

## **2022 Assembly Minutes – Friday, October 14**

**Note:** List of Passed Motions are in the Appendix.

**7:34 pm Opening:** Sandy led a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**Welcome** by Sandy O. Sandy has chills; she hasn't been at an in-person Assembly event in years! She welcomed those that were at their first Assembly, and those at their first in-person Assembly.

**Traditions** read by [REDACTED]; **Concepts** read by [REDACTED]; **Warranties** read by [REDACTED];

**Introduction of Executive Committee - Sandy introduced Delegate, Gwen D; Treasurer Janet B; Alternate Delegate Kristine B, Secretary Caterina L; Advisor Jason W, and Advisor Sue G.**

**Committee Announcements:** By [REDACTED] No smoking in guest rooms, please no scents or perfume. Wear a mask if that helps you feel comfortable. Voting members sit with your District. Directions were given for washrooms, the Literature Centre, and the Hospitality Suite (room 520). Ask-it-basket volunteers will meet in the Salon Carleton.

**7:45 Trillium Committee Report – By [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]** shared his first Trillium experience. At one time, he was very desperate, and he went to a Trillium conference. He saw 500 people that had similar experiences to his, and was struck by the fact that he wasn't alone. So, he wanted to experience the joy of the people at Trillium, and decided to join Al-Anon. He shared his enthusiasm for the next Trillium conference, which will happen in 2023. There are trillium pins at the registration desk. There are Trillium booklets and a save-the-date flyer. The dates are June 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There will be Al-Anon, Alateen and AA participation. There will be speakers and workshops. The theme is "We are no longer alone." It will be at Durham College in Oshawa. The purpose of the conference is to celebrate. Trillium 2023! See you there!

### **8:00 Coordinator Reports**

**AAPP Report – Jean Mc.S** – Those with red triangles on their nametag are AMIAS. Al-Anon Member in Alateen Service. You can talk to anyone with a red triangle to learn more. Our lawyer has wound down her practice, and we are looking for a replacement. Two more AMIASs have completed their registration, bringing the total to 49, this is a 42% loss from last year's total of 69. There is a need for more AMIAS. Jean feels that we are letting our communities down if we don't have Alateen.

**Alateen Coordinator - Carrie E.** The Unity conference is not happening, unless an Alateen comes forward to organize that. Carrie will help out with the Alateen portion of the Trillium conference.

**Archives Coordinator - Valerie P.** Lots has changed. The archives are in climate-controlled storage. A list of what is in each box has been documented. There are lots of duplicates, and some things that are not Ontario South history. So lots of decisions to be made, but not in isolation, rather by a committee. Every District has a binder in Archives, other than District 20. Please visit the Archives table to see some Archives.

**Group Records Coordinator - Sharon R** From mid-June to a couple of weeks ago, Sharon was not getting any group change forms. WSO is up-to-date, Sharon is still working on getting the records right for the

Ontario South database and website. Sharon will have information for each District Rep. Please use the group records update form to update the information.

**Forum Coordinator - Kristine B.** Kristine can visit your District to do a workshop on how to write for the Forum. The Forum is a monthly magazine from the World Service Office. The Forum is a way to share our experience, strength and hope. It's handy to use during meetings, particularly for Tradition meetings. They are also good for newcomers.

**Literature Coordinator - Colleen W.** Come take a look at the new pamphlets. The first chapter of From Survival to Recovery is "Do I belong?", and the answer is yes! Literature helps us learn and understand and helps people connect to one another. Buy some literature and have fun this weekend!

**Open Lines Coordinator - Loretta V.** It's exciting to see people in person, and to see more than nine people at a time! Open Lines is the Ontario South newsletter. This work is to bring help and hope to families of alcoholics. It contains any reports handed in by the Executive, Coordinators, and District Reps, as well as Ask-it-basket questions and answers. There is a feedback form for Open Lines, using the Stop, Start, and Continue format. You can also email your suggestions to [openlinesosa@gmail.com](mailto:openlinesosa@gmail.com). Remember that participation is the key to harmony.

**Public Outreach Coordinator - Geraldine R.** We are planning to get a booth at the May 10-12, 2023 Pri-Med convention, and the cost for a non-profit group is \$1,500, which is less than the \$4,000 that we originally thought it would be. The convention will be in Mississauga from May 10-12, 2023. The convention will be attended by about 10,000 medical professionals. Committee members to organize the booth are welcome, and the preparation meetings are on Zoom. The committee is chaired by Di B, and is a GTAIS initiative.

**Website Coordinator - Nicky D.** Nicky D. is asking for feedback on the website. Please send feedback to [O.S.website.a86@gmail.com](mailto:O.S.website.a86@gmail.com).

**Literature Distribution Centre Report - Linda P.** Please include your District number when you order books, because it is difficult to figure out where groups are without knowing the District. The world has had so many wildfires, it is difficult for printers to source paper. As prices go up, these have to get passed on. Shipping rates have also increased, so please pick up a new price list from the Literature Room.

**Literature Office Committee Report - Sue G.** Sue thanked Linda, the Literature Office Manager, for her diligent work over the past few years. We have to pass on the price increases that we have received. Closes from October 17<sup>th</sup>, re-opens October 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am. Also closed over Christmas. It's important to order literature from the LDC.

Questions & Answers after all the reports are given

████ asked for clarification on what Nicky wants feedback on. Nicky would like to know how important it is to have meeting information by District on the Ontario South website. Sharon clarified that sometimes the list on the Ontario South website is not up-to-date. So Sharon and Nicky are asking for confirmation that your District's meetings are up-to-date.

What is the difference between the Literature Coordinator and the Literature committee, and how does that relate to the Literature Coordinator? The Literature Office Committee is the governing body of the Literature Distribution Centre, which is the shop. The Literature Coordinator is the cheerleader, the person that loves books, and helps promote the literature. The Literature Coordinator can come to meetings or workshops. Literature connects people and helps us get connected to Al-Anon ideas.

How about having a table with duplicate stuff from the Archives that would then be auctioned or sold, with the money used to help pay for storage? Valerie said that it is a good idea, and nothing will be destroyed.

Is there any way we could find a way to subsidize our literature costs, since we have a surplus? Sue said that we have a reserve, and any subsidies would mean that we would be dipping into our reserves.

