about things since Assembly. At 8:40 pm Jo-Anne G. (Chairperson) led a presentation of the Alateen Motions and Background Information. That way we could sleep on it and be better informed for Saturday’s discussion. Closed the meeting with the Al-Anon Declaration and the Lord’s Prayer.

SATURDAY, May 28, 2005

The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions, Concepts. were read.

Welcome: Chair– Jo-Anne G.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to everyone attending.

Roll Call: Secretary –Claire D. It was determined through roll call that 42 members were eligible to vote. Districts 5,11 and 24 were not represented. Several alternate DR’s were in attendance as well as Howdy R. (member at large) and Jo-Anne L (Regional Trustee) and 2 Trustees from WSO Mary G. and Gen. B.

APPROVAL OF VOTING PROCEDURES:

Jo-Ann G. (Chairperson) researched Roberts Rules prior to AWSC and explained that these are loosely followed by our Area. Key clarifications included:

A Majority is more than ½ of votes cast.

If a majority is not clear from a show of hands, we will have a stand-up, sit-down vote to count off. Only DR’s, the Executive members, Coordinators, AIS Liaisons, Trillium Chairperson can vote. Trustees, Advisors and LDC Manager do not vote and the Chairperson does not vote unless there is a tie.

“Abstention” means to refrain from voting, making a conscious choice not to vote. Therefore “Abstentions” count as 0. We take only the “Yes” and “No” votes and it is the majority of votes cast that decide whether a motion is carried or defeated.

3 minutes will be allowed at the mike for discussion and only 1 time at the mike until everyone who wishes to, has had a chance to speak. The main motions are in the hand out package. An Amendment motion takes precedence over the main motion and we will vote on the amendment first. Only amendments pertaining to the main motion will be considered by the Chair during the discussion There were no objections to voting procedures.

Approval of Minutes: 2004 AWSC in Scarborough

Motion to accept the minutes– moved by Jacqueline K. Dist.# 22, seconded by Heather P. Dist. #1. Motion carried.

Delegate’s Report – Gail C.

Gail regaled us with the details of her week. It was a thrill for her to go to Stamford, Connecticut and seeing all her friends from the previous two years.

The Canadian Delegation dinner was first on the agenda. Followed by the Canadian meeting. There were 11 questions that they participated in trying to answer. There was one question on the Alateen requirements to see how areas were managing since they were implemented. The responses to this question were very encouraging. It gave Gail hope that we could resolve this issue and move ahead in a positive manner.

Another question was to encourage Group Representatives to attend Assemblies. This some areas have done by giving Financial Assistance if that was the case.

Another was about our Web Sites being used enough to compensate for the costs. If we use them for PO work etc this all helps.

She found this meeting very informative and she did get answers to the two questions that we had asked her to take. One was do the areas have liability insurance for their Executive Service Members. Response was No. and the other question Why does WSO not cover all Areas under their liability insurance. The answer is we must be incorporated and have our own insurance.

At the Sharing Area Highlights Session the delegates were to share their Successes, Ideas and Projects, and Concerns and the Lessons Learned. Gail did share how we have a stronger Executive to our Assembly and we share the same common goal. That our three-year project did not work but we are going to try and create Enthusiasm through the whole area to work on one project. Her concerns were the objections to the Alateen Requirements and the closing of our Alateen meetings that has caused a lot of dissension in our Area. And the lesson learned is that the minority has been heard and our members are researching the Service Manual quoting Traditions and Concepts. The passion for Alateens has brought more input to our Assembly and most important that we are not alone. We have the support of other Areas as well as WSO. She felt she heard a lot of very good sharings at this meeting.

The main part of the Conference was Energize Al-Anon - Expand, Explore, Experience! Taken from comments at last year's conference the delegates were asked to submit items for discussion at Conference this year. Then from that list they were asked to choose the items they would like to see discussed on the Conference floor this year. They had to be general in nature and pertain to Al-Anon worldwide. These will all be in the 2005 Conference Summary.

