

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 \(AMIAS\)](#)

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

[Area Policy Manual](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Option: copy and paste the following to your browser:

<https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms/>

Al-Anon Declaration

Let it begin with me

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

Statement of Purpose

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

Subscription: Rates:

Free for personal email subscription.

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

Please send a request for NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to:

openlinesosa@gmail.com

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

Districts in Ontario South

- District 1** – Muskoka (Angus, Barrie, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Innisfil, Midland, Orillia, Parry Sound, Sprucedale, Wasaga Beach)
- District 2** – Georgian Bay (Collingwood, Dundalk, Owen Sound, Lion's Head, Thornbury)
- District 3** – Bruce County (Hanover, Kincardine, Mount Forest, Port Elgin, Southampton)
- District 4** – Waterloo Region (Cambridge, Elmira, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, New Hamburg, Rockwood, Waterloo, Kitchener/Waterloo)
- District 5** – Huron Perth (Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Listowel, St. Marys, Stratford)
- District 6** – London Region (London, Strathroy)
- District 7** – Sarnia region (Bright's Grove, Forest, Petrolia, Sarnia)
- District 8** – Windsor, Essex (Amherstburg, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville, LaSalle, Leamington, Windsor)
- District 9** – Chatham region (Chatham, Ridgetown, Wallaceburg, Tilbury)
- District 10** – Elgin region (Ingersoll, Port Stanley, Port Rowan, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg, Woodstock)
- District 11** – Brantford, Caledonia (Brantford, Simcoe)
- District 12** – Niagara region (Dunnville, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, Ridgeway, Welland)
- District 13** – St. Catharines (Grimsby, St. Catharines)
- District 14** – Hamilton West {Amalgamated with District 15} (Hamilton, Burlington, Stoney Creek, Waterdown)
- District 16** – Mississauga (Mississauga, Oakville, Port Credit)
- District 17** – Peel, Halton (Acton, Bolton, Bramalea, Brampton, Erin, Georgetown, Milton, Woodbridge)
- District 18** – GTA North (Aurora, Beaverton, Bradford, Keswick, King City, Newmarket, Orangeville, Stouffville, Sutton West, Tottenham)
- District 19** – Toronto North (Don Mills, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Toronto, Willowdale)
- District 20** – Toronto West (Etobicoke, Toronto, Weston)
- District 21** – Toronto Central (Toronto)
- District 22** – Scarborough (Agincourt, Markham, Scarborough, Toronto, Unionville)
- District 23** – Lakeshore (Ajax, Bowmanville, Orono, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry, Whitby)
- District 24** – Kawartha (Bancroft, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Haliburton, Lindsay, Maynooth, Minden, Oakwood, Omemee)
- District 25** – Quinte (Belleville, Campbellford, Cobourg, Foxboro, Picton, Port Hope, Stirling, Trenton)
- District 26** – St. Lawrence (Brockville, Carleton Place, Gananoque, Kemptonville, Perth, Smiths Falls)
- District 27** – Seaway Valley (Cornwall, Lancaster, Morrisburg, Winchester)
- District 28/29** – Ottawa (Ottawa, Arnprior)
- District 30** – Ottawa Valley (Barry's Bay, Cobden, Pembroke, Renfrew, St. Joseph, Quebec)
- District 31** – Kingston region (Kingston, Napanee)
- District 32** – Kawartha South (Ennismore, Norwood, Peterborough)
- District 33** – Overlay

From the Ontario South Delegate

Hello fellow members! I hope you're having a great start to 2024; mine has been filled with fellowship and lots of new learning.

A big "thank you" to everyone who sent me input on the upcoming World Service Conference items that I sent out to the DRs. Your comments are very helpful and I will take them with me when I head to Virginia Beach.

On that note, members, groups and Districts that would like to send cards to wish me well at Conference would be greatly appreciated! If you do, please put **MY** home (it's on the back of this newsletter!) as the return address, in case your mail gets delayed en route. *Please plan to have your mail arrive after April 13.* The address for me at the hotel is:

Jason White (hold for WSC 4/18-4/21, 2024)
The Founders Inn and Spa
5641 Indian River Road
Virginia Beach, VA
23464

I look forward to seeing our District Representatives and Coordinators at our Area World Service Committee meeting in May, and many of you as I travel around the Area this year!

Yours in Service,
Jason W. Delegate, Ontario South

From the Ontario South Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator

Hello fellow members of Ontario South. I am excited to take on this new role to serve you, our area Coordinators and executive team as I am able. As Alternate Delegate I have several main roles as follows.

- Executive liaison with our area Coordinators
- Make ongoing changes to our Area Policy Manual as required from time to time
- Forum Coordinator
- Back up to our Delegate
- I am very pleased to be the one to respond to questions from possible newcomers
- I have taken on the role as executive liaison for the Trillium Committee
- As a member of the executive team serving the membership, I attend all executive meetings and have a voice and a vote

Thank you again for the opportunity to be able to continue to serve Al-Anon and Ontario South. I can never repay Al-Anon for all that I have received, but I can try through various types of service as I continue to learn, grow, and recover.

Sandy O., Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator

From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Members of Ontario South!

