

ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
October 22, 23 & 24, 2010
Best Western Royal Brock Hotel & Conference Centre, Guelph

“Celebrate! Embracing the group conscience to expand our circle of hope”

Friday, October 22, 2010 (Evening)

Meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, and reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Chairperson, Sue G, welcomed everyone to this Assembly and asked those attending for the first time to stand (‘you are not alone’) and also acknowledged Alateens in attendance. Introduction of OSA Executive, Advisors and Coordinators followed.

2010 Assembly Host Committee Chairperson, Bonnie B, extended welcome to this Assembly; made some housekeeping announcements and introduced members of District 4’s Host Committee.

Sue thanked the Host Committee, and announced the location/hours for Literature and Hospitality Rooms, LDC Board Meeting; OSAAC Meeting and reminded members to review the pre-Assembly information package, Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM); and the package received here at registration.

Coordinators’ Reports and Q&A

Group Records Coordinator, Jane H, suggested this is the job for people who like to do the same thing again and again, with a small learning curve you get to use often.. Jane reported she is keeping records for 384 groups in Ontario South; that Ontario South is one of the largest Areas in North America, excluding California; and asked that, every time there is a change to any part of a group’s records, the information be forwarded to the GRC. Use the email address on the back of Open Lines, or the electronic form on the Ontario South website (www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca) also snail-mail works well. Jane asked for clear instructions, for instance if changing Current Mailing Address (CMA) be sure to advise if the CMA and the Group Representative are one and the same or not. Newer groups with an 8-digit ID number should use all 8 numbers. Jane asked DRs to respond regarding the total current number of groups in their Districts. Jane also reported that Ontario South is participating with WSO in a Group Records trial which will reduce one step in the process.

Open Lines Coordinator, Sharon R, advised that reports are due November 14th to be included in the December edition of Open Lines; that at the back of the room there are subscription forms as well as newsletters from other areas which are available for members to take. Sharon asked that address changes be sent to the Group Records Coordinator and that money (except payments for subscriptions) should be sent to the Area Treasurer.

Website Coordinator, Denyse K, reported that our website, in the month of September, recorded about 235 entries per day; about 7064 for the month; up from August by about 700. She mentioned there was a lot of information for newcomers and professionals as well as some changes to the site for members, such as Coordinators’ pages, always new upcoming events, new meetings, skits and power point presentations;

She mentioned there is an electronic form to fill out for your event which ensures the necessary details are available and she reiterated the address www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

Archives, Mary Jane McK, enthusiastically invited everyone to participate in celebrating 60 years of Al-Anon around the world in 2011; that we need to preserve our past for the future and Ontario South has project “Pass It On” with our Memory Book. A new project is “Lead the way and celebrate 60 years of Al-Anon”; and she suggested ways to celebrate, such as reading a page from “Lois Remembers” or from “First Steps”; revise your Group History or make a picture; create a visual display of your group history; those can be celebrations. 60 celebrations per District would total almost 1900 celebrations. A goal of 6 celebrations for each of our 384 groups would be 2,304; exceeding a possible “2011” celebrations in the year 2011. Mary Jane said she would be working with Denyse to set up a ‘blog’ on the website to record these celebrations. Names in our Memory Book will be published.

Trillium 2011 Chairperson, Jo-Ann M, reported Trillium 2011 will be held June 24-25-26 at DoubleTree; that Trillium is also celebrating the 60 years of Al-Anon. Jo-Ann also reported the only Committee position to fill are those for the Alateen portion of the program and asked for volunteers. She advised the committee are working on a special fund-raiser and memento. Jo-Ann asked DRs and GRs to encourage members to attend Trillium 2011. Jo-Ann provided very humorous responses to the questions ‘Can we have coffee?’ and ‘The rooms are too cold.’ She also reminded us of the Early Bird Registration rate, the three draws for free conference registration and one for a free room night and the importance of mentioning “Trillium” when you register for a room at the hotel.

Questions/Answers

- 1) Wendy L, District 17, asked Website Coordinator Denyse to add “please scroll down” on the pages of meeting lists, and suggested postal codes be added to the information regarding events.
- 2) Carl, District 28, asked Group Records Coordinator Jane about the auto response when an electronic group records change form is submitted; that the print form doesn’t always come back and it sometimes means the information hasn’t been handled. Jane said when she gets the electronic submission she doesn’t do anything to prompt the auto response or print form; suggested a test or an email to query receipt.
- 3) Lisa, District 3, asked if the Group Records Change Form could be submitted this weekend and was informed that, yes, the form may be handed to GRC Jane.
- 4) Bernadine, District 14, asked if the ID number for each group is on the meeting lists on the website and was informed the numbers are there.

Meeting closed with The Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

Saturday, October 23, 2010 (Morning session)

This session of the 2010 Assembly opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Our Chairperson again welcomed everyone to Assembly; asked for acknowledgment of those at their first Assembly, and those in their first service positions, Alateens, etc. For the benefit of those members who had not arrived when introductions were made last night, she again introduced the OSA Executive, Advisors and Coordinators. She also provided required information about location of exits, washrooms

etc. and times/locations for the Ask It Basket committee and the Alternate Delegate's meeting with Coordinators.

2010 Assembly Host Committee Chairperson, Bonnie B, made some housekeeping announcements, and mentioned the raffle for three baskets donated by Barb, GR in District 4.

Voting Procedures, Establishing KBDM Guidelines (also see KBDM details in pre-registration package) and Seating Arrangements

Sue explained that she will call someone to the microphone to read the Background Information found in the Information Package for each of the matters to be voted on. Sue briefly explained the premise of Knowledge-Based Decision Making (see information on KBDM in the Information Package); that this is part of the way Al-Anon works so effectively; based on open communication between leadership and membership; the existence of a culture of trust with the view that making a good decision is far more important than who makes the decision.

Also, during discussion period, make sure you have organized what you wish to say as we limit our sharing to two minutes each; someone will act as Timekeeper, beeper will sound when your time is up and you will be asked to sit down; not necessary to repeat something already said knowing your final say will be your vote. Everyone hears all of the information and everyone (voting and non-voting) has a voice.

After our KBDM discussion, (1) a motion may come forth; or (2) If nobody puts a motion forward, then things stay as they were; our discussion has indicated that we don't need to make a change.

How a Motion is submitted:

A motion from the floor, legibly written on the blue Motion Form, is signed by a voting member and seconded by another voting member. The seconder doesn't have to agree with the motion but does agree it needs to come to the floor for discussion. Our Advisors, Joan and Gail, will assist anyone to craft a Motion if asked.

Voting Procedures (also see notes on voting procedures in pre-registration package):

Sue explained that an abstention is a decision not to vote, so only 'yes' or 'no' votes are considered when deciding a majority. DRs are asked to ensure one vote per group. A vote may be cast by a Group Representative, by a member acting on behalf of a group, or by a DR who is also a GR.

Tabling of motions

If a motion is presented from the floor, the motion is "tabled" when the Chair reads it to the Assembly. The "mover" may speak first and she/he may only speak again once others have had a chance to address the Assembly.

The "tabling" of motions received is at the discretion of the Chairperson, other than those listed in the Agenda as Discussion Items to vote on. If the motion submitted is relevant to today's discussions, it may be brought forth for further action. If not, it will go to the next Executive meeting for consideration and, if deemed appropriate, brought to AWSC.

Amendments to Motions

Only amendments pertaining to the main motion will be considered by the Chair during the discussion. If an amendment to a motion is made, the amendment takes precedence over the main motion and we vote on the amendment first.

Voter eligibility was clarified and the stand up/sit down process for voting was presented.

A **simple majority vote** (50% plus 1 of the votes cast) is required to pass motions, based on the total number of members eligible to vote as advised by the Registrars and if a motion is presented and carried, it is adopted by the Area. If a motion is defeated, there is no change to what was done before discussion and vote. Registrars advised there were a total of 322 in attendance.

