

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](#)

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Districts in Ontario South

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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: If you wish to receive a 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)

From the Ontario South Delegate

I attended the World Service Conference (WSC) in April. Conference took place virtually over the course of 5 days. I was excited, nervous, overwhelmed and exhilarated. I often was consumed by all these feelings all at once.

I then attended our Area World Service Committee Meeting (AWSC) the last weekend in May. I gave a report that was an overview of the topics discussed at WSC.

In June I attended the Canadian Delegates meeting that was also held virtually.

As Delegate I was assigned to a Thought Force. This is a small group of Delegates that meet to focus on one specific topic. The topic is assigned by the WSO.

I was invited to attend a District meeting. The focus was a District inventory. It was a privilege to participate and to witness the Traditions & Concepts in action.

I stay in touch with WSO and Delegates from around the world through AFG Connects. I do my best to share information with our Area Members and vice-versa.

I receive and read the District Meeting Minutes that are sent to me. I appreciate getting these. It helps me to get to know YOU better. I feel a part of and connected to the vast Area that makes up Ontario South.

I have received phone calls and emails from members. I don't always know the answers to the questions. That's ok though, I don't have to know the answers. Sometimes it's more important to know the question or to know where to go for the answers. Sometimes I don't do anything, I simply listen.

I am in year one. I am confused a lot of the time. It's like learning a job. I have the education so now I'm getting the experience.

Most important is that I continue to stay connected to my Sponsor and Service Sponsor. That I am willing to learn and that being humble is OK. That I am on a journey and it not about the destination. And best of all, I am not alone.

Yours in Service,

Gwen D, Ontario South Delegate, Panel 61 ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com

From the Ontario South Alternate Delegate

Member Suggestions:

1. For the newcomer, perhaps your group could consider purchasing extra copies of the Forum and giving it along with the newcomer's package.
2. Please consider sending in an article to the Forum, as they are always looking for sharings on the legacies (Steps, Traditions, Concepts).
3. Please consider inviting a Coordinator to either your group or your District. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Love in Service,

Kristine B ontariosouthaltdelegate@cogeco.ca

From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Ontario South. I am starting to get a bit of an idea of what is involved in my new role. I can provide the following brief update.

Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting 2021, May 28,29 - was held via Zoom. I was extremely impressed by the number of districts represented, and the participation and dedication of our district representatives. This was a very long day, so many participated fully and stayed until the end. It was an incredible learning experience to chair this meeting and to witness our Al-Anon traditions and principles in action. The method of discussion, sharing and possible vote always amazes me.

I have an additional honor of being asked to be a part of our Literature Operating Committee. I have attended my first meeting and am getting up to speed about what is required.

Assembly 2021, October 15,16,17, Ottawa - Zoom or face-to-face? This will be addressed shortly by your area executive team. Stay tuned!

Assembly 2022 – HELP!!! We need a host committee from the west side of our area. The information is found on our area website <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/section-5B-assembly-host-guidelines-2020-07.pdf> . A district (or districts) is needed to perform this service. Please send your bid to me ASAP. If you have any questions, I will find answers for you.

Assembly 2023 - I have a good idea that a district(s) will be stepping up soon. Again, stay tuned.

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect 2022, October - a committee has been formed to present the information needed for the area to put a bid in to our World Service Office by October 2021.

Area Archives must be moved – a committee has been formed to report to our area Assembly this October.

Did You Know?

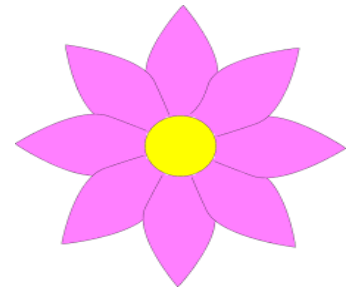
- Our area executive meets in January, July and November. Any member can send an item for consideration to any member of the executive at any time.
- All members are welcome to attend our area Assembly.
- All members have access to our area policy and guidelines manual on our area website <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual/> .

As you can see, our area has a lot going on. I get to be a part of it and learn, grow and recover. Thank you all.

