

OPEN LINES

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Quick Links for Ontario South

[Group Records Change Form](#)

Donation Form or E-transfers can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer. Please note **your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer.**

[Form C for SAMS \(Supportive Al-Anon Member\)](#)

[Literature Order Forms](#) (Printable and Fillable)

[Area Policy Manual](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Al-Anon Declaration

Let it begin with me

When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there and *let it begin with me.*

Statement of Purpose

Open Lines is published three times a year 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.

Subscription: Rates:

Free for **personal email** subscription.

If you wish to receive a paper copy in the mail, subscription rates for copies mailed in Canada are \$15.00 for 1 year.

Please send a request for NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to:

openlinesosa@gmail.com

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[Ontario South Website](#) (Al-anon.alateen.on.ca)

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 & 15](#).....Hamilton-Burlington
- District 16..... Mississauga, Oakville
- 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 & 29](#).... Ottawa
- District 30.....Upper Ottawa Valley
- District 31.....Kingston Region
- District 32.....Kawartha South

From the Ontario South Delegate

Open Lines – Delegate Report, March 2022

We have all been on this journey together. I want to thank you for your kind words of support for your encouragement and for your input. I am so grateful to be a part of Al-Anon Ontario South.

2022 Ontario South AWSC:

The Area Executive has been busy planning the up-coming 2022 AWSC. We had hoped that it would be an easy transition and that we would all be together at an in-person AWSC. That will not be the case. There are still a lot of unknowns and restrictions in place. Typically, AWSC would be held at Durham College. As an Executive we decided that it was important to poll the AWSC Members. We provided some background information that was given to us by the College to assist in decision making. Basically, it came down to this question: Do you want to meet in person or hold the meeting electronically. At this point offering a hybrid meeting was not a consideration to additional costs and other unknowns. I look forward to seeing all the Coordinators and District Representatives during the last weekend of May on Zoom.

2022 World Service Conference:

The theme of the conference for 2022 is;

Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding
Enriquecer nuestra recuperación a través de la abundancia, unidad y comprensión
Enrichir notre rétablissement par l'abondance, l'unité et la compréhension

As your Delegate to World Service Conference, I have been given the opportunity to attend a variety of meetings. I have learned so much about how to really listen and learn. I love it! I am excited to announce that the 62nd World Service Conference will be held in person in Tarrytown New York during the last week of April. That's right, a week-long Al-Anon business meeting. Phew, I must admit that I am nervous and more than a little overwhelmed. I am also excited to participate and to know that all of YOU along with my Higher Power will be with me on each step of this journey.

Part of my trip to New York will include a visit to Stepping Stones. This has been a dream of mine for over 20 years. As a Conference member I will also see what an open Policy Committee Meeting is all about. The Conference Leadership Team has made the decision that no physical packages of love gifts will be accepted/distributed. That includes mail. If you would like to send me anything, please send your words/gifts of encouragement to my home address.

I want to share a little of the Chairperson's Letter to the Board (COB Letter). Financial contributions to WSO are trending downward while costs continue to rise. It is important for our groups to contribute what we are able so that that WSO can continue to provide services. Here are some numbers to consider:

Revenue consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other revenue includes magazine sales and investment gains or losses. Literature sales for December were **\$213,541**. Contributions for December were **\$368,734**. **Expenses** The largest categories of expenses consist of WSO staff salaries and benefits, printing, technology support, and postage. Expenses for December were \$558,217. WSO works very hard to reduce cost whenever possible. All in all, Members continue to make a difference with their ongoing financial support. Thank You!

Opening Up: As we move forward in the process of pivoting to in-person meetings it is important for us to make certain that all voices are heard. There will be some challenges, but I have no doubt that you are all up to the challenge. I look forward to seeing you live and in person as we make the transitions. Please consider inviting an Executive Member or Coordinator to your meetings and/or events. Our contact information is right here in Open Lines.

Save the Date!!!

2022 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect this event was moved from in-person to online in 2021. This year we are looking forward to an in-person event that will be held on October 29, 2022, in Cleveland, OH! Mark your calendars and come join the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee members for a day of fun and connecting with each other.

