

**ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 31, NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2003
AMERICANA, NIAGARA FALLS**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2003

The OSA Executive Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Assembly. Assembly Host Committee Chairperson, Jo-Anne L. extended her welcome and asked everyone to participate in the “icebreaker” “Al-Anon Bingo.

Being that it was Halloween many members were in costume. It added to the levity of the evening.

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and the reading of the Steps and Traditions

Panel – “Scary Thoughts”

Chairperson: Joan P. (Windsor) Alternate Delegate OSA

Following Joan’s opening and “Scary Thoughts”, members were invited to share their experiences at an open mic. Meeting closed with the Al-Anon-Alateen Declaration.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2003

Opening – Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, Steps and Traditions and Concepts.

Welcome by the Delegate: Gail C. District #28

Gail introduced the Advisors, Coordinators and Executive members.

At this time, Ann K., Assembly Chair made a formal apology to Jo-Anne L. re: Jo-Anne’s name not being submitted in time to WSO for the position of Regional Trustee for Central Canada. Jo-Anne’s resume is now in the hands of WSO for the above-mentioned position and will be submitted for approval at the next WS Conference in April 2004. Central Canada has no Regional Trustee at this time.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SEATING ARRANGEMENTS: Voting members shall be seated in designated rows identified by as the middle section of the hall and to the right of the Chair while she was standing. DRs and GR’s did not have to sit as a District this year. Non-voting members shall be seated in the seats to the left of the chair (while standing).

APPROVAL OF 2002 ASSEMBLY MINUTES:

The minutes were passed after the Secretary was advised of errors and omissions.

Page 1- Delegates report- Ann introduced “Trustee – At – Large”

Page 4 - elections- Joan P.’s name was not on the list of candidates

Page 9 – Concept 9 Joan P’s district is #8

The motion to accept the minutes of the 2002 Assembly as printed passed with two abstentions.

ESTABLISHING VOTING PROCEDURES

The Chairperson reviewed the voting procedures for elections and motions.

Elections: The Chairperson noted that this was not a voting year for Executive members. She also noted that in the afternoon portion there would be an election for the Secretary as Claire D. had been appointed in November of 2002 for the interim. This would be a simple majority as per the guidelines in our Manual.

Motions: The method from previous Assemblies will be used. That is: A clear majority in a stand up/sit down vote is required to accept a motion. We would not count off if the vote was a “clear” majority and vice versa if not a clear majority we would count off. The Chairperson explained that an abstention is a “no” vote.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES: To respect everyone’s right to voice his/ her opinion, and to allow for business to flow in a good orderly manner, the chairperson asked to adopt a two-minute time limit for speaking for/against a motion and only one visit to the mic for any one subject.

Timekeepers: one volunteer – Ruth (District 12) Advisor to the Executive

Workshop Sign up Sheets – There were no sign up sheets as the GR's would go to their respective workshops as designated by the previous year's split of the Area (East, West, Central).

Ask-it-Basket Volunteers: Wilma (District #25), Connie. (District #7), May. (District #19), Colleen. (District #8), Debbie

Motion forms – Members wishing to present a motion must complete a form. Consider the wording carefully. A seconder is needed; therefore there should be two people supporting the motion. Motions received following the business session on Saturday will be reviewed at AWSC.

Delegate's Report – Gail C.

The 2003 World Service Conference was held April 16-21 and the theme was Change- Create New Possibilities. Panel 43 was nicknamed "Free to Be Me". Gail met the delegate from Ontario North who is anxious to join us through our web site and has submitted a proposal for us to look at. They are presently using our LDC office to order Literature.

Topic items from the Canadian Meeting were Umbrella insurance, the Canadian Newsletter, ways to approach Public Outreach- Lapse of Memory Day- where you accidentally leave pamphlets and forums in places where they will be read-taking care of our newcomers.

At the Area Highlights meeting, Gail found out that our area is not unique- all others shared on the same issues- lack of Alateens, doing Outreach Projects, lack of group participation, lack of funds, new positions being implemented. Our questions and ideas are taken very seriously and acted upon in the form of pamphlets, daily readers, outreach projects etc. While on tour of the WSO office, Gail saw how our new Group Records Coordinator would have a closer relationship with WSO. This is a reminder for you all to send all group changes to Martie.

