

# **Assembly 2023 Minutes**

**Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**

**Opening - XXXX**

**Welcome - XXXX**

**Traditions – XXXX – District 16**

**Concepts – XXXX – District 1**

**Warranties – XXXX – District 12**

**Introduction of Executive – XXXX**

## **Host Committee Announcements - XXXX and XXXX**

- Welcome to Mississauga, we were here in 2017.
- Introduction of the Host Committee
- Literature is in Club Studio 1, which is downstairs (or down the elevator).
- No smoking in the building
- No hospitality room
- No free wifi in the meeting rooms.
- Parking is free for conference attendees.
- On Saturday, voting members will sit in the centre part of the room, non-voters in the wings.

## **Announcements – XXXX**

- People with red tags are AMIAS people.

## **Skit – Links of Service – XXXX**

- Group elects a Group Rep.
- Group Reps. elect a District Rep.
- The District Rep. attends AWSC.
- Group Reps attend Assembly.
- We broke up into groups and answered some questions about the Links of Service.
- XXXX – District 3 – Links of service are how the information flows
- XXXX – District 6 – without the links, the information is stifled, and AI-Anon is not responsive to the needs of the membership
- XX – District 13 – What info is passed – literature, events, changes to by-laws, etc.
- XX – District 18 - Who is involved? Groups, District Reps, Delegates, AIS, WSC, trustees, and members.
- XX – District 25 - How often do the links of service change? Every 3 years
- XX – District 28 – How do the links of service relate to my group? We find out what is happening in other groups and Districts. We are also involved in taking a group conscience.
- XX – District 28 - How do the links of service relate to my District? We are in the middle, we strengthen the links coming up from the groups and down from the Area.

- XX – Alt. Delegate - Where can we find this information? It's in the Area Service Policy Manual, and it is also in the World Service Manual.
- We linked arms with others in the Links of Service!

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

## **Saturday, October 21st**

### **8:34 am Opening - XXXX**

We opened with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

### **Welcome - XXXX**

XX welcomed those who were here at Assembly for the first time.

### **Traditions – XX - District 1**

### **Concepts – XX – District 11**

### **Warranties – XX – District 4**

### **XX introduced the Executive**

### **Host Committee Announcements XX and XX**

- XX introduced the Host Committee: XX – Secretary, XX – Entertainment, XX – Greeters and Registration, XX – Maps, etc, XX – Signs, XX – Advisor, XX – Treasurer, XX – Advisor, XX – AV equipment.
- XX let us know where to get coffee, find the washrooms, and find the Literature Room.
- Parking is free, please register your licence plate with the hotel
- There is no hospitality room, nor is there wifi in the meeting rooms.
- Please tuck the strings into your name tags before returning.

### **Announcements from the floor**

- People with Red triangles are AMIAS members – and are friendly to Alateens
- Trillium mementos are available for purchase
- XX and XX, please see XX at the break
- XX, the Group Records Coordinator has a package for all District Reps
- GTAIS announces that they are looking for volunteers for the PRI-Med conference.
- GTAIS is holding a fundraiser – selling 50 cent wallet cards with all the slogans on it

- Archives is having a raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Archives has free copies of the Forum from 1950 and on.
- Literature Distribution Centre – Please pick up pre-orders during the lunch break.

## Forms

- Ask-it-Basket forms are for questions from people at Assembly.
- Evaluation Forms are available online and by paper.
- Item for Consideration are for ideas that people have. Available online and by paper

## Roll Call XX

- There are 125 voting members at Assembly this morning.

## Timekeeper – volunteer – XX – District 17

### Ask It Basket – 4 volunteers

- XX, District 16
- XX, District 23
- XX, District 16
- XX, District 14

### Motion Typist – non-voting member

- XX, District 11

## Voting Procedures

- XX reviewed the Voting Procedures as shown in the Assembly package.
- Consider whether what you are about to say has already been said.
- Motions must be submitted on a blue motion form. The Advisors have the blue motion forms, and are also available to help you craft your motion.
- The Mover is allowed to speak first to a motion, for a limit of 2 minutes.
- A majority vote is required to pass the motion. 50% + 1 of the votes cast.
- Who votes at Assembly? Each group gets one vote. The Chairperson only votes to break a tie. The incoming GRs get a vote in Election years. Voting – count the ayes and nays, not the abstentions.
- XX – District 26 – How long does the Mover of the motion get to speak to the motion? They are limited to 2 minutes. Is the seconder allowed to speak to the motion? They can line up at the mic like anyone else.
- XX – District 19 – Wants to make a motion to accept the voting Procedures. She was directed to fill in a blue motion form.
- XX - District 19, seconded by Angelle District 4, moved that, “I moved that the voting procedures for 2023 Assembly be accepted as presented by the Chair.” Her reasoning for

making that motion is that the motions were explained clearly by the Chair, and it helps to avoid chaos.