While I can tell you what I've been up to with respect to the Chairperson role, I'd first like to share how I feel! Confused, uncertain, questioning whether or not to hit the send button!? And at the same time, grateful, as I'm part of a team and never alone, I just need to ask for help, and I am learning so much about the business of the Area, and so much about myself – my assets, as well as those other character traits, that when they're out of balance, create irritability and discontent. And more often than not, when I've accomplished something that fills me with fear, I feel so proud of myself!

With respect to my chairperson tasks, some of these have included:

Executive Meetings: Collaborating with others to prepare the meeting agendas and chairing the Executive meetings.

Trillium 2025: Contacting potential members and asking them to serve as the Trillium Shadow Chair in 2024 and Chairperson for 2025 (someone volunteered, yay!).

AWSC 2024: Reviewing past Evaluation Forms and members' suggestions and discussing, planning and drafting the AWSC package documents and subsequent finalization, and participating in the background research on the Discussion Items. AWSC is happening May 24-26 at Durham College.

Items for Consideration: Participating in the research, discussion, and drafting of responses to the members who submitted them. Members can send an Item for Consideration to the Executive using the online form found on the Area website. Members will receive a response following the Executive meeting at which the Item was discussed. Refer to Section 5A.21 of the Area Policy Manual for reference.

AMIAS Letters: Sending out a letter when a member requires one to reduce the cost of their police record check as part of their certification process.

News From Your Executive: Creating and sending out this news blast following each Executive meeting to communicate some of what we've been up to. Please look for these flyers from your links of service, and share the information!

Assembly 2024: Acting as liaison to the Assembly Host Committee. Soon enough meetings will commence for planning the Assembly in October. The Area needs Districts in the east to put in a bid to host Assembly in 2025. Bids are requested by May 2024!

From a personal growth perspective, I participated in a Concepts Study group, and reaffirmed my focus on the spiritual principles that guide us, both in the business of Al-Anon and in our personal lives. As well, I'm practicing using the slogan *Listen and Learn*; whether sitting at the Executive table or participating in a Thought Force, I am gifted the experience, strength and hope of so many others who are on the same path of using service as a recovery tool.

HopeUnityGratitudeService
Deborah F., Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly

From the Ontario South Treasurer

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as your area treasurer for another 3 years.

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

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

Or, if you prefer, make your cheque payable to "Ontario South Assembly" and mail to P.O. Box 1151, Station Main, Guelph, ON N1H 6N3. For proper accounting please use the donation form found in the area manual. Go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca, for members, donations.

[Donations information click here](#)

The budgeted amount suggested from each group for 2024 is \$169.95

Thank you for putting your trust in me.

Janet B Treasurer osatreasurer3@gmail.com

From the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)

Wow it has been an interesting and busy time as I move into this service position.

All AMAIS have to complete their recertification on or before May 1st of this year. There is no need for a police check this year. Simple fill the form and have your District Representative sign page 2. You can scan and email it back to me or if you wish you can snail mail it. My information is found in Open Lines.

I look forward to seeing some of you at AWSC which is coming up very soon.

Hugs In Service

Sharon R, Area Alateen Process Person

From the Archives Coordinator

The archives crew is still working diligently to make Ont. South history readily available to all members. Since moving to our smaller storage unit, we have passed along boxes to the LDC Committee for them to decide what is essential to be archived.

We have also reached out to GTAIS to find out from them what they feel need to be kept for their history.

It won't be long now before we can dig into the memorabilia boxes to see what has been saved from our past. I am looking forward to that.

Spring is in the air - new hope for all. Please forward any inquiries or requests for historical information and we will be our best to assist.

Yours in Service

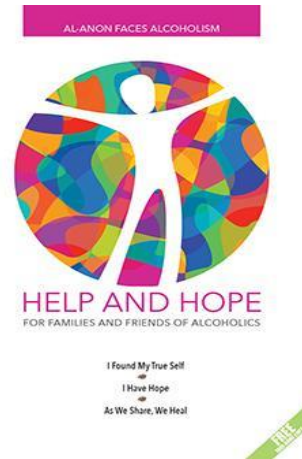
Valerie P, Archives Coordinator

From the Area Literature Coordinator

Hi Ontario South,

As the new Literature Coordinator in Ontario South, my role is to: "*Act as a resource for their Area on Conference Approved Literature*", so feel free to reach out and invite me to your next District meeting! We can discuss ideas for your group/district about:

- Why and how to purchase Conference Approved Literature (CAL) from Ontario South's Literature Distribution Centre <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/literature/>, including supporting your group librarian;
 - Ideas for Group and District Literature workshops (in-person, on-line, 1/2-day, full day);
 - How each of us can contribute to creating Conference Approved Literature <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/literature-resources/>.
- Ideas for Literature Outreach in which groups and districts can order copies of the pamphlet *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* to distribute in their community (Libraries, doctor's offices, church, temple, synagogue, community centers, police, fire and ambulance stations, etc.).



<https://ecomm.al-anon.org/EN/ItemDetail?iProductCode=AFAM> (English)
<https://ecomm.al-anon.org/ES/ItemDetail?iProductCode=SAFAM> (Spanish)
<https://ecomm.al-anon.org/FR/ItemDetail?iProductCode=FAFAM> (French);

I look forward to hearing how I can support the use of Conference Approved Literature at your Al-Anon Family Group and District.