A very Special Public Outreach project was introduced by WSO. All interested areas would be entering a draw in which WSO would randomly choose 25 areas during the year. WSO would supply a volunteer and a staff member to visit the area assemblies to support the project. In addition, up to \$1,200.00 in WSO literature and materials may also be provided. The draws will be July, September, and November.

The Public Outreach Committee explained the New PSA for professionals video and that 538 have been distributed. The flyer AI-Anon Speaks Out is now presented on the web site as well as the new African American/Black outreach service tool. This is for Americans, Canadians and All People of Colour. There is a new PSA out titled "My Life" and it is done in 3 languages including French and Spanish.

Group Services shared that we have 24,883 AI-Anon groups and 2,270 Alateen groups worldwide. It was shared that guidelines need to be implemented to remedy the lack of co-operation between AI-Anon and Alateen- one way is to combine AI-Anon/Alateen Conferences and not have separate ones.

A presentation was done on Outreach in Treatment Centres. Ontario South was named as one of 3 Areas with AI-Anon or Alateen groups in Institutions for newcomers.

Gail received a copy of the 2003/2004 Service Plan, which is titled "The District Game Plan- Service is Fun". Every district should have a plan of action and you all have a copy of the Service Plan. WSO asks that you evaluate the plan and send your feedback to the WSO.

AI-Anon will be participating in the AA Convention in Toronto in 2005. Start making plans, as there will be lots of AI-Anon and Alateen meetings and workshops in the daytime only.

There have been 22 bids submitted for AI-Anon's Convention in 2008. We will know the results next year.

All this information will be in the Conference Summary.

There were 15 motions that required a vote. Most of them dealt with changes in the Service Manual and different pieces of literature. The one motion of interest to us all is to develop a piece of literature on grief and loss as they affect the families and friends of alcoholics.

Gail's closing words were: "It was very exciting, informative, energetic and wonderful. I owe it all to you people. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve Ontario South.."

TRILLIUM 2004- Chairperson: Kristine B. (District #16)

Kristine introduced her 2004 committee. Those there stood to be recognized for all the hard work and dedication that goes with putting on a Convention. Trillium 2004, the 13th Annual Convention, will be held June 18, 19 & 20. The theme this year is "**Happy, Joyous and Free**". Kristine called the DR's, in order for the DR's to ask their GR's for ideas and suggestions to meet the needs of the members at large. Having looked at the Evaluations, it kept coming up that some members wanted the location of the Trillium Conference moved. Kristine made a comparison between our location now (International Plaza (near Airport) in Toronto or the Royal York (downtown Toronto). The difference in room price etc. was exorbitant.

203 room nights is our goal this year for the meeting room costs to be kept at a minimal. There will be no mementos this year and we are selling the past ones for the 7th Tradition.

How can you help? Volunteer to chair a meeting, greet etc. Plan to stay at the hotel and enjoy the benefit of sharing with friends and absorbing the program. Register early and save \$5.00 (until the end of March). A draw is made each month for a free registration and at the end of April a draw for a free night's accommodation. Invite others to join you and car pool. Please support your convention and enhance your experience, strength and hope.

Meeting adjourned with the Serenity Prayer.

Break: 10:00 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

The meeting reconvened with the Serenity Prayer and a Moment of Silence.

The Chair did some housekeeping duties including the approval of voting method. Approved - 4 opposed – 0 abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Diane G.

Financial report as of Sept 30th 2003:

As of September 30th 2003, of the \$27,200 needed, we have received in donations \$16,818.49.

Of the 379 registered groups we received donations from 169 of them, and of the 32 districts, 29 contributed. We are sitting on the 09th month of our budget at little over 60% of our budget.

With the \$4400.00 that we received from our country store, we allotted \$1466 to each, east, central, and west area for a special project, and each of the area has now received 500.00 in advance for this year's project. So each area will report to you as to what is being done to carry the message with this money. This money is in a separate account, the same as the Trillium Funds, so the money will be available for these special projects for the next 2 years.

When you as GR's voted to approve the 2003 budget, **you committed your group to donate the budgeted amount.** If we do not receive the required funds, it will mean dipping into the reserve funds. **Only half of the groups donated.** You need to encourage your groups to donate; keeping in mind the first responsibility is to your group, your district, your area and then WSO. in that order.

How much are you putting in the basket? Has this increased over the years? For those that can give, give more. Do you donate for the missed meetings? The meeting was still available whether you attended or not.

