

# Open Lines

*Ontario South*  
Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Dec 1, 2009

**Please pass this issue among the members of your Group.**

Vol. 32, No. 4

***The following appears at the request of the Ontario South Executive***

**Question:** Baskets are a frequent fundraiser at many Al-Anon events. Recently at 3 Al-Anon Events there was non-CAL books in baskets. I feel "Al-Anon only spoken here" needs to apply at Al-Anon events and would like to ask the Ask-It-Basket committee to address this.

**Answer from the Committee:** From our WSO Service Manual 2006-09 p. 24-27 Avoiding Commercialism

Further discussion was brought forward and it was thought by the committee that anything that had a commercial label could not be used in our baskets. Upon speaking with Mary Lou from the WSO who took part at our Assembly she took the question back to WSO on her arrival home.

Mary Lou's response was that non-CAL being included in the baskets which would be covered under "Outside Publications" on pages 94-95 and WSO would agree that policy would extend to fundraising activities. With regard to other types of items in such baskets, in the Service Manual, page 87 under "Avoiding Commercialism," it is a bit more suggestive in nature. WSO would respond to this question that the members involved in organizing such raffles have a discussion about appropriate content and come to a group conscience decision about what they consider appropriate. The language in the manual does read, "it is suggested that..."

On behalf of the Ask-It-Basket committee I apologize if we have sent the wrong message to you. This is where the help of WSO comes into play when we are not sure of the answers and our interpretation of the manual.

Gail Cathcart

**AL-ANON DECLARATION**

**When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help,  
Let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there,  
And - *Let it Begin with Me.***

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**Subscribers**

If the date on the Open Lines envelope is 01/02/2010 it is time to renew. Please forward your renewal to Sharon R., address on page 12 as soon as possible.

### Delegate's Report

My name is Claire D and I am your Delegate for Ontario South. I am a grateful member of the Thursday night Southend Discussion Al-Anon Family Group in Niagara Falls, District 12.

Assembly 2009, in Kingston was awesome. Thank you to all who participated. A job well done Kingston! After my Sunday morning report, some of you asked me to send the following story:

"This is a story about four people named: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about this because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Please keep this in mind when you are urged or pushed or voluntold into service.

Thank you to those that took a love gift from the Delegate's table at Assembly. I appreciated not having to bring them home again seeing that I kept what I liked and I left the rest..... for you.

I am being kept busy by WSO; by Districts wanting me to speak at their functions; concerned members wanting answers and newcomers floundering their way through our website in search of Recovery. I am also keeping my Service Sponsor and our Advisors busy by asking questions when I am not sure of forwarding some of these questions on to WSO. What a concept – we can learn from each other and when we are not sure we ask someone else. We are NEVER alone in Al-Anon.

I am very blessed to be part of such a wonderful fellowship. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Delegate for Ontario South. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information can be found on the back page of Open Lines. I have added a new email address for Al-Anon purposes.:

[ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com](mailto:ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com)

World Service Conference (WSC) 2010 Theme:

**Celebrate! Embrace the group conscience to expand our circle of hope.**

**—50 years of the World Service Conference**

Much Love & Hugs  
Claire Duthie  
Delegate Panel 49  
Ontario South



## Alternate Delegate

Hello fellow Al-Anon Members. My name is Heather P. and I am your Alternate Delegate for Ontario South and a grateful member of the Tuesday night Love and Hope Angus Al-Anon Family Group, District One.

One of the duties of Alternate Delegate is to be your Area Forum Coordinator. I encourage all DRs to share with their groups in their Districts this report as follows, on *The Forum* magazine that WSO provides to our members:

Back on May fourth of this year, I was able to participate in a conference call, which was held for Area Forum Coordinators. The issue at hand is that for the first time in 35 years, The Forum subscriptions have dropped below the 20,000 mark. That is less than 1.4 subscriptions per group. Ten years ago WSO had 30,000 subscribers, five years ago, they had about 27,000 subscribers, which clearly shows a downward trend. At one point, subscriptions were dropping by 200 per month. So the question put forth to the Area Forum Coordinators was "do we continue to print The Forum if only 5% of the membership is using it?"