Gratefully Yours,

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

SAVE the DATE!
NEW BEGINNINGS COBOURG
34th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Thursday September 30, 2021 Start time: 9:30am



From the Ontario South Secretary

Gratitude: I am grateful for the Al-Anon fellowship. It makes me feel supported, and gives me an opportunity to grow emotionally and spiritually.

Updates/Things you need to know: The 2021 Assembly meeting is scheduled for October 15th to 17th. If we meet in person, the meeting will take place in Ottawa. Many people are excited about the prospect of meeting face-to-face again!

Humility: Thank you to everyone in the Area who works to keep Al-Anon functioning. As Tradition 7 states, we are self-supporting through our voluntary contributions.

Slogan: Keep an open mind. Minds are like parachutes - they work best when open!

Caterina L. area86secretary@gmail.com

From the Literature Office Committee (LOC) Chairperson & Area Advisor

- SAMs and other Ontario South members met on June 26 to discuss recertification process of SAMs in Ontario South. It became a lively and productive discussion. One of the main awarenesses was that the SAMs realized they were not alone in their struggles with the lack of Alateens. There was also the desire among the SAMs to have workshops to aid them in their roles as SAMs. The committee is looking forward to creating such a workshop. We'll keep you posted.
- The Literature Distribution Center is now open on **Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 – 1:00.**
- Thank you to all the first-time position holders in Ontario South. Please know that your Executive is here to help out wherever and for whatever is needed. You never have to do anything alone in Al-Anon. Our **email addresses and phone numbers** are on the back page of this Open Lines. **USE US!**
- We are looking for District/s in the western section of Ontario South, to host the 2022 Assembly. I have had the experience and I can tell you, just like anything else in Al-Anon, the rewards are never-ending. Give it a thought! Contact the Area Chair for more information.

Sue G. Area Advisor & Literature Office Committee Chairperson butterfly8849@hotmail.com

From the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)

It's all about safety in Alateen meetings!

There must be at least **one** Supportive Al-Anon Member (SAM) at every Alateen meeting.

To become a SAM for the first time here's what you need to do:

- obtain a police record check including vulnerable sector screening from your local police station, in person or on-line. (If you live in Toronto the process is different, please check with me, your AAPP and I will provide you with the specific steps to follow.)
- some cities, towns etc. may reduce or eliminate the processing fee. If this applies to you your District Representative (DR) may request a letter from the Area Chair, Sandy O at chairons86@gmail.com. They 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.
- seal the police record check in an envelope and give it to your District Representative (DR) along with the completed Area form (FORM C: SUPPORTIVE AL-ANON MEMBER (SAM) SCREENING APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION FORM) which can be found on the Area website (www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca). Your DR will complete the form and send it to me for processing.

If you have any questions, please contact me at aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com

Jean McS, AAPP

From the Group Records Coordinator

Hello everyone, hope you are staying cool in this heat.

Things are moving forward with Group Records. There is nothing to report at this point. I have just completed the course I enrolled in to aid in my use of the data base file used by Ontario South, and it was an eye-opening experience. Glad I took the course, but wow a lot of information. Like the program, as I learn I grow! Being able to see how the program (database) works has enlightened me in how much work the original person who created it did. Hats off to the creator. In the meantime, I now feel much more confident in my ability to keep things in order.

I appreciate everyone using the group records change form to aid in accurate and complete records for each group.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance.

Hugs in service

Sharon R., Group Records Coordinator grprec@hotmail.com

From the Literature Coordinator

Hello everyone, I sincerely hope you have been safe and healthy since I last communicated. As we are closing in on returning to some semblance of normalcy, I anticipate that a lot of groups are contemplating face-to-face meetings once again.

Part of this transition will be an appraisal of what Conference Approved Literature (CAL) we have on hand and what we will have to order moving forward. Please remember that your Ontario South Literature Distribution Centre is eagerly awaiting your orders and support. Purchasing CAL from our LDC is an extension of our 7th Tradition in that it illustrates our Area's ability to be fully self supporting.