To consider: **in 1950 the members gave \$1.00, the equivalent today of that dollar would be about \$3.75.** make a list of all the things, people, that have changed for the better because of the Al-Anon program and then dig in your pocket for that extra change. Small change can make a big difference. So folk's check in the house, all the spare change lying around and donate it. Remember **"let it begin with me"** .For all that I am grateful today; I donate voluntary to the 7th tradition.

2004 BUDGET

The Treasurer went through Budget 2004 with overheads so that all in attendance could see where she was at. Discussion was held on the Budget, followed by a vote to accept the 2004 Budget. The Budget was approved with 11 opposed and 1 abstention.

LDC REPORT – Lyn S.

Please see your report enclosed in your Assembly package. The LDC Board met on Friday night and was pleased to announce that the income statement had a positive balance since the move. Two Things came out of this; 1) the reduction on the price of hard covered books by 20% starting Saturday morning and that 2) the OSA buffer loan was being repaid to OSA by the LDC. Lyn also reported that the income from Open Lines that showed up on the LDC budget was to be moved over to the OSA Budget. Lyn mentioned that there was a lot of interest shown in the WSO Conference Report and that these issues were back ordered for now.

We have hot off the press 2 new offers: 1) Combo Special for Alateens: "Courage To Be Me" and "Living Today in Alateen" for \$22.50 and 2) Set of 4 wall hangings Concepts/Traditions/Steps for \$32.50

Holiday closure this year is from December 20, 2003 to January 2, 2004.

It was brought up from the floor that maybe the Executive would think of giving Lyn a raise. The Assembly was reminded that the LDC Board dealt with all issues pertaining to Lyn and her employment.

**Meeting adjourned with the Al-Anon, Alateen Pledge
Lunch 12:15 p.m.- 1:40 p.m.**

The meeting reconvened with the Serenity Prayer and a Moment of Silence, followed by the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

COORDINATOR REPORTS: Written reports submitted were included in the registration package.

Open Lines Coordinator's report: (report in package) Kathy T.

We were reminded by Kathy that the deadline for the submissions for the next Open Lines was November 14th and should be in your mailboxes by December 1st or shortly thereafter. Anyone can submit an article to Open Lines. It's our way of getting the message out to you.

Group Records Coordinator's report: (report in package) Marty B.

Marty mentioned the purchase of a new Pentium 4 computer for this position and thanked the Executive for approving the purchase. She re-emphasized the importance of having correct addresses. For the start up of new groups please see the Service Manual on p.29 **and** make sure that the Group Records Coordinator gets a copy of the WSO registration form. For ALL ALATEEN CHANGES these must go directly to WSO.

Alateen Coordinator's report: (report in package) Matthew H.

Matthew made reference to our 1st year in a new position- this is the "I don't have a clue" period, our second year is "I have a clue" and our third year is "I can't give the clues away". He reported on the Alateen day of October 4th, which was in his written report.

Public Outreach Coordinator's report: (report in package) Carol P.

Carol had nothing new to add to her written report. She was looking forward to the P.O. workshop in the afternoon.

Literature Coordinator's report: (report in package) Fred R.

Fred added to his written report that a new book was in the works and it needed submissions from Al-Anon members. Its title is to be "Facing Guilt and Loss in Al-Anon". Also looking for submissions for the revised '12 Steps/12 Traditions'. These submissions are needed for Steps 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and Tradition 6. Please consider sending your thoughts.

Alateen/Unity Coordinator's report: Maria

Maria asked the attendees, how many of them had teenagers. Quite a show of hands, however when she asked how many were going to Alateen the response was not quite as good as the first question. We need to send our children to Alateen is the message Maria was conveying. She told us about their fund raiser for the Unity Conference. They are Unity Keys bookmarks. She also told us that as soon as we have a new Web site Coordinator she would like to get a link to the Alateen site added.

Archives Coordinator's report: (report in package) Rita K.

Rita told the Assembly the importance of the Archives and that each group/district should be keeping the district binder up to date.

We then proceeded to have our afternoon speaker Mary Lou from WSO.

Next on our program was the afternoon business, which included the election of Ontario South Secretary. The Chair explained once again that Claire D. was the Pro - tem Secretary and that we, as an Assembly needed to go through the formality of an election for that position. This proceeded in the normal fashion of having all those eligible to stand for this position come to the front and state their willingness to stand or decline. All declined. When asked by the Chair if any one amongst the attendees wished to stand for the position, only Claire D. stood. She was acclaimed.

