

Ontario South Assembly
Area World Service Committee Meeting
May 27th - May 29, 2016

World Service Conference: "**Realizing our Spiritual Potential**"

Durham College Residence & Conference Centre
Oshawa, Ontario

Friday, May 27, 2016

Welcome

The OSA Chairperson, opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by District 8, Concepts & Warranties were read by District 23,

A welcome was given to all and the Executive and Co-ordinators were introduced. Announcements followed regarding cell phones, scent sensitivities, availability of bottled water, expense forms, LDC orders for pick up, paper for notes for the chairperson and announcements; location of washrooms and elevators, group announcements and meal access through name tags.

The secretary completed the roll call.

7:30 pm-The Chairperson left for the LOC meeting. Alternate delegate took over as chairperson for the rest of the evening

Coordinators/OSAAC Chair Reports - A complete copy of the submitted reports will be posted on our website. The information below has been condensed.

The Forum-Alternate Delegate

A meeting in our pocket. Please encourage your GR's that they are the Forum representative for their groups. Encourage groups to have Forum writing workshops. Perhaps incorporate it through AI-Anon days or refer to writing guideline - F-1 on website. If a district wants to have a workshop, please just invite her and she would be happy to come and offer support. Co-ordinators are just waiting to be asked.

Ont.South-A list of articles submitted by prior OSA members compiled by former Alt Delegate, can be found at the display table at the back of the room. Please ask members of your district to notify her if and when they have a sharing in the Forum so we can add it to the binder. Thank you to our previous Alternate Delegate for setting up this binder

We have lost a few subscriptions from members/groups .

Area Alateen Coordinators Report

There was not an OSAAC meeting at Trillium for Alateen.

There are a few Alateen members who are willing to speak if invited. They think that if we have them come and speak-the members will be more interested in sending their teens to an Alateen meeting.

No bid has been entered for Unity 2017. There has been no Unity for two years because of this. The last one was in Barrie and was mixed with an AI-anon day, and that seemed to work very well. Any questions or ideas-please email Alateen coordinator.

Alateens want to be a part of having input in service manual.

OSAAC - Position not filled at this time.

Area Alateen Process Person

All SAM's must be recertified this year with a Police Records Check by June 30th. All paperwork must be received by mid-June. If a letter is required for the police department (except Toronto), please contact OSA chairperson

I will send an email with a list of all SAM's in the district which have not provided their forms.

Archives Coordinator

Have been to a few Al-Anon days on invitation. Happy to do this if given advance warning and available to speak or put up a display.

Also-welcomes questions any time

Would love to receive more group histories. There are separate binders for each district. Group histories would be especially unique

Have an in loving member binder. Jason would welcome more submissions for this.

Group Records Coordinator

Everything up to date as of May 14, 2016. All changes should come to group records first-not WSO. When you fill out the form on the website it comes directly to group records.

Any information regarding Alateen has to go to AAPP first.

All DR's can go into WSO Group Records and see information for their District. (Read-only)

Literature Coordinator

Bonnie did her first writing workshop in District 25. She spoke of different ways that writing can help in our recovery. She would love to do more writing workshops. Advance notice is a must, because of her work schedule. (Scheduled to work on weekends a lot) If she has enough notice, she will do her best to find a time that works.

Please share Bonnie's report with the members.

Open Lines Coordinator — Gave a brief overview. No written report submitted because Brian has sent a list of details, suggestions and ideas for the Open Lines to the executive to discuss and make some decisions.

Public Outreach Coordinator

Highlights-Takes info she receives from WSO and shares with AWSC to take back to membership. Has received a lot of information from WSO and passing it to the DR's. World day of recovery-65 coming up, a lot of material about this. It is interesting to see what is being done in various places Example-Inviting parishioners to the Al-Anon day to show what their facility is being used for. Some groups are bringing their teens to Al-Anon meetings, because they do not have Alateen meetings. 2 groups in our area have recently started up P.O. again, after their P.O. being inactive for quite some time. She has been asked to speak at some P.O. days and is also willing to come to P.O. meetings if invited.

In regards to emails-She opens them 2 or 3 times per week.

Website Coordinator

Referred to Group archives checklist

Area policy manual-Under Section 10-Forms and Miscellaneous , Archives Checklist.

His report - showed traffic of our website for 11 months.,

Redesigned delegates corner. Now there is the delegates archives as well, in order to separate things and not have a long list to scroll through.

Group Records Change Form-On website. Have added the postal code to it. When it is submitted through the website, Website gets a copy and Group Records gets a copy.

Events-To post an event-Website coordinator needs at least 2 weeks in advance. He works and needs this time to follow up.

Q&A

How to get the group information off of WSO.

Go into WSO website.

Sign in with your Area and password.(Same password asConnects.

