

Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

February 1, 2009

Please pass this issue among the members of your Group.

Vol. 32, No. 1

Things to Think About!

There are always few housekeeping things that need to be addressed in the turnover year.

1. Group Records needs to have a current mailing address. This address is shared with WSO and Open Lines. You are responsible for sharing the information and you can only do that if you receive it! Please keep us informed of any address changes. If you are not receiving your information from WSO please ensure that we have the correct mailing information.
2. Money Matters: Remember to change the address of any donations coming from the groups to OSA. The address for the new treasurer is found on the last page of the Open Lines. Please ensure you include your group number and a current mailing address.
3. Open Lines invites all groups to send in events that are happening around your district. Getting the word out is what Open Lines is all about.

Background Information about Open Lines

On November 12th, 1977 by a majority vote 'Open Lines' became the name of the newsletter for OSA.

On May 30th, 1998 a motion was made to have 'Open Lines' publish in February, May, August and November.

Open Lines is your newsletter with the purpose of keeping the membership informed. Please ensure that Open Lines is made available within your groups.

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 01/05/2009 it is time to renew. Please forward your renewal to Sharon R., address on page 11, as soon as possible. I generally try to include a renewal slip but I am human and may miss. Please check your dates.

Delegate Report

Another new year has started for all of us, as well, your new Executive and Coordinators are starting their 3 year journey down another service road. Handover weekend was on January 10th in Markham. It was sad, joyous, electrifying, exciting and gratifying. It was time to say goodbye to old friends and greet new friends. I am so grateful to AI-Anon for giving me the love & friendship that at times was not available to me until I walked through the doors.

Saturday was like a high school reunion with all outgoing and incoming Executive and Coordinators – we were 22 very noisy and boisterous, loving AI-Anon members reuniting for a very energetic meeting. Service gives me so much – so much love, friendship, knowledge, laughs, self esteem ... and the list goes on. Area 86 – Ontario South is very fortunate to have so many wonderful, energetic people willing to do service.

My new journey as your Delegate for the next three years has just begun. Everyday, I have new emails in my mail box from WSO, the other Canadian Delegates – my new friends that I have not met yet.....Plans are underway for the World Service Conference in April 2009 and my printer is running wild. To quote my fellow Delegate from Quebec East Area 87 Trudy C. in an email just opened up today upon my return “When the Conference gets on its way it seems that «reading» becomes our middle name. Like Micheline, I'll have to do it “One Day At The Time.” I too, will keep my Slogans in mind during this pre- Conference time.

I am so fortunate to have a wonderful Service Sponsor in Joan P. As an Area, you will not be disappointed in your elected servants. The enthusiasm at the handover meeting was touchable. The next three years will be very exciting....

Thank you all for your vote of confidence.

Much Love & Hugs
Claire Duthie
Delegate Panel 49
Ontario South

Alternate Delegate Report

As I turn the page into a New Year, I sit to write this message. December thirty first's reading in Courage to Change has given me a lot to think about. I have taken time to contemplate the progress, the heartache and the joys over the last year. I owe the support of my sponsors and all those in the fellowship in large part, to my success in keeping me on track with my program as I continued to live my life One Day At A Time.

As I leave behind me the role of Area Secretary, it is not with sadness, as I have a new role as your Alternate Delegate. Service work has always been, and will continue to be, rewarding to me as I give back to the fellowship, what has been so freely given to me. In my new role as Alternate Delegate, I will have the opportunity to work with your Area Co-ordinators, encouraging them to go out to your districts. So let's help the Co-ordinators help you to get the word out there of our wonderful fellowship and what it has to offer. Each Co-ordinator has a budget for travelling and putting on workshops. Invite them to be a part of your District's AI-Anon Day, or to speak at your Group's anniversary. Feel free to write or e-mail them with any suggestions you may have. Their contact information is only a page away in your Group's copy of Open Lines. I also have the opportunity of being the Forum Liaison. I would encourage your groups to subscribe, if it is financially feasible, to a one year's subscription so that all members would have an opportunity to take it home, read, and return so all can share in having a meeting in their pocket. Who knows were that may lead? Someone may want their own subscription if they had the opportunity to get a glimpse of what the Forum has to offer.

(Hugs) in Service,
Heather P.

Literature Coordinator Report

Hi Friends!

My name is Jean McS and I am your new Literature Coordinator. I am filled with gratitude for this opportunity to continue in my service journey. I know that I will be exposed to new and wonderful experiences in Al-Anon through this position and that my Higher Power will give me opportunities to grow in recovery.

As I was writing this article, I got my first phone call as Literature Coordinator – how exciting! The member calling wanted to order some literature – that’s not my job. When you want to order literature, you need to contact the Literature Distribution Centre (see the contact information at the back of this copy of Open Lines). So what does the Literature Coordinator do exactly? The Al-Anon Guidelines (G-6) say, among other things, that I act as a resource for Ontario South on Conference Approved Literature (CAL); inform WSO about Ontario South literature activities; offer support and information to the Ontario South Literature Distribution Centre; encourage the use of Al-Anon literature in recognition of service, as gifts, in fund-raising and in service work; distribute bookmarks, flyers and other materials at area functions on behalf of WSO; encourage members to write sharings for ongoing and new CAL projects. I have so much to learn in my new service position! Like so many other things in Al-Anon, I’m not alone – many of you are starting a new service position too and will face the same kind of challenges as I will. Good luck to all of us! Remember, we don’t have to do it perfectly ... just the best that we can one day at a time.