Motion#1: moved by Lynn R. That the "Country Store" be part of the next Ontario South Assembly. Seconded by Donna L.

Discussion was held and it is a fact that at a previous assembly it was voted to have the "Country Store" only every 3years, in the election year. **The motion was defeated with 2 in favour and 7 abstaining.**

Motion #2: moved by Janet P. that motion to seriously think about moving assembly meeting in accordance with our fiscal year for a trial duration of a 3 year period to allow clarity in what sounds to be at this time not working for us!

(Concerned about snowy weather? We did have a blackout in the middle of the summer) This would alleviate repetitive problems we have experienced. Seconded by Sherree A.

Discussion was held. It was noted by the Chair that our year-end coincides with the LDC and WSO. **The motion was clearly defeated with 5 in favour and 15 abstained.**

Motion #3- Moved by Arlene P. that the Executive and Coordinators seek alternative accommodations where holding needed out of town meetings; such as Bed and Breakfast. Seconded by Pat

Again discussion was held. **The motion was clearly defeated with 2 in favour and 2 abstained**

Motion #4 – moved by Arlene P that “all” compensation for mileage/Km be set at 00.20 cents per km. Seconded by Pat.

Discussion was held on this issue with most of the attendees thinking that 00.20 was too low.

The motion was clearly defeated with 1 in favour and 4 abstained.

Motion #5 – moved by Diane S. that Lynn (Coordinator of Literature) be given a raise from salary 21,872.03 to a salary more appropriate of her giftedness, talent & generosity. Seconded by (can’t read name) District #2.

This is not an Assembly matter; it’s an LDC matter- withdrawn.

Motion #6 – moved by Don C. That the financial information presented to the annual general meeting of the Ontario South Assembly include the financial statement of revenues and expenses for the previous fiscal year. Seconded by Nicola H.

The motion was passed with 110 in favour, 63 opposed and 15 abstained.

Motion #7 - moved by Kay C. District #21 that Ontario South change it’s fiscal year to October 31 – Sept 30. Seconded by Jan W. (21) Motion was withdrawn.

Motion # 8 – moved by Liz G. (22) that “Trillium Conference” 2006 be scheduled in March, April or May so as not to conflict with numerous summer activities & holidays i.e.- Father’s Day. Seconded by Terry (22).

The Assembly was reminded that a previous motion was made to have Trillium in June. **The motion was withdrawn.**

Motion # 9 – moved by Paula (29) that the LDC manager be given a \$500.00 bonus for excellent job performance in 2003. Motion was withdrawn.

Motion # 10 – moved by Paula (29) that the LDC Board examine the feasibility of giving the LDC Office manager a raise for the 2004 fiscal year. The amount of which to be determined by the Board. Seconded by Jean (28). Motion was withdrawn (not an Assembly matter).

Motion # 11 – moved by Jane C. (26) that the votes of abstention be recorded as “abstention” and not as a “no’ vote. Seconded by Suzanne (26)

Much discussion ensued from this motion. **The motion passed with 126 in favour, 17 opposed and 44 abstained.**

Motion # 12 – Moved by Don C that the financial information presented to the annual general meeting of the OSA include the projected expenses and revenues for the 4th quarter of the current fiscal year. Seconded by Nicola H. The motion was defeated with 74 in favour, 95 opposed and 11 abstained.

Motion # 13 – Moved by Janet (20) that the mileage costs be budgeted for .34 cents per mile as per industry standards effective immediately. Seconded by Delores (4). Motion was withdrawn.

Motion # 14 – Moved by Beverley B. (6) that the Ontario South Assembly be held either the third weekend in October or the 2nd weekend in November to avoid conflict with the London AA Conference. Seconded by Lynn R. A clear majority defeated the motion. In favour 3, abstained 5

As we were late in finishing this session it was a conscious decision to shorten both workshops and that we would reconvene at 7 p. m.

**We closed the meeting at 5pm with the Lord’s Prayer.
Dinner from 5:00 p. m. – 7:00 p. m.**

The meeting was reconvened with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer.

A half hour workshop was conducted by Mary Lou our WSO Representative on “De-Mystifying Main Media Myths”. A quick quiz was used for this purpose.

We then broke up into East/West/Central for the Coordinators workshops.

The evening closed with Entertainment provided by a District 12 member.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2003

The meeting opened with a moment of silence, the Serenity Prayer, Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties and Today daily Reading out of “Hope for Today”.