So, to give you a bit of background information, the WSO sells The Forum at cost, which means the cost covers the printing and mailing. The subscription fee does NOT cover the WSO staff time of editing and designing the publication. So if we are to consider the total costs, The Forum is a net loss for the WSO.

It's not so much that the WSO wants a higher number of magazines to be distributed, but that would be a lovely side effect, but would like the magazine to become a more integral part of the fellowship and of our individual lives. A magazine for Al-Anon members to read, to talk about, to share news, and even to advance the program further by applying the principles of the program in new ways and in new situations. I ask you, is this not a wonderful way of sharing our experience, strength and hope with one another which is a basic principle in how we recover.

Bob S., Director of Communications at WSO made this particular comment:

"Is it fair to ask: How much longer should the WSO subsidize a magazine that engages only a tiny minority of members? Perhaps we must ask ourselves as a fellowship – will The Forum grow or fade away?"

All the members involved in the conference call started brainstorming and here are some of our suggestions for the Group Level:

Pass a can around at each meeting, or leave it on the table, and then when enough funds are available, pull a group members name from a basket and purchase their subscription for a year.

Display The Forum on your literature or meeting tables.

Attach older copies of the Forum to your newcomer packages

Once a month base your meeting on a sharing from The Forum

GRs, one of your duties includes being the Forum representative to your group. Please, encourage your members to take a copy home for a week of good reading, and then return it to the group for another member to take home for the week.

A group project could be to have members leave older copies in the waiting areas of their doctors, dentists, hospital waiting room areas and the list goes on. All one needs is a little imagination.

At the District Level: Should your District have a Public Outreach Coordinator, for the cost of \$10.00US you can purchase 100 copies of older Forums from WSO. These could then be distributed to the groups in your District, or for your own projects in the community.

In the July 2009 issue of The Forum, page 14 and 15, Bob S. submitted a personal sharing on how the Forum helped him. These same pages also address the issue of The Forum's growth. There has since been a communiqué from WSO, and today I am pleased to advise that since the July publication, there has been a slight increase in subscriptions, although more work could be done.

As your Area Forum Coordinator, I encourage all GRs to go back to you groups and share this submission with them. Brainstorm at your group's business meeting and feel free to e-mail me with any further suggestions you may come up with. I would be more than happy to share your suggestions with the World Service Office.

So the challenge my fellow members, as is asked in the July 2009 issue: "Will The Forum grow – or fade away?" That answer is up to us.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Alternate Delegate.

(Hugs) in Service,

Heather P



### **Chairperson Report**

With deepest gratitude, I thank all the members who attended Assembly 2009 in Kingston and all the members who supported those attending. Thanks to Sharon R. and her Host Committee, I found myself able to participate in a successful Assembly. My dictionary meaning of successful is "accomplishment of end aimed at". My aim was to do the best I could with the help of my Higher Power. I believe I accomplished that.

Members who were unable to attend the Kingston 2009 Assembly, I encourage you to speak with those who did attend and to ask them to share their information, feelings, etc.

If you have not yet taken the leap into service, I encourage you to begin by reading Conference Approved Literature regarding service in Al-Anon. You might also consider asking someone to be your Service Sponsor – like your program sponsor, they are there to guide you on your road to recovery.

I myself have grown leaps and bounds as a result of finding out which service work in Al-Anon best suited me.

"When I make a commitment through service, I really am making a commitment to myself" *Hope for Today* page 160

Blessings,  
Sue G



### **Secretary Report**

Hi again everyone from your Area Secretary reporting on my activities over the last couple of months and my experience at the recent Ontario South Assembly in Kingston. I've had the happy duty of sending out various and sundry notices of special meetings, registration packages, information about Assembly, requests from people looking for roommates. You name it, I sent it. It seems like everybody found themselves with places to put their heads down after the busy busy days at Assembly.