Sue M. Literature Coordinator Ontario South osalitcoord86@gmail.com

Check out the free downloadable literature here:

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/downloadable-items/>

From the Alateen Coordinator

Hello Ontario South,

It is an honour to step into the role of Alateen Co-Ordinator. For those of you who do not know me, please feel free to reach out. I'm happy to discuss my experience with the Alateens, the program of Alateen and the benefits I've seen teens, including my own, experience.

We are hopeful that Alateen is growing again. To date we have 17 Alateen Registrants for the upcoming ORC (Ontario Regional Conference of AA). The conferences are a great place to introduce teens into the Alateen program as many groups have few or no teens at the moment.

If you have or know a child who could benefit from Alateen, I encourage you to bring them to the upcoming Trillium Conference June 14, 15 and 16.

I'm hoping to reach out to all the AMIAS's and offer support soon. I'm currently organizing myself and trying to implement a system to create support for the AMIAS's.

We revived HUGS Alateen, in London, back in January and it has been doing well.

District 12 is moving towards opening a new Alateen Group.

Exciting things ahead for Alateen. I promise to do my best to support and grow Alateen to the best of my ability, God willing, in my 3 year term.

In Service,

Judith W, Ont. S. Alateen Coordinator

From the Group Records Coordinator

Hello, my name is Christina Lowry and I am honored to be serving Ontario South as your Group Records Coordinator for 2024-2026. Since the handover meeting in January, 2024 I have been receiving numerous emails, from Group Records Change form, electronic group questions and general questions.

Just a gentle reminder to groups wanting to register as an Electronic group, you need to do so on WSO website at al-anon.org, any questions about this process can be sent to grprec@hotmail.com. WSO Group Records database can take from 1-14 days to process.

Hugs in service

Christina L, Group Records Coordinator grprec@hotmail.com

From the Open Lines Coordinator

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity to serve. I am so very excited to share this edition of Open Lines with you! As you read these amazing reports may you be as inspired as I am by the Service being done to carry the message of Hope to those affected by the family disease of Alcoholism.

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. Thank you to all of the Executive, Coordinators and DR's who submit to each issue of Open Lines.

The deadline (*mark your calendars*) for submissions to Open Lines each year are:
March 11 (April 1 issue) **July 11** (August 1 issue); November 11 (December 1 issue)

As Open Lines Coordinator I attend and contribute to AWSC. Last year was my first opportunity to attend, because of Covid, it was virtual. This May was my first ever face to face Area World Service Committee (AWSC). What an amazing gift to participate in the business of our Area informed by the Spiritual Principles of our Program.

I also had the opportunity to contribute to updating the section of our Ontario South Assembly Policies & Guidelines Manual as it relates to my service position of Open Lines Coordinator [Click here](#)

I invite all members to submit to me your feedback throughout the year. I will try to incorporate your suggestions as much as is practical to do so. You might find that thinking of your feedback in the form of stop/start/continue might help to provide respectful, honest and meaningful communication that will enhance the value of the Newsletter to benefit our Area.

If you do not currently receive your own email copy, please email me at openlinesosa@gmail.com to receive your very own free email subscription. The next issue is April 1, 2024.

Yours in Joyful service,

Loretta V, Open Lines Coordinator openlinesosa@gmail.com

From the Technology Coordinator

This is my first term serving as your Technology Coordinator for Ontario South. So far, the technical questions have been manageable. Some of those technical issues have involved coordinator email transfer, and installation of printer drivers. For all of these issues I searched on the Internet to find answers. Fun fact, with the growing use of Artificial Intelligence and web search technology, it is relatively easy to find answers on "how do you do xyz". Like human beings no technology is perfect, the results returned from a web search must be read through to find the answer that applies.

A few tasks I'm working on:

1. standardize the email addresses used the Ontario South Coordinators and Executive.

2. create a process to make it easier to transfer these emails addresses to other members, as well as supporting password recovery. Something which occurs every 3 years.
3. Figure out how to allow multiple users on the Area's Zoom account
4. Learn enough Python to create a script to ease the task of group records updates
5. Assist with technology requirements for Assemblies

Anthony S., Technology Coordinator

From the Website Coordinator

Why is it so important to submit changes on a Group Records Change Form?

When you submit changes on a Group Records Change Form it sends a notification to both myself and the Group Records Coordinator. This allows the information to be updated on both the Ontario South Website and with the World Service Office (WSO).

If the change is submitted through the Meeting Feedback feature on the website these changes will not be made. The Ontario South Website and the WSO website are not connected and as Website Coordinator I do not have access to the WSO group records database.

I can only make changes to the website using Group Records Change Forms. Over the last few months I have worked with the Group Records Coordinator and the Technology Coordinator to update the Group Records Change Form and make it more functional for the membership. The new form is now active and can be found at:

<https://form.jotform.com/OntarioSouth/grchangeform>

The form has gone through testing and received positive feedback and I'm excited to hear what the rest of the Area has to say about the updated form. The old form will remain active for a period of time as the transition to the new form is completed.

Does your District have a website?

Does your District have a website? I would love to get in contact with you and learn more about your website - send me an email at os.website.a86@gmail.com

Are you or your group interested in learning more about the website?