2023 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation

**June 29 –July 2, 2023
in Albuquerque!**



Yours in Service,

Gwen D. OSA Delegate, Panel 61

Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding
Enriquecer nuestra recuperación a través de la abundancia, unidad y comprensión
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From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Ontario South. As your area chair, I keep track of all of the items and set the agenda for our area business meetings. The executive meets a minimum of three times a year, district representatives meet in May, group representatives meet in October. I put together the information of most of this, with lots of support from executive members, coordinators, and others. At least seventy-five percent of my role is “behind the scenes”. And then I get to chair the actual meetings. This is the fun part for me.

AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING, May 27 - 29, Oshawa. A survey has been sent to those invited as to whether they are able to meet in person or virtual at this time.

ASSEMBLY 2022, October 14 - 16, Ottawa. The Host Committee will be meeting and planning again for another great Assembly.

ASSEMBLY 2023, October 20 – 22, Mississauga. Districts 17 and 16 and volunteers have stepped up to form a host committee. If you would like to help, please contact myself or the district representatives.

LITERATURE OPERATING COMMITTEE, March and October. I have the honor of being a member of this committee and look forward to serving in any way I can again this year.

TRILLIUM – Some members have stepped up and are beginning planning meetings. They can always use a lot more help. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact me.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our area executive meets in February, July and November.
- Any member can send an item for consideration to any member of the executive at any time. The form for this is now on our area website for easy access by members at <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms/> .
- You will receive a response to your item following the executive meeting that it was discussed at.
- All members have access to our area policy and guidelines manual on our area website <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual/> .

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Gratefully Yours,

Sandy O. Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly chairons86@gmail.com

From the Ontario South Treasurer

Happy 2022! I hope this is the year we see the end of this pandemic.

Donations to the area can be made either by e-transfer or by cheque.

E-transfers can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer.

IMPORTANT Please note your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer. I need more than just the name of your group. The name of your group could be the same as another group in a different district.

Or, if you prefer, make your cheque payable to “Ontario South Assembly” and mail to P.O. Box 1151, Station Main, Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3. For proper accounting please use the donation form found in the area manual. Go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca, member section, area policy manual, Section 10, Form D – donation form.

The budgeted amount required from each group for 2022 is \$110.62.

Thanks again for putting your trust in me.

Janet B Treasurer osatreasurer3@gmail.com

From the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)

Hello everyone. I process the following for Area 86:

- New Alateen group forms
- Alateen group change forms
- New Supportive Al-Anon Member (SAM) certification applications
- SAM Recertifications
- SAM change forms

Notice to all SAMs and District Representatives:

- All SAMs must recertify every year
- **2022 is the year for all SAMs to obtain a criminal record check including vulnerable sector**
- All recertifications need to be completed processing by **early June**
- All recertifications form and Police Record Checks need to be sent to me by the **middle of April**, latest, to allow time for processing

***** I haven't received very many forms and Police Records Checks yet, so please get going on your part *****

Should you wish to become a Supportive Al-Anon Member (an Al-Anon member certified to work with Alateens) please refer to the applicable section of the Al-Anon Ontario South, Area 86 website. www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca

Briefly, you will obtain a police record check including vulnerable sector screening from your local police station, in person or on-line. You will seal this in an envelope and give it to your District Representative (DR) along with the completed Area form (also found on the Area website). Your DR will complete the form and send it to me for processing.

Some cities, towns etc. may reduce or eliminate the processing fee. If this applies to you, you may request a letter from the Area Chair, Sandy O at chairons86@gmail.com. You will need to provide Sandy with your full legal name for the letter.

Your District may reimburse you for any expenses, if not, the Area will. The Area expense form is also found on the Area website.

Feel free to get in touch with me.

Jean McS, aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com

From the Alateen Coordinator

Happy almost Spring Ontario South! This morning I spied a male cardinal in the tree just outside my window singing his song (calling for a mate?), and it lifted my heart.

Currently, there are 13 registered Alateen groups in Southern Ontario, of which 9 are operating. Which means 4 are temporarily inactive 😞. 6 are online, 1 is in-person and online 2 are in-person – way to go! I'm keeping on top of the meeting list on the website and contacting the person when there appears to be a change.

