

AWSC 2024 Minutes

Location: Durham College, Oshawa, ON. Gordon Willey Building South Wing, SW109

Friday, May 24th 7 pm

7 pm XX., Chair. XX opening comments. XX led us in the Serenity prayer.

XX - District 23 read the Traditions. XX - District 20 read the Concepts. XX - District 22 read the Warranties.

XX (Chair) introduced the Executive and Coordinators.

XX (Secretary) conducted the roll call, there are 36 voting members of AWSC present. Housekeeping and Announcements.

7:15 –7:30 – Election of DR for LOC (Literature Office Committee), 3-year term.

The role is found in the Area Policy Manual, section 9C. Members include past Delegate, preceding past Del., Delegate, Area Treasurer, Area Literature Coordinator, and an elected current District Representative. Duties were read from the manual (Section 9C, Article III, Section 2). Meetings occur virtually now. Volunteers were called for. None stepped up at this time. Members were invited to sleep on it, speak to XX (as Chairperson / immediate Past Delegate) and please think on it as we need one.

7:30 – 8:15 - Coordinators /OSAAC Chair Reports (XX (D23) volunteered to be the timekeeper – 5 minutes per) in the order in which they occur in the Ont. S. Policy Manual:

Open Lines Coordinator – XX – is now capable, as it is now her 3rd year, as she took over from the previous literature coordinator during that term as that person took a service position through WSO and couldn't hold 2 positions. She loves that she can find out about Open Lines as coordinator. For newer members, she has a display board at the back that describes it. Open Lines is issued April, August and December. Reports from the Executive, coordinators and the DRs are what is reported to her. All the coordinator needs to know is how to copy and paste – the reports come from you! Not too many DRs report unfortunately. Let us know about your events, it's a great way to communicate between districts. The DR reports that were sent for AWSC do not go to Open Lines, but feel free to send them to her and they will be included in the newsletter.

Alateen Coordinator – XX – excited to be here, first time she has been part of this kind of service, but the reason she stepped up for Alateen coordinator, is she has been an AMIAS since 2010, her daughters both grew up in Alateen and she is trying to pay it back what she couldn't give them because Alateen gave them a safe space and a voice. What she is trying to do in her 3 years is bring back the Unity conference. Is meeting with the AMIASs to see if they need extra training. A member she spoke with recently talked about how the kids are afraid to share, it is the AMIASs role to teach them how to share. She feels that AMIASs should try to speak from the perspective of being a teen so that the kids feel safe. Her goal in her term is to provide training and bring in more groups so that Alateen is more accessible and available. She is planning to reach out to DRs and have conversations about how to encourage more AMIASs and how we can be of service to grow Alateen. We need more groups, even if teens aren't attending, we need the groups to be there.

Group Records Coordinator – XX – Has done lots of service positions, Alt. G.R., G.R., and right now is in year 1 – Confused. At the hand-over meeting, she found a great helper, XX (the previous group records person) who has been very helpful with all her questions. She is also getting help from Anthony, our tech. coordinator. She sent XX an email back in the fall, not knowing whether she should take the position, but XX told her she was his first choice. This made her think – not to go back to her previous patterns of not feeling good enough to do the job. She has decided to set a boundary – every day she gets on the computer and checks emails but not on Sundays. If there is a change form on JotForm, then she updates the WSO website immediately. If there are questions, you'll get an email or a phone call.

Archives Coordinator – XX – this is her 3rd year; it is nice to be back in person. Lots of new faces, lots of familiar ones. This is not too much different from previous years reports, because they are still sorting through all the boxes. She has a crew as it is not a one-person job. Crew members take boxes home, so it is gone through piece by piece, so nothing is missed. If it is not our history, then it must be discarded because Ontario South Archives is about our history. She is doing a survey to see if anyone has anything of this nature at home, she brought envelopes from each district (and will mail out ones not picked up at AWSC). She will also survey the coordinators to see what of their materials can be preserved. This should give us a clear picture of Ont. S. and what's been going on. She has a display which has not yet been set up but will, at AWSC. She has one box of memories of Lois and there are quite a few items of interest – there are some write-ups about her life and passing and about Stepping Stones. They have a book that was signed by Lois when she came to visit Ont. S., she believes it was in Richmond Hill. She hopes we have a few minutes to have a look at it. None of her crew could be here but she is very grateful because they come from miles away to help her. There were 65 boxes, and their goal was to make it down to just our history and then digitize it and then it will be made available to each member and how we got her today.

Literature Coordinator – XX – this is her first in-person AWSC – she went once online but is very excited to be here in person and serving as literature coordinator. One of the things she is trying to show us is all the amazing materials we have for Public Outreach, although she is not Public Outreach, she feels it is interesting to look at this literature, a lot of which she was not even aware of. One of the things on the display shows that we have lots of literature in dual language, we have English / French and English/ Spanish. On some of the literature, there will be a blue dot, which means it is downloadable. To her this is not either, or as both can be used in different contexts. In her group, they are using both hard copies and digital, downloadable copies for various P.O. initiatives they are doing. Also, there are audio books and e-literature, which can be useful for when in transit. Note that outdated literature needs to be destroyed, as it is *no longer conference approved*. There is a good reason that it has been updated – please have a look in your group's library and see if there are items that need to be disposed of. Finally, she wants us to know that she is available to support our districts and she is willing to come visit groups and districts.

Website Coordinator – XX – shared some additional stats – since Jan. of 2024, we have received 94 GR change forms submissions, 37 event uploads, 2 plugin failures (which caused a complete crash of the website and required hours on the phone with GoDaddy), 5 various meetings, i.e., handover, coordinator, GTAIS, Literature committee. XX talked about why she feels the website coordinator needs a computer for this role and showed a slide with a representation of the database and then one group's page specifically. Earlier this year, she took out service member information, so the data base no longer contains G.R., D.R., Coordinator information. She does hold on to group emails to try to hold onto people, and has been testing this out since January, it's not really working for her, she needs the GR and

DR information as really only GR should be sending in group records information and now, she has no way to verify that, as in, anyone could send her a change. So, she needs to put that information back in. She then showed her downloads folder on her computer, which holds for all events sent by members on the JotForm, intermingled with work and personal docs (so outside issues). The JotForm is open all the time as she works on the website daily, and although it is all password protected, she still feels there is a risk. We also have a Dropbox account for the Area, which is on her computer. She wants the Area to understand why this should be on a separate device. If she were to suddenly die, all this information would be lost.

Area Alateen Process Person – XX – since submitting her written report, she is pleased to announce that recertification process is done. We have lost about 4 AMIASs in the process, this happens. We've added about 6 or 7 prior to recertification so if your AMIAS has gotten their qualification since January of this year, they didn't need to recertify, so that was 6 or 7. There are 6 with the lawyer right now.

Technology Coordinator – XX – one thing not in his report, a change made to the area's zoom account, the log in for it is now changed to the technology coordinator's email address, which is XXXX and the password is the same. Every now and then if you use the Area zoom account, it will ask for a passcode, due to the way zoom works. If this happens you may call or email him for this code in advance of when you need to access the zoom account. Make sure you can log in before your meeting whether or not you need to set up a meeting or start your meeting. As this is a new position, he is still figuring out how to best be of service to the area. He has communicated with XX and now that the area zoom account has been transferred to his email, he can quickly set up a zoom meeting; this allows member to share their screen with him if they're having a technology issues and he can see what you're doing and take control of your mouse and keyboard during that particular meeting, which has been useful. He will continue to coordinate with XX (website).

Forum Coordinator – XX announced that the Alt. Delegate, who serves as the Forum coordinator, has had to resign from her role as the Delegate. She read from the service manual (Section 2a, item 3, filling vacancies), the Delegate selects someone interested in filling the vacancy on a temporary basis, until the next regularly scheduled Assembly, which will be in October. Some of the duties of that position (also in Section 2a, item 6), are to be a support to the Area Coordinators, be their link to the Executive as well as support XX as the Delegate. We are asking for anyone wishing to fill that position on a temporary basis to reach out to XX (Delegate) and to have that conversation with him. And later, in preparation for the Assembly in October, and the election for the Alt. Delegate, member profiles or resumes will be requested with a submission date of August 1st. Information on this is in the Area Policy Manual, in section 10, Forms. The key takeaway right now, is that if you are interested contact XX.

Question and answer period for coordinators –

XX, 2024 Trillium Chair – question for Archives coordinator, XX – what does she think about having Archives at Trillium? Wouldn't it be a wonderful place to share Ontario South's history?

XX, Archives, answered that they were planning to have a display at Trillium for Archives, the only problem is that she won't be there as she has a conflict, but she does want to have a display and is in touch with her crew to see who might be there to be able to set something up.

XX, D10 – question for Open Lines – she was going to print to take to the meeting to read but the last one was 27 pages and she felt that it was a lot of printing, although it's fantastic that there is so much information but somewhat cumbersome to print to share with the group.

XX – Open Lines coordinator responded thank you for the question – she is asking for more information to come in and this is why the electronic version is incredible. As it is a challenge as some folks want a hard copy. One of the things that makes it bigger is all the flyers so perhaps you could print just part of it. You can also print it double-sided printed which cuts it down to half. Also, all the links in the electronic version wouldn't be accessible on a hard copy. You can also leave out the contact info.

XX (D17) – We used to call them SAMs. Now what are we calling them, as we were asked to align with the rest of the world and call them AMIAS. How does one pronounce it?

XX (Delegate) – just back from WSC where all 3 pronunciations were used AM-EYE-AS, saying the letters or AMEEAS. There doesn't seem to be a consensus.

Public Outreach Coordinator – XX – she hasn't been overly busy with the job, it's mostly been answering emails, providing information on various meetings – there was a health fair earlier in the year at Fleming college (D32). She was involved at the Ontario Regional Conference (ORC) for the literature table and also the PriMed conference, which was successful. The same email address exists as previously if you want to reach her, and her cell phone and address is on the AWSC list if you want to get in touch.

XX – one of the things she wanted to talk about was the Area quilt. XX was asked to do that. At the 2001 Assembly there was a motion to have an anniversary project and fundraiser. A lady by the name of XX took that on and it was decided upon to make the quilt. Brief background: every district created a square for it, related to that district so that it displays the flavour of that district. The book includes information on how some of the districts came to create that square. The book will be displayed with the quilt.

8:07 – 8:35 - Workshop on Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) given by XX (Advisor). KBDM was first experienced at the 2006 World Service conference after it had been used there. What does KBDM stand for? Making Decisions Based on Knowledge? How do we acquire that knowledge? We ask questions. Questions were outlined on a slide – Districts were divided into groups to speed up answering the questions. Anyone not in a district was invited to join one of the district groups. The question being answered is "What would we like to eat for lunch tomorrow?" A representative from each district came up to share:

Question 1: what do we know about our members needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to the subject?