**Saturday, October 15**

**8:33 am Opening:** Sandy led a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**Welcome** – by Sandy. Registration says that everyone is here, which is a miracle! Thank you.

**Traditions** read by █████; **Concepts** read by █████; **Warranties** read by █████;

**Introductions:** Sandy introduced the Executive Team

**Host Committee Announcements** – Note to next Host Committee – get a co-chair, it really helps. No smoking, and please, no perfumes. Masks are optional, please respect everyone's choice. Washroom, Literature Room and the Hospitality Suite locations were explained. The hotel restaurant is not open for lunch, but there is room service, the hospitality suite and nearby restaurants. The Rideau Salon will have an Al-Anon meeting tonight. There is also an Alateen meeting.

**IT Announcements:** █████ said that if you are having difficulty hearing, please raise your hand. Unless you are announcing Trillium, you do need to use the microphone. Please do not lean back from the microphone, it will decrease the volume.

**Other Announcements:** The red triangle denotes AMIAS people, who are the only adults that should be present at an Alateen meeting. We continue to look for a lawyer to verify the police checks. The Trillium conference is an Al-Anon hosted weekend of workshops with Al-Anon, Alateen, and AA participation. The point is to celebrate our recovery. There are free Trillium pins, Trillium notebooks, and a Trillium flyer for people to save the dates, which are June 9-11, 2023. Location is Durham College in Oshawa. The flyer has a QR code with a link to the Trillium website, which will be updated monthly.

A reminder for all DRs to see Sharon R, the Group Records Coordinator. Some District 23 boxes were picked up by accident. Some Districts have not picked up their orders. Sandy will put pads of paper at the front. Dinner is 5:30 to 7 pm.

**Time Keeper** We need a non-voting member to keep Time. [REDACTED] from District 11 volunteered.

**Motions:** We need a non-voting member to type the motions. [REDACTED] from District 25 volunteered.

**Items for Consideration** – These can be submitted at any time for the Executive to consider. These forms are on-line, and there are paper forms at the back of the room. We also have ask-it-basket paper forms, paper evaluation forms and paper expense forms.

**Ask It Basket –4 volunteers** – [REDACTED] (D3); [REDACTED] (D2); [REDACTED] (D30); and [REDACTED] (D26).

**Number of Voting Members** – We have a total of 95 voting members.

**Voting Procedures** – Sandy read the voting procedures. Highlights include: We have 7 discussion items. All of them are time-sensitive. There are 4 essential elements to decision making – open and honest communication, trust, sharing of background facts, open discussion. When speaking consider if it has already been said. Keep sharing short and to the point. Motions are submitted by voting members on a blue motion form. Please see an Advisor to help with your motion. It needs a seconder to be discussed. The fact that a motion has been made and seconded does not necessarily mean it will be presented. This is done at the Chair's discretion. Once a motion is presented, it becomes the Assembly's property. The motion can be modified, and then it can be voted on, and either passed or not. We strive for consensus and unanimity. To pass a motion, 50% plus one of the voting members must vote in favour. Since there are 94 voting members, we need 48 yes votes to pass a motion. Group Reps are the only people that can vote. If the Group Rep is not there, they can send someone else to vote for that group, for example, the Alternate Group Rep or another Group member. A brand-new motion may not get discussed today, due to time constraints, but they might be brought forward at the next AWSC. Recall that participation is the key to harmony. Sandy opened the microphone for discussion or to give a comment on the voting procedures.

**Moved by** [REDACTED] (D4), **seconded by** [REDACTED] (D13) **“We accept the voting procedures as presented.”**  
**Carried.**

**Approval of 2021 Assembly Minutes** Sue G, our Advisor, presented some changes. On page 7, Discussion item #1, regarding the Archives, 13<sup>th</sup> bullet. Says “Committee should be”, we meant to say “Committee could be”. [REDACTED] said that, on page 1, “listen with an open heard” it should say “listen with an open heart”.

**Moved by** [REDACTED] (D22), **seconded by** [REDACTED] (D16) **“We accept the minutes of 2021 Assembly as amended.”** **Carried.**

**9:34 –10:00 Delegate’s Report Gwen D.** – Service is what has kept me engaged in Al-Anon. I am your Delegate, which means that I take information from Ontario South and present it to the World Service Office, and in turn, I take information from WSO and present it to Ontario South. Gwen is grateful for all the love gifts she received, for the cards and messages received around the conference. The encouragement she felt was profound. The conference has shown her that all of us in Al-Anon are the same, and that we are united in service, and that we are all part of the world wide fellowship. There was a lot of thinking, reasoning things out, and the unanimity was beautiful. It’s also forward-thinking. For example, Debbie P. is in the UK at a meeting, considering how to invite more European Al-Anon groups into the world service structure. Our collective Higher Power was in the rooms at the conference. Who attends the World Service Conference? Delegates, the Board of Trustees, executive of WSO, some of the WSO staff. The conference included a visit to Stepping Stones, where Al-Anon was founded by Lois. One big discussion item was the handling of electronic meetings, which have been meeting since 1996. “A group is a group is a group.” It was decided to welcome the 674 electronic groups into a new Global Electronic Area. There was a lot of emotion in the room when this happened. There was resounding applause at this historic moment. A group can be a physical group or a physical group with an electronic component, which are then part of a physical area such as Ontario South. Groups that are an electronic group are part of the Electronic Area.

Financial Audit for 2021 – the independent firm gave an unmodified opinion, which is what we want, as that indicates that the finances are in order.

#### **10:00 -10:30 Break**

**10:31 am re-opening:** Sandy led a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**10:32 Delegate’s Report Continued by Gwen.** So we are going to talk a bit about the money. Net Assets of 12,286,007. This is divided among the General Fund, the Reserve Fund and the Building Fund. The Reserve Fund is \$3,607,414, which is 8.5 months of operating expenses. Ideally, this would be one full year’s of operating expenses. We have a deficit budget. Contributions in 2020 were \$3.2 Million; in 2021 were \$2.6 Million. We are hoping to get \$2.8 Million in 2022. Only 51% of groups contributed to WSO. **Each group should contribute \$281.88 U.S. (approximately \$383 Canadian) to keep WSO operating without a deficit.** Overall, 51% of groups contribute to WSO. Ontario south had 41% of groups contributing, with an average contribution of \$272.61. What services does WSO provide? Registering groups, CAL, mobile App, PSAs, questions, concerns regarding groups, translating literature, supporting International Structures, general questions, trilingual on-line store, Forum, Le Lien, en Accion, WSC, Interpretation, Alateen certification and recertification, protecting our Brand, website, guidelines, the membership survey, salaries and building expenses.