Since our last Open Lines, we learned at AWSC that there will be new preface and introduction pages added to any new printings of "The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage" B4 and "One Day at a Time in Al-Anon" B6. The purpose of these pages is to provide an historical perspective to the publications. Also, there is a booklet planned with "gems" from the original "Dilemma" publication. Sounds interesting.

Good news on the new Daily Reader that is in the works. The Volunteer Literature Committee at WSO has just completed review of the near final draft. Much more work lies ahead so that the book can hopefully be ready for its debut at the 2023 Al-Anon International Conference in New Mexico.

Again, I thank you for your patience and support as I feel my way through this new undertaking.

If you have any questions or concerns that I may be able to help your District or group with, please don't hesitate to email me at: 86literature@gmail.com

Jim M., Area Literature Coordinator 86literature@gmail.com

From the Open Lines Editor

Gratitude: I am grateful to everyone who submits updates to keep Ontario South in the know.

Updates/Things you need to know: Submission dates for 2021: **July 11, & Nov. 10.** As per AWSC 2021 decision, the cost of a mailed Open Lines subscription is now \$15.00/ year.

Slogan: "Keep It Simple" Taking it one issue at a time, helps me to focus on what needs to be done today, and lets tomorrow take care of itself :)

Humility: Thank you to everyone for the service that you provide to Ontario South.

Sue M-S, Open Lines Coordinator openlinesosa@gmail.com

From the Public Outreach Coordinator

Hello all,

Our Public Outreach members have been extremely busy even though we have been in a pandemic for a year and a half. They have managed to send information electronically as well as snail mail.

I am still searching for a project to focus on.

I do plan to do a workshop via zoom in October as Ontario South Assembly does have a zoom account that we can use. More details to follow.

Please forgive me as I have fallen behind in organizing my ideas and the workshop for this issue but I am back on track and you will hear from me soon. If you do not hear from me and you are interested in Public Outreach and haven't received an email, please send me an email at ontariosouthpo@gmail.com and let me know what district you are in.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

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

Al-Anon Mobile App Information: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/mobile-app/>



From the Website Coordinator



Visits to the Ontario South website have stabilised in the past three months with an average of 10,000 visits per 3 months. There were 48,000 pageviews and visitors spent an average of 1.5 minutes on the website, which is a score that indicates that they are not just page clicking, but reading and investigating our information. Which is exactly what we want!

Upcoming change to website meeting list

The primary theme of my website service right now is an upcoming change to the meeting listings. Many groups that suspended their in-person meeting during Covid, are discussing how to go back to face-to-face meetings. Those that took their meeting online, are contemplating whether they want to hold on to their electronic meeting after going back to in-person meetings. There are many (practical and technical) variables at play. I am sure you heard the word 'hybrid' circulate in this context. What does that actually refer to?

Hybrid: what does that mean?

These two explanations of the term seem to be most common:

Hybrid definition 1.

A group meets in person and makes that same meeting, on the same day and time, chaired by the same person, accessible online.

This can be done through a laptop using the accommodation's WIFI; or it can be done by using someone's phone as a hotspot. There might be other possibilities.

- Related choice to make by group conscience:
 - limit access to audio only
 - offer a full meeting with video, while honouring our anonymity principles

Hybrid definition 2.

A group meets in-person on their usual scheduled day and time, AND: there is also an online version of a group's meeting at another moment - not necessarily on the same day, at the same time. It may be that a group has volunteers who are willing to host the meeting on Zoom independently from the face-to-face meeting, using a sign-up schedule.

If your group makes a decision about your preferred hybrid meeting format, please notify me by email so that I can adjust your listing(s).

Meeting keywords ('tags') after the meeting page update

The format of the meeting listings on the website will soon be updated. A lot of conversation went into this upgrade, to ensure it reflects the status of each meeting correctly. After the update, meetings will explicitly show one the following status keywords ('tags'):

- Temporarily inactive (in red)
- In-person and online (in green)
- Online (in green)
- In-person (in black)

The 'in-person' tag will not be shown in the meeting list, because it is considered to be the default status of all of our meetings in the future. It will however be displayed on the meeting's details page.

The Ontario South meeting list will continue to also show the prefix/suffix that you have gotten familiar with during the pandemic. In that way, there can be no misunderstanding about your meeting's status.