A: Dietary needs, gluten-free, paleo, keto, and culture needs, schedule needs, i.e., time needed to digest the food, and we don't have time to send out.

Question 2: what do we know about the resources the members have?

A: We know we get to bill AWSC. We know what is available in the area. We know how long we have to wait for delivery or go and get it, i.e. Time we have. We know some people are gluten- intolerant.

Question 3: What are the pros and cons?

A: Pros – dietary concerns better meet everyone's needs. Cons – too many choices, cost. Pros – knowledgeable person in the area may know concerns.

Question 4: Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

A: of course, our decisions be consistent with our spiritual principles, we are going to let our Higher Power guides us, we are going to use unanimity, we are going to know your choice may not be picked, choice is good – try different foods.

Question 5: What do we wish we knew but we don't?

A: If the food is safely prepared for various dietary needs. Cost, do they offer take out or delivery, or is it only dine in? Do we have multiple places to choose from or is there only one option? Who is paying

for it? Do they offer dessert? Option – maybe we should meet up with someone we’ve never met before and dine with them.

Suggestions to help guide us in the discussion were offered.

Guidelines to help us create a safe environment for a discussion.

So, based on this information and suggestions and guidelines, we had a discussion. Do we have all the information we need or are there any questions or comments.

XX asked if anyone wanted to make a motion. Someone asked if it had to be a voting member – yes it does. The motion (verbal) was that everyone is to have choose their own lunch. Seconded.

Discussion to the motion was requested. Question was do we have time to do that? If it is being paid for by the Area, do we have a financing limit? In thinking about our principle of autonomy that we each get to decide.

Voted – all in favour.

8:34 – 8:44 - XX (Chair) asked again if anyone was willing to stand as the DR for the LOC? XX asked a previous member who had served in this role to share on it and what it involved. XX (Area Secretary) came up and did that, as a previous DR who served on the LOC committee.

Question: how much time does it involve?

XX (Advisor) - answered that it takes about an hour from time to time. They meet prior to Assembly and prior to AWSC. XX, the LDC manager is on the committee, fills them in on what’s happening with the LDC, with the literature coming from the WSO. Decisions made as a committee are winter and summer closures, vacation times. There are guidelines to help come to those decisions.

XX – (D14) then expressed interest to be a member of the LOC. XX invited her to come up and tell us a bit about herself and why she felt moved to do that. She then came up and shared that this is her first AWSC, last fall was the first Assembly. She just became the DR in March, she is the literature rep for her group, she interested in literature, has an entire shelf of it. The spirit moved her to take her service up another notch.

XX was asked to step outside for a moment and all in favour raised their hands. Approved unanimously.

A few announcements were made prior to closing – 10 copies of 2023 minutes at the front of the room in case anyone needs one – they will be approved tomorrow a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

8:30 – XX (Chair) Opened with the Serenity Prayer.

XX - D4 read the Traditions. XX - D25 read the Concepts. XX (AAPP) read the Warranties.

XX (Chair) introduced the Executive and Coordinators.

XX (Chair) again announced the availability of the position of Alternate Delegate, bringing our attention to the section of the Ont. Policy manual and to contact XX if interested and come October, Assembly, we will have an election for that position.

XX (Secretary) conducted the roll call, there are 39 voting members of AWSC present.

Housekeeping, Announcements, Timekeeper – XX (D31) volunteered.

Thank you to XX (D31) for their bid to host Assembly 2025 in Kingston. That bid has been forwarded to the executive and will be reviewed at the next Executive meeting.

Congratulations again to XX (D14) who was elected last night to the position on the LOC committee. The various forms were explained, expense reports, etc., where they are to be found, how they work, etc.

Items for consideration was explained and are available and also available online.

Four Volunteers for the Ask-It-Basket Committee requested - The four volunteers for the Ask-It Basket Committee are: XX (D28), XX (D16), XX (D16), XX (D10).

Explanation and Approval of Voting Procedures – Document received prior to AWSC, on page 10 of the information package. Regarding the document, through substantial unanimity, the area has accepted the voting procedures over many years and most recently at the Ottawa Assembly in 2022 where the voting procedures was a discussion item. However, the minority voice has also been heard on several occasions, the executive has received multiple items for consideration, with questions and suggestions and as a result of that, a review of the current document and the process was initiated, by the Executive committee. The Executive received a report from a review committee that was formed, as a result of all of those items for consideration and all the recommendations have been accepted by the Executive. One of the recommendations is to separate the voting procedure from the motion process; they are two separate things. Revisions are under consideration and will be discussed in more detail at the July Executive meeting. For today, this is the document we have. She shared an excerpt from the service manual, pg. 83, last paragraph of Introduction: As our fellowship grows, and many more ideas and questions are raised, let us strive to live with, and by, what we have here; secure in the knowledge that changes and additions will be made as circumstances and our growth require. XX reviewed the document so that members would have an understanding of how the motion process would work, and specifically so that we could vote to approve the voting procedures. XX reviewed the Explanation and Approval of Voting Procedures, (see page 10 of the AWSC package). The discussion in question is a general discussion, where one may ask questions, gain clarity and build our knowledge on the topic. The rest of the document was read. Motions are the outcome of the group decision making process, so it is important that thorough discussion has taken place before a motion comes to the floor and as Chair, XX will invite motions once discussion is considered completed. The third section and motion process were then read, with additional comments about the role of Advisors in the process and how they can help to reduce similar motions by multiple members which may reduce the need for amendments. Discussion of Motions – now the conversation moves from the general to the specific, i.e., pros and cons, possible suggestions to improve clarity, and this is also an opportunity to express whether one is in favour or opposes the motion. It is through this discussion that your voice is heard, and the minority voice is heard. Remember, your vote is your voice. The Voting: procedure of the document was accompanied by the slide on the screen of Section 4. AWSC 14. **Vote to Establish Procedures** of the Ont. S. Policy Manual which was read out (and is in the AWSC package pg. 11). The rest of the procedure was read.

Questions:

XX W (D18) Is it 50% of the voting members or 50% of the people who vote? Is it the number of people registered and in the room at the time of the count (roll call), or is it 50% of the people who actually vote?

XX (Chair) clarified that the question was 50% +1 of the eligible voters, based on the roll call or 50% +1 of the cast votes. Asked advisors. The document says eligible voters and a roll call has been done of eligible voters.

XX (Advisor) this was one of the concerns that the executive has been working on as far as separating the voting and the motions. For voting, what has been done in the past is go by the roll call, keeping in

mind that that number may change if someone is not in the room or abstains. So, what we have been doing up until now, is taking a roll call and using that # as our 50% +1.

No more questions about the voting procedures, XX (Chair) asked if there were any objections to the voting procedures. None were voiced.

XX (D17) moved (verbal motion) that we accept the voting procedures as explained., seconded by XX (D8).

Voting: All in favour. **CARRIED** unanimously.

Approval of 2023 AWSC Minutes:

Call for errors & omissions:

Amendments: XX (D31) - Page 1, 7 pm Chair section, sentence 2, XX from District 2 read the ... name was left in and shouldn't have been.

XX (Advisor) – pg. 18, XX (LDC Manager) – XX is not the LDC Manager.

XX (Advisor) – Question, pg. 17, XX (D 23): references to 47 minutes and 49 mins. What do these mean? We believe is the time of the voice recording to add further details which were not added.

XX (Advisor) – pg. 16, 3rd from bottom, XX (D 8) Assembly is misspelled, and the sentence is not finished.

XX (Secretary) – pg. 17, XX T (D 8): sentence not finished.

Note from Area Secretary – the minutes sent to the AWSC members after Assembly will have the names included whereas the minutes on the Ont. S. website do not, as it is public. This accounts for some of the errors pointed out.

Motion, by XX (22), seconded by XX (D21 that we “accept the minutes of the 2023 AWSC as amended.” **CARRIED** unanimously.

9:00 – 10:00 **World Service Conference (WSC) Report XX (Delegate for Ontario South, Area 86)**

Delegate's report was presented, which includes a slideshow with pictures of the location held, in Virginia. Seats are assigned, he was 2 rows back from front and you sit next to your mentor. 4 jam packed days, 8:30 a.m. to as late as 9:30 p.m. All voting is done electronically, there was an app in which was posted a link from which you could vote. 91 voting members at conference, so not without some glitches. All new delegates are “pinned” in the first year of their term. His mentor is XX from Nebraska and they have hit it off, proof that God is involved in this seemingly random process.

Audit and budget reports – these are the WSO numbers (vs. Ont. South). All figures in US \$ (unless noted otherwise).

- The audit is done yearly, this one was conducted January 2024. Issued a clean opinion. What is an audit was shared.
- Total liabilities and net assets 2023 \$14,574,725 / 2022 \$12,757,917
- Sources of revenue – literature sales, contributions, etc.
- Profit – \$3.2M
- 2023 was the highest grossing sales year on record for literature sales – why? Our new reader, A Little Time for Myself (B-34). Total sales \$4,403,745. Apparently, strong sales in the first year of a new piece of literature is typical, WSO expects sales to reset by 2025.