Host Committee Announcements: Jo-Anne L. (District #12)

Thanked committee members and Districts 12 and 13 for their assistance. If you want to get to know your group reps, host an Assembly. It is a wonderful experience.

ASK-IT-BASKET –

1. Can a person (not an Al-Anon member), daughter of a member leave Al-Anon info in Doctor’s offices? Is any tradition being broken? Answer: Yes they can- no tradition being broken.

2. What is the stand that Al-Anon takes on the use of the Lord’s Prayer at meetings? My personal opinion (which differs from the majority of my group) is that it is a religious i.e.: “Christian” practice, that it does not belong in a non-religious organization.

Answer: Group Autonomy.

3. If we are a spiritual rather than a religious organization, why do we so often close meetings with the Lord’s Prayer- a Christian prayer? Answer: Group Autonomy.

4. How can we best respond to the atheists who turn to us for help? Answer: We are a spiritual program- take what you like and leave the rest.

5. Is the reading of “Paths to Recovery” (Steps & Traditions with corresponding month)? Sometime the readings can take a ½ hour or more and the writer’s sense is that sharing time is limited and newcomers are intimidated when they think they should read. Is this strictly a group conscience issue or is there something in our manual or traditions etc. that might help? Answer: It’s a group conscience.

6. To what extent is the G.R. table responsible for helping groups with limited funds for example sending G.R. to Assembly when the group cannot afford it? Answer: The District can certainly help send a G.R. whose group has no funds- if the district has funds.

7. What happened to the Ask It Basket questions of last year? I understood that they would be posted in “Open Lines” and they were not. Why Not? Will they be posted in Open Lines this year along with the ones today? Answer: They were and will be in the Assembly minutes

8. How can District/Groups encourage GR’s to attend District meetings? Answer: Offer them food. It is the duty of the G.R. The G.R. is the liaison between group and District- see page 58 of manual.

9. Our church wants the members to sign a Paper acknowledging that they have read and understood the fire evacuation plan. How do we do this and maintain our anonymity? Answer: Have one member who is comfortable disclosing their surname sign the list on behalf of the members.

10. Why does the Delegate get .25 cents/km when the rest of the Executive gets .20 cents/km for mileage? Answer: Expectation is that the Delegate will travel to all the Districts during her term. This is a nominal fee for wear & tear on her vehicle.

11. With the 2004 approval- How does this translate into dollars per group per year? I.e.: How much money is required from each group to meet the proposed budget? Answer: In an ideal world 100% participation - \$75.00.

12. (1) Why do we pay for “Alternates” to go to AWSC. If the Dr goes why does the alternate have to go? Do we also pay for WSC? Answer: Not responsibility to send Alternate, it’s up to District to “-----“ (can’t read this word) if alternate will go. WSC – we pay for delegate only. (2) Do Delegates and others that serve @ the district level & higher including AWSC have a set amount of money allotted for meals and if not why not? Answer: At Area level parameters are set i.e.: \$4.00 allotted for breakfast.