- (elec) = the meeting is available online
- (TC) = the meeting is temporarily closed
- Re-opened = the meeting is in-person
- Meeting status unknown = we have not been notified about the latest status. These meetings will get the tag 'Temporarily inactive' on the website.

The prefix/suffix naming of your meeting may be dropped in the future when the update of the meeting list is found to be sufficiently transparent to all. For now, we will take it one step at a time.

Dealing with Covid measures

We are not out of the woods yet with Covid19. I have received many emails and phone-calls to ask about the practical application of Health Canada Guidelines. These issues require a well-

informed group conscience and it is up to each individual group to make arrangements that adhere to those guidelines. From what I have heard, rotation of specific Covid tasks amongst the membership is an important topic of discussions, to prevent active members from getting burned out. When Covid caused your membership to have dwindled, this can be a hard nut to crack.

I want to leave you today with this... I heard some fellows talk about dealing with the maximum allowed number of people in public meetings. They have reached an interesting agreement with their members, that ensures that no newcomer ever has to be turned away from any of their physical meetings.

They decided that:

If a newcomer enters the room, and if this causes the maximum number of people allowed in the meeting to be exceeded...

One or more of their core-members will voluntarily leave the meeting, so that the newcomer can find help and hope in our program after coming through our doors.

I wish you all a healthy, safe and relaxing summer!

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



District Representative Updates

District 5 (Huron-Perth) Update

Our '2 County' District has 10 Al-Anon Meetings. These unique pandemic times have led to 3 using Zoom, 4 now in-person and 3 temporarily closed. We continue to learn and evolve.

Gratitude: I am grateful for all Al-Anon members, from near-by and far away, who participate in our program. Special thanks to our Zoom District Meeting attendees and Public Outreach Committee who continue to be involved in organizing ways, both new and tried, to share the message of Al-Anon with any who reach out for help.

Updates/Things you need to know:

Al-Anon participation in this District's June 6 AA Roundup went smoothly! Many thanks to our dedicated committee for their hard work.

District 5 Al-Anon Day, 'Finding Our Way'

Noon-4pm., Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Meeting ID: 241 749 2219. Passcode: 123123

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2417492219?pwd=UVd0L2NCeE56V0k5bzNPY2d6RzRqdz09>

Flyer on Ontario South Al-Anon webpage in August.

Slogans: 'Keep It Simple' and 'One Day at a Time' are the slogans most used by me in my approach to my new role as DR. They work if I work them! Service is one of the primary ways for me to pay forward the serenity and sanity I have found because Al-Anon found me. I just keep coming back.

Lou A- District 5 DR

District 6 (London and area) Update

AFG meetings: As pandemic restrictions lift, our AFG meetings will begin slowly to resume in-person meetings. However, it is up to each Al-Anon Family Group conscience and Group decision on when that will happen. Currently, we have several virtual meetings and a few in-person meetings in the London region. We are also researching ways to establish permanent virtual meetings for our District to provide as many options as possible for our Al-Anon membership. To stay informed, please visit our website at www.london-on-al-anon.org or call our number at 519-457-9393.

Events: London and area held its virtual Al-Anon Day on May 8, 2021. Our theme was RECOVERY: CONNECTING US TO HOPE. We had over 125 participants and four hours of great speakers, sharing and recovery. Thank you to our Al-Anon Day Committee and Zoom coordinators whose service was exemplary. Also, a huge thank you to all those who joined us from all over Ontario, Canada and the world.

District 6 Al-Anon Family Groups are hosting **Friday Night Open Speaker meetings via Zoom** on the first Friday evening of the month at 8 pm. For more information, please visit our website at www.london-on-al-anon.org.

Slogan: 'Easy Does It' reminds me that when I am in slow motion, giving my higher power and the Al-Anon program time to work in my life, I will get to wherever I am going faster and with more serenity and sanity.

Tannis R – District 6 DR

District 17 (Upper Peel-Halton) Update

Gratitude – For being graced with a ticket to the 70th Anniversary celebration and being able to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Updates – We have a newly registered Alateen group in Milton. Meetings begin September 14. Details will be on the website.