- Surplus for the year 2023 came from this new book, and without it, we would not have had this surplus.
- Contribution levels – fluctuating, in 2023, the contributions were steady throughout the year, which is important for our financial health. If we’re giving to WSO, any amount is better than \$0. Consistency is the most important thing. By and large, group contributions are the largest source, vs., other contributions.
- Investment income – increased in value by just over \$1M. Due to favourable market conditions. There is a finance committee who meet with fund managers twice a year (Merrill Lynch and Davenport). No organization is immune to market conditions. No investments in alcohol-related companies, and most are quite conservative, mature and healthy equities and bonds. Why do this at all? In 1994, \$1M could buy you A LOT more than it would today. We invest so that our reserve fund keeps its value, despite inflation.
- Functional expenses for Admin have increased, in other two areas, Program services and general admin, have decreased, and the reasons for this was shown on screen. A few new staff members have been onboarded, and a few have retired.
- Budget – developed by the Executive Director and the Staff and the Finance Committee. It is reviewed at the WSC. 61% of groups contributed in 2023, 100% of groups used the services. \$1 in 1952 = \$11.58 in 2024. This does not mean we each must contribute this, but it is a good demonstration that \$1 does not buy what it used to. A pie chart was shown (in CDN \$) \$443.95 CDN is the annual Cost per Group to provide these services.
- Revenues for FY24: will decrease by 8% over 2023 but will still be higher than previous years and restore revenues back to pre-pandemic levels.
- 2024 total Revenue forecast \$6,198,330.
- \$6,658,194 – 2023 Audited actual.
- Literature sales – A little Time For Myself continues to provide and increase – although WSO is budgeting for a decrease, it continues to be higher.
- Total expenses 2024 budgeted at \$6,078,780 – 5% increase over ’23 budgeted expenses. Most expenses lines are consistent with prior years.
- Labour costs are the highest, there are 43 staff, who do have benefits and merit increases.
- Other operating costs were outlined in more detail.
- 2024 Road Trip is in South Carolina this year – by way of mentioning Volunteer & Travel Meeting’s costs within this section of WSO budget information.
- What’s the Bottom Line? – 2024 \$6,198,330 estimated revenue. \$119,550 surplus.
- Budget summary – 2024 Operating Budget has a small surplus.
- 2023 strong performance from book sales does not carry over into 2024.
- Communicate the contribution goal to the fellowship throughout the year. Anything is better than \$0.
- The presentation will be shared.
- New Literature – WSC gave conceptual approval to a new piece of literature. Discussing *finances in recovery*. Likely won’t be for sale for a couple of years. Would most likely be a pamphlet or a booklet but that depends on us, and the number of sharings received. Conceptual approval is the Delegates saying “yes, this is a good idea’.
- Next Gen AFG Records – another project – everything goes through Association Management System (AMS). Doesn’t support multiple languages and therefore is not viable. Goal: a much more efficient workflow and a better experience for the user – the user being the people who have to deal with it, a lot of whom are volunteers.
- Zonal meetings – current zones: Europe, South America/Spanish speaking, Central America. Have in the past discussed creating a zone in the Asian/Pacific region; may do so in the future.

- Visting Stepping Stones by the Delegates beyond 2025 – members were asked for input to provide to the Delegate to bring to WSC. This visit occurs every 3 years and was set up when the WSO moved from New York to Virginia Beach. The 2 questions that were sent out in February by the Delegate – he learned that he needs to be clearer in his questions. He was looking for feedback and what he got was voting results. Reminder, a vote is not a group conscience – it is one step in a group conscience. When he got a voting result, he communicated further with that G.R. to ask how they arrived at that vote. Feedback was mostly positive in that it should still occur, but that the cost should not be borne by the Area. He shared input gained from both against and in favour at WSC. No decisions were made at WSC, but the feedback will inform the decision which will be made by the Board of Trustees, who will keep u informed via the Chairperson of the Board (COB) letter.
- The other question asked for feedback was on Chosen Agenda Items (CAI). Ont. South’s submissions made on behalf of our area: - effects of the used of electronic platforms on building cohesiveness in Area/District business meetings and consideration of dual members serving beyond the group level, to improve fairness and equality. Neither were chosen, but we were in the top 5%, which is good, means we are on the right track with other members in the WSC structure.
- CAI’s that were discussed were shared on a separate slide – to be included in the presentation provided by the delegate separate from these minutes.
- Workshop on Sponsorship was discussed. Results: a workshop in three different formats: Day-long, Half-Day/Online, 30-minute (for AWSCs or Assemblies). If you’re interested, contact XX who can provide the materials for the workshop for you as he has access to it on AFG Connects.

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30 Opened with the Serenity Prayer

World Service Conference (WSC) Report, cont’d.

- Electronic Alateen Validation and Implementation process. The Board of Trustees will decide how to implement this process. The process, as it is unfolding, was explained generally. Why is this happening, what is happening. XX was provided with 2 questions prior to WSC, which he shared with the AAPP and the Area Alateen Coordinator, who provided feedback which then helped to inform his experience at WSC around this conversation. What’s next? Conversation continues, next phase is implementation, Ont. S. would need to decide how to opt in. If yes, Ont. S. would develop a process of how to do that.
- Confidential items at WSC – XX tried to offer some clarity around this item as he gets a sense that some members feel this is not appropriate or well-liked. Gave some examples of confidential items. BTW, the AWSC and Assembly meetings at Ont. S. are communicated with an email of the package sent out *well in advance* – this does not happen for WSC. There are good reasons for this, which were explained. It eliminates potential confusion and misinformation being communicated. Some of the items which are confidential prior to WSC are no longer confidential after WSC. Discussion item: Is the gendered language in the Steps and Traditions in alignment with Al-Anon’s Legacies? (Imagine where our imaginations might go with just that question, and no background information? This is an example of a good reason for confidentiality, to safeguard our fellowship from gossip, and general discussion which might not be ultimately healthy or effective for the fellowship.) Results of this item, none so far,

conversation continues. Our manual specifies that three quarters of the membership have to agree to any wording changes, which is a pretty big number. XX shares this item specifically for us to have a better understanding of why there are confidential items at WSC.

- 2024 membership survey – as of 2021 more than 16,000 completed one. Survey opens June 20th and will be open until end of July – available in English, Spanish and French. XX will send the link when he receives it, or it might come via other members.
- An engagement project was undertaken at the end of XX's report – there were prizes (5) provided if you took good notes and had the answers to these questions.
- Why did the World Service Office have a surplus in 2023? The new book.
- What is the cost per group of services? \$443.95 CDN
- What decision did the WSC make at the end of the Stepping Stones discussion? No decision.
- What is the topic of the new workshop available by the delegate? Personal and Service sponsorship.
- When does the 2024 membership survey open? June 20th.
- And for the grand prize, a USB stick of the spiritual speakers at WSC – what is the full title of Al-Anon's Daily Reader? A Little time for Myself, a Collection of Al-Anon Personal experiences.
- This is just a snippet of what happened in a four-day conference – for the full summary, you can get the conference summary off the WSO website later in the year.

Discussion and questions: if you have thoughts, questions and more detailed questions about what has not been shared, please share with XX via email, later than this meeting, as these questions pertain to what was shared in this presentation only.

XX (AIS Ottawa) - \$2,300 in CDN expenses for the CDN office – what does that cover, and how is it calculated? The office location comes up on the google search and they get questions about it. It is an office, not a meeting, so this is confusing.

XX (Delegate) – doesn't know if he can find out the answer about the costs – his understanding is that it is not a bricks and mortar office, but a virtual office. If you make a contribution to our CDN office, you get a CDN tax receipt. He suspects that this virtual office is for these tax purposes – to get a CDN tax receipt for a donation to WSO, in CDN \$. Might be a question for WSO staff. XX has called the number and spoken to WSO staff, who don't seem to know much about it.

XX (D14) – with the conceptual approval of the new literature piece, will a call for sharings go out from WSO?

XX (Delegate) – believes there are a couple of other items for projects in the queue first, but yes, there will be a call for submissions, but he doesn't know when.

Question 2 – XX (D14) are the Alateen electronic procedures for the current meetings or any future meetings?

XX (Delegate) – the procedure is for any Area who decides they want to host an electronic Alateen meeting.

XX (D14) – which means that we could not just start an electronic Alateen meeting at this time, as there is no procedure in place yet.

XX (D31) – one of his questions for CAI – will one of them go forward next year or does he not know that?

XX (Delegate) – will get a call again next year and it may not be on the agenda then, but if it is still a concern in 2025, it will.

XX (GTAIS Alt. Chair) – GTAIS has been sending contributions to the CDN address and she wondered if this is safe to do so?

XX (Delegate)– when people send contribution to a P.O. Box 1151 in Guelph, ON., it gets redirected to the Treasurer’s house. This is how it works at this virtual office as well.

XX (D11) – will this presentation to the members?

XX (Delegate) - It is tradition to provide it on the Ont. S. website and that will be done.

Q2 – Alateen electronic discussion – is the goal to have electronic Alateen meetings managed within the districts?

Q3 - When did the WSO decide to do this?

XX (Delegate) – believes the goal is to have the option of electronic Alateen meetings. It was not the WSO who decided this, it was the Board of Trustees, and is going back as far back as he can remember, i.e., 2003 when we initiated the process to certify AMIASs, which was suggested and implemented by the Board of Trustees. Al-Anon is bigger than this district and Ontario South, so we need to take guidance of why this is being led by the WSO leadership rather than Area. That is just his understanding as a member.

Q4 – what does WSO do to ensure that it is keeping it simple, as she has found that it isn’t simple.

XX (Delegate) – would like to think on that and will get back to XX tomorrow, after the Delegate’s update.

XX (Tech. coordinator) – how do I contribute as a member to the new potential daily reader?

XX (Delegate) – doesn’t know it will be a daily reader, and the call for submissions will go out in future.

Q2 – re electronic AMIAS certification – what additional checks would be required as the process as it stands is quite rigorous currently and different states have different laws.

XX (Delegate) – WSO has looked into it. His understanding is that Ontario is one of the most stringent areas. He doesn’t think (but is not 100% sure), it would be much different.

11:10 – 11:

Literature Office Committee (LOC) Report – XX G. (Advisor/Chair for LOC), please take this back to your groups and districts – we had a meeting earlier this week and set the agenda for the LDC – vacation June 17 – 20th inclusive. Summer closure July 15 – Aug. 12. Pre-Assembly orders must be in by September 4 at 1:00 pm. Pre-orders must be paid by September 16th which allows the office manager to confirm that the literature can be obtained and delivered to Assembly. Holiday bundle was discussed – more information will be forthcoming as neither XX nor the LDC manager knows about it. It hasn’t been made available to us in the past, so more will be made available as we move forward.

Literature Distribution Centre (LDC) Report – XX – she is giving part of her 5 minutes to XX (website coordinator) to explain our new, fillable, JotForm order form. There is a new piece of literature being released in the fall, similar in size to the booklet “when I got busy, I got better” K-95. Consists of excerpts of 3 of our books and will be \$6.50 + tax. The LOC wanted her to do a little video to show what the office looks like; it’s done and downloaded and not available at the time of this report – will be made available at some point online.

XX - A JotForm (fillable) order form, will be made available soon and XX demonstrated this for us. Will be available as of June 1, will be in the Event pages on the Ont. S. website. There will be a link to it. Name of person filling the order might be different from the name of the person/group receiving the order, so this is required. There is a full list of each piece of literature and the costs on the form, tick them off and it will auto add the cost. You can search for pieces in the search bar. As there are a lot of

pieces, the list is long. It will charge tax on the book which is separate from the shipping cost. YOU NEED TO ENTER A COUPON CODE OF Order0 OR YOU WILL BE CHARGED \$100 FOR SHIPPING – this is a red warning at the bottom of the order form. This is a limitation of the form and is important to remember for now. Other information on who is ordering, who is receiving, shipping or pick up etc. follows. It is clear how to fill it out.