WSO ID number

District

Shows all of the groups in that district.-Active or Inactive. If you delete a group it takes about 7 yrs to delete it.

Q-Where is Alateen from who is willing to go out and speak

A-Brampton

Member is having a problem entering information directly onto the group records change form on the website. He would be happy to look into this-first he has heard. Many others are able to do it successfully.

Q-If a group records change is done on the OSA website-Do we also have to send it to WSO site?

A-NO

Q-To archives Can we have a list of the groups that have done archives?

A-Sure. If interested party sends him an email he will be happy to do it.

Q- Regarding Alateen Change form online—Also had problem entering into it online.

A-go to website, meetings list, group records change form,

Red fields are mandatory or it will not send it.

Q--In reference to postal code. Why would you have zip code in there?

A-Because that was on the other form & it eventually goes to WSO.

Q Directed -to Archives. In D 27, there were groups that have folded. How can she get information on groups that have folded? Archives could look into that or email WSO.

Q-To AAPP-Regarding the police checks for the SAMS.

A- Receipt payments come through district first or then area not AAPP. Everyone should be reimbursed.

This is the year that all SAMS get recertified.

The meeting closed at 8:30 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Saturday, May 28, 2016

Welcome

The OSA Chairperson, opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by District # 21, the Concepts were read by District # 7, and the Warranties were read by - District # 6. The Executive and Co-ordinators were introduced.

It was determined by the Chair & the Area Secretary, through the morning roll call, that there were 39 members present, 38 eligible voters and that 20 votes would constitute a simple majority. Those unable to attend were Open Lines Co-ordinator, Districts 3, 5, 9, 12, 15, 19, 24 Districts & AIS Toronto.

Welcome to everyone-especially new members here for the first time. Chairperson explained Motion forms, Items for Consideration and Ask it basket forms

Chairperson asked for volunteers for the Ask-It Basket Committee. District 28, District 31,, District 30, District 28 volunteered.

Approval of voting procedures

Review of Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM), the writing of and voting on of motions was explained to the members. The chairperson indicated that if a new motion is submitted during this AWSC pertaining to a matter which is not included in the Items for Discussion on our Agenda, it will be reviewed at the next Executive meeting and if appropriate, may be tabled for a future AWSC meeting.

Motion 1: It was moved by District 31 and seconded by District 8 “that we accept the voting procedures as explained”. Motion carried.

Approval of 2015 AWSC Minutes:

A call was made to approve the motions of 2015 AWSC minutes.

Delegate requests that all references to her name be corrected.

Motion 2: It was moved by District 26 and seconded by District 21 “that we approve the 2015 AWSC Minutes as amended”. Motion carried.

World Service Conference Report

Our delegate handed out to all in attendance a full written report of the 2016 World Service Conference experience, entitled "Realizing our Spiritual Potential" and gave a presentation expanding on this experience. The handout will be posted on the Ontario South website. She was very grateful for the love gifts and encouragement from our fellowship.

Envelopes with records of each districts donations to WSO for 2015 were made available by our delegate.

She informed us of a discussion recommendation that has been prompted by the WSO literature committee. See page 10 of Delegates "Realizing our Spiritual Potential" handout material. The said WSO literature committee have recently begun discussing requests from just two different members in different Areas for changes to the "Prayer for Today" card, wallet card and bookmark, as well as on pg 101/103 respectively of How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics. (depending on which edition you are looking at) It is suggested that we have open conversations about this with our districts and members.

Through a show of hands-it was agreed that the members present would like to discuss this more at our 2016 Assembly in October. If the executive is in agreement when creating the Assembly agenda with its various business details -then it will be placed on the agenda .

Literature Distribution Centre (LDC) - (office manager)

As of March 31, 2016 we are almost \$ 5000.00 in red. Mostly due to U.S. exchange rate.

This loss could possible increase to \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 by year end. Please encourage members to buy and have their own personal stock of literature.

Summer time gets slow. This year the literature office will be closed for 6 weeks, from July 18th to August 29th. (Longer than usual, due to deficit issues) Orders must be received and paid for prior to July 13th., in order to have orders filled before closure.

Advisor- Chair of Literature Office Committee.

Our Ontario South Website has added a link to all Conference approved literature with pictures and descriptions. Please pass this along to your GR's and members. Thank-You to Bonnie and Jason for their hard work on this.

Literature office closure dates July 18th to August 29th 2016. Announcements will be placed in Open Lines and on our Ontario South websites. Last date for fillable orders is July 13th with payment.

Our office manager has submitted her resignation. No end date has been stated yet, pending details.

At this point we really need to look at where we are going from here with LDC and our current financial positions of running at a loss. This running at a loss has happened a few times. Two previous times, it was brought to assembly look at. In 1994 the "country store" was started on an election year as a means to earn money to save LDC. Hand made goods were sold.