Seating Arrangements:

Sue explained that all voting members are asked to sit in the designated area. Seating arrangements were established with non-voting members to be seated at the back of the room; voting members seated with their DRs in their respective numbered rows.

Vote was called on this process. It was moved and seconded that “the voting procedure, as explained, be accepted”. Motion carried unanimously.

Timekeeper: Sue asked for a non-voting member to act as Timekeeper and Jane H., District 23, volunteered.

New Form – Item for Consideration

‘Item for Consideration’ form replaces ‘Item for Discussion’, for topics, which affect members at the Area level requiring a decision beyond group or district autonomy. An Item for Consideration submitted will be taken up by the Executive at an upcoming meeting (November & February). These items are clarified as needed, that is, if it is deemed to be administrative in nature, the Executive will deal with it, and if it is a substantive issue requiring a motion to come to a future Assembly, it would be brought forward at AWSC (*see Concept 3, pages 171-174. Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual*).

Ask-It-Basket & Volunteers:

Questions, where answers have not been found in the WSO service manuals or Ontario South’s policies and guidelines, are submitted on the pink Ask-It-Basket form. Questions & Answers are usually read on Sunday morning and published in Open Lines. Volunteers, John-District #6, Achim-District #23, Lisa-District #3 and Paul P-District #28, will join Advisors Joan P and Gail C to consider the questions. *Questions may also be emailed or sent by regular mail to Executive members using the contact information on the back page of Open Lines.*

Approval of the 2009 Assembly Minutes:

Errors and omissions were asked for.
Linda J-District #31 – on Page 10, re Approval of 2010 budget “moved by Linda J-District #3” should be “District #31”.

Debbie P-District #6 – on Page 01 re Open Speaker Meeting – “chaired by Jodie D” should be “chaired by Debbie P”.

It was moved and seconded that “the minutes of the 2009 OSA Assembly, as amended, be accepted.” Motion carried unanimously.

DELEGATE'S REPORT – Claire D:

Claire used a power point presentation to assist with her description of her time in Virginia Beach.

The theme of the World Service Conference was “Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope”; celebrations including 2010 - 50 years of World Service Conference and 2011 - 60 years of Al-Anon.

Claire shared that the week started for her Saturday afternoon (prior to the actual start of the Conference) when she met with the 10 Canadian Delegates, and that they reconvened Saturday evening because there was so much to discuss. The Canadian Trustees joined them in the evening.

They went through the business arising from the Minutes of April 2009; big thing was Regional Delegates report; also discussed anonymity re newsletter submissions (not sure if Canadian Delegates' newsletter will continue due to costs); remote northern communities (including Iqaluit) under-served; task force report and area reports. There was discussion on embracing diversity, also the topic of a Workshop and a Chosen Agenda Item. Each Area can send one Chosen Agenda Item and Claire has the package which includes the process to submit one.

Chosen Agenda Item #1 was “How can the members of the World Service Conference develop an effective strategy that will bring Al-Anon Family Groups into the communities and cultures of specific minorities in the US and Canada. If we are effective in reaching minority communities, what actions must we take to ensure they remain as active members and can we find effective and practical ways to make it easier for non-English speaking members to participate in Al-Anon service at the Area level and beyond?” Some of the strategies: Using a buddy system e.g. English-speaking and Spanish-speaking person sitting together; Reaching out to our younger members through technology; maintaining healthy, welcoming groups; finding out about each community to avoid offending. Thought about developing a tent card for AA meetings to encourage the Al-Anon Family Groups.

Details of the Discussions, Presentations and Workshops are found in Pages 35 through 61 of the 2010 World Service Conference Summary. These pages also contain discussions: “What spiritual growth can the fellowship celebrate as a result of 50 years of its informed group conscience, as expressed through the World Service Conference? How has this expanded our circle of hope?” Chosen Agenda Item #2: What do we do when members holding service positions are unable to effectively do the tasks of the position, and these skill deficits are negatively impacting the Area and potentially Al-Anon as a whole? How do we balance “being willing to serve” and possessing “necessary skills and talents” to be effective. How can we get “new people” (defined as current and longtime Al-Anon members, as well as newcomers) interested in service and to become willing to commit to service positions at the group, district, and Area levels?”

Al-Anon Member Demographics were also covered in our Delegate's report delivered to AWSC members in May - which DRs were asked to copy and distribute to the GRs - who were in turn asked to share the information with their members.

WSO's research indicates the average Al-Anon member is a 58 year old, white middle-class female.

Claire shared on research she had done for Ontario [using our last census 2006]; more than half of Canada's 2,745,200 visible minority populations live in Ontario; comprises 22.8% of Ontario's population, and most live in major urban areas, especially Toronto. In addition to the English-Canadians, Scottish, Irish, French, German, East Indian and Dutch, Ontario is home to South Asians, Chinese, Blacks, Philipinos, Latin Americans, Arabs and South East Asians.

Claire also shared on the Budget and Finances.

General Fund, at the end of 2009, was \$4,996,000. This is from cash contributions and is used to pay salaries, expenses related to printing literature, etc

Reserve Fund (ample reserve specified in Warranty One). At the end of 2009, was \$3,705,269. This is held in savings bonds, stocks, etc.; cannot exceed one year's operating budget and funds special projects,

Building Fund was valued at the end of 2009 at \$1,698,916, and consists of our building, the asset, which houses the WSO, and if ever liquidated can only be used for housing the WSO.

Expenses exceeded income by \$21,555, so that was a loss, and the Reserve Fund had earnings of \$374,659; so if it is a good year for stocks and bonds, it is a good year for our Reserve Fund. Because of the Reserve Fund, we had a net income of \$353,104.

Interesting figures: It costs an average \$240.60 for every group that is open. 57% of all the groups donated to WSO. In Ontario South, 60% of our groups donated – average donation in Ontario South was \$100.05. Each year the Budget includes \$1,500,000 from contributions. We haven't met that goal yet, but are getting closer every year and last year almost made it. It is suggested if we contribute another \$1.80 each we can make it.

Claire suggested members could read about the Budget, Appeal Letter to individual members, loss in the Reserve Fund, etc. in the WSC Summary (available from our Literature Distribution Centre). Area 86's contribution to WSO in 2008 was \$20,918.68; about 54% of our groups contributed to WSO. The Conference Summary also has information about the voting in 2010 regarding the WSO building, in Virginia Beach, and she also referred us to the blog about the building on the WSO website.

Details of the WSO property ownership for the trial period of 15 years from 1994 was fully described in the material forwarded to the DRs, for delivery to the GRs and then the members. As shown, a vote will occur at the 2011 WSC to decide whether to end the trial and keep the building, end the trial and sell the building or extend the trial for another period of 15 years. The building is paid for, so costs now include only maintenance, heating/air, lighting, insurance, etc. At the 2011 WSC, all of the details will be presented, including comments and questions brought to the WSC by the Delegates, and the Delegates will be asked for a decision based on those three premises. All of this information is also included on the WSO Members' website. The discussion at the 2010 WSC was substantially in favour of ending the trial and keeping the building.

Claire also described changes to the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual which has concentrated all of the Alateen material in one area in the Manual to meet with the terms of the Motion in 2003. We approved amendments to Literature and Service Tools – pages 92 to 97; approved amendments to Group Meeting and Conventions and moved all the financial stuff; found under Financial Matters – pages 84 to 89. The new Manual will

be mailed to the groups in November and, for those of us who need to buy ours, they will be available at the LDC again in November.

Claire reminded us all this information can be found in the 2010 World Service Conference Summary also available from our LDC; and that anything in **bold print and underlined** indicates changes. Claire pointed out this includes that A.A. literature is not used because it is written for and from the viewpoint of alcoholics. She said she gets a lot of call and emails about ‘double winners’ at meetings, getting off topic, trying to use the AA program in our meetings, etc. Claire said that is when the chair of that particular meeting could bring them back to topic and to suggest that they speak with their sponsors after the meeting.