Please take the following back to your groups:

- Thank you for your contributions! They are necessary to provide the services WSO offers to groups. “Together we can achieve our primary purpose of helping friends and families”
- WSO continues to need your contributions as we navigate our way past the pandemic and restoring services impacted by the effects of the pandemic.
- Buy a book! Literature sales will increase both WSO and Area Finances.
- All financial decisions and actions are guided by spiritual principles and the Finance Committee strives to keep all the legacies present in all discussions.

Projects for this year:

- The new daily reader “A little time for myself”
- new service manual available
- 1<sup>st</sup> longitudinal study
- meet the Board event in Cleveland in October
- International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) in London in October
- Return to in-person board meetings
- Hire an International Associate Director.

Gwen talked about her visit to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois W.

At the moment there are seven vacancies for Trustees. Trustees work on the budget, and strategic planning, short term, intermediate and long-term.

Annual Report: This covers the Strategic Plan, WSO staff, WSO is hiring for an Associate Director – International.

Updating guidelines – Gwen suggests bookmarking this page, or downloading them to your desktop.

WSO is considering doing e-transfers. It’s complicated to do this across the Canada-US border. It’s also good to figure out if e-transfers can be done for people in electronic groups.

Workshops and Presentations: Awesome sharing. Good workshop on Service. How do we share our service experience for those taking a 3-year service term starting in 2024?

Supporting Alateen, Electronic Groups, and decertification was also discussed. Alateen is very important, it’s a vital service. It’s really important to have a robust safety protocol for Alateen, which is why we don’t have Alateen electronic groups.

Let’s go: Road Trip Cleveland, October 2022, and the Albuquerque, NM on June 29-July 2, 2023 for Al-Anon International Convention.

The World Service Conference is April 20-23, 2023 in Virginia Beach.

Gwen used her 3-4 weeks of vacation to do Al-Anon service. Not everyone can do that, so they are planning to schedule more conferences during the weekends. Gwen encouraged us to invite her to speak at your group meeting, or a District meeting, or to an Al-Anon Day celebration. Gwen is grateful for all invitations.

There were many beautiful leaves that we all enjoyed on our way here. Remember that the trees are going to let go to make room for new life, and to fertilize the soil. Gwen said that it is in the letting go, and in the trusting that we make room for new life. Gwen thanked us for the opportunity to serve.

Q&A for Gwen.

██████ (D17). You referred to an Al-Anon channel. Can you tell us more? Gwen: It’s in the works. More information to follow.

■■■■ (D23). Is the \$281 Canadian? The \$281 suggested contribution per group is in \$U.S. This translates to approximately \$383 Canadian.

■■■■ (D25) I know we can send the Canadian \$ to Ottawa, and there is a cheque floating around that has never cashed. Maybe the address could be added to the minutes. Note: Make cheques payable to: AFG Headquarters (Canada) LTD, and mail to: AFG Headquarters (Canada) LTD, Suite 900, 275 Slater St. Ottawa, ON K1P 5H9.

**11:19 a.m. Treasurer's Report - Janet B.** There is a donation form on-line for Ontario South. When sending in an e-transfer, use the memo box to put in the following: District, Group Number and Group Name. The group name is not sufficient, as there could be multiple groups with your same name in Ontario South. If you send in a cheque, the donation form is not needed, **provided that**, you include the District, Group Number and Group Name in the memo line.

#### **2021 Income Statement:**

Income of \$24,885, largest item was Group donations of 22,802, as Assembly was on line in 2021.  
Expenses of \$6,597, largest item was Archives Storage of \$3,373.  
Net Income of \$18,288.

#### **2021 Balance Sheet:**

Assets of 76,232. This was composed of Bank: 46,245. Advance payments of 19,871, Term Investments of 10,025. Other Assets of 29,997.

Liabilities of \$158, and Equity of \$76,074 for a total of \$76,232.

Operating Funds: 46,245 cash in bank, \$10,025 in Term Deposits, for a total of 56,272.

#### **2022 YTD September Income Statement:**

Revenue: 19,596 – largest item was Group Donations of 15,130.  
Expenses of 10,218.  
YTD Income – \$9,379.

■■■■ (D4) – Asked about \$12,500 – there is \$2,500 for this hotel, and a \$10,000 deposit on the hotel for next year.

■■■■ (D30) – Is it better to get Ontario South Donations from the District or from the Groups? Normally donations come from the groups, but Janet will take donations from the District as well.

■■■■ (D16) The budget seems to be based on a contribution per group of \$152.62, and based on 296 groups. We are wondering how this expectation was derived, given that we are coming out of a pandemic, and not all groups have returned to face-to-face meetings? What would happen if we were really short on contributions? Is there a way to notify us, as WSO does? Janet replied that we do the budget based on Face-to-face, as groups go back to face-to-face, both donations and expenses are

expected to increase. There is no structural way to notify the groups, but we could use the links of service. [REDACTED] (D16) If the excess is \$7,000, can that money be earmarked for Trillium? The money for Trillium is an advance payment, expected to be repaid.

[REDACTED] (D2). About the Seed Money, where does it show up on the Balance Sheet? Janet said we haven't given Trillium any money at this point.

Why wasn't there a line item in the budget for Trillium? It wasn't included because a Trillium Committee was not formed when the budget was prepared. Janet said that if we decide to provide Seed Money it would then go on the balance sheet.

[REDACTED] (D13). Comment: Since it appears that Zoom saved money, we should have zoom as an option in a service manual. Question: Did Zoom save money? Janet: Yes, Zoom saved money.

Jean McS. (AAPP): Everything you do for AAPP is for the safety of Alateen. It is our lawyer that looks at our Police Record Checks. We need a lawyer because our current lawyer is retiring at the end of October. We are currently paying the lawyer \$10 to look at each police record check, and there are now 49 AMAISs. This is not a volume to keep a lawyer in business. It gets busier every three years (2022, 2025, as all AMAIS have to recertify them. There are also new AMAISs, about 15 per year for 2023 and 2024.