"It was a particularly interesting Assembly in that we had the participation of Mary Lou Mahlman, Associate Director Group Services, from Virginia Beach, as well as Sandi Dagg, our Regional Trustee, from Iron Bridge, Ontario. Both participated in the Alateen Advisory Committee meetings held in conjunction with Assembly, along with our own SAMs Joan from Marmora and Janet from Wasaga Beach and a few of our Alateens. The AAC meetings were said to be very productive. Both Mary Lou and Sandi took the time to share with the GRs, DRs, Coordinators and Executive assembled some personal stories and lots about their service work, what it is, how they do it."

I now have the task of putting together all of the "stuff" we did at Assembly. This would be formidable if I didn't enjoy it so much. There are the Ask-It-Basket questions to be sent off to Open Lines for future issues. The Evaluations done by those who attended will be summarized and Items for Discussion will be organized for presentation to the Executive at our next Executive Meeting (which is looming on November 21st). Then there are the Minutes of the Coordinators' Meeting with the Alternate Delegate and last, but certainly not least, the Minutes of Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in this wonderful experience with a particular note of gratitude to the District 31 Host Committee. They were AWESOME !!

(HUGS) AND LOVE IN SERVICE. JACQUI KENNEDY, AREA SECRETARY



## Treasurer Report

Assembly, first in my term - Woo I made it. Thank you to all my fellow Executive members, Advisors, Coordinators, DRs and GRs and to all the members who have helped to make Assembly successful again! In all, there were **277 people who registered** for Assembly 2009, including Executive, Coordinators and our WSO representatives Sandy our Regional Trustee and Mary Lou, Associate Director Group Services and Alateen's and SAMs who attended the Alateen Advisory Committee session.

It's been a rough economic year as we all know and every donation we have received has been with thanks. One of the questions that was asked in the financial session was; How many groups have donated to Ontario South thus far. The answer to that question is out of 363 groups in our Area, 170 groups have contributed up to September 30, 2009.

The next phase is our Executive meeting in November and what a full plate we have there. My first year is almost done - how time fly's.

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday  
Merry Christmas  
Marianne Embro  
OSA Treasurer, Area 86



## Alateen Coordinator Report

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen Friends

What a busy few months I have had in service to the Alateen program. I am please to inform you that the Alateen Unity Conference was a huge success and on behalf of the organizing committee I would like to express our gratitude to the members and groups that supported the hospitality suite, your kindness and generosity was greatly appreciated.

I had the privilege of traveling to Kingston at the beginning of October to lend support to their efforts to start an Alateen meeting and in November I was invited to participate in an Alateen workshop in Hamilton. It is very encouraging to see that Al-Anon members, groups and districts are looking to start or strengthen their Alateen groups.

One of the ways in which we can assist Alateen is to ensure that there is a program for them to attend, in order to achieve this goal we need increased participation from the Supportive Al-Anon Members (SAM's). Then next big Alateen event will be the Ontario Regional Conference (ORC) of Alcoholics Anonymous in Toronto, March 19, 20, and 21, 2010. Last year at the ORC, there was only a limited Alateen program offered because of the lack of SAM volunteers. This year we hope to offer a strong, vibrant Alateen program but we need increased SAM participation. The number of Alateen meetings is directly effected by the number of SAM's willing to volunteer, so we need SAM's to make a commitment to a couple of hours to be of service to the Alateen. Please contact me at [ontario-southalateen@hotmail.com](mailto:ontario-southalateen@hotmail.com) and I will put you in touch with the organizers of the ORC Alateen program so that you can sign up for a shift.

In Alateen, we are very fond of our slogan "Together We Can Make It" and without the active participation of certified Supportive Al-Anon Members the Alateens cannot hold meetings. To often the only thing standing in the way of Alateens and their recovery is a lack of willingness by Al-Anon to become involved. As a new year approaches, let us all renew our commitment to be of service to the Alateens by stepping up doing our part.

Love always  
Leslie P.  
Area Alateen Coordinator

Area Alateen Process Person Report

Hello. I am Nick M, a grateful member of Al-Anon and the Unity Al-Anon Family Group in Welland and I am the Area Alateen Process Person for Area 86, Ontario South.