The Financial Matters section, amongst other things, clarifies the quarterly appeal letter which asks for individual (not group) contributions. If your workplace has a combined giving campaign where the company matches contributions by employees, we should not participate in this. In the General Fund, there is no earmarking. A new item is ‘Discounts and Services’ which says ‘WSO and other service entities may accept discounts or services that are routinely available to other non-profit organizations, e.g. postal rates, free placement of public service announcements. These ‘Discounts and Services’ may not be accepted if it is given only to Al-Anon and not to other non-profit organizations.

TEAM (Together Empowering Al-Anon Members) has replaced the Regional Service Seminars which didn’t seem to be working anymore. To date we have not applied for a TEAM event; but one of the Quebec Areas has applied for one in 2011. Alberta and Saskatchewan are considering one.

Our Regional Trustee candidate will be chosen this afternoon. As we in Ontario South have only one AWSC and one Assembly each year, we are required to choose our candidate to meet the time parameters set for submitting our candidate, i.e. August 15th, 2011. The Regional Trustee for Canada Central will be chosen from the candidates submitted by Manitoba, Ontario North and Ontario South, allowing much more anonymity than choosing the Regional Trustees from the floor at WSC.

The Forum subscriptions are up by about 25%, and for our 60 Years we will have a new book called ‘Tracing Our Growth’, hoped to be ready for WSC in 2011. A major revision of the pamphlet ‘Why Anonymity In Al-Anon’ – P.33 was approved and a motion was passed to give conceptual approval to develop a ‘Legacies’ workbook based on the sharings in the Legacies blog and this will be ready for 2013 in Vancouver when we have our World Convention. Delegates work throughout the year on either a Thought Force or a Task Force – Claire’s was ‘Utilizing Technology at Area Meetings for Non-Technical People’ and the Thought Force on ‘Current Conference Structure’. Manual allows division at 400 or more groups – reaffirmed at 1982 WSC. The key issues were Communication, Participation and Spiritual Representation. They talked about the international trips and their reports are all in the WSC Summary. Ric B, our Executive Director, was invited to the United Kingdom; paid for by the General Service Office there; did two workshops on ‘conflict resolution’ and ‘strategic planning’ and the conference voted to consider owning property based on our model. WSO received a very positive thank you letter from their Executive Director. Claire mentioned the three new PSAs; (English, Spanish and French.) and showed the English one. The 2011 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is looking for subscriptions. Delegates use ‘e-communities’ to get

information from WSO and each other – just business, not social. To add to the member’s survey – 40% of our members are not employed (homemakers, retired or unemployed) and the average income is \$71,542 with 17% under \$30,000. 56% have at least a college degree; almost ¾ of our membership have held service positions; 47% do not have sponsors (!!!) and 53% sponsor other members and 8% sponsor 7 or more members. One in three members initially started attending Al-Anon because a person with a drug problem was affecting their life, more so in the U.S. than Canada, and, of those who started attending because of someone with a drug problem, nearly nine of ten later discovered someone’s drinking was also negatively affecting their life. More than 6 in 10 have experienced abuse from a person with a past or present drinking problem - verbal 90%, emotional 87%, physical 45%, and sexual 21%. Almost all members’ lives have been positively affected by Al-Anon Family Groups – 95% very positively; less than one percent very negatively; difference – approx. 4.5% - somewhat positively.

Claire invited questions and Lisa, District 3, asked if the movie about Lois’ life could be adopted as CAL. Claire said her answer would be no because the movie was made by an outside enterprise with outside people but she did say she thought it was an excellent movie, and that she had an Al-Anon movie night and showed it to Al-Anon friends at her home. She also expressed the opinion that the book is just as good. **Cynthia, District 21**, asked if there was a list indicating where the PSAs might be shown, and Michele D, Public Outreach Coordinator, responded that there was such a list and provided details. **Vera, District 19**, suggested the PSA should say, “Al-Anon *will* help you” instead of “Al-Anon *might* help you”. Claire responded that we can’t make that promise. **Linda J, District 31**, mentioned we need to reach out to First Nations. **Ruth H, District 13**, mentioned that a Regional Service Seminar was also held in Kingston in 2001. **Debbie, District 16**, asked if the membership survey indicated how many had responded and what was the ratio of Canadians vs Americans. Claire said she could look it up in the WSC Summary or on the website. **Patty, District 21**, said she loved the presentation and particularly the piece about cultural diversity and asked if there will be a tangible movement to bring other groups to address some of the diversity that’s out there and bring them into Al-Anon. Claire responded that we are hoping that the Public Outreach people in every group does some of this; that she can give groups the presentation and the five questions taken out of the presentation. Claire referred the matter to Michele D, our Public Outreach Coordinator and it will probably be discussed at our next Executive Meeting. **Kristine B, District 16**, If Al-Anon is anonymous, why do we see faces on PSAs? If they are actors, who pays? Claire said the answer to these questions is found in the response from Ric B, not sure which page, and WSO pays them out of funds for public outreach. **Nidia, District 31**, asked how to approach those in the Latin community in Kingston. Claire said the PSAs are done in Spanish, and there is a booklet you can look at; see the big white binder on the Delegate’s table, for some suggestions on how to approach some of the people, putting up posters in churches, in Laundromats and grocery stores, and there’s usually a little tear-off at the bottom with the telephone number. If there are other Spanish-speaking people in the room, maybe they have suggestions for Nidia. **Patrick, District 21**, mentioned the filming that was done in August of last year addressing diversity. Claire said the Alateen twins will be in the film and that WSO has advised it should be out by the end of the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Marianne E.

Marianne introduced herself and mentioned the salmon-coloured page found in the registration package which gives the new Central Post Office Box Address for contributions to Ontario South. Please make sure that you and any potential treasurers are aware of this new address.

Using the overhead screen, she described briefly where we ended up at the end of 2009, (see yellow sheets) and where we are now (green sheets).

Details of the Balance Sheet; we had about \$3,400 in cash; divided up to accommodate a request to show our prudent reserve on the balance sheet; also shows some Alateen funds \$3,300. The \$4,000 float and \$2,500 deposit to the hotel for Trillium is returned to us once Trillium is done. Prudent reserve was \$19,446.58 at the end of 2009. On the income statement on page 2 and 3 (yellow), we ended up with \$5,432.42 profit for 2009. The Accounts Payable shown was an account which was paid in January of 2010. Some expenses went over a little, i.e. Delegate's expense for WSC, Bank Charges (new bank – cheques, etc.)

The \$5,432.42 is shown on the Prudent Reserve (green-P4). Alateen funds taken off, so \$2,066.79 (see Policies and Guidelines Manual – Prudent Reserve is capped at \$25,000).

Looking at the Balance Sheet for Sept.30, 2010, Cash on Hand is \$9,600, doesn't include Assembly receipts which will be in October deposits, probably about \$6,000. Alateen stays at \$3,300. At the Executive level, we motioned to try to invest some of the Prudent Reserve, so it is now \$11,446.58 Cash on Hand and \$8,000 Investments. The \$8,000 can be accessed if needed, but no interest will be paid if we take it early.

Income/Expenses to Sept.30/10, no Assembly expense paid yet, may be about \$9,000; Misc. Donations budgeted at \$1,000 but only \$34 received to date. Group Donations to date are \$19,265, which is 65% of our budgeted \$29,540 for the year, much better than last year when the Group Donations at Sept.30/09 were only 50% of the year's budget. Cash flow is good. Other Donations include Trillium 2010 profit of \$920.

Expenses – Administration \$500 should be in Advances as a float for Assembly; AWSC is only 74% of budgeted expense; 2011 WSC expense for Delegate will be paid in November, Coordinators and Delegates Expenses are under budget and Marianne reminded members that the Coordinators and Delegate will come out to speak if invited.