At the session on the Alateen Discussion: Lessons Learned. The Chairperson of the Board offered amends to the Delegates from the Board. Not for their decision but for not clearly articulating that they were ready to make a decision and not providing enough support as the Delegates took this decision to their areas. During the discussions several delegates expressed the challenges of being a strong leader while facing the objections of their members. They and their areas had become stronger and better from the experience. Others struggled with how the matter was handled by WSO. Other Delegates expressed gratitude for the support they received from the Board and WSO staff. Ohio stated how the minority caused a lot of trouble for them but things have turned around and are much better. Others recommended training for sponsors. On a positive note there were areas that have more sponsors volunteering now. There are also more Alateens attending because the parents are now willing to send them to a safe place for help. So far WSO have received 2,500 people registered for Alateen service. They have asked for the forms to be put on the web page to speed up the process. Many areas have received Attorney help. They have come to realize that Requirements are a protection - reasonable people take reasonable steps to protect the minority.

At the Regional Service Seminar Breakout they met with the Regional Trustees and the Delegates from our Region. Canada Central is to host the 2007 Summer Seminar. We need to have our bids in by Jan. 2006. As I mentioned last year Howdy put up a challenge for us to exceed the 1982 Seminar attendance of 713 members which was held in Ottawa. Membership has been declining over the years and this has been a real challenge. Our area must start working now if we want to be successful. Remember when you are looking at a site. Ask yourself is there easy transportation to our location. Parking. Meeting room sizes meet the requirements. Food availability etc. We also have Trillium to look at as that happens in June. As well August long weekend comes into play. Give it some thought. Take it back to your

Districts and let me know by Assembly, which District is willing to get 3 bids and host the 2007 Regional Service Seminar. Gail has all the information with her. This is another golden opportunity to get people interested in service work.

Another Chosen Agenda Item was on Communication and getting and keeping new members into service. Some ideas were to visit the groups that are not involved and encourage them to get involved. Adopt a group for a month. Service sponsorship. Communicate by letter, e-mail, or postcards as well as follow-up letters about what groups have missed. The importance of using positive language when we talk about our own service work. Use the words get together instead of Service Work. Fill your car when attending functions. Keep accurate Group Records so that mail is not returned. Have roving assemblies and traveling workshops. Focus on Fun, Fellowship and Food.

Gail was fortunate enough to visit Stepping Stones. They were greeted by members from the Stepping Stones foundation who gave them a presentation of the beginnings of AA and Al-Anon and how Lois and Bill came to buy this house and property in 1941. This is where Bill Wilson wrote the Twelve Traditions, which he began in 1946 and they were approved at AA's first International Convention in Cleveland in 1950. He had his own little studio which he called Wit's End. Lois founded Al-Anon here in 1951. It was the first offices of Al-Anon, which was, call a Clearing House at that time. Her shoe that she threw at Bill in the 1930's because he attended so many meetings and paid too much attention to his alcoholic buddies still hangs on the wall. I had the opportunity to sit and play the piano that Bill had bought Lois when times were good. Lois spent a lot of time in her gardens, which were just starting to sprout after the winter.

At an Open Policy Meeting, the Committee discussed whether or not they should ask the World Service Conference to re-address the idea of allowing staff to appear full face with name and position title in the media without disclosing Al-Anon membership. Since the 1986 Conference staff have declined media requests and the members agreed that a new approach is needed but they could not reach an agreement on how to do this. More discussion is necessary.

There are now 476 active Al-Anon and Alateen Spanish-language groups in the World Service Office structure. We now have a Spanish Translator and Hope for Today in Spanish should be available this fall. Many of the Delegates shared on the activities of Spanish-language intergroups. Did you know that we have one Spanish-speaking group in our Area? They are in District 20. Again we tried to read the Al-Anon Declaration in Spanish.

The next Chosen Agenda Item was on Communication. They questioned whether the World Service Office's system of relying on Delegates and Area Coordinators is obsolete. As Delegates we must put our personal preferences aside and look to Tradition One to assure unity in communication in our areas. We need to consider the option of timeliness and if we want the information to come directly from World Service Office to the fellowship. Members expressed excitement with e-mail, and web sites as a quick way to communicate information. But it still came back to service meetings. If a group does not have a Group Representative or a Current Mailing Address they are not going to get the information.