Assembly was an incredible learning experience for me, just as every other one has been. I met new friends and hugged old ones. I put faces to some of the names of SAMs that I have been processing this past year and got to know a few of them better. I had the opportunity to have discussions on Alateen matters with some of them. I developed a new appreciation for my fellow coordinators with all of the hard work that they have been putting into service for Ontario South. I am so privileged to be a part of this fellowship.

MaryLou M, Associate Director of Group Services at the World Service Office, was in attendance at Assembly this year and mentioned that Ontario South was now in the mid-range of Areas in Canada and the United States in available Alateen meetings and sponsor involvement even though we were late in renewing the Alateen processes and policies. She congratulated our Area on the hard work that was exhibited by all members of Al-Anon in supporting the youth in our area.

Currently, there are 30 Alateen meetings and 164 SAMs certified in Ontario South. Congratulations and thank you to all of those who have dedicated part of their service lives to Alateen.

The time has come for nearly all SAMs to begin their annual re-certification for 2010. Copies of the letter from our Chairperson, Sue G, for Police Checks have been sent to all of the District Representatives in Ontario South along with the list of SAMs in their Districts identifying which need to re-certify and which do not. I hope that these letters get distributed to you SAMs and that you begin the process as soon as possible. If you need a letter, please let me know? Sue graciously supplied 200 letters to me and I have many spares to share.

Please, PLEASE, reread Section 11 of the Ontario South Policy Manual. It contains a lot of useful information, and is a condition of your re-certification. You can get copies of Section 11 from your DR or download it off the Ontario South website at <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/> .

The year end is quickly approaching so I will take this opportunity to wish that everyone has a great holiday and a happy new year.

Hugs,  
Nick Marischuk  
Area 86 AAPP

**ASK IT BASKET**

**IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF FAMILY TRADITIONS BEING READ AT MEETINGS**

**Tom from WSO responds:**

**The suggested Meeting Format on page 10 of the “Groups at Work” section of the “2006-2009 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual” suggests the following**

**“Many groups choose to have a member read one, or all, of the following:**

- **Suggested Al-Anon Preamble to the Twelve Steps**
- **Twelve Steps**
- **Twelve Traditions**
- **Twelve Concepts of Service/General Warranties”**

**For the sake of unity, we ask that our three Legacies be read as written.**

**ARCHIVES COORDINATOR REPORT**

**PROJECT PASS IT ON**

Ontario South Archives prepares to celebrate Al-Anon's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We started at Assembly.

**GROUP HISTORY:**

Is your group history up to date? If your group is new, don't wait until your next anniversary. Do the history now while everything is still fresh. Take a picture of your meeting place, literature set up and anything else that tells about your group. Complete your group history or update it. If you are unsure sure about dates and other information ask the early members or check your district binder.

**ORAL HISTORY/LONTIMERS QUESTIONNAIRE:**

Who are the longtime members is your group, your district? What was it like when they came into Al-Anon? Talk to them and get the stories. It is these stories that tell about Al-Anon in Ontario South. Plan a visit with another Al-Anon member. A digital recorder and some pen and paper are all that is needed. Of course, don't forget that some of the best stories are told over a cup of coffee or tea and perhaps a cookie. Make it a fun event. And just think, when you are finished another story is ready to PASS IT ON.

Who are the long time members in your group?

When did they come into Al-Anon?

What was the name of the group, where and when did it meet?

Why did he/she come to Al-Anon?

How did he/she find out about Al-Anon?

Visit the member and listen to the story. Record or write it.

Give them a copy of Longtimers Questionnaire, Oral History Questions.

Try to get to each member.

This is their message of hope for new as well as long time members.

**AL-ANON MEMORIAL BOOK**

Write the story about a member who has died.

What was their group? Did they always belong to that group?

When did they come to Al-Anon?

What are the service positions they held in Al-Anon?

What special things do you remember about this member?

Check with family members if possible about other information.