I continue to get inquiries from parents and a few social workers about help for teens and I always respond quickly with general information about Alateen and request a quick zoom meeting or phone call if the meeting is online. I've had a couple of calls and meetings, but sadly, I've also had no further follow-up in numerous instances. This can be disheartening, but also allows me to work the spiritual principles. I know I was not ready to make changes in my life, any changes, until I was ready. I need to always keep this in mind and keep my hand out there with an open heart for the still suffering teen. I feel like I had a choice to stay or go, but teens often don't, which is part of the hardness of it for me.

The meeting that I sponsor moved it's time (and soon to be place) as of the beginning of February, (from Saturday 10:00 am to Sunday 7:00 pm). The change allows me to attend my Saturday a.m. Al-Anon meeting (1 of two) every week and also the Sunday 7:00 pm Al-Anon meeting is larger and therefore has the potential to attract more Alateen presence, when we go back to in-person.

I was asked by two different districts, within the same two weeks in January, to hold a workshop. District 16 wanted specifically to discuss the topic of How Al-Anon can Help Alateen. To this end, we organized and held a workshop on Feb. 12 to have this discussion. Information on what Alateen is and is not, and recertification process was also provided. There is a power-point presentation I created for it, which is available for your districts if you want to have it. I used one of the series of Modules which are on the AFG Connects Alateen community, tailoring it specifically to this topic and to the Ontario South Safety and Behavioural Guidelines and the most current Service Manual. There were approximately 25 members in attendance in a variety of service roles. A list of items was compiled by one of the members from various sources of CAL and this will be posted on the Ont. S. website, coordinators corner, Alateen section.

I am still planning to organize ongoing and ongoing series of training workshops for AMAIS's (Sponsors/SAMs) and people interested in becoming one and will be working on the modules on this topic to tailor it to Ontario South specifically. News will follow when one is being scheduled.

The Alateen presence at the virtual 2022 version of the O.R.C. will consist of one main Alateen speaker, which will occur on Saturday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m. Alateen members to chair and do the various readings at that Alateen meeting were still being sought at the time of this submission.

I'm still hoping to organize a Unity Conference at some point in 2022 and will work with the previous Ont. S. Alateen Coordinator on this project, as time allows. GTAIS is talking about potentially having an Al-Anon Day in the Fall and I didn't want to step on that, so I'm just biding my time on this project for now. It seems prudent to wait and see as the world re-opens as well.

Alateen members are being asked to share their Experience, Strength and Hope for a New Alateen Bookmark called Just for Tonight. There is a post on the Alateen Coordinator page on the Ontario South Al-Anon website. Deadline for submission was extended to March 31, 2022. There are instructions on how to submit. Please let your Alateens know about it.

Yours in service,

Carrie Earl Ontario South Alateen Coordinator os.alateen.coordinator@gmail.com /
check it frequently and will always answer any queries you may have.

*We love you, lots and lots, and more and more, and then some. And whole bunches baby.
Hug someone as soon as you can – it's good for your health 😊*

From the Group Records Coordinator

Happy Spring to everyone!

I am the group record keeper for Ontario South, a grateful member of Southend Discussion AFG in Niagara Falls and my name is Sharon.

I have enjoyed reaching out to many of you for clarification on submissions via the group records change form. This form is design to help myself and the website coordinator help you to keep your records up to date on both the WSO website and the Ontario South website. Nicky and I have worked to improve this form so it is easier for us to see what changes need to be made as well as to include each group number!

Link to [Group Record Change form](#)

I know we are not all technically savvy, and the form may not feel comfortable but, it is the most efficient way to make changes. As Covid restrictions are lifted and groups return to in person meetings there are a lot of changes being made.

WSO has sent out their forms for updating their records. Please note that changes made with WSO may take a bit longer to process through Ontario South's website. My goal is always to make changes once a week, but life often happens, and it is delayed a day or two longer than that so please be patient with me.