Now it is time to talk about our upcoming Celebrations and Conventions. The AA Convention in Toronto is June 30th to July 3rd and the Al-Anon theme is Let it Begin with Us. At this time the video that Bob T. (Website Coordinator OSA) presented at Assembly was shown to the whole Conference. It was mentioned that a member from Ontario South did the video and what an excellent job it was.

Everyone was clapping as well. Gail was so proud of being part of Ontario South and one of our members receiving credit for service work.

Al-Anon's next International Convention will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from July 4th - 6th, 2008.

To celebrate Al-Anon's 55th Anniversary, next year's World Service Conference will be followed by an Open House at the World Service Office as well as a reception and banquet at the new Virginia Beach Convention Center on Saturday, April 29th.

There are three Regional Service Seminars coming up. May 13 -15 in St. John, New Brunswick;

August 19 - 21 in Cleveland, Ohio; and September 16 - 18 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Gail had a special meeting with Barbara Older and Judith Philson to get some help with the Alateen issue that we are dealing with this weekend. They were both very helpful and supportive and have graciously provided us with assistance from Gen B. and Mary G.. Gail handed Barbara a letter composed by the members of one District who had many concerns and questions to be answered. It is her understanding that a response from World Service Office has been provided to them. She hopes that it helps clear the air for that District.

Remember this is just an overview of the happenings at Conference. Please read your Summaries when they arrive and encourage your Groups to order a few copies so members can take them home to read. It is very important that we know what is happening year to year.

Anyone interested in the forms for our Regional Service Seminar in 2007 please contact Gail.

Gail thanked us for our support during her three years and she would encourage each of you to submit your name for Delegate. It is the greatest experience you will ever have.

AA CONFERENCE 2005 TORONTO:

Rick J. gave us an update on the World Conference in Toronto. So far there are 35,000 people registered. The break-even point dollar wise is 42,000. The numbers are down because of some issues at border crossings with some of the AA's. The Canadian government's aide has been requested in getting some of those members across.

The AA's are "renting the City". There are 75 hotels being booked, 130 buses being used to shuttle people from the outlying hotels and then an in city shuttle. 73 countries are participating and we thought we were alone..... Friday night is flag night and for the 1st time ever China will be represented with 13 members and Cuba with 2.

Four of the Al-Anon members from the committee were in the room with; Rick J. Kristine B. and Carol P., Bob T. The presentation that Bob T (website coordinator) presented to us at Assembly in Ottawa was shown and very well received at WSC.

On Sunday July 3rd it will be 50 years to the day that Bill W. turned over control of AA to the membership.

Speakers are chosen randomly by registration. There will be 400 – 500 members sharing. There will be Alateen at the conference and there will be 2 divisions; 1) as an observer and 2) working with Alateen.

Fifty more volunteers are needed. It has to begin with us as Rick said. 2800 Al-Anon from Ontario are registered; 4800 from Canada and 4300 from California alone.

TRILLIUM 2004 REPORT: Judy T.

Yes, Virginia, there will be a Trillium Conference in 2006.

June 23, 24 and 25 2006...those are the dates for the 2006 Trillium Convention. It will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel Don Valley Parkway Toronto. Because the committee was able to get 2004 room prices, they were able to keep the registration cost at \$25.00. The "baskets" are in again for the 2006 Conference. They were such a success in 2004.

The committee still needs a literature person. Please contact Judy at jatodd@sympatico.ca

Break: 9:55 – 10:10 a.m.

REPORTS:

LDC REPORT –Ann K. (LDC Board Chair)

Lyn was absent due to health problems. Her report is in your package.

Highlights: Closure this year for summer vacation is July 25- August 15. (3 weeks).

Ann presented the changes to the Charter. The Charter changed because of our location change. The LDC is continuously evolving. Ann reported that sales were down because there was no ORC and we won't be having Trillium this year all due to the AA International. We need to start buying/selling books. She also noted that the new Service manual would be available in September and will be sent to outgoing GR's. This manual is the property of the group and needs to stay with the new GR's. For the lowly cost of \$7.00 the out going GR can purchase her own.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jean B.