We are coming up to the **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al-Anon in 2011**. What a great way for our Area –Ontario South–to celebrate our members.

Every member has a message of hope so **PASS IT ON**. We need these stories. Lois Remembers, First Steps, The Forum, our literature all have messages of hope. If we don't write/record the stories who will? They will be lost. As our area holds important status in the beginnings of Al-Anon, let's celebrate it with stories and history and messages of hope. **PASS IT ON**. Please send me these stories for our book. Contact me if you need help.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

When Lois began to write LOIS REMEMBERS she wrote in the preface: "I was offered the services of several fine writers to ghostwrite the book from my notes. I am sure one of them could have produced a much more polished and slick literary work than I. But I wanted to write it myself, above all to share directly and honestly with readers my own personal experience in my own words, which is the Al-Anon and AA way."

**MEMBERS ASK:** What materials do I keep? What stays in the group? What stays in the District Archives?

What belongs to and stays in the Area Archives? I am working on guidelines. As soon as they are ready they will be posted on the website and sent to all DR's. If unsure please ask me.

Remember: **ALWAYS CHECK IT OUT BEFORE YOU THROW IT OUT.**

Space and storage are concerns of everyone who does archives work. If your materials are in a basement, keep them in plastic bins off the floor to protect from possible water damage. Protect materials from light and temperature fluctuations. Use acid free archival quality materials.

Mary Jane M.,  
Archives Coordinator

### Group Records Coordinator Report

It was great to meet so many of you at our Assembly. The Friday night "parade of our alter-egos" was such a great way to relax and have an opportunity to have fun and laugh with each other. It reminded me of a time when nothing was funny in my life. Al-Anon gave me back my sense of humour. Many thanks to our host committee for providing us with this opportunity to play!

Also I am sending many thanks to those of you who include a little note or card with suggestions to improve how records are kept as well as messages of thanks to me for doing this service for our Area. They are greatly appreciated.

FYI:

To send the change form electronically, go to the Ontario South website – <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/> - click on Meeting Lists – click on Al-non Registration/Group Change form – complete form – send

A hard copy of the form can also be found on-line in Section 10 of the Area Policy and Guidelines Manual

Our Area 86 guidelines ask that when you are beginning a new group to send the registration to myself ([qrprec@hotmail.com](mailto:qrprec@hotmail.com)) first. I will then send it to WSO to be registered. The group ID number will be forwarded back to me and I will send it to the new group.

Ontario South **does not** have a record of your Group's anniversary date. This underlines what Mary Jane so often encourages us to do: DO YOUR GROUP'S HISTORY!

DR's, please ensure that the group records list of your District is accurate. Send any corrections to me (using the correct form) ASAP.

Love, in service,  
Jane

### Literature Coordinator Report

Hi Friends!

My name is Jean and I'm a grateful member of Al-Anon. My home group is the Forward Al-Anon Family Group and we meet every Thursday at 8PM at the Westboro United Church in Ottawa. I have the privilege of serving as your Area Literature Coordinator.

July 2010 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *As We Understood*. When was the last time you looked at it? Does your group have a copy of it? At the end of August, I sent out a couple of workshops that use this book to the DRs. Did you get them? What are you going to do with them? How about using the workshops at a meeting? Or just using the book for a meeting topic? Why not celebrate this book sometime in 2010 and let me know what you did so I can pass the information on to WSO.

Did you know that Al-Anon/Alateen publications are copyrighted materials. Permission to reprint extensively from our publications is not granted to any individuals, within or outside of our membership, or to any outside agency. However, permission for "limited excerpts" – usually a couple of sentences or a paragraph can be granted by WSO. Forms to request reprint permission are available from the WSO. Please visit the WSO website to obtain the form and more information about reprinting CAL.

#### **Reminders:**

- In mid-October, I sent out amended sharing sheets for a new Al-Anon history book planned for 2011 to celebrate Al-Anon's first 60 years. WSO is seeking sharings about how specific events in Al-Anon's history had a profound, positive affect on your recovery. Please remember that sharings are due by **December 31, 2009**.  
the next Sample Chapter Project handout, using *Discovering Choices* (B-30) for meeting topics, is due **January 15, 2010**

Wishing you and the people you love all the best this holiday season.