Executive Meeting Expenses are almost at budget and we have the November meeting coming up, so it probably will go over. We usually plan to use this hotel which has reasonable rates, but one meeting this year had to be moved to another more expensive hotel because of a conference here, and another was held in Niagara Falls to accommodate other issues. Extra people were also invited to deal with the Alateen issues. Marianne said that because other expenses are going to be under, we may still see a profit or at the worst break even.

Operating Costs include the new P.O. Box. Alateen Expenses – the \$5,000 is a new line item being worked on and may come up to about 75% spent by year-end.

Marianne answered questions from the floor.

Q: Is the \$6,500 advanced to Trillium a set amount?

A: \$4,000 float is set in Trillium Charter. \$2,500 is the current amount required for the hotel deposit.

Q: What are Accrued Liabilities? Why negative? (P.1-yellow)

A: When you report an expense that will probably come up in the next period, it is accrued, e.g. if you were going to hire an Auditor who said the fee would be \$1,000, you would accrue that. Why it is negative is that the amount must have been expensed instead of applied to the Accrued Liabilities – the entry needs to be reversed. You will see it is gone in 2010's budget.

Q: We seem to pay a lot for American Exchange. Can we watch the rates to take advantage of lower Exchange?

A: If we purchase something from the States, we would pay U.S. Exchange at the rate at the time. You are probably looking at the U.S. Exchange paid by the LDC; where we do pay a lot of Exchange, and we do have a U.S. Exchange account and the Manager maximizes as best she can; buys U.S. cash at a good rate to get that money back.

Q: Prudent Reserve investments – are they guaranteed investments, liquid investments that you can access at any time?

A: Yes, they are liquid that we can access at any time; made sure we could take it out and we would just lose the interest; GICs, can never lose the principal, very low risk, very low interest.

Q: Prudent Reserve investments – I understand that since we are non-profit, if we did make any interest we would not have to pay interest.

A: Correct, but we are a fellowship and, as such, we are not required to file a tax return.

Q: Looking at the Status of Prudent Reserve, it says a prudent reserve up to a maximum of one year of operating costs will be held. Does that mean there is no prudent reserve for Alateen any longer?

A: There is no prudent reserve for Alateen other than the funds we have in our Cash on Hand.

Q: So we are now taking away the \$3,000 from Alateen, we've only held it for a year. Is that right?

A: No, the \$3,365 is held for Alateen – could call it Alateen Cash on Hand. That is Alateen funds designated for them.

Q: Not sure if the main reason for investing the \$8,000 is to make additional money, because there will be no interest if you take the money out of a GIC at day 364, one day short of year. In a money market fund, you will always have the principal guaranteed as well as collect interest. It doesn't matter when you take it out and there is no minimum amount.

A: Thanks. We are open to anybody who has financial investment and financial skills, so if anybody has information on different funds that Al-Anon could use, where principal is guaranteed and which is liquid so we can take the money out if we need it but otherwise make some money on it. We have \$19,000 and the Executive decided to try to earn a little interest on the money that we are holding because it will help all of us if we do, so please bring suggestions forward. Maybe put it on an Item for Consideration form.

Q: I understand the \$4,000 for Trillium is an advance, but if the \$2,500 is a yearly amount, shouldn't it be under accrued liability.

A: It's not Ontario South's expense. It's part of Trillium's expense and it goes into their financial statement as an advance for the float of \$4,000 and an advance to the Hotel for Trillium of \$2,500. Trillium does the expenses and then returns it to OSA, but I will check to see if there is another way to show it.

Saturday, October 23, 2010 (Afternoon session)

Discussion Item #1: Financial contribution to Al-Anon's participating in the 2011 Iqaluit, Nunavut AA Conference

Claire read the Background Notes and Facts for Consideration delivered with the Pre-Assembly Package. So far the Areas contributing are Maritimes, Quebec West, B.C, Alberta; Saskatchewan has AWSC approval going to Assembly next weekend; no refusals to date and some sending more than \$300.

Decision point: Do we want to contribute \$300 (or other amount) to this project?

Discussion: Vicky, #15, likes the idea of supporting less fortunate Al-Anon groups, but suggested that we look at giving enough money so there is a representative from all 10 Areas. Dolores, #17, asked about sending more people and Cathy, #28, asked about the number of groups and Maria, #1, asked about how someone would be nominated. Claire explained that it will just be one person drawn from the 10 Area candidates; that we have \$750 in our budget for Regional Service Seminar & TEAM; each Area was required to send the \$750 to the RSS even if we didn't participate but the RSS are not held any more so that \$750 is available; and probably we won't have a TEAM during this next year. The Delegate from Alberta cannot attend the AA Conference, so she is giving up her seat to one of the 10 candidates submitted. We are looking for an Al-Anon volunteer with service experience. . Rick J, #16, asked what the AAs were doing. Jean McS said that, in Ottawa, the AA fellowship is hearing that the Montreal AAs are assisting, financing, helping to plan with the Nunavut groups that are putting on the Conference, taking the lead, but they are going to other AA members and asking them to help. Kristine, #16, asked how the 7th Tradition applied here. Gail said the groups in Nunavut are self-sufficient; that what Al-Anon is trying to do is make the people in Iqaluit feel part of Al-Anon because they are so isolated; to give support knowing that Canada is with them. Debbie, #6, Tradition One, if this is a project that all of Canada is taking part in, it unifies us and is for our common welfare. Ann, #4, thinks the people are being responsible in asking for only one person; could have asked for one from each Area and then would have had to ask for 10 times as much money. We would have the option to send a person from our Area if we were willing to pay \$3,000 to do so. Shawn, #1, it's in keeping with the talk about diversity Claire gave this morning; that we have a community in our own country in need of help; that it might be an item for discussion at future assemblies about how do we support the DRs from the far north getting to their assemblies in Alberta. Abbie, #6, important to be able to ask for help when we need it and it is healthy that they are asking. Donna, #31, looked up the cost for a flight from Ottawa and it's \$1600 plus. Peggy, #6, asked what the person would be doing. Claire said the candidate will be an Al-Anon speaker and will be doing public outreach, bringing literature and whatever else she is asked to do. Grace, #22, think it's a great opportunity for Al-Anon; think that the AAs may not get a lot of opportunities to hear an Al-Anon speaker and that is what happens at AA conferences; gives an awareness of how the family is really affected. Sara S, #4, wondering if the person who is chosen to go could have some communication from the organizing committee to find out if there are any other special needs; do we need to make extra donations so they can take literature or what other ways can we help. Amie, #11, when going through the budget there is that extra line at the bottom where in a perfect world every group (363) would

give \$81.43, that's about 80 cents per group in Ontario South, and this is something that does address diversity and the need that is obviously there. John, #6, if the person who goes takes literature, who will pay for it? Claire said that Alberta will supply the literature and it might be sent ahead. Alice May, #19, said a son was in Iqaluit last year, he noticed someone affected by someone else's drinking and suggested that person might want to go to Al-Anon, she'd never heard of it, and we know that Al-Anon is very needed. Pierrette, #6, what does experienced Al-Anon mean? Claire said it was suggested that some of the names that come forward could be a Past Delegate or someone who is also very well informed on the Traditions and Concepts, etc. Don't know where the two meetings might be. Judy B, #10, one of the groups in Iqaluit was started by a lady from Ingersoll and that group sent a lot of literature up there; they had nothing and no money to buy; very much in support of this proposal. Mary Jane, #19, I remember years ago at an Assembly our first Delegate, Edith D, talking about how easy it is for us in Ontario South to get to a meeting and said that we can't turn our backs to the groups in Ontario North and the groups farther north; often have to travel long distances; often can't because of the weather, and they need our support; that we've gotten help; that one of her roles in Al-Anon is to carry the message to someone who really needs the help and maybe the only help they can get is the literature that will come to their door. That's what I remember from our first Delegate.