- XX - District 14 – The whole process for making a motion is very challenging. Is there a more efficient way of doing motion? Can we have people at the end of the row with the forms?
- XX – Advisor – Advisors are here to help, not to control. The Advisors are here to help ensure that the motions are reflective of what the person means. The idea is to get better-crafted motions.
- XX – District 16: If it is a duplicate motion, may it go to the Executive? She is wondering why that was. XX said that sometimes there are duplicate motions, and they are not ignored, they will go to Executive.
- XX – District 26: She is wondering why the blue motion forms aren't freely available, for the person to fill in, and then see the Advisor.
- XX – Advisor: My understanding is that the most important part of the Discussion is the discussion. It's important that people get to say what they need to say.
- XX – District 9: My concern is that if a motion is brought forward to Assembly, that it should be discussed by Assembly, not the Executive.
- XX – Alt. Delegate: In days gone by, there were motions at the back, and motions were not brought forward until the discussion was completed. That is something that can be changed today, if that is what this group wants.
- XX – District 16: My suggestion is whether we could create two extra aisles in the space, so that people can get out easier.
- XX District 23: We have a motion on the floor, and we should talk about that motion, and deal with it first.
- XX – District 18: There's a motion on the floor.
- Amendment Motion: Moved by XX, District 9, XX District 9, "We amend the voting procedures to have the Assembly hear all the motions presented at Assembly." She has a concern that not all motions are heard at Assembly. She thinks that all at Assembly has the right to see all the motions.
- XX – District 16: The first motion is to accept the voting procedures, and we need to have a voting procedure before we can make an amendment to the voting procedures.
- XX – District 4: Are we suggesting that if 3 similar motions are made, then we have to consider all 3 motions? XX replied that that's where the Advisors come in, and they would get the people with similar motions to combine it into one motion.
- XX – District 16: Our concepts say that the authority lies with the groups. If the motion goes to the Assembly and it is not read, then someone's voice is not heard.
- XX – District 4: All motions should be read at Assembly
- XX – District 4: We are representing our members, and we have to go to the membership, so that the group members can have a say. XX is here for her group, not for herself.
- XX – District 16: People that have duplicate motions will be brought together. And her group has given her the authority to make a decision based on new knowledge presented at Assembly. She is a trusted servant.
- XX, District 2: It would be good for us to move on.
- XX District 23: We are here as trusted servants. We need to remember that we are all being guided by a Power greater than ourselves. The Executive is working on our behalf. I believe that what has been presented to us is a result of being guided by a higher power.
- Break Called at 10:03. Reconvene at 10:30.

## Opened with the Serenity Prayer at 10:32

- We are in the middle of discussion of the Amended motion.
- XX noted that we need to speak directly into the microphone.
- XX. The Amendment is speaking directly to the 2023 procedures.
- XX – District 12. This seems to be a big issue that people have opinions on. I suggest that we disregard the Amendment, and deal with the original motion first, and make this item an Item for Consideration
- XX – District 25. I have been here a few times, and I have been confused in the past. Going forward, should there be a taskforce on voting procedures, and then split off the part about motions.
- XX, District 9. It has been pointed out that this amendment only applies to 2023, so wouldn't this be a great opportunity to try it out at this Assembly?
- XX – District 16. There are 124 voting members here, do we have the right to change what affects over 330 groups?
- XX – District 11. XX suggests that we either defeat this motion, or amend it, so that we know
- Vote was called on the Amendment – In favour of the Amendment was 29 people. All not in favour – more than 29, amendment motion has been defeated.
- Original Motion: **“I moved that the voting procedures for 2023 Assembly be accepted as presented by the Chair.” Carried.**

## Approval of 2022 Assembly Minutes

- XX, District 16: I noticed that the Global Electronic Area is shown as Area 68, should be Area 89. On page 17: Discussion is #5, not number 6. On page 17, XX, comments were made as a member.
- XX, District 23: On page 5 and 7, where it says the cost per group, it should be in \$U.S.
- Moved by XX, District 4, seconded by XX, District 4, that **“The 2022 Assembly minutes be accepted as amended.” Carried.**

## 10:52 Question and Announcement:

- XX, District 18: Are we moving to the Treasurer's report at 11:15, as a timed item? XX replied no, we are going to do the Delegate's report, and follow the agenda order.
- There will be people in the hall directing people to the literature room over lunch.

## 10:55 Delegate's Report XX

- I qualify because I have a sponsor, a home group, and a service sponsor.
- It is especially lovely to see all the new members that are here.
- XX attended the 163<sup>rd</sup> service conference. We met at Virginia Beach.
- The first year of service role is confused. The second year is comfortable, and the third year, you feel capable. Please ask questions, and participate.
- The conference was April 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meeting with Delegates from around the world was incredible.
- Our theme was love, laugh, and grow together.
- XX participated in putting on a skit, which was a blast.
- XX is going to talk about the budget.

- Please email questions about the budget to XX.
- XX says that we sometimes think of WSO as “them”, but we are all “us”.
- Don’t be afraid to call WSO, they are human.
- What does WSO do?
  - Register groups
  - Mobile app
  - Translate literature into English, French and Spanish (basics). They are translated into many different languages
  - Membership survey
  - Alateen certification and recertification.
  - WSO website
  - Salaries and business expenses
- XX walked us through the WSO income statement.
  - WSO has a quarterly appeal letter to members
  - WSO doesn’t appeal to groups for monies, but there is a calculation done as how much it costs to fund WSO per group. If groups do have money after they support their group, District and Area, they can consider funding WSO.
  - Statements are audited each year, and are presented to the Delegates. We have received a clean audit.
  - For the first time, personal contributions were higher than literature sales for WSO.
  - XX’s presentation will be posted to the website in the Delegate’s Corner.
  - The Delegates have the budget presented to them, and they vote on the Budget. This is similar to how the Area Budget is presented at Assembly for approval by the members.
  - The 2023 budget was presented as a balanced budget.
  - XX – District 11 – Asked if the \$321.25 contribution per group for 2024 is \$U.S.? Yes.
  - In 2022, 49% of Groups in Ontario South contributed to WSO. The average donation per group that contributed was \$162.22 CDN, for a total of \$45,776 CDN.
  - We have voluntary contributions, and we know that not everyone is able to make contributions. XX said that sometimes, newcomers are told that they don’t need to contribute, and maybe it would be better not to say that, and to let newcomers be a part of the group, by contributing voluntarily to the group.
  - Debbie Irving, wrote a book called, “Waking up white – I’m a good person, isn’t that enough?” She spoke at the Conference, and there was a lot of discussion about whether this was an outside issue, or whether it was core to us ensuring that Al-Anon can reach all the people that need help.
  - Alateen is struggling world-wide. There is an ongoing conversation about how to move forward.
  - Electronic Groups are now part of the WSO service structure. This means that Electronic groups support WSO, and WSO supports electronic groups.
  - The electronic meeting search went live this past March. It appears to be simple to use.
  - What about temporary (due to the pandemic) Electronic groups? They may need to decide whether to be part of the Global District or their Geographical Area.
  - Annual Report: Director of Finance and Operations – it is required that he or she is not an Al-Anon member.
  - XX shared pictures of the Delegates visiting the WSO.
  - They were warmly welcomed to the office.