[REDACTED] D13: Laws are changing. Can we get a paralegal instead? This would cost less. Jean said that this was a great suggestion. We decided that it had to be a lawyer in 2004, maybe we can look into this. Kristine said that her recollection is that WSO recommended we get legal advice, so this is a possibility.

[REDACTED] (D18). Am I wrong to think that because the recertification happens every three years, that the budget should reflect it? Jean said, yes, you are correct. The next year for police checks is 2025.

Sue G. (Advisor) said that it has to be reviewed by "legal counsel". So we have to interpret that.

[REDACTED] (D22) If we find someone to do the legal work, whom do we tell? Answer: Sandy O, the chair. Jean said, that "while I am curious, I do not need to know."

Do we want the legal counsel to be an Al-Anon member, or is there a conflict of interest if the legal counsel is an Al-Anon member? Chair said that any kind of lawyer could do this work, and Al-Anon membership is not required.

Jean said it would be a bonus, as an Al-Anon member would understand why we are doing this.

[REDACTED] (D2) Is there a geographic requirement? Jean said that it would have to be legal counsel in Ontario, because we are bound by Ontario laws.

[REDACTED] (D17) – We wanted the legal counsel to be autonomous, and to preserve anonymity, and therefore, not be in Al-Anon.

12:00 -1:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

**1:32 Reconvene with Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer** Sandy O.



**Al-Anon International Convention Sue G.** A skit was performed. The convention will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 29 –July 2, 2023. Please consider attending, it will be a lot of fun and learning. Registration begins November 8<sup>th</sup>. More information in the September Forum, In the Loop, in AFG connects, and on the WSO website. New Hopes, New Friends, Renewed Recovery.

██████ (D17) Comment: If you come on Thursday, there will be all kinds of people there.

#### **1:43 Discussion Item #1 –Proposed 2023 Budget - Janet B.**

We are budgeting for the following:

Assembly Registrations:	9,680
AWSC Revenues:	6,798
Group Donations:	44,584
Misc. Income:	70
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>61,132</b>

Assembly Expenses:	24,130
AWSC Expenses:	12,850
Conferences:	4,416
Coordinators:	2,250
Delegate:	2,000
Executive Meetings:	7,500
Operational Costs:	1,496
Other Expenses:	6,490
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>61,132</b>

**2023 Budgeted Income:** 0

Note, to get to zero budget, the Group Donations are the balancing items. The Group donations are 44,584. This works out to \$150.62 per group, based on 296 groups.

██████ (D18). The amount of \$200 that would get accumulated to be \$1,000 for a new computer. Why put that in 2023, if we won't touch it? Janet was requested to put it aside each year. Louise said that we have a surplus, right now. Janet could use the surplus for that, rather than by budgeting for it. She will do whatever the membership asks her in this regard.

██████ (D28). Please explain what the Archives storage entails? We used to use someone's basement, but now we are renting a climate-controlled storage unit. Is there an alternative? The Archives might just keep getting bigger and bigger, when will it end. Do we have an Archivist? Yes. So we are in good hands, thanks.

██████ (D13). The budget has \$7,500 for Executive meetings. How many are there, and can any of them be on Zoom. There are 3 meetings per year. We have been meeting on Zoom, but we feel that there is a benefit to meeting face-to-face. The November meeting will likely be face-to-face, but February's might be back to Zoom, due to the unpredictability of driving conditions in February.

Announcement by Linda P. The printer broke down, so if it can't get fixed, we may go back to hand-written receipts.

██████ (D21) moved that, **"To accept the 2023 budget as presented."** Seconded by ██████, (D23).  
**Carried. All in favour, with one nay.**

**Discussion Item #2 – Approval of Technology Coordinator – Jason W.** Jason highlighted that he looked at what other Areas do. Some areas have one person doing both the Technology Coordinator and Website Coordinator role. Other areas have 2 roles, with one person doing each role. Dan has been acting as a Technology Coordinator for this Assembly. His suggestion is that we add a Technology Coordinator role.

██████ (D4). The funds are misleading because the \$250 is for supplies only. There will also be AWSC and Assembly expenses that have to be picked up by the Area. I would like to see the expenses stated. The group is wondering if the costs are justified. Also, this is too complicated for a Technology Coordinator. Jason responded that his intention was to go for clarity. We added the \$250 for supplies, and we added the statement that as travel resumes, there would be more expenses related to attending AWSC and Assembly. This cost is dependent on where the Technology Coordinator lives. An educated guess of the cost would be to increase the current coordinators expense by one-ninth. Trying to be thorough, we listed various software that the Technology Coordinator might need to know about.

██████ (D11) All groups were in favour of the new Technology Coordinator. The groups also wanted to suggest that they get an Ontario South owned computer.

██████ (D8) Is this a lifetime decision? Jason replied that it depends on how the motion is worded. This is up to Assembly.

██████ (D8). Comment: No matter how much how you learn and how much you know, you can always get stuck.

██████ (D2). Comment: It sounds like a person would need a computer. Does it make sense that a computer be provided? Jason said that the Group Records person has personal data, which is why it is on a separate, purpose-specific machine. Jason thinks that the person would have the hardware. There might be software that would be needed, which would make sense that the Area pay for.

██████ (D28). Is the vision to be the Technology Coordinator someone such as ██████? We were very lucky to have ██████. We spent about \$300 for the AV for Assembly. The hotel would have charged us \$26,000. Therefore, I believe that having a Technology Coordinator role is a good investment for Assembly.

██████ (D16) moved that, **"That Ontario South Area World Service Committee add a position of Technology Coordinator position."** Seconded by ██████ (D8).

██████ (D16) commented that she is a voting member, she is not moving this as the Alternate Delegate.

██████ (D16) Shouldn't the term be mentioned? Jason said that in general, the term for coordinators is three years. If a new coordinator is found the person would serve until January 2024. They might be invited to stay for the next 3 years.

█████ (D16) moved that, **“That Ontario South Area World Service Committee add a position of Technology Coordinator position.”** Seconded by █████ (D8). **Carried. All in favour, with one nay.**

**Sandy announced that we need an Assembly bid for 2024.** Districts 3 through 11 are invited to put in a bid.

Discussion Item #3 – Seed Money for Trillium. Seed money is not an expense, it is a temporary loan to the Trillium Committee. The seed money plus any revenues is then returned to the Ontario South Area. The seed money was set as \$4,000 in 1990. According to the Bank of Canada, a basket of goods in 1990 is now 7.2 times as high in 2022.