Donations: Group

Jean went through the "Proposed Budget 2006" and was able to answer all questions (not many) with great accuracy. Thank you Jean for making this a smooth process. She also went through the Balance sheet for 2005 and the final report for 2005. Jean received many kudos for her work. Everything was clearly defined. She reported on the "prudent reserve" which should be 1 year of operational costs (2004 \$32, 881.00). Right now we started with \$16,000.00 and if we have a surplus at the end of the year (2004 \$1795.98) this is added to the "Prudent reserve" till we reach the 1-year expenses. She was asked if the LDC was included in this report. No. It is something the executive will discuss.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

DR's gave reports from Districts # 12/13/15/16 AIS Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara.

CO-ORDINATORS REPORTS:

All the reports were included in your packages.

Open Lines Kathy T.: The deadline for the next Open Lines is July 14th.

Lunch Break – 12:00– 1:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10 pm with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity prayer.

MOTIONS: AWSC 2005 Motions:

#1- Approval of the Proposed 2006 Budget.

Jean answered all related questions and made changes where necessary. A motion to approve the 2006 Budget came from Jean B. (OSA Treasurer) seconded by Jacqueline K (Dist 22). It was carried unanimously.

Motions 2, 3 and 4 were about the Alateen issue and considered Schedule A, B and C that was sent to DR. New information came to light before these motions were put to the floor and therefore changes were made prior to putting them to the floor (Robert's Rules)

Motion #2: That Ontario South Assembly accept the Alateen Safety Requirements as set out in Schedule A. Motioned by Jean B. (OSA Treasurer) and seconded by Ruth H. (Advisor). There was discussion on this motion. An amendment was brought forth on this motion.

Amendment # 1 to Motion 2 AWSC 2005: that # 4 Behaviour... unless a pardon has been granted for all aforementioned offences. Moved by Micheal (AIS Toronto) Seconded by Ellen T. Discussion was held on this. Questions arose from this discussion and we broke away so that our Chair could call our legal counsel about "pardons". We had great help in this discussion by the Trustees of WSO Gen B. from Nova Scotia, Mary G. from Buffalo and Jo -Anne L. from Welland.

Break: 2:55 - 3:10 pm

The advice from our legal counsel was that in the interest of getting Alateen back in OSA that we needed to meet the minimum requirements as set out by WSO. We were not contravening any Ontario laws. Legal counsel also clarified that if someone has been granted a pardon, when asked if they have been convicted the answer is "no". Our legal counsel also said as well as our trustees that once passed we can refine the requirements, build on them.

The vote was called on Amendment # 1 to Motion 2 AWSC 2005. Motion defeated.

Amendment # 2 to Motion # 2 AWSC 2005: that we change A1. - Attends Al-Anon meetings from weekly to regularly. Moved by Pam R (18) seconded by Jill J. (17). The vote was called after a short discussion. A stand up sit down count took place. 13 in favour. 25 against. Motion defeated.

Amendment #3 to Motion #2 AWSC 2005: that Schedule A 4 has not been convicted of an indictable offense under the Criminal Code of Canada AND HAS NOT BEEN CHARGED WITH (replace or) any offence involving violence, threats of violence, harassment, domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual assault or any other inappropriate sexual behaviour. Moved by Jan W. (ADR Dist. 21) and seconded by Paul K. The vote was called. 2 against. Motion carried.

The vote was then called on Motion # 2 (see above) as amended. 1 against. The motion was carried.

Motion # 3: that Ontario South Assembly accept the Supportive Al-Anon Member (S.A.M.) Process and procedure as set out in schedule 'B.'" Motioned by Jean B. (Treasurer) seconded by Ruth H. (Advisor)

Jo-Anne G. used a flip chart to demonstrate this process. It was clearly defined how it would work. Discussion followed, however; again we can fine-tune it later. Police checks were discussed and such questions as "If my job mandates it, can I be grand fathered in?" These are all issues that will become individual cases. The Executive will continue researching through the scenarios later. The vote was called. Motion was carried.

Motion # 4: that Ontario South Assembly accepts the Group Registration Process/Procedure as set out in schedule "C". Moved by Jean B. (Treasurer) seconded by Ruth H. (Advisor). There was no discussion and the vote was called. Motion carried.