Invite me to attend your group to speak or answer questions all about the website! I am also available for workshops, AI-Anon Day's or other service opportunities.

Do you have a talent or skill that you think could benefit the function of the website? This could be assisting with reviewing the content of the website for continuity, assisting with photos and graphics, jotforms, event content writing, etc. If you think you could provide any service to the website please email os.website.a86@gmail.com

Introducing VIRTUAL WEBSITE COORDINATOR "OFFICE" HOURS!

On April 21st from 1pm - 4pm I will be available on Zoom (details to follow) for the membership, GRs, DRs, Coordinators, and Executive to drop in and ask questions, chat, learn, and more about the website.

I hope to have these office hours once every few months as a way to be further accessible to the membership and help them learn more about the website and how it can benefit them and their AI-Anon journey.

In solidarity,

Kathleen S., Website Coordinator Ontario South os.website.a86@gmail.com

From the Trillium Chair



Happy Spring Ontario South Members!

My name is Monique R. and I feel very blessed to be in service to Al-Anon and Ontario South as your 2024 Trillium Convention Chair.

Like the Trillium flower we are named after, the three petalled blossoms of our 3 Legacies will be out in full force June 14-16, 2024 as we gather in Oshawa to "Put Love into Action" and share our collective experience, strength and hope along with Alateen and our invited guests, A.A.

The entire committee has been working diligently to prepare an amazing weekend of fun, food, and fellowship and I am pleased to announce that

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

Information regarding registration, accommodations, meal packages, and programme highlights can be found on the Trillium Web page <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/trillium/>. You can also email any questions about Trillium to **OSATrillium@gmail.com**.

This is your one-stop shop for all things Trillium! Note that the deadline for advance registration is May 26, 2023. After that date, members will be able to register at the door if we have not reached our capacity limit of 250. Last year's Conference was **sold out** so please **REGISTER EARLY so as not to miss out**.

Volunteers: Are you keen on supporting the Trillium Convention through Service? If you are interested in getting involved, please send me an email at **osatrillium@gmail.com**. If you have a specific area (ie. greeter, registration, Alateen, bookstore...), let me know and I will direct your expression of interest to the appropriate committee member.

Donations: Some of you have been asking about group donations to Trillium 2024. If an individual or your Group or District wishes to donate to help cover the cost of putting on our Convention you can send an e-transfer to: trillium2024treasurer@gmail.com.

Please include the word "**DONATION**" as well as your **GROUP NAME** and **DISTRICT NUMBER (if applicable)** in the message box. Direct deposit has been activated, so no security question is required.

Last but definitely not least I am thrilled to introduce Shannon K. who has stepped up as Shadow Chair this year and will be your **2025 Trillium Chair...Welcome Shannon!**

Hello Ontario South,

My name is Shannon K (District 6) and I am the new Shadow Chairperson for the 2024 Trillium Convention in June. I am looking for members who might be interested in joining me in this exciting service opportunity as members of the Shadow Committee this year. The idea is that we SEE (and possibly assist with) the planning of Trillium 2024 this year, in order to actually DO the planning of Trillium 2025 for next year. If you are interested in more information, please contact me directly at slkuiack@gmail.com.

Shadow positions that need to be filled are listed below:
Shadow Committee Trillium 2024:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Venue Coordinator
- Al-Anon Program Coordinator
- Alateen Program Coordinator
- Alateen Advisor
- A.A. Liaison/Program Coordinator
- Registration Coordinator
- Communications Coordinator
- Graphics Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Literature Coordinator
- Gratitude Coordinator

Honoured to be of service,
Monique R., 2024 Trillium Chair OSATrillium@gmail.com

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

NO	NAME	ITEM	RESPONSE
1	Diana B, D16	<p>In the August 2023 edition of Open Lines, under Items for Consideration, a member, Deborah F(D23), asked why the AIS Chairperson is the only voting member of AWSC whose costs for AWSC are not covered by the Area. Part of the response was that the Executive was going to discuss it further at their next meeting. What was the result of the discussion? I feel this item should be brought forward to AWSC and Assembly to be reconsidered with a view to equality and inclusion. It seems punitive and undemocratic to not pay the costs of AIS Chairs when every other member of AWSC is having their costs paid by the Area. This policy doesn't seem to be in keeping with Warranty 4 and 5. In Al-Anon everyone is considered equal, and the Service Manual (pg 159, 176) clearly states that AIS Chairs are voting members of AWSC. I was once told that there are not supposed to be any barriers to anyone doing a service position, but if an AIS can't afford to send their Chair to AWSC, then the AIS loses their voice and vote at the meeting. Since all other AWSC members have their costs paid, finances are never a barrier to their attending the meeting. Last year AWSC voted to allow Alternate AIS Chairs to attend AWSC as observers, similar to the ADR's. In order to send the AIS Chair and Alternate Chair to AWSC the AIS has to pay over \$500. It is financially punitive to the AIS District(s) to have to pay that much to send their Chair and Alternate Chair to AWSC, especially when no other District has to pay to send their DR and ADR. Alternate AIS Chairs should be afforded the same opportunity to attend AWSC and learn as an ADR is given, but the inequality in the cost makes it prohibitive. If the Area agreed to cover the cost to send the 2 AIS Chairs (Ottawa and Toronto) to AWSC, then the AIS Districts could more easily afford to give their Alternate Chair the opportunity to attend and learn at the AWSC meeting. Al-Anon is supposed to be a program that is democratic in thought and action (Warranty 5) and not punitive (Warranty 4). We are taught that we are all equal and no position is more important than</p>	<p>Thank you for your follow-up. This topic was discussed at the Executive meeting in January. The original motion made in October 2000 was 'to accept all AIS Chairpersons to attend our AWSC meetings, but that the cost of their attendance to be covered by the districts they represent.'</p> <p>The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2022-2025, page 65, indicates that an AIS or Intergroup is a local service established and maintained by one or more districts or by groups located close enough geographically or connected by language to one another for easy access and communication. This implies that every district could have their own AIS which would result in significant extra cost to the Area if the Area were paying the costs for attendance at AWSC by each AIS Chair.</p> <p>Districts do incur costs for their DRs to attend AWSC. Registration costs are incurred by their District, as well as an equalization payment for travel. All costs for ADRs to attend are borne by their Districts. It is acknowledged that the AIS Liaison/Chair is an invited OSA member and a voting member of the AWSC. This item will be brought forward to AWSC 2024 for further discussion.</p>