Note: we currently have \$7,000 in surplus. We could also have a fund raiser. Or there might be another idea (eg. Dip into the one-year reserve).

█████ (D10). Back in 2016, was the \$4,000 seed money enough, or were we short? Jason was not on the 2016 Trillium convention committee.

█████ (D23). In 2016, Jane was the executive liason to the Trillium committee. We do not have the records, and therefore, we don’t know. There was no debt incurred, we aren’t sure if there was a surplus in that year.

█████ (D1). Given that the Trillium committee hands over the money, there should be no money sitting in any Trillium bank account.

█████ (D11). Everyone voted in favour of increasing the funds, to at least \$8,000. A concern was raised that this could be seen as a luxury for some. Maybe have Trillium mugs as a fundraiser.

█████ (D8). Is all the seed money given to the committee, even if they don’t need it all? Yes.

█████ (D16) for the current Trillium, they are looking at Durham College. Can we use those numbers as a reference? Jason noted that for Trillium it is different, because people pay for their attendance, not the Area or District.

Greg, Trillium Committee. When seed money is given to the committee, they open a bank account with the Seed money. Deposits are made for things we need, eg. AV equipment, hotel deposit. Then money for pre-registration comes in. As the seed money is replenished, it is paid back to the Area. Any surplus is returned to the Area. In all but two times, Trillium has made money for the Area. His proposal is that the seed money get increased by \$10,000 to \$14,000. This money will be returned.

█████ (D23): Back in the old days, such as 2009, the hotels did not ask for a deposit, but now they do, so the Seed money needs to be increased. Note that Trillium at Durham College will be more affordable than previous Trilliums held in a Toronto hotel.

█████ (D17): Reality of today, a certain committee cost went from \$250 to \$1,000. Personally, a \$10,000 number is okay, because we will get it back.

█████ (D4) – our group voted in favour of \$10,000.

█████ (D6): Could we wait a year? Or could Trillium?

█████ (D13) Do we want Trillium? It's been five years. A lot of us gave up, and thought we were saying goodbye. We enjoyed the time we had. Things do have their time. █████ has been in the program for 53 years, and she is asking for one more! I don't know about you, but I live one day at a time!

█████ (D21): Instead of deciding this, why don't we postpone this for a year, to ensure that we can get out of this COVID bubble?

█████ (D4): As per the charter, the Trillium charter says that the hotel deposit is paid for by Assembly. The seed money goes for other expenses. Fran calculated that \$5,000 of seed money would be about \$2 per group.

█████ (D2) **Motion: That Ontario South increase the seed money for 2023 Trillium to \$10,000. These funds should come from the Ontario South Reserve.** Seconded by █████ (D21).

█████ (D4) I am in favour of taking 2023 out of the motion, so that the seed money is increased from now on. Sandy thanked her for this comment.

█████ (D17): This comes from the Operating fund, not the reserve fund.

Janet (Treasurer). The operating funds are the reserve funds. Plus, since the seed money will come back, it might not come from either. We do have enough money in the bank to pay the seed money.

An amendment to the motion came forward. **Moved** by █████ (D18) and seconded by █████ (D22) "that the word 2023 be removed from the current motion."

█████ (D18) I think it is important to remove the 2023, so that it doesn't go back to the \$4,000 the following year.

**Amendment to the motion.** "That the word 2023 be removed from the current motion." Voting: All in favour, with two opposed. **Carried, so motion is amended.**

Discussion of **Motion: That Ontario South increase the seed money for Trillium to \$10,000. These funds should come from the Ontario South Reserve.**

█████ spoke in favour of the motion.

█████ (D14) thought that the motion should not include where the funds should come from.

█████ (D4): Where did the money come from in the past?

Janet – the reserve fund is the operating fund. It's just that the reserve fund is enough to cover next year's expenses.

Voting for **Motion: That Ontario South increase the seed money for Trillium to \$10,000. These funds should come from the Ontario South Reserve.** Carried. All in favour, with one opposed.

### **3:26 Break**

### **4:05 Reconvene with Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer Sandy O.**

**Linda – LDC** Her husband fixed the printer. So people can come and get printed receipts.

Another count of voting members was held. We are now at 101 voting members.

Items for Consideration – if you are using a form, give it to Sandy. If you are submitting an ask-it-basket, please put it in the ask-it-basket.

**Discussion item #4 – Gwen** In the last year, I haven't had a day go by without getting a message or question about Electronic Groups. Electronic Groups are here to stay. There are three categories of groups, we are either face-to-face, or face-to-face with an electronic component, or an electronic group. Electronic groups have been meeting long before COVID. Some of these meetings have upwards of 100 meetings. Electronic Groups are now part of Area 89, which is an Electronic Area. Electronic Groups will have all the benefits, responsibilities and resources as face-to-face groups. Attendance has increased with electronic meetings. This increases diversity in our fellowship, and health risks and transportation are not barriers for electronic groups. Tradition one and Concept Four are supported by allowing electronic groups to participate.

Q: Our group has not decided when we are returning to face-to-face meeting yet. Do we need to register as an electronic group? A: No. The current status of "Temporarily meeting electronically" is okay until the pandemic is over and we feel safe, and there is group autonomy on this. Next steps that could happen: Does Ontario South want to welcome Electronic Groups in our Area? Do we want to do nothing, which leaves them in Area 89?

Things to consider:

Could allow each District to consider this

- Identify requirements for acceptance of Electronic Groups into existing districts. The group Rep must be able and willing to attend District meetings in person. Alternatively, the District could offer face-to-face meetings with an electronic component.

Suggested policies for an Electronic District within Ontario South.

- Group Rep, Alternate GR and CMA must be in Ontario South.
- DRs, Alternate DRs, Officers and Coordinators (Voting members) must reside in Ontario South.
- All groups in Ontario South are encouraged to follow the guidelines as outlined in the service manual and the guidelines.
- Every group must make every effort to ensure members are aware of and support the service arms of Al-Anon.
- Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Another opportunity is to set up a thought force to move forward. Do we incorporate electronic groups in our Area, and if so, how?

