

**ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY  
AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 25, 26 & 27, 2007  
DURHAM COLLEGE – OSHAWA, ONTARIO**

**Friday May 25, 2007**

Welcome: The OSA Chairperson Jo-Anne opened the meeting. A warm welcome was given to all by Jo-Anne and the Executive and the Coordinators were introduced.

Jo-Anne then presented the members with announcements regarding changes to the agenda, the facility and meeting guidelines along with some housekeeping suggestions.

The baskets for motions, ask-it-basket and new discussion forms were presented to the members. Jo-Anne asked for four volunteers to join with Gail C. and Joan R., our advisors, to answer ask-it-basket questions Saturday night that were received throughout the day.

The Secretary completed roll call.

Speaker meeting opened with traditional opening, Serenity Prayer, Steps and Traditions. Gail C. shared on Service Brings Abundance.

Closed the meeting with the Al-Anon Declaration.

**Saturday May 26, 2007**

The Chairperson, Jo-Anne G., opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions and Concepts were then read.

Jo-Anne welcomed everyone to the day.

Secretarial housekeeping and roll call by Secretary Heather P. It was determined through the roll call that 46 members were eligible to vote. District 3 was not present. Several alternate DRs were present.

A special message was shared by Joan R. on behalf of Kathy T. our PO coordinator, who will be stepping down for personal reasons.

**Approval of KBDM and motion procedures:**

A review of knowledge based decision-making process was presented by Jo-Anne. The process of presenting, discussion and voting on motions was explained and clarified to the members. There were no objections to the procedures.

## **Approval of minutes: 2006 AWSC in Oshawa**

Motion to accept the minutes – moved by Jean Dist.# 28, seconded by Dorothy Dist.#29.  
Motion carried.

**Delegate's Report – Joan P.** Verbal report was presented and written report is in package handed out at registration. A skit regarding WSO financial reports was presented as well as a power point presentation. Clarification was given regarding trustee resume, voting, and submission. Trustee candidate submissions to be in to Jo-Anne G. by August first of this year. Second power point presentation was on membership survey. Third power point presentation on tapping the abundant resources regarding service in our fellowship. Membership was advised that the Alateen traditions have been approved at Conference this year. Please amend Ontario South Assembly dates in Delegate's package to read November 02 – 04 in London (Dist.#6).

**Break: 10:05 – 10:20**

**Trillium Convention Report – Margery K.** Update was given. Program is available on our Ontario South website. Sign-up sheets for volunteering made available in the meeting room. Ideas for gift baskets are available on Ontario South website. Trillium fundraiser is the key chain medallion.

### **Reports:**

#### **LDC Report – Lyn & Gail**

Gail introduced LDC board members. Last year the charter was completed and turned over to OSA Executive. The new by-laws are now completed to cover our new location. Lyn reviewed financial reports. Our fellowship has a new book, Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses (B-29) that is now available and will bring in additional funds to the LDC. Lyn can take orders this weekend and will have the orders available at Trillium. There are free items available and a package has been prepared for each DR and coordinator to pick up this weekend. Office closure this summer will be Sept.10 to Sept.24 2007.

#### **Co-ordinator reports:**

Carol P presented a report on the public outreach position and duties involved. The membership was asked to reach out for a volunteer to cover the next eighteen months to complete the term. Joan P. shared an update on the Prescription Al-Anon project. Alateen Advisory Committee Report sent in separately by Shireen. All other reports are contained in your packages.

**Update: Area Manual – Joan R.**

Report was presented and a package of inserts with instructions for updating the Policy and Guideline manual was handed out to members. Manuals were first distributed at Assembly 2005. The revisions are edits, corrections and format changes that did not change the meaning of the information in any significant way. Work continues on the Alateen sections including the appropriate forms. The web site will be refreshed. Please find your District boundary information and add to your binder.

**Lunch Break: 11:50 – 1:00**

The meeting was reconvened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Members were asked if they wished to participate in taping a message for Kathy T. our outgoing Public Outreach Co-ordinator. Taping proceeded.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – JEAN B.**

Reviewed contents of package. Presented 2007 reports. Jean asked members to make amendment to balance sheet of 2007.

**Discussion items for AWSC 2007:**

**#1 – Approval of the Proposed 2008 Budget**

Jean B. presented the budget. Opened discussion to the membership and questions were answered.

**MOTION:**

Moved by Greg Dist.#21, seconded by Jane Dist.#23

That “the proposed 2008 budget be presented for approval at the 2007 Ontario South Assembly”. Motion Carried.

**#2 – Requirements for elected positions on OSA Executive**

Discussion was opened to the membership. Guidelines and eligibility requirements were discussed as well as time line for getting resume information out prior to Assembly. Those assembled also spoke on service sponsors and questioned whether the forms/resumes provide enough information. Also discussed was the fact that not all members move forward in service.

**Summary of Discussion:**

Provide guidelines, requirements for secretary and treasurer positions. These are in the service manual and Area guideline manual. Could these manuals be updated? Allow for resumes on all positions. Possibly implement the use of a detailed questionnaire instead of resume. Endorsements by GR or DR. The process involves a Higher Power for when a position is unable to be filled. Number of those standing varies from year to year.

Nominate a year earlier to get someone to think about it. There are expectations put on people who fill the positions. Does this limit or discount our credibility. Service sponsors are of great help. What if no one applies? There are no guarantees. No flow of service as alternates do not always step up in the next term. Wording of form.