Love in Service  
Jean McS

Open Lines Coordinator Report

I am Sharon and a grateful member of the Thursday night Southend Discussion AFG in Niagara Falls.

Assembly.... Wow... What a weekend. I learned so much and had sooo much fun. Thanks to all who joined us for Saturday pot luck supper. I had a blast. Glad we didn't get kicked out!!

Back to business. Open Lines subscriptions are staying pretty much stable with numbers varying 5 either way between editions. This is your communication link between the executive, coordinators and the members. Please remember to send me a short version of your event so I may include it in Open Lines. I need the name, place, time and a contact number or email. With technology being what it is if you can include a postal code for the event location most GPS systems can help members find you.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2010

Sharon R

Open Lines Coordinator

Public Outreach Coordinator Report

Indian summer has come to visit and what a temptation it is. Winter never looked so far away as it does today.

Things are quiet right now with Public Outreach. As of October 29<sup>th</sup> there were 347 Acts of Public Outreach logged onto the blog. To view these acts you can cut and paste this address onto the top of your server page. Once there you will be able to see how others in the fellowship are doing Public Outreach. There are some simple and good ideas. Help yourself.

<http://1000actsofpublicoutreach.blogspot.com/>

Also a reminder to DR's to send me copies of the minutes of your meetings. Also remind Public Outreach groups to do the same. Here's to making ourselves a serene and happy holiday season. And in your travels please drop off a piece of Al-Anon literature along the way. It's as simple as that.

Yours in service

Michele

PO Coordinator

Website Coordinator Report

We have a new Website Coordinator. Please join me in welcoming Denyse to the Coordinator team. Her contact information can be found on the last page of this Open Lines.

**ASK IT BASKET**

**Can we make all documentation for AWSC and Fall Assembly available on the OSA website at least 2-3 months ahead of the scheduled meeting dates in order to provide GRs with material and enough time for understanding and discussion at group/district level. Lise L, District 28**

**Response:** It is the responsibility of the DR to bring it to the attention of the GRs as soon as the DRs get it. The Executive has deadlines and sends out info early enough.

**Is there a reason why the designation of a motion (either administrative therefore reviewed by the executive or to be tabled by the assembly) is not revealed until after voting has occurred? Leslie P, District 1**

**Response:** We do not know the outcome of a motion until the motion is presented.

Trillium 2010 Coordinator Report

Al-Anon Trillium Convention

June 18-20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

"Courage to Change"

It is November already and our annual Assembly has come and gone with the close of another year approaching. It was my pleasure to see those of you that were there representing your groups at our annual area assembly held at the Ambassador hotel. I saw many new faces as well as some familiar ones.

Thank you to those who purchased Trillium "Early Bird Registrations" at \$20. Total number sold was 47. Fantastic! The winner of our early bird drawing was Martie B from Owen Sound. There will be two more drawings for a free registration on **February 7<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup>**, and one drawing on **April 11<sup>th</sup>** for 1 night's free hotel accommodation at the Doubletree hotel. Also sold at the registration table was our 2010 **memento journal** of which 440 were sold. Journals will continue to be available to purchase from now until the Trillium conference.

**NEW** for this year, is our "**Long timers luncheon**" to be held Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. A total of 19 members have reserved a place for \$35 for our three course luncheon. These will continue to be sold along with the preregistrations for the conference. **All members are welcome** to come and hear sharing from our long time members who continue to pass on the message of hope to all of us. I will be forever grateful to those who were there when I walked in the doors of Al-Anon.

We really need you to carry the message and excitement of our "Trillium" conference to each member of Al-Anon in our area.

You can do this by using the flyer you received at Assembly, which is also attached to your open lines. **Photocopies can be made to hand out to your group members.**

**Make Plans Now by:**

- **Registering at the early bird rate of \$20**
- **Booking your room** directly with the Doubletree hotel before **February 26<sup>th</sup>** to receive your conference rate of \$112 plus taxes.