- A picture of the Area quilt is in the board room at WSO.
- WSO encourages us to use our Literature Distribution Centres
- Number of Groups at the end of 2022:

	US	CAN	INT'L	GLOBAL	TOTAL
Physical AI-Anon	10,987	991	8,535		20,513
Physical Alateen	443	25	664		1,132
Electronic AI-Anon				886	886
Electronic Alateen				6	6
Total	11,430	1,016	9,199	892	22,537

- Our Literature Manager is XX.
- There are 5 Alateen electronic meetings on the mobile app. This is small, because we need to take steps to ensure the Alateens are safe. They are moving slowly with this, to ensure the safety of Alateens. AMIAS-e's need to be mandated reporters. There must be at least two AMIAS-e's at each meeting.
- XX – District 4 – is it mandatory to have the camera on during electronic meetings for Alateens?
- The Alateens would have a pre-screening with the AMIAS-e to ensure that they are who they say they are (with photo-id). Our Alateens are so open and so raw, that they don't have a lot of filters. They are hurting and vulnerable, so it is important not to put them in a situation where they can be preyed upon.
- XX – District 11 – Are these precautions taken on the mobile app? XX said she did not know.
- Meeting links would not be published, only sent to the Alateens that go through the pre-screening. Minimum age of 13 for the United States.
- You can use conference approved literature at your meeting. Copies of CAL cannot be made and distributed elsewhere. Please don't re-type things such as the steps and traditions, because changes can creep in. Please don't keep using out-of-date manuals.

## **12:00 -1:30 Lunch Break**

### **1:34 Reconvene with Serenity Prayer XXXX**

- District Reps need to see XX
- Executive needs to meet at the break

### **1:36 Delegate's Report Continued:**

- Update from the Board of Trustees
- A person did their PhD. dissertation on AI-Anon. "Does it work if you work it?" using the 2018 membership survey. The person ended with a model of effective AI-Anon participation.
  - Attending meetings
  - Being spiritually motivated
  - Working with a sponsor
  - Engaging in service
  - Serving as a sponsor
- 2023 International AI-Anon convention
  - Book sales were amazing. A little time to myself sold out right away.

- 3,387 Al-Anon people registered, 42 Alateen, and with others, totalled 3,776 people in person.
- Invite the Delegate
  - You are encouraged to invite the Area South Delegate to your District or to your Al-Anon Days. Delegates have a travel budget.
  - XX received a lot of love gifts from members of Al-Anon around the conference. Some of these are on the table, and are free for people at Assembly to take, if they feel moved to do so.
  - Al-Anon Area 86 has given XX the gift of knowing that she is enough.
  - You can learn a lot about yourself on the Al-Anon service journey.
  - Bids for the 2028 International Convention are due to WSO December 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.

### **1:50 p.m. Treasurer's Report XX B.**

- XX receives cheques with a group name. The problem is that there are many groups with that name in Ontario South. Please include your District and Group number on your cheque.
- XX presented the 2022 Income Statement for Ontario South.
  - Income of \$25,062.
  - Expenses of \$26,263.
  - We had a loss of \$ 1,201.
- XX presented the 2022 Balance Sheet for Ontario South.
 

○ Cash in Bank	\$39,179.
○ Advance Payments	\$25,843.
○ Term Investments	\$10,091.
○ Fixed Assets	\$ 64.
○ TOTAL Assets	\$75,177.
○ Accrued Liabilities	\$ 304.
○ Retained Earnings	\$ 76,075.
○ Loss	\$ (1,201).
○ Equity:	\$ 74,873.
○ TOTAL Liabs. + Equity	\$ 75,177.
- XX presented the 2023 YTD SEP Income Statement for Ontario South.
  - Net Income of \$ 6,182.
- XX, District 23
  - Accommodation for expenses of \$7,000 – where does it come from? Answer: It is for the Executive
- XX, District 25
  - Note that we have to start paying for Insurance, which makes it hard for us to send people to Assembly.
- XX, District 21
  - Is there a suggested amount for Groups to donate to Ontario South? Yes, that will be answered when we do the 2024 budget.
- XX, District 14



- Our tradition 7 says we are self-supporting through our voluntary contributions. She wondered if we could change the wording on our reports from donations to contributions? Thanks for the suggestion.
- XX, District 25
  - We went to a facility that requires insurance that costs \$180 per year, which takes half of our voluntary contributions. He was wondering if we could get blanket insurance for the Area? XX said that some groups are more able to contribute than others, and that's okay.
- XX, District 15
  - Is this saying that we have \$40,000 in our reserve fund? XX said that we still have \$34,000 in the bank. All the money is one pot. If we had no income for one year, we would be in a deficit position of \$11,000.
- XX, District 8
  - It is important that we have operating funds.
- XX, District 6
  - Historically speaking, how many group donations come in during the last quarter?
  - XX does not know.
- XX, District 4
  - There is no way of knowing when the money is coming in. Dues are not due at any particular time.