Gwen suggests we invite our Higher Power into this conversation. Feelings of fear and excitement are similar.

Decision Point: To form a thought force about how we handle electronic groups.

■■■■ (D25): When you are on your computer you can see the person? Caterina (D4) noted that not necessarily, because people could turn off their camera, or could phone in. Gwen noted that people could be asked to turn on their camera when they sign in, and also asked to turn it off if they are moving around.

■■■■ (D8): I am not understanding how we would have the authority to decide what Area an electronic group would belong to. Gwen said what we are talking about is electronic groups that come forward to Ontario South and want to join Ontario South. Be careful when saying Ontario South, because we have groups in Alymer, Quebec, that are part of Ontario South.

■■■■ (D21): 674 groups are electronic. How many groups are not online? Can Al-Anon be damaged in this process? Not everyone can join an electronic group. There is a cost to getting a computer and internet access. Neither can we ignore the electronic wave.

Gwen said that we are not replacing face-to-face meetings. We are talking about adding another tool in the tool box.

■■■■ (D17) – I am glad that we are doing this, and bringing it to a task force. This is where it starts, with the membership. “It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts.” “There can be no standing still.”

■■■■ (D23) – ■■■■ is suggesting that we continue with this conversation, because what we hear right now are pros and cons. The executive could set up a task force or a thought force, rather than getting caught up in the details.

■■■■ (D21): It’s my understanding is that all electronic Groups are now represented. I think it’s old thinking that just because a group started in a physical area, that it continues to belong to a physical area once they become electronic.

■■■■ (D26). I have personal experience with an electronic group, joining 7 days with a meeting. We met on Facebook Messenger. Once WSO approved this as a platform, we held a group conscience, and registered as an Electronic Meeting. Then it was advertised, and it went from 20 people to 80.

■■■■ (D26): Mission of a thought Force is a temporary group to brainstorm ideas about a problem. The thought force is not expected to supply all the answers. A thought force may lay the foundation for the work of a task force. They are thinkers, not doers. I would like to address this into two parts. I think we should include electronic groups in our area. We must remember our primary purpose.

■■■■ : How it works split into a face-to-face and an Electronic Group. We are happy to continue to help families of alcoholics. The electronic group is healthy. We would like to be a part of Ontario South, as we have ties to Ontario South.

■■■■ (D4): We have lost some members due to illness, we have half our members attending face-to-face, and about half our members attending electronically. The donations are not very high from the members attending electronically. They are more robust from the in-person meetings. Suggestion that the GR and alternate GR for an electronic meeting has to be from Ontario South.

Gwen said that we have found creative ways to get around the challenge of getting donations from members attending electronically. If we pass a budget, it is our responsibility to support it.

■■■■ (D1). Concerned as to how electronic groups in Ontario South would be displayed on the Al-Anon websites. It feels detached to be part of area 89. She would like her group to be part of Ontario South, Area 86.

■■■■ (D14) Thought force would be welcome. Is there a time frame proposed. When would they report back?

■■■■ (D25) is a member of electronic group, now that they have been let in to the Links of Service. Our group went from 200 members to thousand. As an electronic meeting, we are made up of members, and members come from all over the world. This discussion feels illogical, because the reality is that the members are dispersed. Since the group is electronic, it is not anchored to a certain place.

Linda (LDC). What I am hearing is that there are some groups that are not comfortable meeting in person yet, and they would rather not join the electronic Area, they would prefer to stay with Ontario South. If we let them join Ontario South, then people might not be in Ontario South. It's a matter of trust.

■■■■ (D8). Electronic meetings are fabulous. She prefers in-person meetings. There could be electronic groups, and if they have a GR from across the world, how do they attend Assembly and have a voice.

Gwen said thanks for all the thoughtful comments and questions.

■■■■ (D21) **Motion: "That Ontario South create a new permanent District for Electronic Groups as part of the OSA and that a thought force be struck and charged with establishing the structure."** seconded by ■■■■ (D26).

■■■■ (D21) said that our group decided to split into two groups, one in-person with an electronic component and the other electronic. The electronic group would like to be part of Ontario South.

■■■■ (D26): We are happy to support this, because we have an electronic group does not want to leave the Area.

■■■■ (D18): The specific motion is to create an Electronic District. It might be that the Electronic Area might be divided into Electronic Districts.

Break for dinner at 5:33.

**7:04 Reconvene with Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer Kristine – Alternate Delegate.**

**Linda P. (Literature).** The Literature Room will be open tonight, but not tomorrow. Service Manuals have been promised for the end of the year. If you order some, Linda will check with you once she learns the price, to see if they are still desired. Expected price is \$18 plus 5% tax, plus shipping.

**Jason W (Advisor).** Please sit with your Districts.

■■■■ (D12). I don't like the motion, I would prefer a thought force to gather information before being charged with establishing a structure.

■■■■ D (D21). It's really important to give the electronic groups a home. Having an electronic District within Ontario South is a way to show World Service how this could work.

Voting members recounted. 90 voting members present.

■■■■ (D21) **Motion: "That Ontario South create a new permanent District for Electronic Groups as part of the OSA and that a thought force be struck and charged with establishing the structure."** seconded by ■■■■ (D26). Defeated. 10 in favour – which wasn't the 46 votes needed to pass.

New Motion: ■■■■ (D14), seconded by ■■■■ (D14). **"That Ontario South create a thought force to investigate and make recommendations on including electronic meetings in Area 86 before any electronic districts are created."**

■■■■ (D14): We thought that we should have a thought force to consider the pros and cons, and then make recommendations.

■■■■ D (D21) Should any electronic Group be created, it goes to Area 89, correct? The answer is yes.

■■■■ (D4) said that her group suggests that a task force should come first rather than a thought force.

■■■■ (D26) Electronic meetings happen in our District every day, and the world has not ended.

■■■■ (D18) Is it normal for a thought force to consult the membership and seek their input as part of their work? Gwen said, yes.

■■■■ (D8). The thought force is the brainstorming. The task force takes the ideas and puts it into practice.

■■■■ (D5). I refer to the original idea that we could keep it simple or make it complex. His group said that his group wants to accept electronic groups into our Area.