		<p>another. If that is truly the case, then we need to revise the current policy to bring it more in line with these program principles. I very much hope that the Executive will agree to add this as an item of discussion to this year's AWSC agenda. When we know better, we do better, and I know we can do better here. Thank you for considering my request.</p>	
2	Diana B, D16	<p>If an in-person group in Districts 16-23 (Districts covered under the GTAIS) becomes an electronic group in District 33, are they no longer considered part of the GTAIS? How would the GTAIS know which groups this applies to, keeping in mind that only groups served by the GTAIS have a vote at the GTAIS meeting?</p>	<p>Thank you for the questions. The AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2022-2025 guides us that an AIS or Intergroup is a local service. Geographical boundaries need not be observed unless one AIS conflicts with another nearby, in which case geographical division is set by mutual agreement. Any local group may agree to support an AIS but joining is purely voluntary. The AIS is supported by the groups it serves within its determined boundaries.</p> <p>The GTAIS homepage on the OSA website states that the GTAIS provides a forum for the AI-Anon and Alateen groups within the Toronto geographic area to exchange and share information. Currently this includes districts 16-23. District 33 isn't based on geography, so a group could be located anywhere in our Area, or could still be a local group. Groups have the choice in which district to register.</p> <p>The AI-Anon Information Services Guideline (G-4) guides us that the WSO has no control over AISs' financial affairs, nor does it have any say on how they conduct their business. Each group, district, Area and AIS is autonomous in its operations within the Traditions.</p>
3	Diana B, D16	<p>When a member became the Chair of the GTAIS, she was the AIS Rep for her in-person group which was in D16. Her group has now decided to become an electronic group and will likely join District 33 in January. The other group the member attends is also an electronic group which may also join D33. Since the member no longer attends (or is an AIS Rep of) a group that is served by the GTAIS, can she still hold the position of the GTAIS Chair? Can her Chair position be grandfathered until the end of her current term at the end of 2024? Or, do I have to now become the permanent Chair (I am the GTAIS Alternate Chair but had to become the Acting Chair when the member could no longer fulfill the duties)? Moving forward, can a person, who's group is not part of the districts served by the GTAIS, hold an Executive position at the GTAIS?</p>	<p>Thank you for your questions. Upon review of the GTAIS crafted document <i>Elections for Greater Toronto AI-Anon/Alateen Information Services</i>, specifically the Guidelines to Serve and the Responsibilities of GTAIS Chair role, it does not appear to include any stipulation around being an AIS rep of a group within a specific district.</p> <p>The AI-Anon Information Services Guideline (G-4) guides us that the WSO has no control over AISs' financial affairs, nor does it have any say on how they conduct their business. Each group, district, Area and AIS is autonomous in its operations within the Traditions.</p>

District Representative Updates



District 2 (Georgan Bay) Update

With two meetings in our District closing in the past couple years, we have four remaining groups holding strong with great attendance and lots of knowledge, experience, strength and hope. Owen Sound Discovery Group purchased a Jabra speaker for hybrid meetings which has worked immensely for sound.

Our Thornbury Love & Service group is **celebrating a whopping 50th Anniversary** this year!!! Speaker meeting with finger foods and cake to happen on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024. Join us on Zoom to celebrate a stellar 50 years of love and service within AI Anon!

McKayla, District 2 Representative

District 5 (Huron Perth) Update

Greetings! We're now 2 District Meetings in and finding our way as a team! Our meetings are online and as of now we have all positions filled; looking for a SecretarMar 25 24y, however a Member is reviewing this service opportunity. Nine District Meetings have been scheduled for 2024. We have three Group online Zoom meetings; one Group has two meetings and is now re-registered as an Electronic Meeting; remaining six Groups are in-person. Our PO Chair schedules monthly meetings which the DR attends.