In the near future, it is the goal of myself and Nicky to send out a request similar to what the WSO has put out in order to ensure all our information is up to date. This information was always given in writing to the District Reps at AWSC and again at OSA and groups updated once they reviewed that information. With Covid and these events being online this process has not happened for the last couple of years. Groups have been suspended as meeting places were not allowing members in and some were strictly on Zoom.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and trust that our higher powers will keep us all healthy and safe.

In service,

Sharon R, Group Records Coordinator qrprec@hotmail.com

From the Open Lines Coordinator

I'd like to introduce myself as the new incoming Open Lines Coordinator. Sue M, as the outgoing Coordinator is helping to guide me in this new position. I am so grateful for all the nudges and encouragement I received as I considered stepping forward for this amazing Service Opportunity.

I have never felt alone anytime I have been accepted to a Service Position and this one is no exception. As the reports started to fill my email box, I was even more excited. Before my Al-Anon Program, I might have felt a great deal of fear. I have not been fearful because I know I have Sue to guide me and all of you and my Higher Power supporting me.

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity to serve.

Loretta V, Open Lines Coordinator openlinesosa@gmail.com

From the Public Outreach Coordinator

Hello all,

Thank you to those who attended and helped make our zoom, Public Outreach workshop, on November 20th, a success. On that same day, near the end of the workshop, we showed “Lois’s Story” a video about the beginnings of Al-Anon. Lois is a great role model for us to learn what carrying the message of Al-Anon looks like.

District 16, with the help of Greater Toronto Al-Anon Information Services, did a 28-day digital billboard display over the Christmas holidays, starting on December 20 and going into January 2022. Many Al-Anon members saw the poster on the digital billboard. Only time will tell how many newcomers we attracted. It would be most helpful if groups could ask a newcomer how they heard about Al-Anon. I would love to hear what these responses are so I can compile a list and send to our Public Outreach committees. That way they have a better idea which projects are successful.

Over the next month and a half, I will be attending some workshops with other coordinators. I hope to bring back to the committees some new information.

Please continue to forward your minutes to the email indicated below please remember to put your district in the subject line. I would love reading about the amazing work the committees do.

Blessings of the season. Stay safe and healthy,

Geraldine R., Public Outreach Coordinator ontariosouthpo@gmail.com

From the Website Coordinator



Important website changes: All Ontario South forms on one page

A change has been implemented in the Ontario South ‘For Members’ section of the website.

The Area Policy Manual Section 10 forms have been moved to a separate page: ‘Ontario South Forms’. This page contains not only the links to the APM forms, but also buttons to other available online forms. In addition, the internet addresses of all online forms now have logical

names instead of numbers. See the list below for the new names. You can enter these names in your internet browser to access the forms directly.

Online Group Records Registration & Change Form	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/group-records-form
Upload New Event	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/new-event
Alateen New Group Registrations Online Form	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/alateen-new-group-registration
Alateen Existing Group Change Online Form	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/alateen-group-change
Donations Ontario South	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/donations
Section 10 Form E Expense Form 2018 01.pdf	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/expense-claim
Items for Consideration*	https://jotform.com/OntarioSouth/items-for-consideration

*Please note that the online form ‘Items for consideration’ is now available throughout the year for sending your comments and questions to the Area Executive. Upon submitting the form, your ‘Items for consideration’ are automatically emailed to the Area Chair. You are no longer limited to Area events such as AWSC and Assembly to use the form. You will receive an email with a confirmation of your submission that includes a downloadable PDF.

Buttons on other pages (find a meeting, upload an event, etc) have not been changed, to help with easy navigating; but they are also included in the updated page ‘Ontario South Forms’.

Another change: SSL certificate now in place for Ontario South website

In recent months, the Ontario South Area has decided to invest in keeping our website secure by approving the purchase of an SSL certificate as part of our hosting plan. Some members had asked about the ‘not secure’ alert they noticed in their browsers due to the lack of this certificate. This is now a thing of the past and the site-address shows as ‘https’ and has a closed padlock.



