

ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
October 21 – 23, 2005
Double Tree International Plaza - Toronto

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2005

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

The OSA Executive Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Assembly. She then introduced the Executive, Advisors, Coordinators and our special guests from WSO, Jo-Anne L. and Barbara Older, Associate Director for member Services Alateen Assembly Host Committee Chairperson, Lise W. extended her warm welcome and made some housekeeping announcements

Panel – “My Al-Anon Journey”
Chair: Nancy B.
Speakers: Martie B., Margery K.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon-Alateen Declaration.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

Opening – Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Welcome by Jo-Anne G. (Chairperson) Changes to the Agenda were made at this time to accommodate our guests who had to leave for Virginia Beach in the afternoon.
The Host Committee Chair made some light housekeeping announcements.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SEATING/VOTING ARRANGEMENTS:

Seating arrangements were established with non- voting members to be seated at the back and voting members seated with their DRs in their respective rows.

A majority vote (50% + 1 of votes cast) is required for passing motions. Voter eligibility was discussed. Clarification was offered regarding abstentions. “Abstention” means to refrain from voting, making a conscious choice not to vote. Therefore “Abstentions” count as 0. The Chair will request only the “Yes” and “No” votes and it is the majority of votes cast that decide whether a motion is carried or defeated.

MOTION SHEETS:

The main motions are in the hand out package. An Amendment motion takes precedence over the main motion and we will vote on the amendment first. Only amendments pertaining to the main motion will be considered by the Chair during the discussion The tabling of other motions received is at the discretion of the Chairperson They will be brought forth if relevant to today’s discussion if not then they go to the Executive and/or to AWSC.

When presenting a motion from the floor it is to be written legibly on a “green” paper and seconded by another voting member. Only a voting member can make a motion and it needs to be seconded by another voting member 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.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES: To respect everyone’s right to voice his/ her opinion, and to allow for business to flow in a good orderly manner, the chairperson asked to adopt a two-minute time limit for speaking for/against a motion and only one visit to the mic for any one subject.

It was mentioned that all cell phones to be turned off or on vibrate.

Timekeeper: Darlene (District 4)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POSITIONS:

The positions of Delegate and Trustee are closed, as they needed resumes to be sent in to Chairperson. For all other positions an incoming or outgoing DR, or anyone having served a full three (3) year term at the Area level and still in service may stand for the positions.

Polling from the floor (for the other positions) will be done along with the people who have sent in resumes. The polling will be a stand up sit down or the votes for all positions, regardless of the number of candidates, will be by closed ballot.

Chairperson asked for approval of these voting and election procedures by the Assembly. Will be by secret ballot. Approved, all in favour.

APPROVAL OF 2004 ASSEMBLY MINUTES:

Page 2 paragraph 5 says "Gail suggested....second line should read "**disseminated**" and not decimated. It was moved by Dorothy District 29 seconded by Jacqueline District 22. Carried

The Chair re-introduced the Executive, Advisors, Coordinators and our WSO guests for those who were not present on Friday night.

Workshop Sign up Sheets –Sign up sheets were set up on a side table. Three workshops are to be conducted in the evening:

1) Group Representative 101 Geraldine R. 2) District Representative 101 Jacqueline K. and 3) Personalizing the Concepts Howdie R.

Ask-it-Basket Volunteers: Linda District 5, Jean District 28, Louise District 4, Bernice District 11 along with Ruth and Rick the Advisors.

Regional Trustee Report: Jo-Anne L.

Jo-Anne took the time to re-iterate the amends to Deleagtes from WSO regarding the Alateen disruption. She asked that we use the AI-Anon World service website to view the 2004 and 2005 WSC summaries. The last three (3) years of summaries are on the site. She then introduced Barbara Older, the Associate Director for member Services Alateen from World Service Office

Barbara Older WSO:

Barbara told us that she was here to tell us about the state of Alateen today and not to answer questions on the Board's prior decision on Alateen.

She started back in the year 1998 when Alateen was in trouble and Operation Alateen was started.

Measures were taken at that time to try and resolve some of these issues and the changes were reflected in the 2002 – 2004 Manual on page 66. The requirements were there already as guidelines.

She described a bit of her job; how all calls and e-mails go to her office. How there was nothing in writing to support Alateens and their Sponsors if problems arose (soft porn on line using Alateen, on line Alateen mtgs etc). Sixty seven Areas were having problems. The Board took everything we "already" had and made a requirement for Alateen.