## **Announcements**

- Districts 16 and 21 need to pick up their literature orders.
- Please no side conversations during the meeting.
- Only 13 Trillium bags left
- XX, District 16 – XX has a suggestion that if a group has less funds available, that they would be asked to contribute less to Ontario South and WSO, but if a group has more funds available, they would be asked to contribute more.

## **2:26 p.m. Presentation of the 2024 Budget - XX**

### 2024 INCOME:

- |                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| ● Assembly Registrations of | \$ 8,280 |
| ● AWSC Revenues             | \$ 7,346 |
| ● Misc. Income              | \$ 70    |
| ● Group Donations           | \$44,428 |
| ● Total Revenues:           | \$60,054 |

### 2024 Expenses:

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| ● Assembly Expenses | \$ 13,500 |
| ● AWSC Expenses     | \$ 16,001 |
| ● Conferences       | \$ 4,300  |
| ● Coordinators      | \$ 2,500  |

• Delegate	\$ 2,000
• Executive Meetings	\$ 7,500
• Handover Meeting	\$ 5,000
• Operational Costs	\$1,538
• Other	\$ 7,715
• TOTAL Expenses	\$60,054
Total Income:	\$ 0

The donation line of \$44,458 is what we need in contributions in 2024 to cover our budgeted expenses. That works out to \$169.95 per group, based on 261 active groups.

- XX, District 1 – What are we storing that costs us to \$5,000 per year? XX said that this is what it costs to store our records. We are considering whether we can downsize the storage space. More details to come in the Archives report. Assembly gave the mandate to have a secure, weatherproof storage place.
- XX, District 28 – Since only about half the groups donate, maybe groups that can contribute more can contribute more than the average needed.
- XX, District 30 – Are cheques accepted? Yes, but XX prefers e-transfers to cheques for ease of administration.
- XX, District 6 – Expenses line 54, WSC is conference, not convention. Other comments were made. Eg. SAM used rather than AMIAS.
- XX, District 19 – I would like to speak on the subject of Archives. Sometimes, Groups asks questions about when Groups started. Sometimes, Archives is the only place we can get this information. I think it is important that Archives are stored in a safe and secure away. I also ask that you all read “Lois Remembers” and the “First 35 years”.
- XX, District 6 – Ask that \$169 contribution be changed to account for the \$50 registration fee for Assembly. Also that the computer depreciation be updated.
- XX, District 16 – XX thought that we decided not to put in an accrual for a new computer. XX said that this was an item for consideration, and it was decided by the membership to accrue for it.
- XX, District 2 – If the police check is approved by the police, why do we need a lawyer to approve it. XX said that we don’t see the police check. XX, AAPP, gets the police check, hopefully it is sent in a sealed envelope, because XX does not review it, it needs to be seen by a lawyer.
- XX, District 4 – Can you explain equalized travel? For AWSC, the Area pays for the actual travel. This is then equalized for DRs that need to travel longer distances and those that travel for shorter distances. The District pays for the equalized travel.
- XX, Alt. Delegate – The police check is sealed to preserve anonymity.

**Motion:** By XX, District 4, seconded by XX, District 4, **“To accept the 2024 Budget as presented”.**  
**CARRIED.**

**Motion:** By XX, District 18. seconded by XX. **“Line 113 records computer 200 of the proposed budget be removed.”** The Assembly that asked us to put in \$200 of accrual in the budget. She

think that was incorrect, because the budget is a best guess. Instead we should just buy a computer when we need it.

- XX, District 26. XX holds a lot of personal information very securely. It is encrypted, and it is on XX's personal device, and maybe we will be buying another computer for Ontario South.
- XX, District 23. It is better to put \$200 per year on a budget, rather than \$1,000 every five years.
- XX, District 23. This is an accounting practice called accrual, which is a generally accepted accounting practice.

**Motion “Line 113 records computer 200 of the proposed budget be removed.” is defeated.**

### **3:00 Discussion Item #2 – Implementation of Electronic Groups in Ontario South XX.**

- XX led us in “if you are happy and you know it, stand up!”
- Background information updated to: WSO will list our Area on the Electronic Group Registration Form when our Area has an Electronic Meeting process that has been sent by our Delegate to AFG Records.
- XX walked us through the Discussion Item.
  - XX, District 16: Does Ontario South want to accept Electronic groups into Ontario South? Shouldn't that be decided first? XX said that we could decide on question 2 before question 1. XX noted that we did decide to accept Electronic Groups in Ontario South.
  - XX, Group Records Coordinator: When the group decides to come back from the Global Electronic District to the area, it has to be approved by the Delegate.
  - XX - District 14: There are other meeting platforms than zoom, this should be noted on the application form.
  - XX, District 26: The thought force and task force did a lot of research, and made heavy use of the traditions and concepts. An overlay district is a place for Electronic Groups to belong, if they can't attend District meetings in their geographic District.
  - XX, District 23: The Electronic Groups in the Overlay District are not part of this discussion. It is only the Electronic Groups that are in our geographical area.
  - XX - District 6: Are there any extra costs? No, in fact they will be contributing to the Links of Service
  - XX – District 4: There are some costs because of AWSC, not for Assembly.
  - XX – District 20: Our group has two separate meetings, one in person and one online. Does the online group need to register as an Electronic Group? XX replied yes.
  - XX, Group Records: A group can have up to 4 meetings with one group number. XX said that is only for in-person meetings. Hybrid meetings are in-person with an electronic component.
  - XX – District 23: I am confused, I am looking at page 11, #4. Does that refer to the Group Reps of an electronic group in an Overlay or a Geographic District?
  - XX, District 26: The responsibilities of the group rep for an electronic group is the same as a group rep of an in-person group.
- Adjourned at 3:35 for a break.