Note that all you need to enter in your browser is al-anon.alateen.on.ca (‘www’ or ‘https’ are not required)

Why spend money on an SSL certificate? Secure ‘https’ websites are like a vote of confidence for visitors: they can be sure that they are connecting to the organisation they are reaching out to. Many internet browsers are starting to disregard insecure websites, and some will not even allow navigating there anymore in future and show alarming security alerts. This was one of the main reasons to get the SSL-certificate. A positive by-product is that our website will now score even better in online searches.

The analytics of the past 3 months

Visits to the Ontario South are stable with an average of 7,000 unique users per 3 months (sessions: 13,000). There were 35,668 pageviews and visitors spent an average of 3 minutes on the website, which is a score that indicates that they are not just page clicking, but also reading and investigating our information. These numbers have reached a stablepoint in the past year, which tells me that our website is a trusted place to go and return to for (mainly) meeting and event information. Our Newcomer page is also a predictable part of the Top 5 of pageviews.

My gratitude goes to all who keep supporting me in my position: it is an ongoing joy to do my service for the Ontario South Area and Al-Anon as a whole!

Nicky D., Website Coordinator Ontario South os.website.a86@gmail.com

District Representative Updates

District 1 (Muskoka, Simcoe) Update

A few of our groups are now meeting face-to-face while others remain on zoom for the immediate future. Each group is making decisions that work for their members as well as the churches and locations where meetings are held.

The Riverside/Georgian (in Parry Sound) group is hoping to be celebrating in-person their 70th anniversary this Summer/Fall. We all hope to be celebrating with them!

Regards,

Nora P, DR for District 1

District 23 (Lakeshore) Update

Hello from District 23! There have been a few changes since our last update. Lakeshore District 23 currently has 9 active meetings. Meetings stretch from Pickering (in the west) to Bowmanville (in the east) and Port Perry (in the north). Traditions AFG in Oshawa has returned to F2F meetings, and New Hope Pickering AFG has moved to a hybrid format. Brooklin New Beginnings AFG remains closed for the foreseeable future or until a new physical location can be identified. The Alateen meeting has moved to Sundays at 7 PM and there are 3 Supportive Al-Anon Members available to support the teens.

The remaining 7 groups continue on the Zoom platform, and it is anticipated that most groups will be discussing the logistics of returning to in-person meetings in the coming months - what a wonderful opportunity to use the tools of our program and the Legacies to encourage open, honest and respectful conversation and arrive at a group conscience that supports our common welfare and unity!

District 23 Public Outreach will be hosting the 2nd Annual Virtual Spaghetti Dinner on 23April22 at 6 PM. The flyer is posted on the OSA website. Last year's event was a great success, and the POC is hoping to attract more members to participate and enjoy an evening of fellowship and entertainment. There will be an Early Bird draw on 07Apr22 for a prize to cover the cost of your

dinner, so purchase your tickets early to get your name/email added to the draw. Dinner tickets can be purchased by eTransfer to district23poc@gmail.com. Tickets for the 50/50 draw can be obtained by eTransfer to janicemcintyre1@hotmail.com.

Our district meetings continue monthly on the Zoom platform. Using Guideline G-15 as a reference, one GR per month picks a 'topic of choice' from the suggested discussion topics and provides a brief presentation, followed by sharing and discussion by the others. It's been a positive and engaging experience thus far.

Slogan: Let Go and Let God. So much of my distress at times is because of my resistance to what is. This slogan reminds me to breathe, let go, and trust the outcome knowing that I'm doing my best at all times.

Happy Spring!

Hope, Unity, GratITUDE, Service

Deborah F, DR District 23

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update

As things seem to be settling down a bit and the world feels a bit more pre pandemic I need to tell you that some things at this moment haven't changed. The office continues to run on reduced hours of Monday-Thursday from 10-1. You may feel free to leave an email or message at any time, but this is when they will be responded to.

As groups continue to move back to in person the need for longer hours may occur (I hope they will) and if they do you will be notified through your DR/GR. Feel free to ask them occasionally if you want to know of anything area related as they are your links of service.