Willingness to Serve – Yvonne, Patricia and Carole as newly appointed SAM's for the Milton Alateen group.

Links of Service - Blessings go to our GR's for keeping the lines of communication open and our groups alive and well.

Joanne G - District 17 DR

District 23 (Lakeshore) Update

Lakeshore District 23 is comprised of 11 groups. Meetings stretch from Pickering (in the west) to Bowmanville (in the east) and Port Perry (in the north). At present, two of our meetings are temporarily closed, one has reopened face-to-face, and the other 8 are still ongoing via the Zoom platform (at the time of this writing).

Our district continues to work towards registering an Alateen meeting which is being planned for Saturdays at noon. Our district will have 3 Supportive Al-Anon Members available to support the teens.

Upcoming district events include our **Al-Anon Day scheduled for 25 Sept. 2021**, and hosted by the Morning Glory AFG. As well, plans for a Writing Workshop in the Fall are underway, with the committee being formed by the YANA (You Are Not Alone) AFG. Our district is blessed with many active members who know the benefit of service – together we can make it!

As District Rep, I enjoyed attending my very first (although virtual) Area World Service Committee meeting in May, and subsequently participated in the Ask-It Basket Committee (at the very strong urging of my Sponsor 😊). It was a very positive experience and another opportunity to participate in service at the Area level.

How time flies...it's hard to believe that the first 6 months of the year, and our new service terms, are over. Only three more District meetings will occur in the rest of 2021! I continue to be grateful for the spirit of willingness, participation and fellowship that the GR's from each of our 11 groups bring to the district table. Perhaps we will actually 'see' each other at Assembly in the Fall – one can hope!

Hope, Unity, GratITUDE, Service

Deborah F - District 23 DR

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update

I want to thank all of the groups, districts and members who continue to support your LDC. Because of you the **office is now open an additional day which is Thursdays from 10-1**. So now

you can reach me directly on Wednesdays or Thursdays. I am hoping as groups get back to face-to-face meetings, we may be able to reopen the regular hours of the past but for now baby steps.

Remember though that you can leave a voice mail or an email on any day that works for you and I will get back to you on the next day the office is open.

We did have slowdowns in getting some literature from WSO as they had printer delays but today most of the books are back in stock and ready to go. The exception is a few of the Alateen books. I continue to watch for them and as soon as they are available, they will be ordered for the LDC. The good news in this is that we have had more Alateen books being bought recently. It is great to see Alateen literature in use. Al-Anon members did you ever consider using Alateen literature for your own personal recovery or as a group topic? Alateen isn't another program, it is our program put out there in a different manner. I know many of the Al-Anon members who love the **Alateen Daily Checklist of Myself S-6**. Just a thought.

If your **literature person for your group has changed**, please make sure to send me the updated info. I need full name, mailing address, phone number and email. Of course, when sending that please make sure I know the district your group is in and the group name, and as a bonus the group number if you have that. I cannot update Hope for Today AFG if I don't know where your group is because there are many with the same group name. Even your more creative names are not always just had by you, so that district number is vital.

That is all for now. Be well, and I hope to see you face-to-face in the not-so-distant future.

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

Ask-It-Basket Responses to Questions from AWSC

Here are the questions submitted and the responses by the Ask-it-Basket Committee, from this spring's Area World Service Committee meeting:

MY QUESTION IS: As we slowly move to open things up in Ontario and once the Ontario Government starts loosening the restrictions about how many people can gather in indoor settings. & Would Ontario South Area be open/accept hybrid Al-Anon Family Groups that could operate as a combination of meeting by Zoom and some face to face? & These groups would be registered with the District where the face-to-face meeting is located. **NAME:** Ian S. DISTRICT #: 28, AIS Ottawa

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Thank you for this question. The short answer is: Ontario South Assembly is open to accepting hybrid Al-Anon Family Group meetings that operate a face-to-face meeting together with an electronic component at the same time. This means that the members meeting in a physical space are joined by other members participating by electronic formats (telephone, video) at the same time.