### **3:35 – 4:00 Break**

### **4:00 – Opened with the Serenity Prayer and Announcements**

- GTAIS has book covers for sale to keep your books anonymous
- Please don't clap for people at the mic, it may make people that don't get a clap feel that their input is not as valuable.
- Can we clarify what the definition of a Hybrid meeting is vs. an in-person and an electronic meeting. A hybrid meeting is one meeting, with some people attending electronically, while the rest are in person.

#### Back to the Discussion

- XX, District 12: If a group is part of Ontario South's overlay District, and if they can't attend their District meetings, are they still expected to attend AWSC and Assembly? Yes.
- XX, District 6: We have an in-person meeting with an electronic component, and on the second day, we have an electronic meeting. I am looking for clarification on whether we need to have two groups. XX, The electronic meeting will need its own group number.
- XX, District 6: How many Districts are having in-person District meetings? XX called for people to raise their hands, and a lot of people raised their hands.
- XX, District 4: I just wanted clarification. It's been said that Electronic Groups have always been accepted into our Area, but when I look at the minutes from 2022, the motion that was carried said that Ontario South create a thought force to investigate and make recommendations on accepting Electronic Groups into the Area before any Electronic Areas are created. So, I think that the Electronic Groups have yet to be accepted.
- XX, District 16: Does that mean every meeting has to have its own group number? XX No. There could be multiple in-person meetings with the same group number. If one meeting is electronic, and the other is either in-person or hybrid, then two groups are required.
- XX, District 16: Where can we find the definition of a hybrid meeting? XX The word hybrid is one that has been made up. The term refers to an in-person meeting with an electronic component, which is how the WSO refers to it. It is implied that the people who are joining electronically are meeting with the people that are in person.
- XX, District 28: What are the benefits vs. the costs for the overlay District? XX The benefits are that there will be a way for the Electronic Groups in your Area that have similar concerns and experiences to work together.
- XX, District 26: If you have a group that meets in a facility, then it is in-person, if the group meets and has people joining electronically, then it is a hybrid group/in-person group with an electronic component. A group that meets online (no in-person), then they are an Electronic Group. That is the focus of our discussion item.
- XX District 8: I think the Overlay District is super-important, because it will help marginalized groups feel a part of the Area.
- XX District 36: We should not be pushing people away that want to come to meetings, and sometimes, they can only attend electronic meetings. We need electronic meetings.
- XX - District 1: If a group is meeting in person, and they have an electronic meeting, they might feel that they aren't a separate group, and don't feel that they have the capacity to be their own group. XX clarified that yes, the electronic group is expected to register as their own group with their own number

- XX, District 28: Her group split, pretty much down the middle, into an in-person and an electronic group.
- XX, District 14: She noted that when you have multiple meetings in one group, they have the autonomy to decide whether they are one group or multiple groups.
- XX - District 6: If Al-Anon Works is meeting Wednesday night, and they have two meetings, one in-person and one electronic meeting, then different group numbers facilitate people finding out about the two different meetings.
- XX, District 19: Our group meets at 7:30, and concurrently, there is a zoom meeting. Does the electronic meeting have to register as their own group? Yes. XX, District 21: We are an Al-Anon group that has served for 45 years. I feel that after the pandemic our groups have suffered enormously. The electronic format seems to be stifling service. Are we inadvertently sabotaging our primary purpose?
- XX – Advisor: It has been brought to my attention that number 2 under the task force recommendations is a bit confusing. “Groups choosing to join the Overlay District in Ontario South will need to abide by the registration guidelines and the existing policies and procedures of Ontario South, such as the District Representative physically attending AWSC meetings and Assembly. Electronic Groups will need to cooperate within the Overlay District to form a District committee and elect a District Representative.” An electronic group has the choice of being in the Global Electronic District, or joining the Overlay District in Ontario South. Part of making that choice is to review the requirements of those options.
- **Motion by XX, District 26, seconded by XX, District 26 – “That Electronic Groups be accepted by Ontario South and that the recommendations from the task force process be accepted as the means to accept Electronic Groups in Ontario South.”**
- XX – District 26 – A group is a group is a group. “Accepting Electronic Groups is the definition of Unity. Welcoming Electronic Groups is in line with our Primary Purpose.
- XX – District 26 – I want to acknowledge the hard work that XX has put in over the last two years on the issue of Electronic Groups. We do not want the Electronic Groups to join the Global Electronic District, which might happen if we don’t create an Overlay District in Ontario South. Please vote yes for this motion.
- XX, District 6 – Is this motion to take care of all 4 points?
- XX – District 6: Answer is yes.
- XX, District 23 – Can zoom be changed to electronic platform? XX replied yes!
- **Motion “That Electronic Groups be accepted by Ontario South and that the recommendations from the task force process be accepted as the means to accept Electronic Groups in Ontario South.” The motion was carried unanimously.**

#### **4:46 Election of Executive Members for 2024 to 2026 service term**

- Voting for Delegate, there are two candidates, they will speak in the order that they submitted their resume
- XX spoke for two minutes. I am here, because I was asked to consider this. I am doing this as an act of trust, and an act of gratitude. No matter who you vote for today, you will get a candidate that is passionate about Recovery. If you follow the steps, your life will be transformed. XX wants to give back to this fellowship, which has taught him to be loving and compassionate, rather than cynical and sarcastic.
- XX also spoke for two minutes. “How much fun are we having?” XX is from District 16, which is big on Service. I came into Al-Anon as Humpty Dumpty, who had fallen off the wall, and Al-

Anon has put me back together again. My favourite Concept is Concept 5, which hears the minority voice. It is important to me, if elected, that I hear the voices and concerns of members, and bring them forward. We were strangers, then we became friends, and then family.