2024 Trillium Chair Report – XX – wants more than 5 minutes! 240 registrations for Trillium which means there are 10 spots left before we're sold out! This is Ontario South's conference. She has the most amazing committee she could have ever asked for – 2 of whom are in this room. Which means, next year, it could be you on this committee. Challenges – someone sent in registration \$ for two people but they don't know where she is, her name is XX (her last name will be given by XX if you know her). They have a shadow chair for next year a couple of shadow positions filled already. The shadow committee gets to watch the current committee fulfill their function and then move into the position themselves the following year. We have beautiful merchandise for sale this year. Costs have increased, which is the nature of life. They are grateful for the \$10k seed money from Ont. S. but donations are always appreciated. They promise to be good stewards of the \$ from the fellowship and put it into programs. Volunteers are needed still.

11:28 – 12:09 - Financial Update for 2023 XX (Treasurer)

Income statement Dec. 2023 year-end, comparing to the 2023 and 2022 budget, was gone over. (This was in the AWSC package as PACKAGE PAGE #1 and will not be recreated in these minutes.)

Net Income (Loss of \$10,581.24)

Balance sheet – Total liabilities & equity \$74,227.07

Reserve Fund – Package Page #6 – deficiency (\$8,958.35)

Year to date at end of April – Total income as of end of April \$15,411.74

Income statement as of end of April – total income \$4,888.31

Discussion and questions:

XX (Open Lines) – is a CPA as well but wouldn't be able to do this position so congratulations and thank you. Compared current year's actuals with prior year's actuals for the revenues, our actuals in the current year seems not so far off from prior years – is this correct? If so, could we consider how we could reduce some of the costs instead of concentrating on increasing contributions? Costs for business meetings, for example.

XX (Treasurer) – we are always looking at this at the executive level, i.e., we do one of our annual meetings on zoom. When we did an analysis of the assembly done on zoom vs. in person, there wasn't much of a difference in cost actually and we found there was a difference in attendance, as in people dropped off in the afternoon. We have come to know that there is a big difference in having meetings face to face vs. electronic. Yes, costs increase, and we are aware of that and always trying to manage it responsibly.

XX (D10) – doing this for a living, she knows how much work goes into this so bravo – wonders if XX panics when she sees a \$10k deficit, and secondly the pandemic effect of electronic meetings seems to have led to a lack of information by the general membership of why we contribute and why it is needed, how important it is, how efficiently it is used. Maybe it is just a matter of the DRs sharing with the GRs, then sharing with the members the fiscal information. If we share with our members, in love, how important it is, perhaps through a fun activity with our groups, to make a group contribution.

XX (D28) – found it interesting when communicating to make it important – what were the % of groups who contributed?

XX (Treasurer) – meant to figure it out but didn't as she ran out of time. In the past, it has been approximately 50%. Some groups give more, some less.

XX (Archives) – mentioned that although the cost for the storage unit was shown, the move was not made until November so the cost in 2025 will be much less. Savings of approx. \$300/mo.

XX G. (Advisor) – clarified that on final page under Alateen requirements, increased costs was because the WSO required us to have the revised Behavioural Requirements sent to a lawyer. The lawyer who does the police checks is not the person who could do it and suggested a family lawyer. It was required by the WSO.

XX (D13) – one thing that has to do with budgeting that we might think about is a group inventory. Her group never had a budget or a bank account. Now, because it is so changed post-Co-Vid, now they have new members that she thought she could share this information with them. The comment about the difference in what one might pay a therapist vs. what one donates at Al-Anon is valid. She asked her group at the next business meeting to pray on what they had received at that meeting and to consider how we show our gratitude. It's easy to say it, but it needs to be shown.

XX (D6, Area Advisor) – feels like it needs to be said again – our delegate shared earlier that \$1 doesn't go as far as it did, we all know this. For her 3 years of attending WSC, the budget was talked about, and the question was asked "does your home group have a budget, and do you include Area and WSC costs?" If your group cannot even meet their basic needs, i.e. rent, then perhaps it is not a healthy group. There is a business component to Al-Anon along with the spiritual component. One of the things that her group did was enable e-transfers for contributions. This makes it easier to donate. Something else to consider.

XX (D4) – I'm a rookie, bear with me. Has heard the legacy donation, it's great. Can people who are turning a significant age request that their gifts be donated to Al-Anon? In other words, can they request donations by non-members be made in lieu of gifts?

XX (Treasurer) – you could ask for money and donate it yourself. A \$500 bequest can be made in memorial – *by members*. One was received last year.

Q2 – the cheques that are sent to the Ottawa post office – do they go to WSO or Ont. S.?

XX (Treasurer) – those get forwarded to WSO. Ont. S. has a P.O. box in Guelph, which gets forwarded to the Treasurer. There are two different post office boxes, two separate service arms.

XX (D4) – provided the answer from pg. 104 of service manual – Birthday plan, was read out.

XX (Delegate) – read pg. 107 of WSO service manual – Outside Contributions of Money, to further answer XX's question.

XX (Treasurer) shared a story about a donation from a member of her expenses which were paid and then donated right back.

Announcements.

12:09-1:15 p.m. Lunch Break and trunk pick up of LDC/literature orders in parking lot at beginning of Lunch Break.

1:15 Opening: Serenity Prayer XX (Chair)

1:15 – 3:00 Discussion items:

Discussion item #1:

Proposed budget for 2025:

XX

Budget 2025 Highlights:

Assembly Revenues	8,000
AWSC Revenues	6,821
Misc. Income	100
Group Donations	44,837 (to break even = \$/259) *
TOTAL INCOME	59,788
Assembly Expenses	14,800
AWSC Expenses	16,108
Conferences	4,000
Coordinator Expenses	2,500
Delegate Expenses	2,000
Executive Meeting Expenses	8,900
Handover Expenses	0
OSA Operational Costs	1,615
Other Expenses	9,865
TOTAL EXPENSES	59,788
NET INCOME	(\$10,582)

***Number of groups is 259 (February 2024), so estimated donation by group to cover 2025 - \$173.12**

Discussion and questions:

XX (D18) – 2 groups were lost in her district.

XX (Treasurer) – this has been taken into account.

XX (LDC manager) – there was a request from the website coordinator to purchase a new laptop, is this something that will be needed to be included in the budget?

XX (Treasurer) – it is still under discussion.

XX (D28) – feels that not providing the website coordinator with the tools to do the job is disrespectful. We are lucky to have a person who is so experienced. The world has changed, and she feels that it should not be mixed with a person's personal laptop.

XX (D16) – XX said that we got a break in Ottawa, but the cost is still \$19,282 with projected costs of \$10k - that seems backwards. She feels we need to consider enlarging those costs for meals and travel to more accurately reflect what is going to happen. She feels there might be fewer members attending Assembly to reflect these costs.

XX (Treasurer) – clarifies, your question was the \$10k on accommodation? This is the cost of the venue, not the hotel rooms.

XX – feels like the actuals in 2023 are way off.

XX – 2023 was in Toronto, and expenses in Toronto are higher, plus we get more attendees as it is more central. 2025 will be in Kingston. She based the budget on the last numbers of when it was East or West (vs. Central).

XX (D1) – re bank fees. Do we pay bank fees on both business and savings accounts or just one?

XX (Treasurer) – the business savings account was set up when we acquired a credit card for collateral. We don't pay service fees on that. The other account, because we keep a minimum balance, we don't pay fees. The bank fees are service charges for e transfers which occur sporadically.

XX (Advisor) - # of groups, does this include the e-groups?

XX (Treasurer) – Yes.

XX (D16) – question about computer for website – how do we get something like this included in the budget? This was mentioned at Assembly, and she feels it is quite important.

XX (Treasurer) – it states in our Ont. S. Policy Manual that it is a requirement for each coordinator to have access to a computer. Yes, XX brought it up at Assembly 2023, it has been taken to the table at the Executive level and is being discussed there, and here at this AWSC, and will be at Assembly 2024. We need to discuss it and make a decision, that is still happening. Change happens, but it happens slowly.

XX (Delegate) – in the last term, he was one of the advisors. One of the projects worked on was replacing the Group Records computer. This was a capital expenditure so it did not go in the budget, but it was shown elsewhere, he thinks the balance sheet. The budget is more the operational expenses, to keep the lights on, bills we have to pay, etc., whereas, when you're buying something such as a renovation in your home or a new car, that is not an every single month or year expense. Those things go in your budget. A capital expenditure is where you're buying a thing, in this case it was a computer. Replacing the group records computer, because it was already a decision in this area that the group records coordinator be provided with a computer, the executive saw that it was time to replace the group records computer and that computer was just replaced, as a capital expenditure as part of the Executive's role in carrying on with those administrative sorts of tasks. So, it is not something that would go in the budget, hopefully that helps and offers some clarity about what we did last time.

XX (Public Outreach) – asking re procedure – is it possible for a member to make a motion today, at AWSC, to have Ont. South purchase a new computer for the website coordinator and have this then go to Assembly for a decision there.

XX (Advisor) – in the information package (Explanation and Approval of Voting Procedures, What happens if I submit a motion, here at AWSC, 3rd point) it says “if it is a new motion, and not related to the Discussion Items, it will be reviewed at the next meeting of your Executive and, if appropriate, may be considered at a future AWSC.”

XX (D14) – to piggyback on XX's comment about capital expenditures, is there a space for this in the budget, or does it come out of the reserve fund?

XX (Treasurer) – when we purchased the new group records computer it came out of the Operating fund. It shows on the balance sheet, and the depreciation is on the income statement as we do budget for the depreciation. It was suggested a few years ago that we do plan to replace the computer, so there's a line item in the budget of \$200 to accumulate \$1,000 over 5 years. That would just be adding to our reserve really, if we got that extra \$200 from all the groups, which we don't get from all the groups, right. If we really need the computer, it comes out of our operating funds. She is not saying that XX doesn't need a computer, it just isn't her decision to make.

XX (D12) – went to Assembly in Oct., this is her first AWSC mtg., Q1 – can you show her where in the manual it says that people have to use their personal computers for doing AI-Anon service work?

XX (Treasurer) – it is in the Ont. South Policy Manual.

Q2 – what would be the procedure to have that changed?

XX (Treasurer) – this is how things happen is by a motion, and then we follow through on that motion, then we change the manual to reflect what was decided.

Q3 – would she be able to make a motion here to change a line item in the budget and move it to another line item, i.e., would like to move the WSO Delegate's \$600 incidental expenses out of that line into a reserve to purchase a new computer for the website coordinator.