■■■■ (D6). How do people get on the thought force? Gwen said that we don't have those answers. Someone might come forward and volunteer to chair the thought force. The chair would be involved in recruiting members for the thought force.

■■■■ (D2). I like the idea of creating a thought force to examine the question of whether we want electronic groups in the Area.



■■■■ (D21). Should we be asking our members for suggestions and thoughts for the thought force? Gwen said it depends on whether we accept this motion.

Say we vote to have a thought force – what happens to Electronic Groups in our District? The current status quo continues. Which means that they can be temporarily meeting electronically for the time being.

■■■■ (D4). When we were on the task force for Trillium, we, as trusted servants, put out a survey to find out what the membership thought. It will be up to the thought force or the task force to decide if and how to gather input from the membership.

■■■■ (D22). What we looked at in my group, was the decision point to create a thought force. The thought force would make recommendations as to whether it was a good idea to include electronic groups in the Area, and if so, how.

■■■■ (D14): I want to remind folks that the intent of drafting this motion is to investigate important information for an informed decisions on this question of electronic groups.

Voting on Motion: ■■■■ (D14), seconded by ■■■■ (D14). **“That Ontario South create a thought force to investigate and make recommendations on including electronic meetings in Area 86 before any electronic districts are created.”** 6 nays, there were more than 46 yays. **Carried.**

**Discussion Item #5. Voting for the Ontario South Candidate for the Regional Trustee. Kristine.** The Board of trustee serves our conference, guarding Al-Anon’s 12 traditions. There are 9 Areas in Canada, , and three regions. The Central Canada Region is comprised of the three areas of Ontario South, Ontario North and Manitoba. People are to vote for the candidate to nominate as Ontario South’s nominee. The vote would be either for Debbie P, or for no candidate.

**Election Results:** Debbie P, 87 in favour, 3 opposed. Debbie P will be put forward as Ontario South’s nominee for the Central Canada Region Trustee.

Sue G (Advisor) There are people available at the back of the room to help with motions. She thanked people who put together the skit.

Item #6 – Voting Procedures. One of the main concerns of the voting procedures, is that it says that the Chair has discretion as to whether a motion comes before the Assembly. Decision Point: Do the voting procedures need to be revisited?

■■■■ (D16) The Chair should not have authority to decide which motions to go through. This doesn’t mean that the Chair is not trusted. But it does mean that the Assembly does not have a voice. She would like to see a thought force formed to review the voting.

Sandy O (Chair). Sandy has received almost identical motions one after the other, and it was good to be able to pick one. Also, another time, a vital word was missing.

■■■■ (D16): We could not recall a time that the groups were consulted other than at Assembly. This took about 9 months and lots of work to get this motion thus far. Sometimes motions may not be heard. We would like to put a motion forward.

Sue G (Past Chair) – The chair does have the opportunity to reach out to the Executive if he or she is not sure what to do, so it is not an exercise of one person’s authority.

■■■■ (D26). I completely get where people are coming from with motions not being presented, but Linda remembers a time when all motions were presented, and it was a poop show. She recalls one time when Assembly was meeting until 11:30 at night, and there were only three discussion items.

Motion Moved by ■■■■ (D2) and seconded by ■■■■ (D1), **“That the Ontario South Explanation and approval of voting procedures have served us well thus far and do not need to be reevaluated.”**

■■■■ (D11): They didn’t think that the voting procedures needed to change. Her group was concerned about poorly crafted motions, particularly in handover years, when people were new.

■■■■ (D2): My understanding is that by presenting a motion to an Advisor, any poorly crafted motions can be better crafted by the Advisor.

■■■■ (D16): Is there any way that the Assembly could at least know about the motions not being put forward?

■■■■ (D 26) I am speaking as a member, not as an Advisor. What I have witnessed in these rooms is that the Chair tries to do their best. They try to keep the group on the path. One year, we had a motion on the floor to do A, and then motions B and C came forward. I was told by my service sponsor that we dealt with motions in the order they arrived. However, I thought that in the interests of transparency, I would let the Assembly know what Motions B and C were, so that in the event that A was turned down, then B would come forward, and if that was also turned down, that Motion C would come forward. Confusion ensued. Half the Assembly was yelling at Jason that he couldn’t do that, and the other half of the Assembly was yelling at the other half of the Assembly. It was not a pleasant experience. I have not seen a chairperson in this role try to direct, manage or control, but to keep us on path, and not to act with malice.

■■■■ (D4) noted that people have the right to speak to their motion, even if their motion is not brought forward. Also, the Chair is not making decisions.

Motion Moved by ■■■■ (D2) and seconded by ■■■■ (D1), **“That the Ontario South Explanation and approval of voting procedures have served us well thus far and do not need to be reevaluated.”**  
Voting 7 against. **Carried.**

Sue G. (Advisor). **Discussion Item #7. Road Trip for 2024.** Decision needed at Assembly to decide whether we in Ontario South, want to put in a bid for the 2024 Road Trip, which will be in October, 2024. Decision Point: Do we want to put in a bid for the October 2024 Road Trip?

■■■■ (D2) Said that her group thought that we should focus on Trillium and not submit a bid.

■■■■ (D4) asked about International airports – Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, London, and Windsor qualify. She also noted that October is also the month for Assembly.

■■■■ (D11) asked who pays for the hotel deposit – Sue said that WSO pays for that.

█████ (D15) Is the previous hotel research available? Answer: Yes.

█████ (D4) Could it piggy back on Assembly? Sue said it could, but it might not work, since the Road Trip is on a Saturday.

Moved by █████ (D21) that **“Ontario South put forward a bid to potentially host the 2024 Road Trip in October 2024.”** Seconded by █████ (D23).

█████ thinks it's a really great opportunity to meet up with the Board.

Votes : 46 in favour, 40 against. **Carried.**

Sue G. Asked for volunteers to help with research. If you voted yes, please decide if you want to help. It's not a big job, and the requirements from WSO are clear. Sue G. will chair the committee, and the meetings will be held on Zoom.