In 2010 the assembly voted to continue to run LDC with a paid manager and paid rent.

The current LOC is looking at questions (i.e.-what could be done) and will continue asking questions. They are assuming that if we take it to Assembly, that they will need a lot of information and history to inform members and then make an informed group conscience.

LOC will meet again on July 22nd.

Meanwhile, please send any feedback to advisor. prior to July 15th.

A number of questions and suggestions came from the floor.

Financial Update for 2016

Treasurer reviewed the 2015 financial information. & Year to date financial statement for 2016. A question and answer period ensued.

Discussion Items

Item # 1 Proposed 2016 Budget

Motions # 3 : It was moved by District 8 and seconded by District 6 that “the proposed budget for 2017 be forwarded to Assembly 2016 for approval.” Motion carried.

Item # 2 (Discussion) How do we attract the teens of 2016 to Alateen meetings?

Discussion points

- **start with our membership; convince them to come for at least 6 weeks.**
- **teens of 2016 are not “other peoples kids” they are AA & Al-Anon members kids**
- **focus on education of the professionals, so that it is not missed as anxiety and depression without awareness of the family disease problems**
- **Inform our members. Could have as a topic in the group or district meeting, and use our literature. This is a family disease.**
- **Keep a stock of Alateen literature. Give newcomers-“How can I help my children” pamphlet and information on Alateen books and meetings.**
- **Have Alateen meetings in the same location and time as Al-Anon meeting or AA meetings, and bring your kids and grandkids.**
- **Put posters up in sports complexes; washroom stalls a good spot. Kids take pictures of posters with their phones nowadays.**
- **Have a table card at your meetings and read the information about Alateen meetings. Alateen and Al-Anon are not separate entities. They are together.**
- **Bring the kids out to open events**
- **See-Pg 3 of our delegates report - Canada has 1,233 Al-Anon groups and only 70 Alateen groups.**
- **If your area does not have an Alateen meeting-Groups could purchase Alateen readers and give them to Alateens who come in.**
- **Could give Al-Anon newcomers who have children-An Alateen newcomers packet as well.**

Item # 3 (Discussion) Use of Social Media in Al-Anon

Discussion points

- Is there opportunity for future PSA advertising or running of Al-Anon/Alateen PSA's to geographical areas through social media? Debbie P. Delegate-said that this question would need to be asked through WSO-Contact Pat Quigle. We need to follow WSO guidelines.
- There are currently some registered electronic group meetings that are listed as groups on the WSO website. We have to be very mindful of endorsing only "registered groups" that follow the Al-Anon traditions when using the Al-Anon name.
- Focus on what we can do well. Al-Anon process for making new decisions is slow.
- WSO has a You-Tube channel.
- Al-Anon/Alateen WSO has a facebook page. We as individuals, can "like it". It is up to us and our comfort in the area of anonymity. Liking it is not advertising that you are a member, but, just saying that you like the page.
- Our website was set up in 2002 and currently does not have PSA's. Some websites do (Texas for example) Look at others websites and see how what they are doing.

District Reports from Districts 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, were given.

The reports will be posted on the Ontario South Website.

The evening session began at 7:00 PM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Workshops

- 1) **DR 101**
- 2) **SAM Info**

Sunday, May 29,2016

Welcome

The OSA Chairperson, opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by District 28, the Concepts were read by District 20 and the Warranties were read by District 2.

AIS Reports

AIS Ottawa. The report was submitted and will be posted on website.

AIS Toronto was unable to attend and did not submit a report.

Delegate's Update

Another wonderful follow up presentation from our delegate .

She looked into the Annual WSO Report and realized that WSO has both a Facebook page and You tube channel. She offered an amends for a lack of awareness at the discussion the night before. She reminded those present that WSO having these media sites is different then endorsing members to randomly create on their own.

Delegate explained that a T.E.A.M. event (formerly called Regional service seminars) are events where the World Service Office and the Area work together in creating a format for an event put on by the area. 2 or 3 WSO people

attend. See WSO website for a list of upcoming TEAM events in other areas. Our area can look into hosting one. This would entail finding a facility. It is valuable to boost the interest in service.

The process for Ontario South to submit a candidate for Regional Trustee Canada Central starts now. Regional Trustees reflect the flavour of our regions. Ontario South candidates wishing to submit their qualifying resume need to send them to our Ontario South Chairperson by August 1st, 2016 so they can be presented and voted on at our 2016 Assembly. Our Ontario South Delegate would then submit our nomination to the World Service Office in August 2017. So we need to talk to members about this now.

See the Ontario South Policy & Guideline Manual Section 2: Service Positions D: Regional Trustee

Ask-it-Basket Answers

Answers which will be posted to Open Lines.

Our chairperson offered those present with an opportunity to finish early.

Open mic

There was no discussion regarding holding the open mic.

The meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.