Motion # 5: (not on green motion paper) that LDC Charter changes be accepted as motioned. Ann K. (LDC Chair) spoke to the issue. Vote was called. Carried.

Motion #6: that we discontinue the three-year special project for districts. Moved by Joan P. (Alternate Delegate) seconded by Ruth H. (Advisor). Jo-Ann G gave us background information on this subject. Discussion was held (not lengthy). The vote was called. Motion carried. 2 against

Motion # 7: that due to costs for assembly attendance, which is particularly daunting for some groups; I move that in the voting year, Assembly last three days. For the other two years, Assembly lasts one day. Moved by Dorothy M and seconded by Barbara S. Again Jo-Anne supplied us with background information. This motion was received from the 2004 Assembly. Short discussion held and then the vote was called. Motion was defeated.

. Closed meeting with Al-Anon Declaration.

Dinner 5:15 pm till 7:15pm

Opened meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

We moved in to discussing 2 items on the agenda that had been brought forth from Assembly 2004.

Item # 1: Delegate's Expenses at Area Functions:

Again we had background information on this issue. Jo-Anne spoke explaining that our Delegate attends the Trillium Convention as the delegate. That while she attends she sets up meetings, she meets one on one with members etc. While at RSS the Delegate is there for OSA related business and often chairs meetings there or conducts workshops. The presence of our delegate is important at these functions. Jo-Anne G. invited questions for the Delegate or comments/concerns from the members. A short discussion was held. No motions resulted from this discussion

Item # 2: Use of Resumes for Service Positions at the Executive Level:

The background for this item was explained. We had first hand experience with this issue in this Region. We had people run and get elected to positions they were not qualified to perform. It was discussed that the membership could make an educated vote if the resumes were in the package received before coming to Assembly. The resumes should contain related skills and experience.

Feedback was great. The Executive will consider the comments expressed and will discuss at the next Executive meeting. Jo-Anne will update the resume form that we already have and forward to the Secretary.

DR's gave reports from Districts # 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22

CO-ORDINATORS WORKSHOPS YEAR END REPORTS:

Alateen: Matthew

Reported on his 3 years. He learned a lot.

P.O.: Carol

Reported on a fabulous Al-Anon Day in London on April 30th. Had over 150 people in attendance. Were very well received.

Literature: Fred reported that in the last 12 months he has been from Windsor to Ottawa with his book display.

It's all about letting people know that the literature is out there.

Closed Meeting at 9:00 pm with Al-Anon Declaration.

SUNDAY – May 29, 2005

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence, Serenity Prayer, Traditions and Concepts.

Announcements were made as well as general housekeeping information.

Jo-Anne G. clarified some items:

- 1) **Motions:** The motions that were in the motions basket that were not directly related to business this weekend will be reviewed at the next Executive meeting in August.

Next Steps: Goal # 1 is to document the approved Alateen Requirements documentation make the changes and get them back to you ASAP with the right wording. Goal # 2: That your role as DR's is very crucial between now and Assembly. You are the link between the decision here and your GR's. You need to go back to your Districts and tell them about the effective leadership in action this past weekend.

If there are still some specific questions out there, please pass them on and we can do another Q&A sheet or add to the existing one. If there is anything needed from your Executive in order to help you get this through please do not hesitate. Your Executive Buddies are still there for you (as assigned).

**Delegate's Update: Gail C.:
As spoken:**

This morning is a very emotional meeting for me. My three years are coming to a close and I feel I am just getting to know each and every one of you. We have been through some rocky times together but I think spiritually we have all grown. Year one is our Confused year. I made some boo-boos along that pebbly path. But we managed to share our feelings and members were being heard so we could get over the hurdles together. The second year just when I was beginning to feel Comfortable another curve ball was thrown our way. But again we were all starting to Communicate. We found our Service Manuals; we received outside help from other Areas and World Service Office What a bonus. Now in my third year you have all taught me that I am Capable as well as each one of you have been capable in your positions. You trusted me, worked with me, gently shared your views as how we could handle situations, never judged or criticized my actions. This is truly a Spiritual Program and I have truly been blessed by such a loving membership in Ontario South.