8:30 Ask-it-Basket Committee Advisors and volunteers / Salon Carleton, 2ndFloor

**Sunday, October 16**

**8:32 am Open with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer Sandy O – Chair**

**Traditions** read by █████; **Concepts** read by █████ (D6); **Warranties** read by █████ (D13)

**8:38 Host Committee Announcements** – Check-out time is at noon today. We want to thank █████ in particular, the hotel liason, who familiarized herself with the hotel contract really well. Other members of the committee were also applauded, including █████ – Chairperson, █████ – the AV coordinator; █████ – hospitality, █████ – Registration. Sandy also thanked the host committee for hosting three years in a row!

**8:42** Sandy thanked all the people that came forward with leads on a lawyer for the police checks. This is really Al-Anon at work! Please email [Gtais.chair@gmail.com](mailto:Gtais.chair@gmail.com) if you want to help with the Pri-med conference.

**8:44 Ask-it-Basket Answers:** Sue and the Ask-it-basket committee came with Answers.

█████ is grateful that she volunteered for the Ask-it-basket committee.

█████ (D6) When there are lots of people in person, with fewer people on Zoom, what can be done so that the Zoom people do not feel excluded? Use group conscience. One idea is to put the laptop on a lazy Susan, and pivot the laptop to put the in-person speaker on camera. The best way to learn is from experience. Concerns could be discussed at a business meeting. The 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition says that our public relations policy is based on attraction, rather than promotion.

█████ (D12) Re: Tradition 11, whereas our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, and that we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films; How does the practice of promoting Al-Anon with TV advertising and medical conventions fit with

Tradition 11? Please see the 1966 World Service Conference Statement on Public Relations. This is found on page 117 in the 2018-2019 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual. (or page 119 in the 2022-2025 version. Also look at guideline G9 on Al-Anon.org.

■■■■ (D26) When was the first Forum printed? A. 1949. Ruth G., from the California Family Group, started a twelve page, monthly magazine, and called it the Family Forum. This is found in Al-Anon History on al-anon.org.

■■■■ (D6): Are there paragraphs or CAL statements that we can use for meetings with an electronic component so that we can know the person's name and that covers protocols for muting and unmuting and turning on their video? Use group conscience. There is a guideline #39 about electronic meetings. The same principles that apply to in-person meetings apply electronically. We ask for respect, for people to wait their turn to speak, with no cross-talk. Group conscience ensures group autonomy.

Anonymous: At what point do we ask a person not to attend a meeting? Suggestions: Tradition 1 says "our common welfare should come first. Use group conscience, which might include taking a group inventory. One could invite a neutral third party to facilitate the group conscience. One could make situation-specific decisions, for example, to call 911. Another resource is the pamphlet "Safety in Al-Anon Meetings". Tradition 12 is "ever reminding us to place principles above personalities." This reminds us to define unacceptable conduct in meetings, rather than focusing on a personality.

**8:56 Delegate Update-Questions and Answers - Gwen D.** Gwen thanked the coordinators for working really hard over the past year to keep everyone in touch and for their service. Gwen introduced the executive. Caterina for her magic minutes; Janet for her concise reporting and her calm demeanor; Sandy for her great leadership, keeping us on task; Advisors Sue G. and Jason W. for their knowledge and experience; and then there are the people of Assembly. Each one of us does the business of Al-Anon. And the hospitality suite has been fabulous. Before Al-Anon, I didn't have time for anything, because I was butting my nose into everything that wasn't my business. Service gives me the opportunity to help out where it is needed and wanted. Now I have way more time!

Gwen said that in theory, we could do Assembly and AWSC electronically. However, the experience is so much richer in person. We laugh more, we can hug each other, and our relationships are much stronger if we meet in person. Please share your personal experiences when you get back to your groups. The weekend is more than talking about the Al-Anon budget, please share stories of how you may have been inspired and made new friends. Electronic meetings have their place, but one often has lunch alone at them.

Gwen attended workshops and presentations. One that stood out was the Service Inventory. Gwen is available to give a Service Inventory workshop at your District meeting or to your group. There is no growth if we are stuck in our fear. Sometimes, we need to go to the edge of our comfort zone. There is a Diversity Today thought force. Also a Using Abundant Thinking thought force. Do we still read the three obstacles to success at Al-Anon meetings? Lots of people raised their hands, and Gwen was pleased. A principle to keep in mind is "Presume good will." Participation is the key to harmony. Principles – others do their part (mutual trust), we do our part (mutual respect), we offer help and assistance, and there is no oversight.

Gwen described what she has done over the last year:

- Attended electronic Executive meetings

- Some Area District meetings
- Panel 61 meetings monthly
- Returned many emails and phone calls
- Invited to speak at a few events
- Active with home group, met with her sponsor, and sometimes sought guidance from her service sponsor (Gwen wants to do this more often)
- A lot of service work, for Gwen, is listening

Sometimes, it is one day at a time, or even one cry at a time. Gwen grows more confident every day. She is a definition of progress. The Concepts are a touchstone for how she wants to interact with others. She is happy to be on this journey. Practice means progress, and she is practising. Gwen needs to let go of fear and to know that sometimes she will be wrong, and that that's okay. She might make mistakes, but she is not a mistake. Being in a room together makes us feel "a part of", and we can't feel that as well electronically. Gwen would love to see us doing workshops again. Some groups have a pot-luck dinner, followed by a workshop.

To contact Gwen D: [ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com](mailto:ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com) or phone 519-870-0255. You can invite Gwen to visit in person or electronically. Gwen will be sending out her presentation through the Secretary.

### **9:31 Closing of Business with Al-Anon Declaration – All**

Pick up evaluation forms

### **Appendix: List of Motions Passed and Election Results**

**"We accept the voting procedures as presented." Carried.**

**"We accept the minutes of 2021 Assembly as amended." Carried.**

**"To accept the 2023 budget as presented." Carried.**

**That Ontario South Area World Service Committee add a position of Technology Coordinator position." Carried.**

**That Ontario South increase the seed money for Trillium to \$10,000. These funds should come from the Ontario South Reserve. Carried.**

**"That Ontario South create a thought force to investigate and make recommendations on including electronic meetings in Area 86 before any electronic districts are created." Carried.**

**"That the Ontario South Explanation and approval of voting procedures have served us well thus far and do not need to be reevaluated." Carried.**

**Election Results: Debbie P, 87 in favour, 3 opposed. Debbie P will be put forward as Ontario South's nominee for the Central Canada Region Trustee.**

**"Ontario South put forward a bid to potentially host the 2024 Road Trip in October 2024." Carried.**