## **Reports: Coordinators and Others (while ballots are being counted)**

- Website Coordinator – XX: XX is the new website Coordinator. I want to thank you for your love, and all the things I learned and unlearned. There is a lot of love when you do service in Al-Anon. I hope you will give Kathleen the love you have shown me. XX said that she can't do what XX has done, ie. rebuild the website, which was phenomenal, but she hopes to build on XX foundation.
- Alateen Coordinator – XX: In Quebec, there are no Alateen groups. Yes, Alateen is struggling in Ontario South. I hope that someone steps up to be the new Alateen Coordinator.
- Archives Coordinator – XX – There are lists at the back, of what is in each of the District's box(es). For the tool-box, the winner is: XX from District 20. There are old Forums, there for the taking.
- Group Records Coordinator – XX: Ontario South has 267 active groups, while WSO has 260. I will try to figure out the discrepancy. Keep it simple, please use the Group Record change form, because that then goes to the website coordinator. Do not contact WSO for group changes. XX mentioned postal codes for the Electronic Pins, so we need it. We need a Current Mailing Address, even if you don't have a Group Rep. It has to contain a physical address, phone number and email address.
- Literature Coordinator – XX: I do the cheerleading, the Literature Manager does the work. If you love reading and love the Literature, then this role may be for you! Here's a short line to share, from Survival to Recovery, page 289, "May you join us on our journey towards Serenity. May you recover and share the blessings of recovery with everyone you meet, for this is how we help one another in Al-Anon." I love you all. Keep buying Literature from the L.D.C.
- Open Lines Coordinator – XX: "The open door to helpful answers in communication is based on love". Open lines is published three times a year. Let us know your happy moments!

**Adjourned at 5:35 for dinner.**

**7:03 pm – reconvened with a Moment of Silence, and the Serenity Prayer.**

- Public Outreach – XX – XX wore a lovely scarf that was a fundraiser for Alateen. Today, XX had a lot of questions from people wanting to re-start their public outreach activities.
- Area Alateen Process Person – XX – If there are any Al-Anon Days, please remember Alateen. The AAPP can tell you who your AMIASs are. You do not have to be an AMIAS to be the AAPP. This is a vital position, since we need it to keep Alateen going in Ontario South.
- Trillium Committee – XX – XX, the chair of the 2023 Trillium committee, asked XX to report. The theme for the 2024 Trillium Convention is "putting love into action". It will be held at Durham College. Please mark the dates of June 21st to June 23rd 2024 into your calendar. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please email OSATrillium@gmail.com.
- Trillium Committee – XX – Imagine being at Assembly, but not having to do business! There's an incredible sense of celebration.

- Road Trip – You and your Board Connect - XX – This is happening this week in California. We have a bid in for 2024 in Toronto. The winning bid will be announced in February, 2024. If our bid is chosen, we will have to provide volunteers.
- Literature Office Committee Report - XX – I want to thank the committee, they have worked very hard. Committee was XX, XX, XX, XX, XX and XX. Christmas closure from December 23rd to January 8th. Flyer to follow.
- Literature Distribution Centre Manager – XX – I am still XX, and I am not still hungry. I am grateful to serve you as your Literature Distribution Manager. Do not send payment with the orders, as it's best to only pay for what is in stock. Book supplies are slow, due to all the wildfires. XX needs to know the name of the person who is paying, and there needs to be a password set up for the deposit. Please give XX both the group and the District number. There is a new Alateen bookmark, just for tonight. The other new piece is A little time for myself. There are 400 requests for the book. The books came into stock at WSO on Wednesday. Do not send XX your money yet. XX will fill these orders in the order that she received them.
- Assembly 2024 Assembly Host Committee – XX – Assembly 2024 will be in Sarnia, Ontario. It will be on October 18th to 20th, at the 4 Points by Sheraton.

**Result of the Vote:** XX is the new delegate, who received more than two-thirds of the vote. 101 votes were cast.

**Election of the Alternate Delegate:** XXXX is the only candidate. Service has been an important recovery tool. She learns so much from service roles. XX has learned to listen to group conscience.

- Forum Coordinator – XX: XX and XX have had articles printed in the Forum. XX, as Alternate Delegate is the Coordinator of the Coordinators. If you have stories about the 70th anniversary, please submit them to the Forum by December of this year. They are also looking for stories about sponsoring someone who is far away, and about transitioning from Alateen to Al-Anon. We are looking for a new Secretary and a new Technology Coordinator, and no resumes have been submitted for these positions.

**Result of the Vote:** XXXX is the Alternate Delegate, who received more than 50% of the vote.

**Election of the Chairperson:** XX has withdrawn her resume, leaving XX from District 23 as the only candidate. XX has been relying on Trust during this process. Service has been an opportunity for growth. XX has noticed that we can have fun while getting the business of Al-Anon done. XX is attracted to learning. The highest form of selfishness is to give ourselves to others.

Questions & Answers about the Reports:

- XX – District 4: I heard that there were 4 Open Lines per year, but there were only 3 due dates. Answer: It is published 3 times per year. What happens if an Alateen comes to a regular Al-Anon meeting? Do they need to have an AMIAS? XX said no. AMIASs are needed for Alateen meetings.

- XX – District 26: I sent something in, and didn't hear back. Is there a way I can find out? XX replied that the columns that are not printed are kept in a file, and are revisited each month. What gets published depends on what is needed based on topic, and geographic area.
- XX, District 7: I heard that for Group changes, both Ontario South and the WSO had to be notified. Is that true? XX clarified that only the Ontario South form needed to be completed.
- XX, District 1: I heard that Al-Anon would be celebrating in 2025 with AA in Vancouver. XX replied: Yes, that is correct, that is an AA convention with Al-Anon participation. In 2028, there is an Al-Anon Convention with AA participation.
- XX, District 23: XX heard that 2028 did not have a location yet. XX said, yes, that is correct.