**MOTION:**

Moved by Marianne Dist.#4, seconded by Darlene Group Records Coordinator. That “the requirements for elected positions on the OSA Executive be brought to Assembly for discussion”. Motion Carried.

**Break 2:45 – 3:00**

**#3 – AWSC Equalization fee structure**

Discussion was opened to the membership. Questions brought forward were in regards to group payments, number of groups per district and number of members per group. The number of groups in the Area fluctuates, and we have no way of knowing how many members to each group. It was advised that the OSA Executive adjusts the costs, and in the past, the amount collected covered the cost of mileage re-imburement.

Summary of Discussion:

Sliding scale based on membership/group. Does every district submit every year? History shows good attendance and districts paying. Is this measurable and accountable as can be? Keep the structure the same. The adjusted costs are set by the OSA Executive. Current equalization is enough to cover travel expenses. Allot amount in a budget within your district.

No motion was received from the floor. Discussion item is closed.

**#4 – Location of Trillium Convention**

Discussion was opened to the membership. Current location, considered central, seems to work best with regards to who attends, amenities and dynamics of current and shadow committees. Also discussed were some of the pitfalls of moving Trillium from city to city as well as associated costs of running a convention. Those attending discussed ways of encouraging members to attend and other ways of getting the message of Trillium out there.

Summary of Discussion:

Numbers are declining; this is a more important issue. Location does not matter. Wherever the location is, there is a financial responsibility and accountability. Find a less expensive hotel. Does it have to be in the GTA? Aging Al-Anon population, older members won't travel so far. This could affect location. Commitment to personal recovery: If we want to recover, we will go wherever. Trillium has a following. Moving Trillium could create regionalism. Current location is central and that is good. Location

must be in the same place for at least two years in order to accommodate the shadow committee. Location requires lots of restaurants and needs other activities. Look at postal codes of past Trillium attendees to uncover a possible location that would be food for majority.

No motion was received from the floor. Discussion item is closed.

**Dinner: 4:45 – 6:15**

Meeting was reconvened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**District Reports:**

DRs gave reports from District #s 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and Serenity Prayer.

**Workshops:**

*New Energy: Reaching Out to the Public*

The three AIS chairs spoke about what they are doing for Public Outreach. Some District Representatives also shared about what is being done in their districts. Members wanted to know what literature was available on what can be done for Public Outreach. Ideas shared for what works are: 1) Information sessions with the police. 2) Creating business cards that are discreet to hand out. 3) Leaving pamphlets in restaurant washrooms.

*New Thinking: Attracting Members to Service*

One of the items discussed was the Sponsor support and encouragement. Al-Anon Days as well as e-mailing other groups about upcoming events. Hosting Public Outreach workshops. Mentoring, job shadowing and service sponsors are really helpful.

**Sunday May 27, 2007**

The Chairperson Jo-Anne G. opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Announcements were made including the request for evaluations to be filled out and handed in before leaving. They may be mailed in to Heather-OSA Secretary, address on form. There were numerous requests for the packages and information to be sent out at an earlier date. Jo-Anne shared on the timing cycle for the Executive meetings.

**District Reports:**

DRs gave reports from District #s 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

**AIS Reports:**

Toronto, Ottawa & Hamilton/Burlington.

**Delegate's Update: Joan P.** – Report is in your package. Members were able to view the power point presentation on the new Public Service Announcements that are available now. The announcement was made that we have a volunteer for interim PO Co-ordinator.

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

1) Is there a photo or poster of the Al-Anon quilt that could be purchased and displayed at group meetings?

**Answer:** There is a photo at WSO and you can ask Mary-Jane if she has a negative or take your own picture.

2) Are there any 'regulations' or understanding regarding payment of out-of-town speakers at Al-Anon events? I.e. Trillium, Al-Anon Days, O.S.A.

**Answer:** For Trillium there is guidelines-see manual section 7.(14).(3). Al-Anon Days is autonomy of particular group or district-see pg.79 of service manual, use of group's funds as principle. OSA-expenses are paid as participants are chosen from those attending. Whoever is inviting should be open and honest about funds.

3) As stated earlier today the average age of Al-Anon members is 55. What was the average age of Al-Anon members 10 years ago, 25 years ago & 50 years ago?

**Answer:** We do not know, we will ask Delegate to ask WSO and the answer will be published in Open Lines.

4) Please suggest a guideline for a DR's attendance at each group in their district. I.e. 1 time per group per year OR 2 times.

**Answer:** No specific guideline. Group/district representative autonomy.

A short discussion ensued with regards to the Area Guideline & Policy manual. Joan R. responded to questions asked during the weekend with regards to the forms and where they are accessed in the Area Policy & Guideline Manual.

### **Trillium 2008**

Bob presented the Pittsburgh video as a lead in to the 2008 Regional Service Seminar. Further information is in the package handed out by Joan P. Further information will be posted on the WSO website starting in the fall of 2007. Bob also shared information regarding the venue for 2008 Trillium. Bob invited the membership to step up if anyone is interested, to join the 2008 committee. Sharing the enthusiasm!!

**Open Forum:** The meeting was opened to personal sharing on the weekend and additional comments.

**The meeting was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and the Lord's Prayer**