The long answer is: We find ourselves in fluid circumstances where the rules, regulations, expectations and understandings change from day to day. However, at this time, most of our Al-Anon Family Groups (AFGs) are still operating temporary electronic meetings in various formats such as by telephone, video and email. As restrictions lift, it is likely that these temporary electronic meetings will cease. For example, if your AFG meeting is registered as a face-to-face meeting, then it will resume meeting face-to-face at the appropriate time. Please find help at this link with resuming face-to-face meetings.

https://al-anon.org/blog/did-your-group-resume-its-face-to-face-meeting/?utm_source=intheloop&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20210609ITL&utm_term=EN-textlink6_Read-more_&utm_content=/blog/did-your-group-resume-its-face-to-face-meeting/

However, many members find electronic meetings beneficial and would like to continue to have access to their AFG meeting through an electronic format. Depending on the group conscience and group decision of the AFG, a hybrid AFG meeting that operates a face-to-face meeting together with an electronic component at the same time is an acceptable option.

MY QUESTION IS: There was an Al-Anon member who is a member of AIS Ottawa and would have liked to attend AWSC to listen to the delegate's report; however, she was refused entry into AWSC when she called in earlier on Saturday. So, my question for the Ask-It-Basket: What is the rationale for not allowing visitors to listen to part of the Proceedings as observers?

NAME: Ian S. DISTRICT #: 28, AIS Ottawa

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: *“Area World Service Committee (AWSC): consists of the officers of the Assembly, District Representatives, Coordinators, and AIS Liaison members. They meet between Assemblies to plan the Assembly agenda and deal with other Area business, as needed.”* Pg. 75, Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/service-manual/>

“Background: *The AWSC meeting is a gathering of invited OSA members where discussions are entered into regarding issues that affect Ontario South, motions are presented and voted upon and subsequently brought to the following Assembly.*

Members: *AWSC is comprised of the seven Executive Members: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, two Advisors; eight Co-ordinators, the Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee Chairperson, Trillium Chairperson, AIS Chairperson(s), LDC Office Manager and Literature Office Committee (LOC) Members not already mentioned, and thirty DRs.*

ADRs are encouraged to attend as observers to allow them to experience an AWSC meeting and although they have a voice, they have no vote, unless acting as the DR for their district.” Section 4, Page 1. Ontario South Assembly Policies & Guidelines Manual <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/section-4-awsc-2020-07.pdf>

It is not about keeping people out of AWSC. There are physical space considerations at an in-person meeting if people were to just show up without prior registration. There are also limitations on the number of people who can attend a Zoom meeting, and expanding capacity for either would cost the Area more money. All Ontario South members will have an opportunity to hear about the information discussed at AWSC through the Links of Service and at Assembly.

MY QUESTION IS: about Zoom meetings and in-person meetings after the pandemic. Can an Al-Anon Family Group increase their number of meetings per week and have one meeting in-person and one meeting as a Zoom meeting?

Can an Al-Anon Family Group change from an in-person meeting to a Zoom meeting and still have a GR and other positions and participate in District? **NAME:** Tannis R., District # 6

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: The Zoom meetings have been accepted by WSO as a temporary meeting to help service the fellowship during closing of face-to-face meetings due to the pandemic.

Zoom meetings are Electronic Meetings: Refer to *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021* p3 Multiple Meetings, p32 Procedures for Starting an Electronic Al-Anon Meeting, p88 & p89 Electronic Meetings, p73 Groups; and the WSO guideline G-39 *Electronic Al-Anon Meeting Guidelines*.

We do not currently have an answer as to whether a group can change from an in-person meeting to a Zoom meeting, and still have a GR and other positions and participate in District.

MY QUESTION IS: about who has the authority to decide what?

In what circumstances can Area Executive make unilateral decisions and/or take actions?

In what circumstances can the AWSC make decisions/take actions?