It was moved and seconded that "Ont. South contribute \$500 to the 2011 AA Conference in Iqaluit." No further discussion. Motion carried, 5 opposed.

Discussion Item #2: Amendment to 2011 Budget to include the \$500 contribution to Al-Anon's participating in the 2011 Iqaluit Nunavut AA Conference

Gail read the Background Notes delivered with the Pre-Assembly Package.

Decision point: Should the 2011 budget be amended to include a line for a contribution of \$300 (or other amount) to the Al-Anon's participating in the 2011 Iqaluit AA Conference?

Discussion: Greg, #21, asked if the \$750 in RSS/TEAM can be re-allocated to this project? Sue said that is one way the budget could be amended, including the line. Debbie, #6, could we not make a motion to create a line, assuming goodwill, that when we get to the budget make a motion to not accept it as presented and take out the RSS/TEAM line? Marianne said it is her understanding that if we accept this motion to add \$500 to the 2011 budget, then I have to add it to the budget then present the amended budget to be passed.

It was moved and seconded that "the 2011 budget be amended to include a line for a contribution of \$500 to Al-Anon's participation in the 2011 Iqaluit AA Conference."

Discussion: Robin, #4, why can't we just take it out of the Prudent Reserve, as it is a one-time thing; or make a new line for 'helping other groups'. Ian, #31, we are in support of this project, but maybe we should support it at the group level, as WSO does, ask 3 or 4 times a year for funds to supply literature to groups that can't afford it. Sue said we've already decided we will do it and how we would do it in the future seems to be what you are suggesting here and perhaps you could put it on an Item for Consideration form. John T, #16, this discussion should more appropriately be part of

the budget and not where we have it currently; suggest that it be deferred until we do the budget. What if we didn't agree, then what? Other John, #6, understand the Prudent Reserve is money that supports the Area; this is like outreach money; like an expense; that's my understanding of why not to do it.

Sue read the Motion again and called the vote. Motion carried, with 4 opposed.

Discussion Item #3: Proposed 2011 Budget

Marianne read the Background Notes and directed us to refer to the Ontario South Assembly Profit/Loss Budget vs Actual 2008, 2009; Ontario South Assembly Proposed 2011 Budget and the Analysis of Calculations and Assumptions.

Decision point: Should the proposed budget for 2011 be adopted?

Marianne first said that she would comment on a couple of items on the Proposed 2011 Budget; i.e. Income – AWSC Revenues is a little higher because I used approx. 20 more groups than last year, for the Equalization and the income for that. Also Assembly Expenses are higher because 2011 is a voting year and Assembly is usually in the Toronto area and usually the costs are higher. On the 2nd page, greater distances have been allowed for Executive Expenses mileage for the Alateen Coordinator. OSA Operational Costs \$100 has been added for mileage for our Executive Liaison to the Trillium Committee. Under OSA Op Costs - Photocopying Mail & P.O. Box, I've added the cost of the mailbox. Under Other Expenses – Alateen Requirements Administration Fees – brought this down from the \$5,000 in 2008 and 2009 to \$3,000 which should be more realistic. The \$500 for Iqaluit will also be under Other Expenses.

Discussion: (Didn't get the name) Could the statements not be pre-audited before they are presented, to make sure everything is in the right category, line, etc. Marianne said that everything is in the right line in this Budget and it is a budget for next year. What we expect to take in and to spend. Isabel, #24, out of the 7 groups in our district, we are not able to give the \$81.42 and I'm wondering how many other groups in our Area are unable to meet that total if we approve the budget. Ann, #4, it's my understanding we've already approved the \$500 contribution and that would go in the section called Other Expenses, so when we look at that we should have that amount in the budget because that's what we are voting on, right? Marianne replied that the Motion put forward is that we add a line item, didn't say that we add an increase in our expenses. Bob, #1, the \$81.42 per group, I believe, is a suggestion, the groups that can't afford it, give what they can afford, and the larger groups should be trying to give more to make up for that.

It was moved and seconded that “we re-allocate \$500 from the RSS/TEAM line to the "2011 Iqaluit AA Conference for Al-Anon Participation" line.”

Amy, #11, my idea is that TEAM is for a supportive team to come in to help with a project, and we are proposing to take that away. Claire explained that a TEAM event is an undertaking, something like an assembly, put on by WSO, it takes a year to plan, by the time we get a bid in, and they decide if they are free, and we had a hard enough time getting a bid for Assembly and there is no one coming forward with a proposal for TEAM. The \$750 will be back there for 2012. There have been 10 TEAM events and they are so successful now there are other Areas putting them on; don't know how many they can do in a year.

Next year is our election year, and maybe we don't want to plan a TEAM event in 2011 but if someone is interested Claire said she would help. Jean, #17, didn't we already approve an amendment to the budget to add in \$500. Jean also asked why her motion, submitted before Greg's, was not being read. Sue said the motion was not read because it said to remove the line completely; that she thought it could not be put back in 2012. Delores, #17, think when motions are presented, they should be read out to the floor in the order they are received, and if they are not going to be put forward, the explanation be given as to why not.

Sue read the Motion again, and called the vote. **Motion carried, with 5 opposed.**

It was moved and seconded that "the proposed amended budget for 2011 be adopted." Motion carried, with 7 opposed.

Discussion Item #4: Proposed Trillium Charter

Jacqui read the Background Notes delivered with the Pre-Assembly Package.

Decision point: Should the proposed amendment to the Ontario South Assembly Area 86 Policy & Guidelines Manual Section 7: Trillium Convention Charter and Guidelines A: Charter pages 1 & 2, 2010, be adopted?

John T, #16, asked for explanation of advantages or disadvantages of making this change. Response, currently the content of the proposed Charter as well as all of the Positions and Guidelines are under the one heading "Trillium Charter", and the purpose now is to clean it up so that all of the positions and guidelines can be dealt with on a day-to-day basis by the Trillium planning committee, and the Charter as amended will clearly set out the purpose of the convention, where and when it will be held, financial backing and autonomy. Victor, #19, what went wrong to require this amendment. Response, nothing went wrong, simply a matter of "tidying up". Phyllis, #18, if Trillium has a deficit will it still be covered by Ontario South? Response, yes, it is Ontario South's own convention. Rick, Oakville, explained how the charter and guidelines had come about some 20 years ago, and that the original plan had been that the charter and the guidelines would be two separate things.

It was moved and seconded that "the proposed amendment to the Ontario South Assembly Area 86 - Policy & Guidelines Manual, Section 7: Trillium Convention Committee A: Charter, Pages 1 & 2, 2010, be adopted." Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion Item #5: Literature Distribution Centre (LDC) and LDC Report – Joan P, Past Delegate & LDC Board Chair – Lyn S, Manager

Joan P introduced the members of the Board of Directors of the LDC – Claire D-Delegate; Gail C-Past Delegate, Marianne E-Treasurer, Jean McS-Literature Coordinator, Corinne B-DR, District 8 (voted to BOD at AWSC), Office Manager-Lyn S, and Chairperson- Joan P. The Board met last night and decided to incorporate the Office Manager's report with the discussion item.

Lyn reported that from January through the end of September we are running at a deficit \$3,131; averaging \$1,082 per month lower sales than the same periods in 2009. In

spite of deficit, our cash flow allows us to pay expenses but not enough to keep us out of red. In 34 years of operation, the LDC has had 13 years of running with a deficit; 3 of those years we could not pay expenses and had to look to the Area for help. U.S. Exchange is currently low and helps in being able to pay expenses; the Office purchases U.S. funds when exchange is low so as to pay for orders that come in when the exchange is higher. New Service Manual is coming in November. Postage working out well, although we had to raise it this year. Even though 13% HST has to be paid on postage, we only have \$198 paid out more than brought in, just for stamps and small parcels, might have to increase postage again this year.