XX (Treasurer) – has revised the budget before at AWSC, per discussion there, it's possible. Re that specific request, and the Delegate's expenses, because Canada is so large, the Canadian Delegate's go to the WSC a day ahead of time, and this \$600 covers these expenses over and above what the WSO pays for delegates to attend (WSC). Ont. S. pays the \$600 to cover that.

XX (D10) – notices that the legal expenses for the documentation for the AMIAS' to attend. The website computer is also a legal issue as we could be exposed to risk. Therefore, she would think it would be an executive matter to deal with to protect us from exposure to legal repercussions. Therefore, it may be good to deal with it quickly rather than waiting until the next Assembly to be voted on.

XX (Website coordinator) – provided some clarity around the website expenses that are currently in the budget, they are domain name, GoDaddy hosting, cPanel and a few other programs, also b/c we are technically a not-for-profit, we get some programs for free. This is what goes into that \$765 line. If there are questions, she is happy to provide more information.

XX (D21) – hearing two things, we've been provided information about the budget, and then another discussion about purchasing a computer and these are two different things. Her understanding about the budget is, this is the expenses that we think we're going to need for next year and it can be changed as well, so her understanding is if we had a motion, at a different time, to purchase a computer, then the budget could be changed, is that correct?

XX (Treasurer) – this is correct, the budget can be changed if something occurs here at AWSC that warrants it.

XX (D26) – you say you can change the budget; she is now hearing questions to have a line put into the budget for that computer. She feels like it is being shut down and is wondering whether this can not be discussed here as part of the budget discussion. Our website is essential to Ont. S. and is not something that we can put off for years and years. Can we not get that line put into the budget now. She thought that AWSC was to set the agenda for things in the fall and she is not hearing that we are doing that right now.

XX (Advisor) – the Executive hears you; the issue is that here, your responsibility as a DR, is to take the information to your GRs who then take it to groups (larger membership). This is an issue that has not been taken to the groups (via the GRs), and therefore, if we were to make a decision here, then we would be saying to the other members, you don't matter, we're not going to give you the information. This is what some of you are maybe saying about the Executive, that we are not giving you the information. We want you to make sure that this is something that your groups are in favour of, not just here at AWSC. It may be a unanimous decision of yay, yes, let's do this, but our job here, is to make sure that our groups and our members hear what is going on, and we haven't done that in this issue. So please try to realize that we are doing our best to ensure that everyone gets all the information that they possibly can before we come to a group conscience decision, which means everybody.

XX (D11) – she recalls that this was brought up at Assembly 2023, so was it passed on to the Executive? Shared her own experience about working using her own private phone and how uncomfortable that responsibility was. Her question is, what did the Executive do with the request? Because XX is right, it needs to go through the groups, but what happened with the request, and could the Executive have sent this to us before now to discuss with our groups?

XX (Advisor) – Yes, it did come to the Executive, we had 2 people on that Executive at the time who were involved with technology and computers, and after the discussion around the table, we felt that it was not necessary to have a computer for the website coordinator. Was it valid, was it right, was it what we should have done? We did our best. With the information and knowledge that we had; we made a decision that the website coordinator would not need a computer. We gave suggestions on what could be used instead and hopefully that would work. Obviously this has become more of an issue – yay! it's something that we are going to talk about and obviously it's going to go a little further than we thought it might. That's what the program is all about. I know it sounds like a very sensitive issue and it is, but we are doing our best and that's all I can say to you. It's not a no, we're saying let's go through the process, and the process says that we are supposed to take it to the Executive, which we are going to do again, because it's important, and then we will take it to AWSC and then we will take it to Assembly. If in the meantime, we say this is something that is really of value, when we meet in July, we may say at that time, let's see if we can take this to Assembly (2024). We may have to reach out to you DRs to reach out to your GRs to reach out to the groups. This is something new because it's not necessarily the way the process works. But maybe the process needs to change, and we need to do something a little differently. All we can say is that we are doing our best.

XX (Chair) asked if there were any further questions or discussion about the budget. None. Therefore, she asked the membership what action was wanted at that time. Did we have enough clarity and an understanding of the budget so that we could make a decision. No comments, therefore, she invited a motion from the floor.

DECISION POINT: Should the proposed Budget for 2025 be forwarded to Assembly 2024 for Approval?

XX (D10) moved, seconded by XX (AAPP), "that the budget as presented be forwarded to Assembly 2024"

Discussion to motion:

XX (D10) – thinks it is pretty clear, detailed and reasonable, so feels we just move forward, thank you for all the work.

No further discussion or questions.

Voting: **CARRIED**

Discussion item #2:

Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee Finances

OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual, Section 11H, page 1 of 3, Managing OSAAC Funds:

XX (Advisor)

The item, as outlined in the AWSC package, page 8, was read by XX.

Discussion and questions:

XX (Alateen coordinator) – will be hosting an OSAAC meeting at Trillium and hopefully there will be an OSAAC committee, so then this might be a non-issue. She feels like there is enough members across Ontario South that we can have an election.

XX (Advisor) – good to know but what if that committee ceases to exist? That is the point of this decision point.

XX (D1) – has a statement – D1 supports the Area 86 Treasurer to hold the funds provided that these funds be held separately as a separate line item, similar to how the prudent reserve is held, for the use of the Alateen.

XX (D22) – what period would be considered temporary?

XX (Advisor) – as long as there are no OSAAC members, that is temporary. If the WSO decides there is no longer Alateen in the Ont. S. area, that would be permanently. When we had the discussion about Alateen in 2003, we were no longer allowed to use the Alateen name until we established our behavioural and safety requirements procedure in place. Temporary would mean indefinitely.

XX (D4) – the Executive does have control, in trust of the funds, that's for sure. Someone mentioned that they want the Unity conference to come back, so those funds should be used for that. Maybe these funds can be used to assist Alateens to go to events that they want to attend.

XX (Advisor) – There is a charter for OSAAC – and asked XX (Alateen Coordinator) to clarify what the funds are for.

XX (Alateen Coordinator) – those funds are specifically for Unity.

XX (D8) – brought this issue to the attention of her group. This \$ is raised by the Alateens for their conference, this is their money. This needs to stay in trust for them. It is not Al-Anon's to touch.

XX (Delegate) – speaking from his experience as an advisor last term when this discussion came up and also as a former Alateen. He was the member of the Ont. S. Alateen Unity committee at one point and was the chairperson for the registration in 2004, as a bit of history. The OSAAC charter, in its current form, was approved by the Assembly, so he suggests that changing the OSAAC charter would not be AWSC's place to do that, it is not AWSC's decision. If changes are to be made, they should go to Assembly for discussion and vote. When this came up, we had a non-functioning OSAAC committee at that time, but we had 2 Al-Anon members who were still on the account. What if those 2 members left

the fellowship or died? Approx. \$5,000 raised by Al-Anon and Alateen members, for Alateen in Ontario South would disappear. That was his concern. A bank account sitting dormant for 10 years becomes into a position where the bank of Canada can take it. This is why we are having this discussion.

XX (D25) – some of the concerns that came out of their group discussion was that if the money was sitting in the bank somewhere, is it drawing no interest, could it be invested in a GIC where it would make some interest for the Alateen group when they get the money back.

XX (Advisor) – the money was taken from the account and put into trust in the Ont. S. treasury. So it is now in the regular account, not the reserve. It is not up to Al-Anon to do anything with it and we have no way to do anything with it ourselves.

XX (D14) – to clarify, the Alateen \$ is now in with the Ont. S. treasury and is protected, so is XX's concern about 2 Al-Anon members being on the account is now moot because the money is lumped in with the Al-Anon \$, which can't be touched, but whomever the Treasurer is can transfer that money back to Alateen if OSAAC becomes viable again.

XX (Advisor) – exactly.

XX (Treasurer) – the money is sitting in the bank account and shows on the balance sheet as a liability. It could be transferred into a separate account, but it would still show as a liability. It is not on the balance sheet which shows the \$ as at the end of December as this didn't happen until end of Jan. She does have a balance sheet for the end of April which she forgot to share, and it shows as a liability. When she calculates the reserve, our operating funds it come off our operating funds to be available for us to spend. It will show there on the reserve as well, that it is not part of our own operating funds. Putting it in a GIC makes it inaccessible for a period of time and if the OSAAC committee becomes active in the period of time, they will not be able to get it. So that's not a good idea.

XX (Advisor) – reiterated that it is not Al-Anon's money to invest, it is OSAAC's.

DECISION POINT:

Moving forward: in the event OSAAC ceases to function, either temporarily or permanently, how shall Ontario South Assembly proceed with the management of the OSAAC funds?

XX (Delegate) moved, seconded by XX (AAPP), "Discussion item #2 Re: OSAAC funds be forwarded to Assembly 2024 for discussion."

Discussion to the motion:

XX (Delegate) – the reason for putting this motion forward and wording it the way it is, is because 1., he feels it is not AWSC's place to make a decision what to do or not to do. 2., he thinks this is about being responsible and safeguarding Alateen's funds and Ontario South so that we don't end up in the same position we were before now, where the OSAAC has gone dormant, but the funds are potentially vulnerable. He's excited to hear that we have teens in the works and hopefully getting an OSAAC active again and the second that happens the money will be transferred to their account. That is the intention. His thought behind this motion is about safeguarding those funds so they are there for their intended purpose which is Alateen in Ontario South and not to take away from Alateen, not to use it for Al-Anon's purposes, but to ensure that we don't end up in the same situation again where that money is potentially vulnerable.

XX (D28) – is this an administrative thing that could be handled at AWSC? Does it really have to go to Assembly? We are not deciding what to do with these funds, we are deciding how to safeguard the funds in the meantime. It has already been done; this is just future proofing the funds.

XX (Advisor) – your vote will indicate what you feel is important.

XX (Delegate) – asked, as the mover of the motion, to provide clarity of where his heads at. Referred to Ont. S. policy manual section 11H, the section on OSAAC Finances, pg. 1/3, item 2. Assembly Approval of Section 11: H Finances: states, “Revisions to this section are to be sent to Area Chairperson by January 1st. Revisions may then be presented at AWSC and Assembly for approval.” This tells him that this has to go to Assembly, as the Assembly is the body that approved this document 11H and the Charter (11G). The wording that was in the background document is the wording that he sent to the Chairperson last term as Advisor, as a suggested revision. Therefore, the intent of his motion is that we forward this discussion item to Assembly would be we forward this discussion item with the backgrounder to Assembly, which does include the suggested wording, which has been sent to the Area Chairperson by January 1st. Yes, he believes it does need to be approved by the Assembly.