In what circumstance must decisions be made by the Area Assembly? **NAME:** Tannis R., District # 6

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: As stated in the AWSC 2021 Registration Package:

EXPLANATION AND APPROVAL OF VOTING PROCEDURES

There are Four Essential Elements to make an informed group decision:

- 1. A philosophy of open communication between leadership and membership*
- 2. Having a conversation before we make a decision*
- 3. All available information is provided to assist in making an informed decision*
- 4. The process needs to exist in a culture of trust with all who are participating*

As a result of Informed Group Decision discussion, there are three possible outcomes:

- *If an item is deemed to be of a substantial nature & interest to the Assembly, and should therefore be tabled at Assembly, AWSC can vote on a motion to bring it forward to Assembly. AWSC will not vote on a particular decision on the issue.*
- *If an item is deemed to be primarily of an administrative nature, and therefore does not need to go to Assembly, AWSC can vote on a motion or decision point to be implemented by the Executive.*
- *AWSC can also determine that an item is not of a substantial nature & interest to the Assembly or AWSC and therefore no motion is required following the discussion. (Status quo).*

As stated in the *Ontario South Assembly Policy and Guidelines Manual*, Section 2A Executive Members, Item 4 - Common Responsibilities, bullet 6: *Always act in the best interest of Al-Anon in Ontario South.*

Additionally, matters of urgency may be added to the Assembly Agenda, bypassing the normal process of Executive to AWSC to Assembly.

Also, the Executive may be required to make decisions to coordinate the AWSC Agenda topics to fit into a weekend.

See also Concept 3: *The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.*

See also Concept 10: *Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.*

See also Tradition 9: *Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.*

The overarching principles include:

- Trusted servants
- Presumed good will.

MY QUESTION IS: There is a very pushy and bossy member in our district. The first major issue I dealt with by having 2 of us attend their meeting and I led a discussion of issues within the group. That appeared to be successful. Later I learned that several people had left the group for another group and eventually this group closed. She made some overtures to another group who wished that she not join them. At this point no groups in the part of district where she lives do not want her there and will ask her to leave. How should I as DR approach this situation using the traditions as my guide? **NAME:** *(withheld by Ask-it-Basket committee)*

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER:

Read: “*Courage to Be Me*” (Alateen) page 187

Review Al-Anon’s “Obstacles to Success” – Dominance

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pages 52, 85, 87

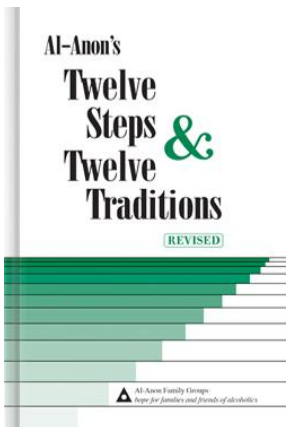
Workshop on Conflict Resolution from our Delegate

Check out these additional Al-Anon resources:

The Twelves Steps and Traditions pamphlet (P-17), pg. 17



Al-Anon’s Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (B-8) – Tradition #1 story



Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflict Kit (K70)

“Information to aid members in preventing and dealing with conflict in Al-Anon groups and service arms. The Kit contains S-71, S-72, and S-73.”



“Let’s Talk about Safety in Al-Anon Meetings”

“Safety is an important issue within Al-Anon—one that all can address. Open discussion on the topic can aid groups in developing workable solutions to safety issues—solutions that are based on the fundamental principles of our fellowship and that will help keep our meetings safe.” <https://al-anon.org/pdf/Safety-in-Al-Anon-meetings.pdf>

Upcoming Events!!

**Check out Ontario South Website for upcoming events
(Just click on the link on the first page) 😊**

District 5 Al-Anon Day, 'Finding Our Way'

Noon-4pm, Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Meeting ID: 241 749 2219. Passcode: 123123

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2417492219?pwd=UVd0L2NCeE56V0k5bzNPY2d6RzRqdz09>

Flyer on Ontario South Al-Anon webpage in August.

Celebrating Al-Anon's



***"70 Years of Recovery—
Celebrating Hope!"***

*Al-Anon District 31-Kingston Region
in Kingston, Ontario, Canada
is hosting their 44th Day of Al-Anon
(with AA participation)*

***on Saturday, October 2, 2021
from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm EDT.***

Meeting ID: 819 3783 2129 Passcode: 120268

***Everyone is welcome.
Please help spread the word!
Thank you!***

Retrieved from: <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/event/district-31-kingston-region-day-of-al-anon/>