As of December 31, 2004 there were 1092 active, dormant or suspended Alateen groups. 89 of these were in Canada, 27 in OSA. As of January 2005, after re-registering there were 1250 groups. 14 of the 67 Areas have increased groups and 20 Areas have 100% of their groups still there. So the fear of less groups or no Alateen groups because of these requirements never came about instead the groups grew. The focus has shifted. There are 3200 AI-Anon members that have gone through the certification requirements. There is a re-building of a relationship with Alateen. WSO has started some innovative new ideas with Communication enhancements using Alateen Coordinator message boards on line, conference calls, more mailings etc. It is a two-way communication.

Break: 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jean B.

Jean had reports on the table outside and not in handout package, as she wanted it to reflect up to October 15, 2005. She commented that the DR's would get a report on group donations. So please see her if you don't already have it. She discussed the Budget comparison 2004/2005 and explained how the budget was put together. The donations flow is down somewhat, however, we are meeting our responsibilities. She explained changes she made to the Proposed Budget 2006 that was presented to the DR's at AWSC. It was opened to the floor for questions. One suggestion made was that another column be added for "anticipated costs".

MOTIONS:

We started with the motions at hand. Motion # 2 Al-Anon and Alateen Safety & Behavioural Requirements was moved to Motion # 1. Jo-Anne G. spoke to the motion as it was a motion coming from the Executive and had not been tabled yet. The form "Medical Authorization Form" (Form B) was modified by removing the "Notary" requirement, as that is not a legal requirement at this time. The "minimum" requirement is a signed statement. It will be changed to Name and Signature of a Witness. The Motion was then presented with Jo-Anne G. giving the History "What we KNOW". She told the Assembly that the package we got meets the WSO requirements. The year we had gave us time to work with the WSO and the Trustees and the wording is right. She advised that there will be follow up due to the "implementation phase" (2nd step). There will be adjustments and small details will continue to arise - what we "DON'T KNOW". We are not able to respond to all scenarios. Not all the implementations details have been worked out because the process has not yet been voted in by the Assembly.

Following motions are transcribed exactly as presented on motion paper...

Amendment #1 to Motion # 1: Moved by Kathy D. Dist 21 (Motion 2 before we changed to motion 1), Schedule A Affirmation of Appropriate Conduct within the Alateen program: there must: point 4 be reworded to say: Be procedures for signed parental permission and medical care for Alateen members who will be in the care of an Alateen Sponsor or SAM, for any event that is not a regular Alateen meeting (held on a regular basis at a fixed location, and which may or may not involve travel to another location.

Seconded by; P. M?

Discussion was held. The vote was called. The amendment was carried with 1 opposed.

Motion #1 Al-Anon and Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements. That Ontario South accepts the Al-Anon/Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements, including Schedule A, Schedule B, and Schedule C, and Form A and Form B, as amended and approved at AWSC.

Discussion was opened. The question was called as amended. Motion carried with 2 opposed.

Motion # 2: 2006 Budget: Jean talked to the motion. She presented the budget. Discussion ensued.

Amendment # 1 to Motion #2: Moved by Tom W. Dist 29: "to increase budget by \$1000.00 other expenses; Alateen Administration for the purpose of Alateen Sponsor Training. **Seconded by Dorothy G.** The motion was carried with 18 against.

Motion # 2 was called. It was carried with 2 opposed.

Lunch 12:30 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Called to order at 1:45pm

Jo-Anne L and Barbara Older reported that they had spoke to Ric Buchanan from WSO at lunch and that he and the WSO sent their warm regards and thanks.

We took this time for a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

MOTIONS: (continued)

Motion #3 LDC (new); Moved by BOD (Board of Directors) of LDC: to continue the LDC office at the home of the LDC Manager. **Seconded by Ann K.** Discussion of the motion. The motion was carried with 3 opposed.

Motion #4: That the changes to the Literature Distribution Centre (LDC), as identified in the attached document, be accepted. Discussion. The vote was called and the motion was carried with 2 opposed.

Motion #5: That consideration be made as to the sale of WSO office based on Concept 12 and Warranty 1 (Moved by Jane McK (Dist 19) and seconded by Barbara S. Dist 15). Discussion. The motion was defeated with 11 in favour.

ELECTIONS:

Delegate: 4 Candidates: Kathy T., Howdy R., Joan P., Peter L.

During balloting we heard from the Coordinators:

TRILLIUM 2006 Chairperson: Judy T.