Also not changed is that WSO is having huge printer delays. The printers have delays getting the products they need and staffing due to covid, and then everything grinds to a halt. What I am doing at my end is checking daily to see when these items are back on the shelf so I can order stock for you. I even check on my days off. The earliest I can get items in I do. Right now, I have everything on the shelves but How AI-Anon Works. I began trying to order in early Jan when I had still quite a few on the shelf but they are still not available to me. Because of the longer than normal delays I am putting any items that I cannot get and have none of on a separate order and you will be notified when they are on route. Only at that point will I request payment, and your order will be first filled. Once these delays are sorted and things are available to me on a more consistent basis, as they used to be, orders will be processed as they were in the past.

I have been including a few free outreach bookmarks with orders over the past months. Some people don't know they exist, so this is the way to get the word out. If you haven't received any with your orders, let me know and I'll drop a few in.

Our Ontario South speaker list continues to expand. It is so nice to see people willing to reach out and share their experience, strength, and hope. When I am asked to send this list out, I do ask 2 things. I ask the receiver to ask anyone they are reaching out to if they are still in active attendance. I try to stay on top of things but of course anyone's situation can change on a moments notice. I also ask them to destroy the list once they are done with it. That way all personal information is kept confidential. If anyone else needs the list, they can reach out to me.

The new service manual should be on the shelves at the end of the summer. 'Should' being the operative word due to printer delays. I have a few of the current ones here if anyone wishes to purchase them. It is certainly an inexpensive way for a member interested in service to understand how our program works. I also still have two World Conference summaries from 2021 if any group or district wishes to buy them, they are also inexpensive and a great way to understand what service is like at WSO.

I am hoping that many of us will see each other this year in person instead of electronically. Fingers crossed. Stay well.

In service, **Linda LDC Office Manager** os.literature.distribution@gmail.com

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

These are items that members have sent to the area executive for discussion and consideration.

Items can be sent to any member of the area executive at any time.

Our delegate's email is ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com.

(The only items that are published are from members who have provided their consent.)

A member suggests:

That any monies disbursed by the Ontario South Treasurer and/or the Ontario South Executive, other than the expenses approved in the budget be brought to the Assembly to be voted on by the membership. *(This item was a motion at Assembly during the budget discussion.)*

Karla W, district 16

Response:

Please consider the following information.

- Paths to Recovery, page 264
- Tradition 2 For our group purpose there is but one authority - a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants - they do not govern.
- Concept 3 The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.

The area executives are the trusted servants to carry out their roles, make decisions and take action. When the executive needs direction from AWSC or Assembly they do so. The minority

voice has been heard with respect to this matter. It has also now been discussed at both an AWSC meeting and an Assembly.

A member suggests:

I would like to put forward an item for discussion at the next Ontario South Executive meeting, which will hopefully be forwarded to AWSC and Assembly for further discussion. My items concern two procedures that are currently used at Assembly, and I'm assuming AWSC, and are being brought forward keeping Tradition 12 in mind. The first procedure involves the Chairperson's ability to unilaterally, and with a lack of transparency to the Assembly, determine whether a motion put forward should be heard at Assembly or referred to the Area Executive for further consideration. The second procedure involves the Ontario South Area Executive's unilateral ability to decide whether to dismiss motions or items for discussion, or forward them to AWSC and Assembly for further discussion. I, as well as other members in my District, feel these procedures are contrary to the basic principles of the Al-Anon program because they take away the voice and authority of the Assembly and give decision making power and control to the Ontario South Area Executive. Concept 1 states that "the ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world service belongs to the Al-Anon groups". The lack of transparency in the current process denies the rights of the Assembly members to hear the concerns or ideas brought forward by their fellow members. Decisions in Al-Anon are made by the Assembly (Concept 1), which has the added advantage that it takes away any potential risk of putting one person, or Committee, in a position of dominance, or conflict of interest, with the members at large and protects Tradition 12.

Di B, district 16

Response:

The chairperson and executive are elected to ensure the smooth functioning of the business of Al-Anon at the area level. The procedures followed have evolved over time, using past experience. The chairperson's duties include running the meetings in an orderly manner. The Chairperson does ask for advice and does not act unilaterally. The executives are our trusted servants.