We are participating in two AA Roundups, one held by the local AA District, another by AA in Stratford. Committees are coming together, we have Chairs and Co-Chairs in place. We've a tradition of participating in these events and bringing our stories, together with our experience, strength and hope. These events are normally well supported by our members. District makes a donation to each AA Committee and the PO Committee mans our literature table, to answer questions and provide literature. We're looking at the feasibility of holding an AI Anon day in the Fall to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of The Forum. District has formed a sub-committee to review this and report back at our March meeting.

We've developed and approved a 2024 Budget, and discussed with GR's the amount each group could contribute to meet our donations goal. Keeping it Simple, we've broken it down to show, on a monthly

and per meeting basis, how easy it is to support. We'll be making a donation to GTAIS for the Pri-Med Conference to support efforts to reach out to medical professionals.

In Service

Susan B, District 5 Representative

District 25 (Quinte) Update

Hello All, Here are some updates with District 25 Al-Anon Groups:

The 1st is our Al-Anon Day is scheduled for May 4th, 2024: Ebenezer Christian reform Church 18 Fourth Ave. Trenton, Ontario

Registration 9:30am 7th Tradition, 50/50 draw Speakers 10am to 3pm

We will have a light lunch and it is Pot Luck, we have Guest Speakers from Al-Anon and AA, one of our speakers this year will be Jason W Ontario South Delegate.

We are also in discussion currently with Quinte Detention Centre to place Volunteers in the Facility to Chair Al-Anon meeting with the inmates, currently there are AA meetings which take place in the Detention Centre and are very successful. At this time, it's in the primary stages, Laura M and myself have been to the facility for a tour and to ask some questions and the GRs are now canvassing for Volunteers.

We are also looking at bringing the Literature Coordinator in to speak at one of our District meetings to discuss Conference Approved Literature (CAL) that is available to us and Literature printed in other languages that might of interest to some of the groups.

Thanks, and Have a Great Day

In Service

Don V, District 25 Representative

District 32 (Kawartha South) Update

District 32 has experienced a healthy and growing membership during the last 3-6 months. Indications are that new members are attracted specifically by Parents of Alcoholic Children meeting themes. [Peace for Parents in-person on Saturday @ 10:00 am. Serenity for Parents-electronic on Saturday @ 9:00 am].

Currently we enjoy 6 active AFG Groups in the city. There are 3 face-to-face, 2 hybrid, plus 1 electronic meeting. The electronic meeting has grown to about 18 members on average for their Saturday morning meeting. This group features several members from outside Canada and has enjoyed robust growth.

We have accepted an invitation to participate in Fleming College's Annual Health Fair on the Sutherland Campus on March 20, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This is a highly anticipated event and has attracted 15 local Service Organizations. Yes, our friends from AA will be in attendance. By the time the current issue of Open Lines is distributed, the event will have occurred. I plan to give you updates in the August issue of Open Lines

"The goal of the Health Fair is to raise staff and student awareness of the wide range of health promoting programs, services and support available in the community." There is the potential to reach over 4,500 students and staff.

We have arranged for a special Al-Anon Day scheduled for April 14, 2024 12:00 to 3:30 at Activity Haven Seniors Centre at 180 Bernardo Avenue in Peterborough. Jason White Delegate of the AWSC will be the featured speaker. Note it is a lug-a-mug event.

This year we will again be attending and participating at the Kawartha Conference hosted by AA scheduled for June 15 at the Personal Touch Banquet Hall in Peterborough. This year the speakers will consist of several married couples.

My role as the new District Rep [Effective Jan 1] initiated attendance at each of the AFG meetings at least once in January and February. I managed to attend all but one. We are seeing a lot of new faces in the New Year. We recognize the importance of creating and executing a world-class onboarding experience for everyone walking into their first AI-Anon meeting. One idea was to have a couple of members designated as Official Greeters. They would handle all first-time visitors. We felt that by developing the greeting skill set would, over time, mitigate the risk of not putting our best foot forward at the outset of that engagement.

We have spoken of the process frequently, by exchanging ideas, making suggestions, and by rallying ourselves to focus on creating a warm and welcome safe-haven.

Five of our six groups are financially stable, all maintaining ample reserves. The Groups have a solid track record of financially supporting the District, the AWSC and the WSO.

Working with Professionals

In my outreach role, I've managed to develop relationships with a few Doctors and a Cognitive Behaviour Therapist. They are seeing a serious trend in patients suffering from the negative impact of a family member or friend's alcohol abuse. The professionals have requested that I help these patients get into their first AI-Anon meeting. I will plan to report any progress I experience.

I approached the Peterborough Police Force with the idea that they leave behind AI-Anon pamphlets for all domestic calls where alcoholism is the cause of the confrontation. My contact who is directly responsible for all police personnel initiated the practice last year. I'm endeavoring to see if I can get some feedback on the initiative. Plus, there is a large kiosk of AI-Anon pamphlets in the lobby of police headquarters.

Advance With Abandon

Peter McC District 32 Representative

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update

Much of this update is a repeat of past items but there are a few new things at the end. So please read it all.

As your literature person in the group rotates in leadership it is so important to let the LDC know. The LDC needs the district number, group name (group number is always a treat to get), the new person's name, full mailing address, phone number and email. Without current information your order could go to the wrong address and may or may not get to you. If it is returned here then shipping is required again, sometimes twice more, as the LDC gets charged for returns periodically. Shipping is already expensive enough, so let's avoid this.