Just a reminder that March 4th is our co-founder Lois W’s birthday. In remembrance of Lois, on that day please intentionally “forget” a piece of Al-Anon literature in a public place (eg. on the bus, in a public wash-room, as a bookmark in a library book, in your shopping cart, whatever comes to mind). Try to put a local Al-Anon telephone number or website somewhere on the literature. Something like “Are You Concerned about Someone’s Drinking” (M-1) costs only \$1.80 for a package of 50 and would work beautifully. Imagine, if each Al-Anon member around the world left just one piece of literature, there would be hundreds of thousands of opportunities for someone who needs our program to find us. Let it begin with me ...

As you read this, I have abandoned winter and am sunning myself (with plenty of sun-blocker) in beautiful and hot Australia. I am on the Sunshine Coast, an hour’s drive north of Brisbane. My home group here meets on Thursday mornings and when I sit in the Chairperson’s place at the table, I can see the Pacific Ocean – so I make sure that I take my turn chairing meetings! I never get tired of looking at the ocean. Al-Anon members here are just as loving and nurturing as those at your home group and they are taking good care of me – picking me up for meetings and involving me in their local service activities. I feel right at home.

Love in Service,
Jean McS

Open Lines Coordinator Report

Hi Friends,

I am Sharon, a grateful member of Southend Discussion AFG in Niagara Falls and I am your new editor for Open Lines. I am looking forward to helping Ontario South ‘Get the word out’. I have some ideas but am going to need your help. I would love to see excerpt in other languages. Since a lot of our membership here in Ontario South is French or Spanish speaking I would like to request that those folks please send me some pearls of wisdom which I will try to include (space can be limited) into future editions of Open Lines. In the meantime, if your group is hosting an event send me an email and I will add it to the upcoming events section. Please help me get the word out!!

Hugs in service

Sharon

□
□ Laughter is a smile with the volume turned up! □
□ □

Public Outreach Coordinator Report

Hello everyone,

It's snowing here in Embrun, mind you it seems to be always snowing here. I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and are ready for the coming year. I've been thinking about what I hope to accomplish during my term as Public Outreach Coordinator and lots of HUGE and lofty goals come running into my head. But having learned that I'm human and not wonder woman (as I used to think) I've set my goals on what I hope are modest and doable levels.

I had a chance to voice my goals over the weekend at the area pass off, and was given some terrific suggestions on how to engage Area 86 (that's you) in the process. Here's the idea, borrowed from CBC's "one million acts of green".

Ontario South's 1,000 Acts of Public Outreach.

I would like to see each of our members perform "ONE" act of public outreach. It doesn't have to be spectacular, or complicated, or time consuming. It can be as simple as leaving a piece of literature some where for some one to discover. Creativity is encouraged, and fun is a given. I haven't figured out how to update you as to our progress, but I will sort that out as we go along. Possibly a Blog for you to monitor. So what do you say? 1,000 acts over 3 years in Ontario South?

Email me your acts along with your first name and district, and start us on the way. I have received the 1st act from Peterborough. The enthusiastic women of Public Outreach delivered some books to Crossroads YMCA shelter. Thanks ladies.

So the challenge is on.

Yours in service
Michele

Website Coordinator Report

Bonjour a tous! Wow I would of never thought that service work would be so much fun. Taking care of the Website is very special to me. When I was looking for a meeting for the first time, it was through the Website that I found my local meeting. I hope that one day you can google your way to a meeting via your Blackberry. Remember there's a lot more than meeting list on this Website. Explore and you shall discover.

Yours in service,
Louise H.

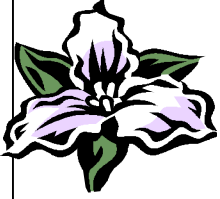
Corrections:

In the December 1st, 2008 Group Records Report the label numbers were inadvertently reversed. They should have read area/ district / group number. An example would be Area 86 District 12 then the group number 12345 so a Group Record Label Number would look like 86 12 12345.

Also, the trusted servant list dates were not changed. The folks listed are your executive and coordinators for the 2009-2011 term. My apologies to the group for any misunderstandings.

Martie B.

Outgoing Coordinator for Open Lines.



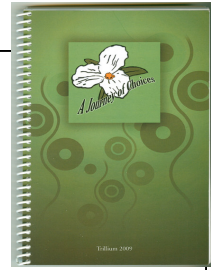
Trillium 2009 Coordinators Report

“A Journey of Choices”

Trillium 2009

June 19-21

Doubletree International Hotel, Toronto



Your Trillium committee is very excited about the plans that we have for you for this year's Trillium Conference. As new GR's and DR's we need you to continue with the task of promoting Trillium in your home groups and districts. With your excitement and enthusiasm Trillium will be able to reach out to many of our members and support them in their recovery journeys through enhancing the sense of fellowship and recovery through our shared experiences, strength and hope.