Judy read her report. The theme for the Conference is "Continuing Our Journey". The early bird flyers are ready and registrations are taking place as we speak for the cost of \$20.00 till Feb. 28th 2006. The cost will then be \$25.00. The committee was successful in keeping the room cost at 2004 prices. The baskets that were such a success in 2004 will be back. Please remind your Districts. We will also require some help with the Hospitality Suite. There will be 3 "free" registrations; one on Sunday October 23rd, one in November and one in December. Some positions that still need to be filled are Literature and Media. If you are interested in joining the committee please call/e-mail Ruth H. (see back of Open Lines for contact information or Judy T. jatodd@sympatico.ca).

Archives Coordinator's report: (report in package) Rita K.

Rita told the Assembly the importance of the Archives and that each group/district should be keeping the district binder up to date. Windsor took the initiative and was bringing their binder back to work on it. A reminder to please ensure you write your District # on any correspondence.

Literature Coordinator's report: (report in package) Fred R.

Fred reported that WSO is still looking for sharings for the 2 new books. He encouraged us to look at the literature display on his table and to buy books and read them and do book reports on them.

Public Outreach Coordinator's report: (report in package) Carol P.

Carol reported that we had won \$250.00 in Literature in the contest we, as an Area, entered. (Prescription AI-Anon). She showed us the Prescription Pad that was available through the LDC office. As groups, we can buy them and distribute to the Doctors in our Districts.

Group Records Coordinator's report: (report in package) Martie B.

OSA has 347 groups registered down from 384. DR's were asked to see Martie about reports from AWSC. She reported on the 2 new group change forms that can be found on line at www.al-anon.alateen.org/members. For Al-Anon please send the form to the Group Records Coordinator.

Website Coordinator's report: Bob T.

Bob pulled from his box of goodies, everything (in paper format) that could be had on the website. Great work Bob!

Special Coordinator's report: (report in package) Matthew H.

Matthew reported being very busy with the Alateen Requirements and that he was very happy and encouraged by the vote earlier.

Jo-Anne G. took this time to speak about Coordinators and how to go about letting the Area know if anyone was interested in the openings for the next 3-year term starting in January.

She also asked new DR's to please forward your information to Gail (outgoing Delegate) before the end of December so that Gail could send to WSO and they in turn could forward the mailings starting in January 2006 to the new DR.

By this time, we are at a deadlock on the vote to elect the new Delegate. We are on ballot number four (4). Chairperson explained recommended procedure, as described in Service Manual.

Motion # 6 from the floor: Moved by Marianne E that 50% plus 1 vote is required for the delegate to be voted in. **Seconded by Patty W.** Motion carried with 2 opposed.

Successful candidate for Delegate was Joan P.

ELECTIONS: continued

Alternate Delegate: Three (3) candidates: Claire D., Lise W., and Kathy T. Claire D. was the successful candidate for the position of Alternate Delegate

Chairperson: Jo-Anne G. was the only candidate standing for this position. Successful.

REPORTS: continued

Joan P. reported on the Area Manual under construction. There are manuals for the taking at the back table 1 each to outgoing DR's and Coordinators. (Please pass on to your successor). Please review and comment. This is not the finished product; we need input to carry on. This is a DRAFT COPY only. Still 3 more sections to go.

ELECTIONS: (continued)

Treasurer: Jean B. is only 1 standing.

Election is stopped to allow relevant motion from the floor.

MOTIONS: (continued)

Motion # 7 from floor: Moved by Peter S. that we use acclamation for acceptance for all votes in Ontario South. **Seconded by Joelle K.** Motion defeated

Motion # 8 from floor: Moved by Jane McF: that if only 1 candidate is standing; election is to be by stand up vote otherwise paper balloting should continue. **Seconded by: Colette K.** Motion carried.

ELECTIONS: continued

Secretary: 4 candidates: Heather P., Bob T., Mike and Debbie MacD
Successful candidate Heather P.

REPORTS: continued

Open Lines Coordinator's report: (report in package) Kathy T.

We were reminded by Kathy that the deadline for the submissions for the next Open Lines was November 14th and should be in your mailboxes by December 1st or shortly thereafter. Anyone can submit an article to Open Lines. It's our way of getting the message out to you. It's your newsletter. She pointed out that on her back table there were exchange newsletters from other Areas. Please take the time to look at them.

LDC REPORT – Lyn S.

Lyn thanked everyone for the support she received.

Her report was also not in the package, however, could be picked up on the table outside the meeting room. Literature sales have decreased by \$12, 265.59. This is a result of sales lost due to cancellation of Trillium and ORC for 2005 (\$6,500.00)

ELECTIONS: continued

Regional Trustee: Nominee (Canada Central): Jo-Anne L

Dinner from 6:30 p. m. – 8:00 p. m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer and a Moment of Silence.