That same district number should be on all orders because I don't know which Courage to Change group you belong to, especially when you live on a bordering line between districts that may both have a group with the same name. As much as I enjoy guessing games, mysteries and puzzles I don't have time to be locating multiple groups daily. I appreciate you making sure that little number is on all emails, phone calls and order forms....which are all ways you can place an order.

PLEASE DON'T send any payments without confirming I have stock. WSO is having issues getting some items quickly because of the worldwide paper shortage that the printing companies are dealing with. I will not hold your money for something, I have no idea when it will be in stock. I must admit that the delays are less often and shorter, so I am hoping this continues. As I am writing this, I have some of all stock on the shelves.

I can bring literature orders to AWSC at the end of May for your DRs to bring back to you so you can avoid shipping costs. **AWSC orders must be in by no later than April 8th at 1.** I'll confirm I have stock, and the price. **Payments must then be in by April 17th at 1.** Please ensure with all orders if they will be paid for by someone other than yourself as an etransfer that I have a first name to make note of who will be sending it. This ensures if I get 5 etransfers for the same amount (yes, many orders cost the exact same amount) I know which group it belongs to. Also please note I always need to be advised of a password. Because I get so many transfers with the wrong amount, I will never do direct deposit. That would be a logistical

nightmare to sort. The cut off dates are firm. The earlier your group gets the order into me, the more likely too that they will be to get it in full. If I get 17 orders the day before cut off you may not be able to get the stock if I can't reorder what you'd like.

Finally, if you are mailing anything to the office, Canada Post so nicely changed my postal code. It is now **K7A 0G7**.

Be well. I am so grateful to serve you.

Linda LDC Office Manager os.literature.distribution@gmail.com

[Click here for Upcoming Events!!](#)

NEWS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE

03/2024

AREA VOTING PROCEDURES

The Thought Force has completed their mandate and provided their suggestions to the Executive. Next steps include forming a Task Force to fulfill one or more of the suggested strategies. **The Task Force are the 'doers.'**

TRILLIUM CONVENTION in June 2024

Registration is open on the OSA website!

Shannon K. will be the Shadow Chairperson for Trillium 2024 and the Trillium Chairperson in 2025. Volunteers will be needed to form the Trillium 2025 Committee! **Thank you, Shannon!**

NEW GROUP RECORDS CHANGE PROCEDURES

For groups moving from a physical location to electronic:

Submit the Electronic Group Change form at [Group Records - Al-Anon Family Groups](#) on the al-anon.org website

For NEW electronic Al-Anon group registrations:

Submit the Electronic Group Registration form at [Group Records - Al-Anon Family Groups](#) on the al-anon.org website

For all other changes: Submit the Al-Anon Group Change/Registration form on the OSA website at [2024 Al-Anon Group Registration / Group Records Change Form \(jotform.com\)](#)

Your Group Records Coordinator is always available to assist!

AREA SECRETARY NEEDS YOUR HELP

If not already done, **Incoming DRs** are requested to send their contact information to Carrie E., at areaR6secretary@gmail.com ASAP, including District #, Full Name & Address, Phone Number, and Email. **This is so you are included on the AWSC Contact List.**

OSA WEBSITE: <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca>

ASSEMBLY 2024

October 18-20, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton,
Sarnia

ASSEMBLY 2025

The Assembly Bid flyer was sent to all DRs previously. Please talk to each other and consider this service to our Area. **Bids are requested by AWSC in May.**

ROAD TRIP! YOU AND YOUR BOARD CONNECT 2024

Area 86 voted at Assembly 2022 to submit a bid to host Road Trip! in 2024. Ontario South was not selected for participation. The date and location will be announced at WSC in April.

TRILLIUM 2026

Yes, that is not a typo!

Trillium Chairs are sought two years in advance. Please consider shadowing Shannon in 2025 and assuming the Chairperson role in 2026. **Please come to Trillium in June to see what it's all about!**



ASSEMBLY 2025

District bids are requested prior to May 1, 2024

Districts in the east side of our Area (Districts 24 – 32) are requested to research suitable facilities, obtain quotes for the required services outlined in the Assembly Bid Form, and submit a bid to the Area Executive by May 1st of the year prior to the Assembly.

The successful district will form a Host Committee.

The OSA Policies & Guidelines Manual on the area website contains the Guidelines for the Host Committee, Section 5B, and the Assembly Bid Form, Section 10F.

[Section 10 Form F Assembly Bid Form 2020 07 \(alateen.on.ca\)](https://alateen.on.ca/section-10-form-f-assembly-bid-form-2020-07)

Please feel free to contact your Area Chairperson for assistance.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

AREA ASSEMBLY 2025

Calling on Districts in the east to prepare their bids now

Full information is on the Assembly Bid Form

Area website:
<https://alateen.on.ca>

OSA Policies & Guidelines Manual at
<https://alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual>

DEBORAH FEDAK

Chairperson
Ontario South Assembly
905-926-3649

chairons86@gmail.com



T R I L L I U M  2 0 2 4

"Putting love into action"

ONTARIO SOUTH AL-ANON/ALATEEN CONVENTION
WITH AA PARTICIPATION

 **Friday June 14 - Sunday June 16**
 **Durham College Oshawa, ON**

 *Main Speakers* 

Friday Evening - Liz T (Al-Anon) - Girard, PA USA
Saturday Morning - Rylee S (Alateen) - Kitchener, ON
Saturday Afternoon - Tom U (AA) - Santa Fe, NM
Saturday Evening - Juanita U (Al-Anon) Santa Fe, NM
Sunday Morning - Ken & Liz T (Al-Anon) - Gerard, PA

**REGISTER
NOW!**



and....