The growth I have received by just being Willing to take on the position as your Delegate has been amazing. I had the opportunity to give my report at 10 Districts plus individual groups. This meant I traveled around Ontario more than usual and stayed with some very willing members who opened their homes to me. I participated in three World Service Conferences and had the opportunity to see the World Service Office twice as well as visiting Stepping Stones. That is such a great honour and privilege to be chosen to go to these places. I attended two Trillium Conventions and that is where I spoke to individual members about any of their concerns. We even scheduled special Executive meetings and also Alateen Requirement meetings at the same time. I tried to make the best use of my time while I was attending. Last year I even won one of the lovely baskets that were raffled. My luck is changing. In 2004 I attended the Regional Service Seminar in Winnipeg. This was the second RSS that I have had the privilege of attending. It is a golden opportunity to learn more about service. You also get to meet the WSO staff and other Regional Trustees. The workshops are great as well as the fellowship with members other than your own little groups. I attended all the Executive meetings, AWSC meetings and Assemblies during the past three years. Some I must admit were very emotional and stressful but I believe we had to go through the process to find the right answers for Ontario South. We are much more unified now than before I personally have learned so much about the Process.

Year one for me was all about the minority voice being heard. If it means explaining something ten times to make sure they can make a conscious decision then we explain it ten times. Everyone has the right to be heard and to understand the process.

Year two was one of Communication. We now have a better understanding of getting all the material we need and passing that information on as quickly as possible to our members. I think we have done a great job in the second half of the year in doing that.

Year three is all about Trust. Trust in our Servants, our Leaders, and trust in the Process. We are all here for the same reason. We have been affected by someone else's drinking and we want the program to be there for the next person who comes through the doors of Al-Anon.

When I came through the doors of Al-Anon 22 years ago I never dreamed I would be doing service work. I just wanted to keep my alcoholic sober. Twelve years ago when I was in the depths of despair Service Work saved my life. For that I will always be grateful. I will continue to do service work at some level as I feel I owe it to this program to give a little back for all I have received. You people have made that possible.

I encourage each of you to jump at the opportunity to grow and take on a Service Position above the group and district level. You won't regret it. You can only grow as I have.

I thank all of you for being there and supporting me over the last three years.

WSO Public Outreach Project:

Carol P.

Carol is undertaking this project on behalf of OSA even though her 3-year term is coming to an end. This is over and above the position of P.O. Coordinator.

Carol gave us some history on this project and informed us of the results of the survey she sent out. Discussion was held on what we could do with this project it needed to be kept simple and it needs to be in to WSO by June 30, 2005.

The focus of this project is on the medical profession and how to inform them of Al-Anon. A name for our project was determined. Jo-Anne L. from Welland came up with the name "Prescription Al-Anon".

Clarification from the Chair:

7 Motions passed this weekend: Jo-Anne G. (Chair) spoke to the 7 motions passed this weekend. The first 5 will be carried to the assembly for voting there and the last 2 are a decision of AWSC, therefore go no further.

Break 20 minutes

ASK-IT-BASKET – (these questions and answers are as they appear on the pink Ask It Basket Sheets)

1. Many groups that hold their meetings in churches, have been asked to sign "Safe Harmless Agreements". This has been approached as an insurance issue. What would be our responsibility as an Al-Anon member? (suing person signing this form has been a major concern & reluctance to put a name on this form). Would Al-Anon or the individual be responsible? (if someone was to sue).

Answer: Ask for legal aid (none of Ask it basket committee would sign it)

2. I understand that previously there was a motion passed to enable the OSA to loan money to the LDC. Now that consideration is being given to withdraw this motion as this assistance is not needed, will this mean the original motion will have to be withdrawn or amended?

Answer: LDC is part of the Assembly. If not self-supporting OSA assists the LDC financially until it is once again self-supporting. At the present it is self-supporting.

3. Why aren't the steps and traditions visible in the main meeting room during Assembly? (Hanging from wall)

Answer: Great idea!