Once again we appreciate your support through **donations** from your group and district. **No amount is too small.** Last year we received an overwhelming response from all of you to support your conference.

You can send your donations to Sue S., Trillium treasurer 280 Guelph St. #29, Georgetown, ON L7G 4B1.

Soon there will be updates to our Trillium conference on our Ontario South website [www.al-anon.alateen.ca](http://www.al-anon.alateen.ca)

I look forward to seeing you in Toronto on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree hotel for our "Courage to Change" weekend.

Much love in service,

Lise W.



**Statement of Purpose**

Open Lines is published quarterly by Ontario South Assembly. This newsletter presents service related news and information to Al-Anon groups in Ontario South to help keep them informed. Personal sharings of recovery should be sent to the Forum.

Send submissions to: Open Lines Coordinator  
See address on page 12

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Issue 1 January 14, 2010	February 1, 2010
Issue 2 April 14th, 2010	May 1, 2010
Issue 3 July 14, 2010	August 1, 2010
Issue 4 November 14, 2010	December 1, 2010

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Send NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS to:  
Open Lines Coordinator, Address on page 12

All ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on page 12

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**Calendar of Ontario South Events**

"You're invited .... Learning To Live's Candlelight Gratitude Meeting, Thursday, December 17th, 2009, 8:00 pm. (bring a candle, candle holder and your gratitude) Wilmar Heights United Church, 963 Pharmacy Avenue, Scarborough M1R 2G5 north of Eglinton Ave. (Gordon Apps Room - 1st Floor - use north rear door) JOIN US FOR DESSERT AND COFFEE/TEA AT 7:00 P.M"

Ontario Regional Conference March 19,20 and 21, 2010  
Theme "Celebrating Sobriety"  
Royal York Hotel  
100, Front Street West  
Toronto On  
M5J 1E3  
Contact: Tim at 2010orcvolunteer@gmail.com or 416.724.8395  
There will be an Al-Anon program



**Districts in Ontario South**

- District 1.....Muskoka
- District 2.....Georgian Bay
- District 3.....Bruce County
- District 4.....Waterloo Region
- District 5.....Huron Perth
- District 6.....London Region
- District 7.....Sarnia Region
- District 8.....Windsor/Essex
- District 9.....Chatham Region
- District 10.....Elgin Region
- District 11.....Brantford
- District 12.....Niagara Region
- District 13.....St .Catharines
- District 14.....Hamilton West
- District 15.....Hamilton East
- District 16.....Mississauga
- District 17.....Upper Peel-Halton
- District 18.....Dufferin, York, Simcoe
- District 19.....Toronto North
- District 20..... Toronto West
- District 21.....Toronto Central
- District 22.....Scarborough
- District 23.....Lakeshore
- District 24.....Kawartha
- District 25.....Quinte
- District 26.....St Lawrence Region
- District 27.....Seaway Valley
- District 28.....Ottawa
- District 30..... Upper Ottawa Valley
- District 31.....Loyalist
- District 32.....Kawartha South

**ASK IT BASKET**

**Why would a service meeting be noted as a group in our District? They act as Public Outreach in the correctional facility. Ruby S, District #22**

**Response:** It is a registered group with WSO so therefore a meeting in your group.

**If two separate groups share the same meeting space on different nights, should they share a box with their books, etc? Suzanne, District #26**

**Response:** Group autonomy to be decided by group conscience between the two groups. "Self-supporting" through our own voluntary contributions.

**Suggestion. In our envelopes, each page numbered, so therefore, go to page 13 for budget, not searching all the pages. Rita District #16**

**Response:** Please address this through the Evaluation Sheet

**ASK IT BASKET**

**Group conscience. If the GR takes a group conscience at a business meeting with perhaps 6 or 7 only attendees, but the group is 20 members, does this constitute a group conscience.? Gwen G via Suzanne, District 26**

**Response:** See page 38 and 39 in your Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual on group conscience.