**Election of the Treasurer:** XX is running again. She feels that during the first while, during the pandemic, there wasn't a lot of work for the Treasurer, since there were no in-person AWSC, Assemblies or Executive meetings. As a result, XX feels that she only starting learning about the Treasurer role more recently.

**Election of the Secretary:** Qualifications are three years of service at the Area level, eg. District Rep.

Chairperson – XXXX There will be a Discussion Item # 3 tonight. The workshops are being moved to tomorrow morning.

Discussion Item #3 - XX: This is about the 2028 International Al-Anon Convention. The due date is January 16th. There is a form to fill out, and the only requirement is that we can guarantee 400 to 500 volunteers, and that we recommend a city. XX recommends that we put in Toronto as the City. It needs a space that can accommodate 5,000 people. The volunteers do not need to be all from Ontario South, we can draw on neighboring Areas. All volunteers need to register, attend the Convention, and help at the Convention. XX was asked, "If Michigan put forward a bid for Detroit, would Ontario South be willing to help?" and XX said yes. The WSO would do the research and plan the event in the City that we put forward. If we want to put in a bid, we need a motion.

**Result of Treasurer Election:** XX was elected as Treasurer.

- XX – District 16. If we put in a bid, would other Areas help us? XX said that there are lots of pools that we can draw from. A bid would require us to name 6 or 7 sub-chairs within one or two hours of the host City.
- XX – District 26 - This is a great opportunity, and I urge everyone to consider it.
- XX – District 21 I was in charge of the greeters at AA Convention, and it was a terrific experience. I am all for this. This is a great opportunity
- XX – District 4: Has our area ever considered this before? No one was sure.
- XX – District 21 – 4: I went to New Mexico, and it was a fabulous experience.
- XX – District 17 - One question is what will this cost us? Nothing in money, it will cost us in service. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to do service. You see people from all over the world, which is pretty exciting.
- **Motion:** By XX M. District 21, seconded by XX – District 2 that **"Ontario South submits a bid to WSO to host the 2028 International Al-Anon Convention."** Carried.



**Election of the Secretary:** XX – District 23 – XX is both willing and able to stand for the Secretary. XX feels that she is being nudged. She took great minutes for updating the Alateen guidelines.

**Result of Election for Secretary:** XX was elected as Secretary.

We closed the meeting with the Al-Anon declaration at 9:06 pm.

**8:34 am, Sunday October 22nd** XX O opened with a Moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Traditions – XX, District 6

Concepts – XX, District 26

Warranties – XX, District 26

XX from the Host Committee asked us to return our nametags, with the strings tucked in.

### **Ask-it-Basket Questions and Answers**

#### **Researched and presented by the Ask-it-Basket Committee**

- XX, District 16
- XX, District 23
- XX, District 16
- XX, District 14

Q: Can AA (or other 12-step fellowships) hold service positions within Al-Anon groups?

A: Those members can hold positions inside the group, but not representing the group outside the group. (Service Manual, page 61 and 66)

Q: Can Al-Anon members hold service positions in two different Al-Anon groups.

A: This is part of group autonomy. Keep in mind to leave positions for others to fill.

Q: Should an Al-Anon meeting do a Land Acknowledgement?

A: Respectfully, this is an outside issue.

Q: Should any member of Al-Anon identify their status (eg. Social, educational, sexual orientation) at meetings or in Al-Anon correspondence?

A: This pertains to their own anonymity, leaving their other affiliations outside per Traditions 10 and 6.

Q: Is it okay to ask new members for their phone number and is it appropriate to phone and check on them? Our members cannot agree.

A: Consider giving out your number and let them reach out.

Q: Is there a resource to find speakers or to be placed on a speaker list? – XX, District 18

A: XX, the Literature Office Manager, has a list.

Q: Do we record this meeting so that it can be shared with other Al-Anon members and they can listen to important items? – XX, District 20

A: Minutes are produced, but no recording. The Secretary may do a temporary voice recording to help her produce the minutes. The Assembly minutes are expected to come out this week.

Q: Liability Insurance is becoming a more common requirement for a meeting. With 260 groups in Ontario South and each group paying an average of \$200 per year, that works out to \$52,000. Could Ontario South consider getting insurance for the whole Area for a lower cost? – XX and XX, District 25

A: This was researched in 2019, and was found not to be feasible at that time. It is suggested that you talk to other groups in your District.

Q: Why do we have an LDC Manager and a Literature Coordinator?

A: These are two different jobs. The LDC Manager sells the literature and manages the literature supply for Ontario South. The Literature Coordinator is a cheerleader for the literature, and can do workshops to generate enthusiasm for the literature.

Q: Are groups that are not registered with WSO or the District allowed to call them selves an Al-Anon Family Group?

A: No. Registering with WSO is a requirement of all Al-Anon Family Groups.

Q: Can we create electronic chat groups to share important Al-Anon information? – XX, District 20

A: This might break anonymity. Groups can use their group autonomy to create chat groups.

Q: What Al-Anon members are able to vote at a District meeting?

A: Group Reps have a vote, or the Alternate Group Rep, or a designated member of that group. There is one vote per group. Page 145 of the Service Manual.

Q: If a group presently has one in-person meeting and one electronic meeting at the same day and time, and the group registers as an electronic group, can the group decide, with a group conscience, to have both groups represented by one Group Rep? – XX, District 2

A: There are two group numbers and there are two groups. See the electronic meeting guideline G39.

Q: Why is CAL not printed in Canada, avoiding \$US conversion and exorbitant postage? XX, District 1

A: This has been discussed extensively by the LOC, with no resolution.

Q: Can a proxy vote occur for newer groups who are unable to attend Assembly due to funding? – XX, District 25

A: One group gets one vote. One group in a District could ask another group for financial support to attend Assembly.