Joan read the Background Notes delivered with the Pre-Assembly Package in its entirety.

Decision Point: Do we keep our LDC office in operation or do we close our LDC office.

Carl, #28, suggested the Board review the best practices of other literature centres across Canada.

Paul, #19, group felt LDC presence was important; and recommended we explore sharing the LDC with AA literature distribution centre; hire a person part-time; reduce expenses and be part of their infrastructure.

Jean, #14/15, members don't want to wait 3 or 4 weeks to get literature from WSO; should be kept in Canada.

Michele, #28, Public Outreach Coordinator, can we find out from WSO how much of our literature orders are being sent to members directly which might be a reason for declining orders at our LDC, or is it that groups are overall not ordering as much literature. **Joan** responded that (1) lots of groups do not have enough funds to purchase literature and (2) lending libraries – when books are available to borrow there is no need to purchase, so different reasons for different groups. **Lyn** shared that the numbers of groups that used to order frequently are ordering very little now; don't know whether they are ordering on-line or if groups have decreased in numbers.

Judy, #8, our district has had a central bookstore for almost 23 years; order for all the groups in the district; purchase it from our LDC, also do District Meeting List; primary literature is always available.

Wendy, #17, need the LDC in our huge Area, quick delivery, personal contact and assistance, literature for Trillium, much more work for WSO if every group orders separately.

Bernie K, #17, only 4 years of loss from 1996 to 2001 and 1996 to 2009 there was a net income per financial statements of \$20,319. **Lyn** responded the start year should have been 1976.

Lisa, #31, group recommends it be a paid position and keep it open; maybe add 15% to the books. Books are displayed at front with table signs, found the attraction was there and increased book orders, agreed members don't buy if books can be borrowed.

Lisa, #3, - if running at a loss, it should be closed, but look for another option in Ontario, that the AA literature office in London carries Al-Anon literature.

Bob T, #16, biggest concern if the LDC closes is the consignment of literature to the Al-Anon events in the Area such as this Assembly, Trillium, Al-Anon days, etc. Bob asked if anyone has expressed an interest in serving to replace the Office Manager. **Joan** responded there have been a few emails; procedures will be discussed by the Board.

Michele, POC, brochures on your literature table can be used for Public Outreach purposes and when you run out, reorder from the LDC.

Paul, #30, asked how many other places Al-Anon literature may be purchased; a group in this district buys from somewhere else and claims it is cheaper, overnight delivery. **Lyn** said literature is probably cheaper from the WSO at this time.

Joan R, #32, some books are available through on-line bookstores but not all of our literature is available; understand we do receive the benefit of ordering in bulk but then a % (how much?) is added to cover our LDC costs; questioned if any of the many literature centres across Canada have paid employees as we do.

Debbie, #6, asked if the LDC had ever had to come to the Area looking for money. **Lyn** responded: WSO gives 30 days to pay [for literature] during some periods the funds needed were about \$3,000 to \$6,000 for general shipments that we couldn't cover; but not in the last few years.. Debbie asked if the Board could suggest a resolution.

Teresa, #18, purchased first book at a used bookstore, but believes the LDC needs to be here.

Patrick, #21, others across Canada used to order from our LDC, would it be an option for us to order from Quebec or? to keep it in Canada. **Lyn** said some of the English-speaking groups in Quebec did order from our LDC but they now have their own office; also in the past most of the other literature centres across Canada were operated on a volunteer basis with a part-time paid person to do the bookkeeping.

It was moved and seconded that “we keep our LDC office in operation provided that an office manager can be found and that the LDC applies a 15% to literature sales to cover costs.”

Lyn responded to **Joan R**'s question, the current mark-up is between 30-35%, but 2 newest books 45-50% - due to higher U.S. Exchange rate when purchased.

Sara, #4, asked if additional 15% would keep LDC in black; that many things need to be addressed along with increasing prices. **Lyn**'s thought was adding 15% might cause sales to be reduced.

Brian, #31, asked about mark-up in bookstores, e.g. Chapters; also suggested that 1% increase should cover the difference between sales of \$26,000 and loss of \$2,000 over the past 9 months.

Debbie, #6, asked again for the Board's suggestions as to what should be done. **Joan P.** responded there were options in the Background Notes if the LDC was closed; but the BOD of the LDC did not make recommendations whether to stay open or close.

Rick J, #16, said he thought the LDC still has viability; moved from a leased full-time position to a home-based full-time position; if the motion passes perhaps consideration might be given to making it a part-time home-based position or even a position where the job is based on demand; believe there is someone who has what's needed.

Vicky, #15, salary of office manager needs to be considered.

Ian, #31, said his group had recommended the office be closed but that time be taken to find different ways to run a centre; also that the suggested 15% increase was restrictive, might constrain the Board from doing its job.

Susan, #32, times have changed; most groups have at least one member with a computer; groups and/or districts could go on-line to order, paying for orders by Visa or

Paypal etc.; that changing the way we do things might be just looking forward and moving into the future.

In response to question from Greg M, #21, we are not able to order literature from our LDC on-line. Marianne said the cost to the LDC would be very expensive for on-line/credit card sales.

Andy, #32, suggested it might be a good thing to have Al-Anon literature in stores like Chapters.

Marg, #15, suggested not enough thought had been given to the 15% increase in the motion.

Phyllis, #18, [referring to a remark that Blueprint for Progress could be bought from our LDC at \$4.00 and from WSO at \$11.00] advised there are two versions of the Blueprint for Progress, one lower cost than the other.

(Speaker not identified) asked if the mover and seconder could withdraw their Motion or does it have to be voted on and defeated. Sue responded that once the Chair has read a motion to the Assembly it becomes the property of the Assembly.

After a short break, Sue announced we had received an Amendment to the Motion; that the Amendment will be voted on and, if passed, the Original Motion becomes null and void; but if it is defeated, we go back to the Original Motion and deal with that.

It was moved and seconded that “we keep our LDC office in operation.”

Bruce, #1, suggested we can decide how we want to do it [operate the LDC] after we decide if we want to do it or not.

Susan, #17, opposed to ordering on-line; suggest the amount paid for salary be reduced.

Sue read the Motion again and called the vote. **Motion carried with 20+ opposed.**

Discussion Item #6: Regional Trustee Nomination

Sue said that we have two members who have submitted their names so we will be able to send the name and resume of our Nominee as Ontario South's Candidate for Regional Trustee, and also to send the name and resume of the runner-up as our Candidate for Alternate Regional Trustee.

Heather read the Background Notes delivered with the Pre-Assembly Package. Our Nominees, Gail Cathcart and Joan Rockall, each spoke about their experience in Al-Anon and how they felt they could contribute as a Regional Trustee. Sue explained the vote would be by ballot, and how that would be managed.

Joan Rockall was elected as Ontario South's candidate for Regional Trustee for Canada Central.

REPORTS:

Literature – Jean McS: Jean shared about her experience with conference calls with Literature Coordinators in the other Areas; that the new WSO Manual will come out in November and will be sent to all GRs (free of charge); about the new book 'Tracing our Growth, the past 60 years' which should come out in the spring of 2011; about how to contribute to the proposed Legacy Workbook which is done by sharing on the WSO

website blog (see written report); that 'Discovering Choices' is now available in French and Spanish.

Area Alateen Coordinator – Leslie P: Leslie shared about her travels, workshops, etc., working on documenting the charter for Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee; 17 Alateens completed the OSAAC survey, on-line survey had 30 hits; valuable information obtained; helps to decide how to proceed with the chat line, Unity Conference, newsletter; closed the Alateen chat meeting sponsored by WSO for the time being due to lack of participation; Alberta and Northwest Territories have opened up an on-line chat meeting; Colorado also. Thank you to Tary, outgoing OSAAC Chair who is moving up to Al-Anon, and welcome to incoming OSAAC Chair, Sarah.

Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC) – Sarah, Incoming, and Tary, Outgoing Chair Sarah said she was excited about taking on the position and Tary explained that OSAAC was like a district meeting for Alateen and act as advisors for Alateen groups, etc. Tary said the Charter for OSAAC was completed in draft form; that she had attended AWSC and been given a vote on behalf of OSAAC; and hoped that would continue; that Unity was very good; that Alateens have shown they want to have leadership; number of Alateen GRs has increased by 6-7 over the past year. Tary said SAMs are welcome to attend and observe at their GR meeting tonight. Tary said Alateens need Al-Anon as much as the reverse, and that Alateens need to be encouraged and offered rides, etc.

Public Outreach – Michele D: Michele reported that the blog is now showing 1,143 Acts of Public Outreach and we still have 14 months to go. Now the challenge has been changed to How Far Can We Go by the end of her term in 2011? Michele asked that members go on the website and look at her blog at Coordinators' Corner; also that there is a pamphlet, S-67, Al-Anon is for Aboriginals (free from LDC).

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) – Nick M: Nick said we have 175 SAMs and 37 Alateen groups and more in the works. Nick reminded us that the Police Record Check must include dealing with vulnerable persons and he will be sending out reminder letters to SAMs regarding re-certifying.

The Forum and Area 86 Policy & Guidelines Manual – Heather, Alt.Delegate Heather said, once all the Motions go through this weekend, the Manual will be updated. The rest of the work required on the Manual has to do with administrative clean-up etc. Also that while The Forum subscriptions are up, Ontario's total has reduced from May 2009-431 to April 2010-403; July 2010-394.

Questions & Answers:

In response to question re police checks, Nick said some checks are taking up to at least a couple of months; that he has permission letters here to be handed out; that SAMs should be requesting checks earlier rather than later on; that the RCMP does not want to get involved so just make the application at your local police department.

In answer to question re length of time the process for certification takes, Nick said he bundles the police checks going to our lawyer, usually once a month, not on an individual basis, and the lawyer turns them around in about a day; and when the police check has been approved by the lawyer, the SAM is okay to participate in Alateen activities and he communicates that information to the DR and to the applicant if he has an email address. New Sam's applications go to WSO to get their names added to the database; and Nick also passes that information on when received from WSO.

Saturday, October 23, 2010 (Evening Session)

Session opened with a Moment of Silence and The Serenity Prayer.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP – Question and Answer – Claire D, Joan P, Gail C

Sue then said we would take an hour for questions, answers and concerns regarding the Property Ownership in Virginia Beach issue; that it is not a voting issue here at Assembly; that our Delegate, Claire, will take our questions and concerns to the World Service Conference in April 2011. Our input will help her make a group conscience vote on behalf of Area 86. Each person again asked to come to the microphone only once, to speak for 2 minutes, so consider what you want to say before you come to the microphone and to consider whether it has already been said.

Claire reminded us she had spoken about the building in her report this morning; that she will be asked to vote at WSC on one of the three options (1) Do we keep the building? (2) Do we sell the building? or (3) Do we extend the trial period? She also said that the Conference Summary had documented that a motion had come to the floor in April 2010 that we end the trial and keep the building, there was lots of discussion, but that motion was tabled so we could bring it back to our Areas and the motion will come to the floor in April 2011. Claire referred to all the information regarding this issue that was contained in the Assembly registration package; that she has received many email messages and telephone calls regarding the issue since; that she had referred some of the questions to WSO and has answers.

Kenneth, #21, is there potential for future growth. A: There is lots of land, and the area of the warehouse previously used for in-house publishing is still available for expansion if needed.

Wendy, #17, said her District felt they did not have enough knowledge to vote, but suggested extending the trial for 3 to 5 years to enable the board to study the financial impact. A: Claire referred to the WSO Website, which, in addition to all the other material on the issue, has two graphs – one ownership vs leasing and occupancy costs. These two charts were also given to the DRs last year with my first year report. The ECRPM report indicates we are saving \$250,000 per year by owning rather than leasing.

Sue, #1, said when she took all the information to her group, she was fortunate that there were long-timers in the group who remembered the discussions in the past, and the majority comment from her group was “if it's not broke, don't fix it”. So just end the trial.

(Microphone problem – missed the question – sorry).

Karen, #1, said she took the reference to saving \$550,000 to be compared with renting in New York, and the \$250,000 to be comparisons in Virginia Beach.

Judith, #16, asked if WSO has a budget for repairs, etc. A: There is a maintenance fund for the building.

Lorie, #21, asked if the Delegate has one vote at WSC and is the Delegate bound to vote in accordance with the consensus reached at this Assembly? And is there a vote here today? A: Claire said she is a trusted servant, just as the GRs are, and, there may be more information when I get down there, just as more information may be heard here at Assembly, and no, there is no vote here today. However, I do take with me your questions and your concerns which are being expressed today and carefully minuted.

Marg, #15, if Lois was alive when the building was conceived, do we know about Lois' thoughts on the issue? A: Lois was not alive when the final decision was made to create the trust to own property. Claire read an email she had received from Mary Chappell, who was our Delegate at the time. One quote from that email: "I know, for myself, as Executive Chairman at that time, Delegates at the Conference, we had many discussions as well as one on one, asking for guidance before any final motion was taken. I don't remember the count but it was a good majority. It showed me that people were well satisfied with answers they had been given and felt qualified to vote for this big step." "For myself, I feel it has lived up to our expectations and most certainly proved to be a prudent use of our finances."

Teresa, #18, said her group voted to keep the building as it is.

Julie, #27, (1) Can the fellowship afford it and still keep our main purpose of helping friends and families of alcoholics? A: Yes. (2) Did it serve its purpose? A: Yes. (3) The concept of owning the building, would it hinder our main purpose? A: No. (4) Is there a cost for extra employees. A: Four people have left this past year and replacements have not been hired. Claire read from the 2009 Conference Summary which answered these questions fully. The information is also contained in the 2010 Summary.

Kristine, #16, first, I think it is against Tradition 6, Q #1: What information was given to change the vote from 1984 to 1991? A: As to your opinion it is against the Tradition, refer to the report on the United Kingdom Trip, in the 2010 World Service Conference Summary, page 33. Claire quoted Lois' words that there is no difference between good Al-Anon business practice and good spiritual practice in that there is no spiritual part of the program; it is all spiritual, and that our Executive Director, Ric, said the General Service Office (same as our WSO) is not an outside entity, but one that is discussed in Tradition 9 – a service board directly responsible to those it serves. He also reaffirmed our common belief that no Al-Anon leader is willing to compromise our spiritual principles to advance any one idea. A: As to Q #1, Part of the **consensus** (not a vote/motion) in 1984 was to require that the Long Range Study Panel continue to report annually to the Conference on its study. Q #2: Kristine read a quote "the Executive Director is able to focus entirely on the spiritual aim of Al-Anon Family Groups, helping families and friends of Alcoholics." so why did he go to the Ireland or England? A: He was invited to go, and his expenses paid, by their GSO, to answer their questions regarding our experience with this issue. Q#3: What are we doing with the money being saved? A: It goes into the building fund for maintenance, repairs, etc., and, if the building were sold, the funds received may only be used toward housing the WSO offices, etc. Q#4: How come AA does not own property? A: That is an outside issue, and we don't know why AA chooses not to own property.

Debbie, #6, does it unify us? A: See the answer to the question re negative impact. Some people tried to tie ownership of property to the Alateen requirements, but that wasn't the case.

Judy, #8, (comment) I was a DR in 1992 when this discussion first came up and everything was asked and answered at that time. My opinion, one of the best decisions, provided financial stability and allows the executive in the World Service Office to focus on our purpose.