We are very excited about our main speakers: - Friday Night Opening speaker, Claire R., Virginia Beach, Virginia – Saturday Night main speaker, Gen B., Port Hawkesbury, NS – Sunday Morning Closing speaker, Pamela W., Niagara Falls, ON

At this point we have 80 “some” early registrations. WOW! REMEMBER for those who register prior to Trillium there will be 2 more draws for a free registration (March 1 and April 5) and there will also be a draw for 1 night's free accommodation on May 3.

Our journals are this year's Trillium memento. Journals will continue to be made available between now and Trillium by contacting me (mjhurley1@rogers.com). They are priced a \$3 for one or 2 for \$5.

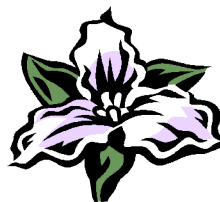
What can you do for Trillium?

- Use the flyer that is attached to Open Lines, photocopy it and personally hand it to your group members.
- Talk about how you can plan to get to Trillium – what would it take? Car pooling, saving your money now....
- Register early even if you have missed the early registration of February 6. It really helps with our cash flow!
- SAM's going to Trillium – please register early and call 705 429-1740 so that our Alateen co-ordinators could enlist your help with some part of the conference.
- Alateens attending Trillium will need to bring the completed permission and health forms. GR'S and DR's will need to ensure that they are aware of this and that the forms can be found on the Ontario south web site.
- Book directly with the hotel (see the flyer) for your hotel room by February 6, 2009 to get the early rate. Failing meeting this date, register with the hotel as soon as you know that you will be attending. Knowing the room bookings in advance helps us again with our financial commitments for this conference.
- Plan how your group and district will fundraise to financially support Trillium. A few ideas: keep a loose change tin on your table marked Trillium contributions and pass it around at the end of your meeting. Make Trillium a budget item as part of your District's budget and contribute from district revenues. Host a Games Night, a Potluck Dinner, a Spaghetti Dinner or anything else that you might devise and send the proceeds to Trillium
- Donations can be sent to Trillium 2009 care of 15 Mattawa Crt., Whitby L1P 1E3
- A little forward thinking.... As you plan to come think about what your favourite sandwich tray or veggie tray or fruit tray or whatever goodie you can bring to contribute to the Hospitality Room.
-

Please continue to check with our Ontario South web site to find Trillium updates.

In Al Anon we never have to do anything on our own and this holds true with our Trillium Conference. We need each of you!

Love and Gratitude in Service
Jane H.



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 14

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Deadline</u> | <u>Distribution</u> |
| Issue 2 April 14, 2009 | May 1, 2009 |
| Issue 3 July 14, 2009 | August 1, 2009 |
| Issue 4 November 14, 2009 | December 1, 2009 |

Late distribution occurs occasionally for unavoidable reasons.

Subscription Rates:
In Canada \$4.50 (1 year) \$8.00 (2 years)

Send NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS to:
Open Lines Coordinator, Address on page 14

All ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on page 14

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Calendar of Ontario South Events

"May 1, 2, & 3, 2009 - 44th Niagara Blossom Time Convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly Sheraton, Brock Plaza Hotel) overlooking Niagara Falls, ON, Canada. Full AA, Al-Anon and Alateen program. Flyer on the Ontario South website with mailings to District Reps. Everyone welcome. See the website for further information <http://blossomtimeconvention.com>

June 19-21 Trillium 2009
"A Journey of Choice"
Double Tree Hotel in Toronto 416-244-1711 or Fax 416-244-7281 to reserve your room. Tell them you are attending Trillium 2009. See flyer for convention registration information.

Saturday, April 18th District 12 will hosts its annual Spring Thaw Day. Location St. John's Anglican Church 3428 Portage Road in Niagara Falls. The event will run from 9am till approximately 3pm. Pot luck lunch, great speakers. See you there!

Saturday May 9, 2008 District 6 London Region Al-Anon Day, 9:00am - 3:30pm, Al-Anon, AA and Alateen Speakers, Cold Pot-luck lunch at noon, \$5.00 Adults, Youth free, Tickets available in advance and at the door, contact Katherine W 519-870-4751, New St James Presbyterian Church, 280 Oxford St East (at Wellington) London Ontario

Districts 14/15 Al-Anon Day
Theme: "Building Bridges"
Date: April 18/09
Time: 0900-1600 hrs.
Location: Mount Hamilton Baptist Church
626 Upper Wentworth Street, Hamilton.
Pot luck (**NO PEANUT PRODUCTS PLEASE**)
Program: We hope to have speakers, educational sessions, fellowship and fun.



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 West
- District 29.....Ottawa East
- District 30.....Upper Ottawa Valley
- District 31.....Loyalist
- District 32.....Kawartha South

YOU COULD HAVE LET SOMEONE KNOW ABOUT YOUR
UPCOMING EVENT HERE!!!

CONTACT SHARON AT OPEN LINES
rreeb1@cogeco.ca
To have your event posted on this page

Its ok to visit your past.
Just don't bring any luggage with you!