The executives are voted on by the Group Representatives, giving a voice to the groups. The topics for Assembly are voted by the district representatives at the AWSC meeting.

You can be assured that your minority voice has been heard and your ideas taken into consideration.

A member suggests:

BACKGROUND:

Recently I was online with a meeting in Northern California, and they had posted an information flyer and an application form to enable the meetings and members in their area to have access to the "abundance" from the treasury of that district - to be used for public outreach.

ITEM:

I propose that any "abundance" in the treasury of Ontario South be made available to the Area, Districts, Members, and any Service Organizations for the purpose of doing public outreach for Al-Anon and Alateen.

Wendy C, district 17

Response:

You are greatly encouraged to work with Public Outreach in your district or with the Public Outreach coordinator or AIS with any ideas for this important work. Any proposal for funding can certainly be made to the executive for consideration. Funds in excess of an ample reserve are available.

A member suggests:

My group has asked me to put forth the concern that the previous Executive ignored the following, "Monies dispersed by the Ontario South Treasurer and /or The Ontario South Executive other than the expenses approved in the budget, must be brought to the Assembly to be voted on by the membership". My group would like to see some or all of the \$6,000 refunded. Philippa C, district 16.

Response:

It is suggested that you may wish to consider page 264 in Paths to Recovery. And to consider Tradition 2 and Concept 3. Your area executives are the trusted servants tasked to carry out their roles based on the experience of others in the program. Your minority voice has been heard. This has also now been discussed at an AWSC meeting and an Assembly. When the executive needs direction, the Assembly is consulted.

A member suggests:

I propose that in the future (hopefully this January or February 2022- whenever the Executive meets) that an ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (i.e., January 1, 2021 to December 1, 2021) be formulated and forwarded to the membership.

Wendy C, district 17

Response:

It is understood that an Annual Financial Report consists of an Income Statement and a Balance Sheet. This is prepared by the area treasurer annually and sent to your District Representative in March. If you are not receiving this, please check with your District Rep.

A member suggests:

I propose that going forward (hopefully this January or February 2022- whenever the Executive meets) that an ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (i.e., January 1, 2021 to December 1, 2021) that the Literature Distribution Centre be formulated and forwarded to the membership.

Wendy C, district 17

Response:

Thank you for your comment. This has started with the 2020 income statement being presented at AWSC 2021. The area treasurer is becoming more involved with LDC finances. Adding a balance sheet to the report is being considered.

THANK YOU! to the members who have submitted items and we look forward to receiving more of your ideas.

Gratefully Yours,

Sandy O Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly chairons86@gmail.com



Upcoming Events!!

Check out Ontario South Website for upcoming events

[Ontario South Website](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT

EXCITING NEWS!!

Al-Anon Members,

We are pleased to announce that the *2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27) v1 is available in English, French, and Spanish in an electronic format at al-anon.org!

Every Al-Anon and Alateen member is encouraged to actively use and study this *Manual*. It gives a clear and concise picture of the Al-Anon fellowship, its purpose and functions, and how it helps us to resolve group problems and maintain unity.

Updates to the *Manual* are noted with the use of vertical lines in the outer margins.

We invite you to share news of this updated resource with members in your Area.

The printed version will follow in late summer.

Join us for our 2022 Public Outreach's
Annual Fundraiser
APRIL 23, 2022 AT 6PM



We are going virtual again this year (hopefully the last time!)

Only 10\$.... the fine print is that regrettably you DO need to cook your own dinner. Or you could order in. You could even go rogue and eat fusilli or fettuccine! The possibilities are endless and completely customizable for you and by you! Suit yourself!

Details:

- Purchase through your Group Rep.
- We will send you your Zoom link information (but not your food) upon payment.
- ALL donations welcome...including offers to entertain us while we eat!
- EARLY BIRD DRAW: APRIL 7, 2022
- 50/50 TICKETS 3/\$5. BY E-TRANSFER TO: janicemcintyre1@hotmail.com



SAVE THE DATE

and call for volunteers

AL-ANON-OTTAWA.CA presents a Virtual Event

**AL-ANON AND ALATEEN ONTARIO SPRING
CONFERENCE 2022**

SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2022