DELEGATE'S Report – Gail C. (District #28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now it is time to talk about our upcoming Celebrations and Conventions. The AA Convention in Toronto is June 30th to July 3rd and the Al-Anon theme is Let it Begin with Us. At this time the video that Bob T. (Website Coordinator OSA) presented at Assembly was shown to the whole Conference. It was mentioned that a member from Ontario South did the video and what an excellent job it was. Everyone was clapping as well. Gail was so proud of being part of Ontario South and one of our members receiving credit for service work.

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

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

There are three Regional Service Seminars coming up in 2006: US Northeast RSS in White Plains, NY March 3-5; US South Central RSS in Irving, Texas August 4-6; and Canada West RSS in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan November 10-12.

The 2006 World Service Conference will be held in Virginia Beach April 24-28 followed on April 29 by the 55th Anniversary Celebration. The theme of the Conference will be "Shared Leadership – Moving Forward with Confidence, Collaboration, and Clarity". You will also hear more about the Leave Hope project on March 4, 2006 to celebrate Lois W's birthday.

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

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

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

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

Three workshops were held from 900 p. m. till 100 p.m. Those who had signed up for these reconvened in their assigned locations at 900 pm.

SUNDAY, October 23, 2005

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

Host Committee Announcements: Lise W. (Host Committee Chair)

Thanked committee members and the Toronto Districts for their assistance. She thanked us all for making a success of the Country Store.

BIDS:

Jo-Anne G. re-iterated to the Assembly the importance of Bids for the 2006 AWSC and Assembly. None have been received for 2006. The Executive is meeting on November 19 and we need bids to consider. Bids are also needed for the 2007 RSS by December 31, 2005. WSO comes up and does the workshops for this event, we need to Host it. It's a great opportunity for Service.

She also spoke to the election procedure used yesterday and clarified what the manual said about a procedure in the event of a deadlock.

CO-ORDINATORS:

Jo-Anne acknowledges the work of the co-coordinators and the volunteer time it takes and the benefits from such an experience. Those interested should send a letter of interest or resume to Gail C. our outgoing Delegate. Our incoming Delegate Joan P. will make the decisions.

POLICE CHECK LETTERS:

Some police services offer Police Record Checks for free or at a reduced cost if you have a letter from the "sponsoring volunteer organization". The Executive has prepared such a letter. Please contact Jo-Anne for this letter. It needs to be signed by the Chairperson of the Area.

AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2005 REPORT:

Rick J. gave his report. The Volunteer contingent was full. Had to refuse help. That has never happened before. It was an incredible WELCOME that Ontario South gave the World. 44, 000 people attended with 10% (4,000) of that being Al-Anon. It was just under 20,000 years of Al-Anon Recovery.

ASK-IT-BASKET – (All are as written and answered on sheets - I will try to the best of my ability to make out all legible writing)

1. Are there Institutional Sponsor opportunities in Ontario South? I am an Institutional sponsor for lone members for WSO – but what about our local youth/adult women here in Ontario institutions?

Answer: Talk to the Public Outreach Coordinator. They would have up to date information. Pg 35 of manual

2. We are told to leave all other affiliations outside our Al-Anon meetings (professions, other healing ways, religion). How do you justify using the Lord's Prayer as a "closing" for last night's meeting? The meeting had no closing for non-Christians.

Answer: Pg 46 of the Manual It is suggested that groups close on a manner that is agreeable to the group conscience. That is why at Assembly more than one closing is used.

3. A group decides by "group conscience" to permit non CAL Literature at their meeting. My question is: As non-cal dilutes the AFG message what action should the DR etc. take?

Answer: Have a business meeting. Pg 84.

4. What can be about a group who chooses not to use the steps and traditions as part of their group meeting?

Answer: Go to a Business meeting and address this situation or go to another group.

5. Are Alateen sponsors required to report abuse concerns to CAS? How do anonymity and the traditions affect how one handles abuse concerns?

Answer: It has to be reported – otherwise you are breaking the law and could be charged. Perhaps this question should go to a lawyer for clarity. Perhaps have the Executive address this subject

6. We have people who like to knit, crochet, play game boy in meetings. Others find it distracting. How do we stop it? Isn't it rude?

Answer: Have a group conscience.