XX (D11) – didn’t understand any of that – asked her group and the only question was there any problem with it being held in trust and should it ever happen again, could we just do the same thing?

XX (Advisor) – if we keep it in trust, it’s safe. If OSAAC becomes viable, and they get the money back and put it into a bank account, the way the manual states right now, that money stays there until somebody can do something about it and if OSAAC again dissolves that money is going to sit in the bank account with no access to it because there is no OSAAC. What is being proposed is that if OSAAC no longer exists for a period of time, we don’t have the money sitting in a bank account, it gets put into trust.

XX needed to know if there is a difference between it being in an account or being in trust?

XX (Advisor) – no there is no difference, it’s a wording thing. Being in trust is in the Ont. South account.

XX (Public Outreach) – point of clarification – when we are talking about the account, there are two accounts being discussed, the account that the OSAAC funds *were* in, and the Ont. S. Treasury account, into which the money was transferred.

XX (Advisor) – it is in the Ont. South bank account. What XX said is correct.

No further discussion to the motion. XX (Chair) called for the vote.

Voting: **CARRIED**

2:45 – 3:15 break

3:15 Reconvened with the Serenity Prayer.

Discussion item #3:

Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) Chairpersons (Toronto & Ottawa) are invited to attend Area World Service Committee (AWSC). Why are their costs not covered by the Area when other invited AWSC Member’s costs to attend are covered?

Alternate AIS Chairpersons are encouraged to attend the annual AWSC meeting, similar to the Alternate District Representatives (ADRs), without financial assistance.

XX (Advisor) – read the background information on the discussion item, as presented in the AWSC Package, Page 9.

Discussion and questions:

XX (GTAIS, Alt. Chair) – currently Ont. S. covers the costs for accommodation and meals for all voting members of AWSC, except the two AIS Chairs. The Service Manual pages 159 and 176 and the Ontario South Policy Manual, section 4, #2 clearly states that AIS Chairperson (liaisons) are voting members of AWSC. This disparity across the voting members is not consistent with the basic principle that everyone in Al-Anon is equal or with Tradition 1, Warranty 2, 56 or Concept 4. Warranties 4 and 5 remind us that we should always be democratic in thought and action and that no action should be personally punitive. If the Area pays the costs for everyone, except the two AIS Chairs, this is not democratic and could be considered financially punitive to an AIS. If an AIS could not afford to send their Chair to AWSC, they would lose their voice and vote at the meeting. No other member of AWSC is put in a position of losing their vote due to financial reasons. Last year AWSC voted to allow Alternate AIS Chairs to attend AWSC. This year it would cost close to \$800 for an AIS to send both members, this is financially prohibitive to an AIS and double the cost of what any other District would have to pay to send both their DR and ADR. Concept 4 says ‘Participation is the key to harmony’ but the only way an AIS could possibly afford to send their Alternate is if the Area covers the accommodations and meals for the AIS Chairs. A concern about the cost to the Area has been raised should many Districts decide they want an AIS. This concern isn’t supported by historical facts as there have never been more than 4 AIS’s over the past 30 years in Ontario South and two folded a number of years ago. With a view to equality and inclusion we would like to see the Area treat all voting members equally by paying the accommodation and meals for the two AIS Chairs. AIS Chairs could be treated like DR’s and pay the registration fee and contribute to the travel equalization fund for mileage costs.

XX (D28) – Ottawa AIS it is funded mostly by D28, which means that their group members fund Ottawa AIS, just so you know where that money is coming from. There was a consensus that if AIS has a vote, they should be funded to attend like other voting members. There were spinoff consequences to that to be considered. If they are funded by O. South, that would leave more funds to put into other areas like Public Outreach in that district and makes it more likely to have funds for the Alt. AIS Chair and the Alt. DR to attend, and this would enhance the interest from these others, it would enhance rotation of service. The Alt. DR from D8 would be interested in attending AWSC.

XX (D8) – question – how would the equalization be calculated b/c AIS represents more than 1 district? It would be like the district paying double equalization, for the DR as well as the AIS?

XX (D6) – we were trying to find out how to save money at the Area level, this would increase the amount of \$ that Ont. S. needs to put out.

XX (D26) – they started a new in-person group in Dec. ‘22 and they are keen to learn, so they discussed all of these items and when it came to this, while she can see what XX presented as valid, if you do get more areas that decide to create an AIS there will be more costs. Three of the new members asked why AIS gets a vote when there are already DRs from the districts of that AIS that already get a vote? They looked in the service manual but still don’t understand it. Doesn’t it mean that group of districts get more votes, as there could also be a coordinator from that district for instance.

XX (D26) – their district had a good discussion and came up with 2 schools of thought, both taken from the Service manual, pg. 66, which states that “the Information Service is supported by the groups it services within its determined boundaries; it should not seek or accept support outside of that area.”, and then 2 paragraphs later it states that “AISs are connected to the links in the chain of service through

their representative, called an Al-Anon Information Service Liaison (AISL), who attends Area World Service Committee and Assembly meetings”. So, the two schools of thought were, they shouldn’t seek support, but on the other hand, they are supposed to be at the meeting so they should be treated as equally as everyone else, so we didn’t come up with a consensus, but we did have two different points of view.

XX (D4) – did read page 65 and 66 and decided that if AIS is invited, then they should be funded to do so.

XX (P.O.) – in her personal opinion, if AIS is invited, they should be treated the same way as the DRs. As has been pointed out here earlier, there are groups and districts that are represented by more than one by virtue of the fact that they have coordinators who are also part of those districts with DRs already voting.

XX (D31) – had the great privilege of helping one of her sisters who ran the hospitality suite at the Ontario Regional Conference this past year and it was unbelievable how many people came and the amount of fellowship and Al-Anon outreach that occurred in that hospitality suite on that weekend. Outreach is critical, it’s how we grow and have a voice. There are posters on the TTC because her sister and her committee worked to get them there and they bring in members, so she feels that AIS has every right to be here and should be funded like everyone else who is here to do Al-Anon work.

XX (website coordinator) – wanted to clarify that when she is here, she is here as the website coordinator, not on behalf of D26 and votes accordingly.

XX (Chair) invited members to take the next steps of making a decision of what we would like to do next?

DECISION POINT:

Moving forward, do Ontario South Assembly (OSA) Members wish to make any changes to the current practice?

Some DR reports given while we waited for a motion to be crafted.

XX (D22) – gave her district report while we waited for a motion to be crafted. There isn’t always representation of all the GRs at the district table, there is no alternate DR, although she is trying. It’s even in her own group, and this saddens her heart. They are anxious to serve at the group level, but not beyond that. If anyone has any suggestions on how to light the fire, please pass them along. A burning desire, a flickering ember, anything, but she’s still here, still trying.

XX (D23) – as she started her first term as DR she found many challenging things happening. The new GRs seem very confused about their roles and how to serve in that. There are a lot of new members coming to the groups in the district. They are working on keeping new members who do come. YANA moved to a new home and it’s working well. Two other groups just celebrated anniversaries. They still need a district treasurer, but all other positions have been filled.

XX (D25) – updates to the written report sent in previously, there are 9 groups, and all have active GRs. His home group is the Hope and Serenity group on Thursday night. Working on getting Al-Anon members into the community detention centre. They have 6 (and now 7) people doing this, as he approached a person here this weekend and she has agreed to go in. they are in the process of getting

VSS checks done through the OPP and then orientation can happen so they're hoping to get it going in the next few months. They launched a website in December, and it will be ready to launch on June 1. There will be a quick access QR code. Al-Anon Day on May 4 was a great success with approx. 85 attendees. 4 Al-Anon speakers, 2 AA speakers. Guest speaker was XX from Open Lines. For Public Outreach, XX is doing a lot of great work, creating posters, she also has Al-Anon business cards that she has brought to the meetings for members to disseminate. He has visited two groups in the district and talks about the P.O., gives them information on how to make donations to the various service arms. Provides information on service work, suggesting they read "When I Got Busy, I got Better", as that really helped him get an idea of how service works. Also gives information on the Forum and how to order it. Gives lists of all the groups in his district and how to visit them.

XX (D26) – update from her written report – a very large district geographically. 1 new group, just 2 weeks old. One of her groups, Sharing and Caring, will be celebrating their 60th anniversary next May. She has heard it said that electronic groups are not as close or personal as in-person groups, but this group defies all those definitions. It has stayed together all these years, and not it has transitioned to an electronic group that is as strong and cohesive as it was 60 years ago. In gratitude for this, the group will be taking the lead in hosting the in-person district Al-Anon in May 2025, in conjunction with our 60th anniversary celebration. My example that electronic groups really do belong and contribute meaningfully to Ontario South. So I ask you to keep May 2025 in mind as we plan to celebrate this monumental occasion, and there will be flyers.

XX (D28) – they have come through the pandemic with 14 groups. They no longer have an Alateen group, although they have a lot of AMIASs. They went down to monthly Alateen meetings, although the posters say they are weekly, so at the Al-Anon meeting that it is associated with, there is always an AMIAS there in case an Alateen shows up. Every 3 months they try to have a fellowship meeting in person, for DR meetings, as they have gone to all virtual for ease. Their Al-Anon Day occurred on the same day as D26 which was stressful, as they were literally a half hour apart, but they were both very successful, but they won't do it that way again as they like to attend the D26 Al-Anon Day. She is trying to turn over the job of hosting Al-Anon Day next year. She is visiting the different groups in her district and that is her favourite part. There are a few groups with no GR, although they do agree to have a contact person. When she goes to the meeting, she says she is JAM (Just a Member) but really considers herself an information pusher. She inadvertently checks the flyers and whether they have information there. She is thinking of taking up a service road show in the district as there are so many people who have done service, and it could be shared and sometimes that just gives the nudge to people. She heard in an electronic meeting that the reason for keeping the service position is that it keeps you connected, and the disease is lurking, not too far away, and if you get disconnected it's going to jump on you.

XX (Ottawa AIS chair) – reported that they do all of the basic things that the manual outlines an AIS is responsible for, an answering service, maintaining the website, etc. They used to have a Sunday open speaker meeting, which died during Co-Vid. This has been relaunched twice a month and it's been very successful and is also helping with 7th Tradition contributions. This was done in concert with the GRs who wanted it back. They had a request from the healing center in Ottawa called XX Healing Centre – these were people that were in the healing centre from different parts of the county who got to experience an Al-Anon meeting in the centre. They got several members to go in and run the meeting and this needs to be followed up to see if it could be done again or in another scenario or venue. They are trying to collaborate with other districts around them so that AIS can be more than just for their district and so they are connecting with D26 and also Pembroke groups. They did a lot of outreach for

the Ottawa Al-Anon Day. 54 packages were available to be picked up and distributed and they were. The only outstanding position right now is Public Outreach. They are looking for a coordinator for this position, although they are functioning well. They also collaborate with the Toronto AIS. And they are talking with XX about how they can streamline and work better with the Ontario South website. This causes confusion between Ontario South, AIS Ottawa and WSO as people are not always sure where to go.