Debbie, #16, (comment) when it comes to owning property, you say AA is an outside issue, but when it comes to an AA conference, we're going to send money to support their conference. A: We are not supporting an AA conference; we are supporting an Al-Anon going to that conference, spreading the word, doing public outreach. Q: What happens to the primary purpose of Al-Anon in the event of a disaster damaging the building – fire, tornado, etc.? A: The property is covered by insurance.

Mary Jane, #19, (comment) I remember being at Assembly when this was discussed, and, since that time, I've noticed how groups are struggling to make their donations to World Service, supporting the Area, and our groups, and I think we have some place providing financial stability; would hate to think how groups would support a WSO building if we had to go back to renting, yes we would have cash [from the sale] but what about the future, how will it be supported. Al-Anon's primary purpose is to carry the message and that's what is happening in this building, whether it is owned or rented. Having this discussion shows that we are really concerned that Al-Anon will continue, so just keep the building and move on.

Rick, #16, (comment) This has been an extremely emotional issue for me, I've spent much time on it. I remember receiving an Al-Anon publication called Inside Al-Anon. The picture on the front cover of this publication was a picture of the Mayor of Virginia Beach sitting on a bulldozer on the property, and I can remember at that instant I thought what has that to do with my recovery. I remember, I too was a DR when we voted on it, to send our Delegate down there and the view of our Area at the time, we voted no. When you take a look at the number of people who voted for and against, Ontario South was one of the Areas that voted against it. And I'm very dismayed that the choice has been made just for a discussion, and that our Delegate will not be going to World Service with a vote, knowing what this Area feels. I personally would love to see, in this room tonight, a vote as to yes or no, in light of what happened here 15 years ago. I've had many opportunities over the last half dozen years to meet many of you and every where I go it basically?, no question about it. The business case is tremendously compelling. The organizational case is tremendously compelling. And for me I still personally struggle with the notion that it is our responsibility to support our World Services and that in some way timed out.

Cathy, #28, (comment) I heard one member stand here and not be constrained by the two minute rule, and I heard another one who was timed out. Just my impression, didn't have my stopwatch out, just wanted to make that comment. A: Sue thanked Cathy for her comment, but suggested this is not what we are talking about here today; that a volunteer acting as our trusted servant with the timer is doing the best job she can.

Steve, #4, asked whether we have an assessed value for the property and do we have the cost of maintenance. A: That information is in the Conference Summary under Finances. Claire invited members to send any questions or concerns not answered here

tonight to her via email and she will answer, or if unable, will contact WSO for the answer and/or take it with her to WSC. Steve said his group had asked why we would sell a building that is saving us so much money over the years, and shows that our trusted servants are making good use of our funds – consensus was to end the trial.

Anna, #21, took the information to her group, advised them we would not be voting, but their consensus was to end the trial and keep the building, but questioned why we aren't voting. A: Joan responded that there is a group conscience at every level, including World Service Conference, so group conscience of the Delegates at WSO will make the decision. Every Delegate makes their own decision once they have heard all the information and all the questions and concerns according to what they feel is right at the time. Claire referred to the 2010 WSC Summary, bottom of page 12, which shows the Chairperson's overview of KBDM, Knowledge-Based Decision Making, through to the top of page 13, where it says we exist in a culture of trust.

Linda, #31, had the discussion with her group; just happened that Tradition 6 was the Tradition we had just discussed, went over it with them to be sure she understood; and that she felt the building ownership is not an outside entity; that it is good to look at our past to see where we've come from, but thinks there's a danger in clinging to the past. Our leaders are trusted servants and we need to give that trust to the people that we have voted into those positions. There are certain conditions in which they have to make decisions with every group conscience, so while we can voice our opinions this is not a group conscience. Just like we come to Assembly with what our group conscience has told us, we also come to Assembly with the right to change the decision based on any new information that comes to us; we are trusted servants.

Kate, #4, my first Assembly and relatively new to Al-Anon, and there are some long-timers in my group; this issue causing some disunity, and the Executive should be trying to explain some of the questions that are not understood.

Sue invited all to attend the workshop, Navigating the OSA and WSO Websites, presented by our Website Coordinator, Denyse K, and the evening's entertainment (organized by Host Committee) Doctor Laughter immediately after the Workshop.

Sunday, October 24th, 2010 (Morning Session)

Meeting opened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, and reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Chairperson's Announcements:

Sue made some final announcements; thanked everyone for their participation, and stressed the importance of the Evaluation Forms to the Executive in making decisions about Assembly and requested they be completed and left in the designated box or mailed to the Secretary. Sue also thanked the Host Committee, on behalf of the Executive and the Assembly as a whole; wonderful job.

Host Committee Announcements:

Bonnie, Host Committee Chair, offered thanks to the Host Committee members and the volunteers who had spent their time and efforts on a successful Assembly,

reminded us about hotel checkout and asked members to visit the Hospitality Suite to take some food with them for the trip home.

Ask-it-Basket

Joan P, Gail C, and the four volunteers read out the questions and answers. All of the questions and answers will be published in Open Lines issues as and when space is available.

Delegate's Update:

Claire shared that WSO comes to Ontario South often to ask us to do a few test things for them, as mentioned yesterday, we were part of a filming for PSAs; that we respond right away so they know where to come when they need something done; Jane may have mentioned in her report that we are now testing the WSO on-line group records application and that Jane has been working diligently with Valerie at WSO to get this on-line; and, as reported by our Alateen Coordinator, we have been testing the Alateen on-line meetings also. Claire offered thanks to our Coordinators for doing this work on our behalf.

2011 will be the 60th anniversary of Al-Anon. Usually, during the three year term, two World Service Conferences are held in Virginia Beach and the third in Stamford, Connecticut, near Stepping Stones, but this year the third will also be in Virginia Beach as there will be a big anniversary celebration; an open house on the Saturday afternoon in April. Tickets are on sale now; sales close March 31st and won't be sold at the door. 500-600 are expected to attend the anniversary banquet. Claire said she won't miss going to Stepping Stones as they will be taking the 22 Delegates in Panel 49 to New York first to do the Stepping Stones tour, then back to Norfolk, Va. in time to attend the banquet.

Claire said she was really impressed with the number of members who have stayed for the Sunday morning session, as often a lot of people leave earlier.

Claire announced that Greg M, District 21, had been chosen as the Chairperson for the 2012 Trillium Conference.

2011 is an election year for Ontario South, and Assembly will be hosted by District 19 and held October 28th, 29th & 30th, 2011, centrally located at Best Western Parkway/Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. Claire suggested members put their thinking caps on, for those who would like to put forward their resume for an Executive position, or to consider taking a position with your own groups.

Claire also mentioned it has been quite difficult getting bids for Assemblies lately, this one not being any different. Finally, District 19 came through and has been negotiating with the hotel to get the best deal possible for Ontario South. Our eastern Districts should now be thinking about submitting a bid for the 2012 Assembly.

Anyone interested in putting forth their name to be in the draw for our candidate to go to Iqaluit should send their resume to Claire by November 20th by email ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com.

Regarding the Chosen Agenda Item for WSC, anyone interested in submitting an idea should send an email to Claire and she will send the forms to be completed. The forms need to be completed and sent to WSO by December 19th; then the committee reviews all the ideas sent in and only two are presented at WSC.

Claire said she had also received a communiqué from WSO asking for sharings for the next publication of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism and that she will ask Denyse to put this information on the website at the Delegate's Corner, and she referred to the PDF "Is there an empty chair in your meeting? That chair is waiting for someone just like you.....". Claire said her presentation from Saturday will also be found at the Delegate's Corner.

Claire thanked everyone for their patience over the weekend, for all the hugs, and all of the prayers; that she is doing very well in her recovery.

Sue announced that, although it is not on the Agenda and for anyone who cares to stay, there will be an **Open Mic from 9:15 until 10:00 am**. Those who wished to shared their thoughts and feelings about attending this Assembly.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Alateen Declaration.
THANK YOU for your participation and have a safe journey home.