7. Why does Ontario South practice a complete election year once every 3 years and not stagger elections (GR's one year, DR's and Coordinators the next year and Executive positions the 3rd year? **unacceptable answer: "That's the way we've always done it". E.g. Saskatchewan Area works this way.

Answer: This is an area that has been explored, and not voted on.

8. What are the bases for putting forth a motion at the district level? /group level?

Answer: Goes to District/group level

9. The relationship between Assembly and it's officers is one of Employer/Employee (non-salaried) When an employer receives a CV of a potential employee, the employer checks references: 1) to verify the info in the CV is true 2) to find out how good a job they do. In Ontario South Area, there is no such process. How can we GR's discharge our duties adequately without being able to verify whether we are choosing the most qualified candidates?

Answer: Al-Anon does not have an employer/employee relationship with anyone in an Al-Anon Service position. We operate on the basis that ours is an honest program and that any information provided on the resume for a service position is truthful. If a GR has any difficulty with information on a particular resume, we recommend the GR speak directly to the person who submitted the resume.

10. What is the proper sequence for distribution of the 7th Tradition? My group sends a token amount to the GR table but we send large and regular amounts to WSO.

Answer: Suggestion: group, District, Area, WSO Pg49 Service manual

11. What is the acronym for Al-Anon Adult Children?

Answer: There isn't. To avoid confusion with other organizations

12. On Anonymity – Tradition 11 states – anonymity at level of press, radio, TV and film not within Al-Anon. Tradition 12 states principles above personalities. Is it against our traditions for a person to use their last names with in Al-Anon?

Answer: No. It is a personal choice.

DELEGATE'S UPDATE – Gail C. (District #28)

I want to thank you for your support during my three years and I would encourage each of you to participate at the Executive Committee level. It is the greatest experience you will ever have.

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

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

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

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

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

In April 1983 my husband went to AA. By this time we were separated after 22 years of marriage. He asked if I would attend a few meetings with him. It was there I learned about Al-Anon. I started attending Al-Anon in June 1983 for the soul purpose of learning one more way to keep my husband sober. I never dreamed I would be doing service work. Twelve years ago when I was in the depths of despair Service Work saved my life. For that I will always be grateful. I will continue to do service work at some level as I feel I owe it to this program to give a little back for all I have received. You people have made that possible.

What a revelation this program was for me. A place that I felt comfortable to share what was happening in my life and being told if I kept coming back I would gain some sanity. I guess that is when I began learning about Change and to Create New Possibilities. It was not an easy road over the first few years but we decided to stay married and work on our relationship.

One of our main problems was Communication. This can still get in the way today if I choose to let it. The key word being CHOOSE. I latched on to this program right from the start. Within four months I had a sponsor. She was just the person I needed to help bring my self-esteem back. As she was in Service it was natural that I would be guided in that direction. From my first year on I have never looked back. When there was something to do it was suggested I try it. In 1993 I suffered from a deep depression. Al-Anon saved my life. My Doctor encouraged me to keep going to meetings and you people helped me back to sanity again. My sponsor talked me into becoming the GR for our group. This has ultimately led me here today.

I have changed many things in my life since I started in service and it has created a lot of new possibilities. From a very early age I could never express how I felt or be able to give my opinion in an appropriate manner, as I was very shy and withdrawn. Today I can stand in front of you and know that I have an opinion and my voice does count. The world does not centre around me but encompasses me with very loving and kind people. I am able to fit in a crowd and not be afraid of making a mistake or someone not liking me. I can say hello, smile, and welcome to the newcomers.

I have become part of a Dynamic group and district. I am trying to do my part in keeping a Dynamic Area as my predecessors have done. I will continue to share my Experience from the knowledge that I have gained by being in service. The Exploration of meeting the challenges of being a Delegate and the Expanded wisdom I have gained through this exploration has given me lots of Energy and Passion that I wish to convey to every member I meet along my journey in this fellowship.

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

I will miss seeing every one of you face to face but we all have a piece of our hearts linked together forever. I do not know where my higher power is leading me but I have enjoyed my time as Delegate and hope to continue in service. I thank all of you for being there and supporting me over the last three years.

God Bless All of You

The floor was then opened for an Open Mic session.

Greg M. was our speaker this morning and spoke on "Spirituality of the Program".

Evaluation forms: Members were reminded to complete these forms as they provide information for the executive in planning the next Assembly. If you know of someone who would like to participate as a speaker or a workshop leader, ask if you can put his or her name forward.

The Assembly closed with the Serenity Prayer at 11:30 a.m.

AMENDED Saturday October 21, 2006