XX (D31) – 7 groups in Kingston and Napanee. Also 1 Alateen group which meets only 1 / month due to limitations of the building in which it occurs. There are 4 AMIAs that rotate. There haven't been any teens lately, but they recently got to do a presentation for all the adolescent and youth workers for one of the schoolboards at their monthly meeting and they really talked up Alateen. Of the 7 groups, 3 do not have GRs right now so what they do is ask the groups to send one member to represent at each district meeting and see how it goes. She feels that the problem might be some members are long-timers and some are absolute newcomers unwilling to serve. Sometimes there are not enough people at districts meetings so representation is crucial, so she calls people and begs them to send someone. They don't have an Alt. DR but they have a secretary and treasurer. They have a great Public Outreach committee, and they are doing great work. They have a P.O. table at the annual music festival. They are involved in a Founder's Day celebration, an A.A. event with Al-Anon participation. They have an Al-Anon phone line manned by members on a rotating basis. They have a Day of Al-Anon happening on Oct. 5. Last year they went back to a former way of doing it, they'd had a committee for the past few years which was the same people doing all the work, which wasn't fair to them, so they've gone back to a former way which she instituted when she was a DR a while ago, which is 3 groups take it on for 1 year and then another 3 groups take it on the next year. This method endeavours to spread around the work and attempts to increase participation in the planning of this day. They have an archivist who is keeping memorabilia which can be displayed at the Day of Al-Anon and at anniversaries. This spring their district just put in a bid to host Assembly 2025 so she hopes they will see you there.

DR from D32 not present. D33 not represented yet.

Motion:

XX (Alt. Chair GTAIS) moved, seconded by XX (Public Outreach coordinator), that "Ontario South Assembly will cover the costs for accommodation and meals (accommodation package) for AIS Chairperson(s) to attend AWSC, consistent with what is done for all voting members. The Registration fee and meals required to travel are paid by the Districts the AIS serves. AIS(s) will contribute to the travel equalization amounts, the amount to be determined by the Executive, and mileage costs will be reimbursed by OSA.

Discussion to the motion:

XX (Alt. Chair GTAIS) – we all know that the two AIS Chairs are the only members of AWSC whose costs are not covered to attend AWSC at all. In order to be equal, our WSC has gone out of their way to hire outside people to look at diversity, equity and inclusion in Al-Anon. So, in order to do that in this committee as well, we would like to see that the AIS Chairs at least have equal coverage to all other voting members. In order to be conscience of the fact that costs are involved, that is why they are not asking for all their costs to be covered like the coordinators, the Executive and even the Trillium Chair, who is only here for a year. We are only asking for accommodations and meal package covered and then pay into the equalization for mileage, so that way we're not asking for as much money to be put out by

the Executive or the Area to cover. It has been mentioned that if other AISs join, it would be a big cost. If that happens, which hasn't historically been the case, it would then be up to the Executive to bring it back to the AWSC to see how we can best deal with cost problems. It would be a discussion and it wouldn't just be two people that would be thrown out the window, it would be covered, probably somehow by increasing something in everybody's costs, or something. Today we have the opportunity to correct the current practice to make it more in line with the principles of the program. I believe paying for one additional hotel room and 2 meal plans for the 2 AIS Chairs is a small price for the Area to pay to achieve unity, equality and inclusion amongst all the voting members of this committee.

XX (D10) – regardless of whether we are pro or not, should not this be something that is decided at the Assembly level?

XX (Alt Chair GTAIS) – in our lengthy discussion about this, we covered this question. The reason we felt it doesn't have to go back to Assembly is that the question was in the AWSC package which was supposed to go back to your groups via the GRs and then the members. Therefore, the groups should have been informed. Plus, the actual cost for travel is going to be determined by the Executive, as this is based on the # of groups in your district. It's not fair as the GTAIS serves 94 groups. Therefore, they felt that the Assembly has been informed and the only question remaining is an Executive decision.

XX (D16) is a little confused as AIS reps are invited to be here whereas the DRs are expected to be here. She thinks that is a huge difference. Also, the question was, do we wish to make changes to the current practice? Yes or no. I think it's a yes or no answer and then we can move on to this. But to go from here to this seems like a huge jump.

XX (D23) – point of clarification, the motion states that travel costs will be paid by the districts, whereas the last line says the mileage costs will be reimbursed by OSA.

XX (Alt Chair GTAIS) – clarified in the OSA manual it says that meals due to travel which means that meals that are not covered by the meal package. With regards to AIS chairpersons being invited to AWSC, every single member here is an invited member and every member has a voice, except for the Alt. AIS Chair and Alt. DRs. Why there had to be a motion in 1993 to allow them to be there is not known to her as she wasn't there at that time. However, AIS Chairpeople are equal and voting members just like everyone else here.

Voting: in favour: 26, **MOTION CARRIED.**

XX (Alt. Chair GTAIS) – GTAIS report at AWSC 2024

Hello, my name is XX and I'm the Alternate Chair of the Greater Toronto Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service (or GTAIS for short). This year the GTAIS sponsored a public outreach booth at the Pri-Med Conference in Mississauga from May 8-10th. The Pri-Med Conference is an international medical conference for family doctor's, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals. Our booth was manned by 16 volunteers who came from as far away as London and Cobourg to help out during the 3 days. The volunteers again commented this year about how surprised they were that so few medical professionals knew about Al-Anon or the effects Alcoholism has on the family members. Although the cost to attend this conference may pose a barrier to attending in the future, it was clear that we still need to put more effort in to educating the medical professionals about Al-Anon. To that end we have reached out to the organizers of the Pri-Med Conference and asked if we could be one of the speakers at the conference in the future, we are still awaiting a reply. On behalf of the GTAIS I want to thank all the

committee members and volunteers who helped make this another very successful AI-Anon public outreach initiative. The GTAIS is looking for AI-Anon members who have been in the program for at least 3 years who would be interested in being part of our telephone answering service. This service position can be done from the comfort of your own home. We would especially like to have some volunteers who can speak more than one language. If any members in your Districts are interested, please have them email the GTAIS Chair, XX at gtais.chair@gmail.com. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask the DR's who cover Districts 16-23 for your assistance in encouraging the groups in your District to send an AIS representative to our monthly meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm on Zoom. Our Zoom link can be found under 'GTAIS' on the Ontario South website. We would really like to see more representation from the groups we support in the GTA. It is only with your support we can continue to do the Public Outreach initiatives we do. One role the GTAIS is responsible for each year is to vote in the AI-Anon Chair and Shadow Chair for AA's Ontario Regional Conference with AI-Anon and Alateen participation that is held in March in Toronto. XX is currently the Chair for next year but are in need of a Shadow Chair who would shadow XX next year and then be the Chair in 2026. If anyone is interested, or wants more information, please contact XX at gtais.chair@gmail.com. Thank you for your ongoing support and enjoy the wonderful weekend

Stopped at 4:35 for a Dinner Break, which is at 5:00. Do we want to reconvene earlier or at 7:00? Reconvene at 6:30 for the evening session.

Opened at 6:30 pm with a moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

6:30 – 7:00

Workshop: DR 101 – XX (AAPP)

The executive asked her to do a workshop on DR 101 to help this new term of GRs get used to their role. What does a District Representative (DR) do? A slide with some points was shown. Tools are available either online or through the LDC. G37 – Guideline from the WSO explains the duties of a DR. Can be downloaded from the WSO website. G-15 – guideline from the WSO explains the district meetings and how to do that. Planning a district meeting slide was shared, which had 6 points about planning the meeting. Other ideas were gathered from the floor. Move the nights (6:00), potlucks twice a year. Rotate meeting spot. Ask for GRs to present a topic in turn. Humour. Send an email to GRs prior informing them of the agenda and then they can use the link of service to inform their groups and bring questions. And bring candy. Invite a coordinator to do a presentation about their role to the group – invite guests or speakers. Have members check in, especially after a few months' hiatus, to see what's going on not only in the groups but what's going on in your life. Keep the meetings interesting. Get a service manual. Conflict resolution kit, another good tool to help you help GRs deal with any conflicts that arise. S73, S72 and S71 but they can also be purchased as a bundle, K70. Have fun! Plan an agenda. Ask the GRs for agenda items prior to the meeting and then send out the agenda (timing of when / how long before is up to your own district autonomy). G41 – guideline talks about budgeting, reserve fund, and the financial information to help operate in a fiscally responsible way. All of these guidelines are on the WSO website, under the Members tab. A member shared that she has a standard agenda that is always used and has a spot for any new items, culled from members. The sign up for who is doing the presentations at the meetings is a link. By making the front end of the agenda efficient, there are reminders, this means the meeting doesn't drag on. All of this is done electronically for the benefit of all members who cannot be there in person (with young children, in winter, etc.). It helps for DRs to attend meetings in their district and ensure that their formats and CAL is up to date and if not,

share with them so that they are healthy. Support the groups in your district with your own experience, using the spiritual tools of the program. Be honest and open. If you don't have an answer, request more time, and then be sure to add the item to your next agenda, ensuring that the answer is given. Some discussion about finances, how to collect 7th and keep it safe, i.e., have a bank account, was provided.

This PowerPoint presentation was forwarded to the Secretary by XX and was made available on the website.

7:00 pm

The Ask-It-Basket Committee will be meeting in Room SW2152.
Coordinator's meeting with Treasurer, XX, in room SW209.
There will be an opportunity for an AI-Anon meeting in this room.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

8:30am – XX (Chair) opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Traditions – read by XX. (D10)
Concepts – read by X (D6)
Warranties – read by X (D31)

Housekeeping and announcements

8:41 am Delegate's Update XX

Thought Force – Delegates serve on a TF during their term, his is related to archives.
Regional Trustee - Canada Central, XX, re-elected for a second 3-year term. Shared about this process and that he is on a Regional Committee on Trustees for the U.S. Northeast, so out of his Area.
Shared a picture of himself with XX wearing a hat that an Executive member purchased for him, and XX delivered at WSC.

Reminder about the Alternate Delegate vacancy – if you have questions or an interest, please speak to XX as it is part of his role to find a member to fill it. Section 2A of the Ont. S. Area Policy Manual.