- 3A). Would someone create a 4th step inventory for "couples" in Al-Anon recovery? How does one begin to generate ideas to compile a 4th step inventory for couples in recovery/Al-Anon? It would be a direction for healthy relationships. Keeping in mind that both partners would be in Al-Anon. In our group of Al-Anon members we only have one "couple" that attends. The rest of the Al-Anon members attend alone, however, their spouses benefit from the program & slogans at home.

Answer: Make the suggestion to WS Conference via our delegate. Refer to 114 in Service manual)Al-Anon's World Service Conference (WSC) makes the decision whether to grant conceptual approval for the development of new recovery literature for Al-Anon and Alateen. This can occur in 2 ways. 1) Any member of the fellowship may send an idea for new literature to the WSO Literature Committee. If one Committee agrees to recommend the idea, that Committee will present a motion for conceptual approval at the next WSC. 2) Any member can bring an idea directly to the Area Delegate or through the links of service. The Delegate in turn may present a motion for conceptual approval at the next WSC.

4. Does the Delegate's position have primary responsibility to represent the groups' views to WSC? Or is her primary focus to represent WSC views to the groups? Or both? If so, is this "Double headed management", particularly when Area group conscience is not in agreement with WSC?

Answer: Both. Delegate is the liaison between WSC and the groups. They bring information from WSC to Assembly & the groups & the reverse from groups to WSC regarding any questions and answers. This is not double headed management as only 1 person is involved.

5. What is the commitment and amount of time required for area level positions such as coordinators? Do the Executive members and Coordinators meet several weekends a year?

Answer: Coordinators attend AWSC and Assembly & are expected to spend about 2-3 hours per week of Al-Anon work. Coordinators meet with Executive only once every 3 years at the handover meeting in January following. Individual Coordinators are often invited to Executive meetings depending on issue & Alternate Delegate meets with Coordinators at AWSC & Assembly.

6. Why is there nothing in the Service Manual about Al-Anon Adult Children? (When a problem arose in our District with a new Adult Children's Group, there was nothing specific to refer to. I quoted from the Manual re: Al-Anon. This was disputed by the GR of the new group. I contacted our Delegate and WSO and received the same information as is in the Manual. It needs to be clarified.

Answer: Adult Children are Al-Anon members. We refer you to the Traditions, particularly Tradition 1 that states our common welfare should come first and Tradition 3...the only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend.

7. If Alateens are present for Al-Anon meetings, do Al-Anon members need police checks if parent not present?

Answer: All are treated as Al-Anon members. Not yet are police checks required.

8. Are we breaking any Traditions if our Al-Anon meetings have AA phone lists or AA pamphlets available on our literature tables? For example: is it an outside issue? Is it following Al-Anon spoken here or is it reaching out to families of alcoholics?

Answer: Pg 83-84 Outside Publications. In a spirit of unity it is suggested that only Al-Anon & Alateen literature be used and displayed at meetings. AA literature is written by and for the AA's. It is not Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature.

9. With the defeat of the 2 motions (Police check and minimum requirements) what is the status of Alateen in Ontario South Jan 1 /05.

Answer: As of May 28/05 we have no registered Alateen groups so the above question does not apply.

10. What method of rules does Ontario South Assembly govern themselves by? In relation to voting and the structure of the meetings. "Roberts Rules" was mentioned however during Assembly, I understood that Roberts Rules is not followed. I would like to see in writing the rules and regulations on how to handle: voting, motions, amendments etc. Where do I look so I am not out of the loop during Assembly?

Answer: OSA loosely follows Roberts Rules. Although we do not require rules to be followed (eg. Terminology, addressing fellow members...) we follow suggested rules for presenting motions and voting. Relevant information will be added to the OSA Manual.

Evaluations: Attendees were asked to complete the forms and hand in or mail to the secretary.

Open Forum: The meeting was opened for a brief period to allow for personal sharing and comments. Much gratitude was expressed re: weekend. Also many thanks were extended to our Trustees from WSO. We had 3 in attendance. It was mentioned that WSO has made changes to the website. Please go to www.al-anon.alateen.org/members

From there add your group name when prompted followed by AFG.

The meeting was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and the Lord's Prayer. (11:20 am)