**WORKSHOPS
RECOVERY
FELLOWSHIP**

Accommodations & Meal plan available!

al-anon.alateen.on.ca/trillium

The poster features a background of light blue and light green geometric shapes. Two stylized daisies with white petals and orange centers are positioned in the top-left and bottom-right corners. The main title is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below the title, the host information is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The guest speaker's name and location are in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The dates and times are in a black, sans-serif font. The sponsorship information is in a black, sans-serif font. The second date and time are in a black, sans-serif font. The title of the second meeting is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The Zoom meeting details are in a black, sans-serif font. The contact email is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The final line of text is in a black, sans-serif font.

Spring Speaker Meetings

(BY ZOOM)

Hosted by
KESWICK FREEDOM AL-ANON

Guest Speaker

RICK J. (Oakville, Ontario)

April 10, 2024 - 8 pm EDT

SPONSORSHIP (and a special celebration)

May 22, 2024 - 8 pm EDT

THE TRADITIONS FOR RELATIONSHIPS

Zoom Meeting ID: 819 0214 2007 - Pswd: 03811

KeswickFreedom@gmail.com

OPEN to members of Al-Anon, Alateen and AA and their families.



DISTRICT 66, GOLDEN TRIANGLE
40TH ANNUAL ROUNDUP

Saturday, April 13, 2024
Lombardy Agricultural Hall
6 Kellys Rd., Lombardy, ON

**HOW FREE DO YOU
WANT TO BE?**

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
Round-up starts at 12:15 p.m.
AA and Al-Anon Panels
Presentations, 7th Tradition
Sobriety Countdown, Guest Speaker
Potluck Dinner

Questions? E-mail:

roundupchair@lanarkleedsaa.org



SAVE THE DATE

District 14: Hamilton/Burlington
Al-Anon Day

"A LITTLE TIME FOR MYSELF"

Saturday April 20, 2024

Registration: 8:30am
Program Hours: 9:00am-3:30pm
Admission: \$5.00 at the door

St. Michael's Church
1188 Fennell Avenue East, Hamilton

Potluck Lunch - please bring a hot or
cold item

Speakers, Workshop, Panel, and
Raffle Prizes



DISTRICT 32 AL-ANON DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

1:00 to 3:30 pm

Activity Haven, Room 5

180 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough

Please join District 32 Al-Anon members for a friendly afternoon of Al-Anon speakers, featuring shared wisdom, shared strength and shared hope.

Light finger foods will be served, along with tea, coffee and water. Please **lug-a-mug** to this event!

Accessible parking and a ramp are available. Turn left when you enter the building, follow the hallway. Room 5 will be on your left.

Please join District 26 for our 2024 Al-Anon Day

**Theme: Why do we keep coming back?
Saturday April 27th 9-3**

**Workshop, panel, skit, basket draw, pot luck
lunch, countdown, fellowship.**

Main Speaker: Jason W, Ottawa (Delegate)

**St. James Anglican Church hall
225 Edmund St., Carleton Place**

We are so excited to be back in person.

7th tradition and basket tickets - cash only

Save The Date

Ottawa Area Al-Anon Day 2024

“The Gift of Choices”

Saturday April 27th (9:30–4:00)

St Paul's Church – 971 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa



Speakers, Fellowship, Food and Fun!



Chatham Al-Anon District 9 ~ 68th Anniversary

Saturday, April 27, 2024

11:00am – 4:00pm

(doors open at 10:30)

Holy Trinity Church
81 Selkirk, Chatham, ON

Tickets \$10.00

E-transfers and cash accepted

donate2afg9@gmail.com

Security question response: District 9

*Please note your name if sending an e-transfer

POTLUCK LUNCH - bring your favorite hot or cold dish to share!

Guest Speakers:

AA ~ Mildred F from Thornhill

&

Al-Anon ~ Ann F from Ohio

Raffle prizes & 50/50 draw

For more information call/text your name and questions to **Maddy at 519-437-0554**

*Let's Celebrate our 59 Years of
Recovery and Growth in Al-Anon!*



*The Smiths Falls Share and Care AFG of
District 26 invites you to their
59th Group Anniversary Zoom Meeting.*

*Monday, April 29th, 2024 from 8-9pm
Zoom ID #881 5071 6157
Password 684558*

"Together We Can Make It"

AL-ANON DAY 2024

London Region District 6

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024

Good News Christian Reform Church

476 Clarke Road, London

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Al-Anon, Alateen & AA Speakers

Potluck Lunch

Tickets: \$10 – Al-Anon/AA

\$5 - Alateen

Literature available – CASH ONLY

Check website for updates: www.london-on-al-anon.org



Hope to see you there!