What has your Delegate been up to?

- Spoke at the Ontario Regional Conference
- Spoke at Peterborough AI-Anon Day in April (rescheduled from January)
- Prepared for and attending the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Concept study with his service sponsor and another member
- Step study with a group outside of Ottawa

Q. from yesterday – What is the WSO doing to keep service simple?

A. In his experience as a Delegate at the WSC, these were some of his takeaways:

- organized meals and the way they were set up and served – buffet style, in a room beside the meeting room as there was only 1 hour per.
- WSO staff developed a lot of the presentations and background information provided, and although somewhat cumbersome as it needs to be downloaded prior, keeps the service simple.
- Assigned seating next to your mentor.

Please invite him places! District meetings, Roundups / Al-Anon Days / Service workshops – keeping in mind that he has just started a new job and have limited vacation time.

Please send him your minutes from District meetings – it helps him keep in touch with groups, concerns, issues, solutions, etc., which can then be shared with other Delegates if necessary.

Question and answer period:

XX (D23 / Chair) – there was a slide that said, “Panel 64, in service we soar”. Can you speak to that?

XX (Delegate) – every panel comes up with a tag, and then when you go to the mic, you introduce yourself by your full name, and service position or district and tag. He had some jealousy for “Panel 62, it started with a shoe”, and panel 63 was “Panel 63, service is the key”. It’s a team building exercise.

XX (GTAIS Toronto) – asked about the WSO policy around electronic groups and where they are at with that.

XX (Delegate) – no, however, if your group is still *temporarily* electronic, he would encourage you to make a decision. No one is coming after you for a decision, but it has been 4 years and therefore, what does “temporary” mean? For electronic or online groups, that was a temporary measure. If the decision is to stay electronic, then the decision about which Area to join will follow that, whether to join the overlay electronic district (33) or whether to join a geographical district. If you would like to join Ontario South or do you want to go join the electronic Area. Because there is a Global Electronic Area (GEA) that covers the entire world service structure and it’s just electronic groups or electronic groups can join Ontario South and then decide whether they’d like to join D33 or if they’d like to join a geographical district. And that part is because Ontario South did pass their electronic meetings policy at the last Assembly. He is not aware of the WSO saying you have to decide, but he would strongly encourage groups to make a decision.

9:11 Ask-It Basket committee answers XX G. (Advisor), XX D. (Advisor), XX (D28), XX (D10), XX (D16), XX (D16).

XX G. (Advisor) – they only had 3 questions and she thought it would take 5 minutes, but 1.5 hours later. They searched guidelines the Ont. S. Manual and the WSO manual and Guidelines.

XX (D28) – Q. does the DR have a vote at the district table? It’s about autonomy. In the WSO Manual, pg. 153, there is a phrase – “Each district may choose its own method of electing, including who is eligible to vote”, so autonomy, with guidance. Ontario South Assembly Policies & Guidelines Manual (APM), which is also downloadable, has a lot of information such as the DR role description, and also if you want to take guidance from the Area Chair role and they only vote if there is a tie. The DR doesn’t really represent one group at the district table, they represent the district at AWSC, so that is where they vote.

XX (D10) - this was a great exercise as she wasn’t aware of the Guidelines which are so helpful, and there is also the Ont. S. Policy manual, which supersedes the WSO policy manual, so there were 3 different areas to look at and she found it really educational.

Q., a group was formed on behalf of the district to host an open speaker meeting about 15 years ago. The seed money came from the district. The meeting has not started up due to Co-Vid. I believe the committee took it upon themselves to donate any available funds to another arm within the fellowship

without a group conscience. When asked why the funds were not returned to the district, the response was “they were a group like any other group, and it was group autonomy to do with the funds as they chose.” Should the funds have been returned to the district?

A. They looked to the traditions and the opening paragraph in which it states, “They recommend group attitudes toward leadership, membership, money, property, public relations and anonymity.” So, the reference to money is in there. Further, the 9 Tradition says, “Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” So they the information to find out were they really a group, and yes, they were, as they had a WSO number, but upon further discussion, they thought this may have only been so they could be listed as a speaker meeting to enable it to be found, it had to have it’s number so that WSO could post it on the website, but all correspondence was directed back to the district. It wasn’t its own group with a group’s service structure, it really did belong to the district. Therefore, it was found that this was actually a committee, formed to on behalf of the district to serve as an outreach to the community and it really did belong to the district. And therefore, the money belonged to the district.

XX (D16) – Do coordinators get a vote at AWSC and Assembly? Where is that specified? Doesn’t that mean that whatever district they’re from, gets 2 votes?

A. Found in the Ont. S. policy manual – she was very fortunate, as she was given a manual with all the pages missing. So, she was looking for these pages and there were none, however there was someone there with it - Section 4, #18, and then Section 5A, #15, you will find the answers there, she’s didn’t provide them.

XX (D16) was also one of the 4 volunteers but there were only 3 questions.

These questions and answers will be in the minutes but not Open Lines (which happened during Co-Vid).

Prior to Open Mic, XX reminded us that when she was reviewing the explanation and approval of voting procedures, all that additional information that came out was as a result of membership voice through Items for Consideration, as well as the Executive decision to put forward a review committee, consisting of members from the membership and that review committee reviewed that document, the voting procedure and the voting process. As a result of that, recommendations have come forward, some of them I hope you felt and witnessed during the voting procedures. Other recommendations were around the motion process, and one of those recommendations was for motions that go unheard and not presented that they are still read to the membership for your awareness. So that’s what I would like to do now. Please understand that there is no intention to discuss these today. What happens to these is they become Items for Consideration, they are brought forward to the Executive Committee at our next executive meeting, they’ll be researched further, with a view to moving them forward to Assembly or a subsequent AWSC. XX proceeded to the motions that were not presented, they are as follows, without the mover’s name and district included.

- The line item in the budget for incidental expenses for delegates use at WSO, no receipts required (US \$ spent) be reworded to “reimbursement of additional hotel and meal expenses incurred by the WSO Delegate, receipts required.”
- The executive look into the costs and necessary information to help the Assembly 2024 decide whether or not to purchase a computer for use by the website coordinator. This information will be forwarded to the DRs before Assembly 2024, for discussion by the GRs.

9:25 Open Mic

XX (D22) – would like to thank the Executive for the AWSC, it's been great, well presented, and the Delegate admitting that it gets long and tedious, it didn't.

XX (Literature Coordinator) – thanked everyone for their participation this weekend, it has been a privilege to be a part of AWSC in person for the first time and to be a part of making the decisions for our Area.

XX (Group Records) has also had a wonderful weekend, last year was her first, year prior was on zoom, in person is so much more, the hugs and compliments. Being here as a coordinator has been great. She has a few district reports if anyone can deliver them, we can save the postage. They are 3, 5, 20, 24, 27, 32 and 30. When you look at the group record reports, if anyone has any changes please go on the website and fill out the group records change form, and she will look at it as those changes need to be made on the WSO database.

XX (D31) – she read the concepts this morning and the phrase *democratic in thought and action* really struck her. That is what it has been for her. People got to express themselves, figure things out together, it's been really well chaired, thank you XX, not a minute wasted, while we're waiting for something people are giving their reports, and it's been a pleasure to be here.

XX (Advisor) – was trying to figure out how many years she's been coming to AWSC, and she decided to quit ... thinking about it, not quit coming to AWSC. She still feels like a newcomer, still feels like a newbie, here hands are sweating as she's up at the front here, and yet she feels she has been heard, the whole time she's been there, whether it's something she needed to say, express or share, and she's really grateful for that because this is a job that is so important that you guys know that they are not just Advisors for the Executive, we're Advisors for Ontario South, so if you have a question, any of the executive can answer it, including ourselves, and we'll do our best to answer it, as I've said all along. XX mentioned the hat, XX gave her a letter from the Archives, from XX, our first Delegate, who wore the hat, and it's her first report from the WSC that she gave to Ontario South. XX read an only excerpt, (the entire report is 6 pgs. In length). Summary follows: The first election Assembly was held in Burlington, on April 6, 1961. She became the first Delegate, elected at that election. 12 days later, I was in New York. Although Burlington and Hamilton had tried to raise the \$200 to send the Delegate, they were quite a few dollars short. Nevertheless, after 2 or 3 more collections that day, we raised the amount needed. There were only 12 delegates at the first WSC, 11 women and 1 man. 2 were from Canada, 1 from B.C., 1 from Ontario. The 12 delegates got to know each other very well, as it was so small and intimate. They were shown around the World Service Office (described, as being appalling) and then given a luncheon. She couldn't imagine that this was the office of Al-Anon Worldwide. The following year they were able to move to larger accommodations. When it was her turn to speak at the luncheon, she gave a short geography lesson. We know some Americans think Canada is just a small state up North. Some call it God's little acre. They do not realize that Canada is the second largest country in the world, the Soviet Union being the first, so I told them that Ontario is 432 sq. miles and has 32,000 lakes. You should have heard the gasps! Bill Wilson spoke to them the next morning and told them "Al-Anon was the greatest thing that ever happened since A.A. began." When they left Stepping Stones to catch the plane for home, Bill Wilson was heard to say, "There go our twelve apostles."

XX (D26 & LDC) – thanked XX for sharing that. She knew XX, they had car rides together, shared about her and misses her. Sometimes we forget the people who came before us, but they are part of our history.

XX (AAPP) – read a reading from As We Understand (p23) about a candle and how we light one to dispel the darkness ... when we don't share with others, we diminish ourselves spiritually.

9:36 am. XX (Chair) led us in saying the Al-Anon Declaration, followed by the Serenity Prayer, to close the meeting.

AWSC Meeting Highlights: FROM 2024

Motion, from XX (D17) moved (verbal motion) that we accept the voting procedures as explained., seconded by XX (D8).

Voting: All in favour. **CARRIED** unanimously.

Motion, from XX (D10) moved, seconded by XX (AAPP), “that the budget as presented be forwarded to Assembly 2024”

Voting: **CARRIED**

Motion, from XX (Alt. Chair GTAIS) moved, seconded by XX (Public Outreach coordinator), that “Ontario South Assembly will cover the costs for accommodation and meals (accommodation package) for AIS Chairperson(s) to attend AWSC, consistent with what is done for all voting members. The Registration fee and meals required to travel are paid by the Districts the AIS serves. AIS(s) will contribute to the travel equalization amounts, the amount to be determined by the Executive, and mileage costs will be reimbursed by OSA.

Voting: in favour: 26, **MOTION CARRIED.**

***Number of groups is 259 (February 2024), so estimated donation by group to cover 2025 - \$173.12**