Q: How are other groups dealing with additional insurance costs? Is this new to all groups? – XX, District 25

A: Talk to other groups to see how they are handling it. This is not new, but it is becoming more prevalent.

Q: Can a group vote in slogans that are not in our CAL? If not, how can I promote this matter if Tradition 4 is ignored?

A: Please look at the information provided in the pamphlet “Why use CAL?”, and share this with your group.

Q: Our Al-Anon group is located in a small, rural community where most residents know each other. How can we promote Al-Anon in our community, while preserving our anonymity? Is there an outreach committee that can assist in this process?

A: Some ideas are to have anonymous flyers in Laundromats and doctor's offices. Guidelines G9, G10 and G29 might be helpful. Also, you could approach the Public Outreach Coordinator.

Q: How could I get speakers from Ontario South to speak at our group anniversary? – XX, District 21

A: Contact XX at the Literature Distribution Centre for a list of speakers.

### **Delegate's Update, XX.**

- What you heard here, make sure it doesn't stay here! Share this with your groups.
- Include newcomers as quickly as possible, to bring them back
- XX shared a story of how a newcomer showed interest in a piece of literature. XX lent the newcomer the book, on the condition that she returned it the following week. That kept the newcomer coming back the next week.
- Use the past wisdom of the fellowship – Past group reps, past District Reps.
- Use the Al-Anon app to access meetings at any time.
- The App has Alateen meetings, for people aged 13 to 18. These are moderated by the WSO.
- Delegate has attended electronic and in-person meetings
- What we have done over the last day and a half, is the business of Al-Anon. We have done it in a way that is different from how business is usually conducted. We are a spirit-led organization.
- Invite your Executive and Coordinators to your events. They are here to serve. They each have a small budget for travel.
- Topic: Things that are happening in Al-Anon that are not Al-Anon. One of the phrases that is creeping in is "My qualifier". We qualify because of our behaviour. If the alcoholic disappears, we may still have issues with our own behaviour and attitude. "Co-dependent" is another phrase that we don't find in the Al-Anon literature.
- XX is forever grateful for her experience as a Delegate.

**Delegate** – Emergency Announcement – Love gifts at the table, please help yourself before you leave.

Presentation by XX, Group Records Coordinator on changing group records. Please refer to the power point presentation attached to the email with the minutes.

Presentation by XX (Literature Coordinator) and XX (LDC Manager) on our Amazing Al-Anon Literature!

### **Open Microphone**

- XX, District 16: I'm a bit confused about the links of service at the World Service level. While groups are consulted for AWSC and Assembly, they don't seem to be consulted for items to be discussed at the WSC. We only hear about the WSC from the Delegate. XX said that she'd like to break that down in smaller pieces. Starting in January, she gets information about what will be discussed at WSC, and a lot of it is confidential. I take information from the District minutes, and I can glean from the minutes what is going on in the Districts, which I can share at the WSC. Once we have been to conference, then all of that information that has been voted on is then communicated to the groups via the AWSC and Assembly.

- XX, District 26: When will temporary electronic groups be notified that they need to decide whether to join the Electronic District or the Area Overlay District? XX hopes to send the process to WSO in the next few days, and then we wait for WSO to respond. We expect a fairly quick response.
- XX, District 26: Is it possible to get a copy of the presentation? It will be posted on the website in the Delegate's Corner. What about the minutes? The goal is this week.
- XX, LDC Manager: Please mention to the groups that they can purchase a copy of the summary of the WSC (World Service Conference).
- XX, District 18 – Asking for further information about the new Electronic District. When will we have a new procedure? XX, Advisor feels that we will hear back from World Service that they got the information. Once it goes to World Service, the Delegate (XX, District 6) said that it won't take too long. XX said that following the information in the packages should give you a sense of what will happen.

**10:50** We closed the meeting by Linking arms and making the AI-Anon declaration.

## 2023 Assembly Highlights

### Motions Passed:

- Moved by XX - District 19, seconded by XX District 4, **“I moved that the voting procedures for 2023 Assembly be accepted as presented by the Chair.”**
- Moved by XX, District 4, seconded by XX, District 4, that **“The 2022 Assembly minutes be accepted as amended.”**
- Moved by XX, District 4, seconded by XX, District 4, **“To accept the 2024 Budget as presented”**.
- Moved by XX, District 26, seconded by XX, District 26 – **“That Electronic Groups be accepted by Ontario South and that the recommendations from the task force process be accepted as the means to accept Electronic Groups in Ontario South.”**
- Moved by XX District 21, seconded by XX, District 2 that **“Ontario South submits a bid to WSO to host the 2028 International AI-Anon Convention.”**

### Financial Information for your Group:

- The 2024 Budget for Ontario South relies on an average contribution of \$169.95 per group
- The 2024 Budget for the World Service Office relies on an average contribution of \$321.25 USD per group.

### New Executive for 2024 to 2026

- Chair – XX, District 23
- Delegate – XX, District 28
- Alternate Delegate – XX, District 6
- Treasurer – XX, District 14
- Secretary – XX, District 23

### Request from the Delegate Elect, XX

Please consider continuing your service journey as a Coordinator for Ontario South. Open positions are:

- Technology Coordinator
- Literature Coordinator
- Area Alateen Process Person
- Open Lines Coordinator
- Alateen Coordinator
- Forum Coordinator
- Archives Coordinator
- Public Outreach Coordinator

Job descriptions can be found in the Ontario South Policy Manual.

<https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual/>

### Other Resources:

- Delegate’s Report will be posted here <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/delegates-corner/>
- Groups can purchase the summary of the 2023 WSC from the Literature Distribution Centre
- The Group Records Presentation is posted on the website <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/group-records-corner/>