13. Should Districts be responsible financially for the Delegate when she comes to talk about WSC? If so, why? Answer: Ontario South is responsible through Group donations page 138 – “The Delegate.... Page 130 “Delegate’s in term....”
14. Should the Chairperson of the OSA be contributing comments, opinions or facts regarding the motions on the floor? Answer: No! Chair’s duties are to facilitate the meeting only.
15. When my group is small, and many of our members are in low-income bracket, as a G.R. I have difficulty reading the WSO Appeal letters. How can I feel better about reading these letters to my group? Answer: Read lightly.
16. Is a coordinator the same as a District rep- if not what’s the difference? Answer: Manual page 107 D.R., page105 Area Coordinator.
17. Re: District reps at AWSC: Is it not the autonomy of each district to decide to upgrade the accommodations for the Dr if requested? Answer: (NO ANSWER WAS RECORDED BY THE ASK IT BASKET GROUP).
18. Does it still say in the manual that rooms need to be shared by 4 people? I know I prefer only to share with 1 other person. Does this policy not apply to the Executive also? Answer; Not addressed in manual. AWSC - OSA budgeted for 4 people which is Area decision but when it comes to Assembly attendance this is considered group autonomy.
19. There is a lot of cross talk in my group despite trying to stop it. What can you suggest? Answer: Include in Preamble definition of cross talk consequently it would be read each week. An early edition of Inside Al-Anon covered this controversy. Check with the Literature office, they may have a copy- well worth reading.
20. Why do we call ourselves Al-Anon? I meet many who might come to be with us if they did not assume we were all alcoholics. And why would they not think Al (Alcoholics) Anon (Anonymous) Answer: Work with Public Outreach
21. If one were to write or film’s one’s biography/memoirs how does one reconcile personal Al-Anon experience & anonymity? Answer: Refer to Al- Anon as a 12-step program and not refer to it by name.
22. What discussions or motions have been presented in the past regarding making Al-Anon’s or AA’s language gender neutral or inclusive for example in Step 3 “as we understand HIM” meaning God. What were the results if any? Answer: Page 144 of manual under relation to Al-Anon item D. To accomplish such a change it would take a ¾ majority vote of the World Wide fellowship of Al-Anon.
23. Many groups lately have typed folders of the al-Anon opening, welcome, steps and traditions, however, unless photocopied from CAL, these reproductions often have word & grammar changes i.e.: words omitted, commas added or subtracted etc. While well meaning, these subtle changes can undermine the literature that has been given such prior considerations. 1) How important to Al-Anon as a whole is this for our program? And if so 2) how should we be discouraging it? Answer: Suggested Preamble & Group Autonomy tradition 4 Steps and Traditions cannot be changed page 143/ (relation to Al-Anon D) page 144
24. With the obvious need to bring more members to Al-Anon (just compare the numbers fro AA to Al-Anon) how do we do this while still keeping true to tradition eleven “attraction rather than promotion”? Answer; Public Outreach/Mary Lou’s workshop.
25. One girl has been having a 5-minute meditation at the start of the meeting where she gets everyone to relax from his or her head to their toes and just not think about anything. Is this against any tradition or should it be a group conscience. Answer: Group conscience tradition 2.
26. Are we allowed to use a topic, discuss or distribute within our group any item from the Al-Anon Open Lines newsletter or web site. I.e.; thoughts, starters, nuggets of wisdom, poems, reader’s submissions etc? I know that we are free to use material in Forum or our CAL. Answer; No, as it is not Conference Approved Literature but personal sharings that have not been approved by WSO.
27. If there is no Alateen group in our area should children as young as 9 years be allowed to come to al-Anon? Answer: Group Autonomy Tradition 4.
28. How can groups be urged to increase their donations to OSA to lessen the pressure in groups who are already making contributions to the area treasury? Answer: Make the request through district and share with other groups. You can’t force groups to increase donations. Group fund raisers to provide services- manual page 75.
29. How does a group or members of a group handle it when the treasurer of that group keeps all the group money and stops coming to meetings? Is this discussed at the meeting, at the time of announcements or is it part of a business meeting? Answer: Discussed at business meeting- group autonomy.
30. Can a GR who isn’t attending meetings and has her alternate step in for her, come back & step back into the GR position & if not how long can a GR step down for without losing her position? Answer: When you step down you are no longer a GR.
31. What discussion or action has occurred within OSA to make Al-Anon accessible and inclusive to different ethnic groups? Answer: New pamphlets have become available.
32. What’s the best response when a newcomer asks about intervention? Answer: This is an outside issue, not related to al-Anon.
33. How did the name Al-Anon come to be? Does it originate out of AA? Answer: Yes it does.
34. Are there envelopes or cards for people to donate money to Al-Anon on behalf of a deceased person? Answer: Yes. Our literature office stocks them.

35. What type of hotel do you stay at when you have Executive meetings? Can you not find a Motel that is clean, comfortable and more reasonable rates and they have meeting rooms? Answer: (No answer was recorded on Ask It Basket sheet).
36. Re: The Budget and Registration for Assembly: There was NO information about Assembly until late in October. I don't know when the flyer was sent out but we at my groups and the GR's, did not have any information. Therefore, we could not register early or bring friends along. Please make sure flyers are sent out early. The talk around the groups was "What's happening with Assembly? Where's the flyer? How much is registration? Where is it being held? How much is the Hotel?" With something as important as Assembly we need the information earlier from the Executive. Thank you to the organizers. It's a lot of work. Answer: (No answer was recorded on Ask It Basket sheet).
37. Why can't the location for Trillium be rotated throughout Ontario instead of always in Toronto? We understand that it's centrally located but some people cannot even afford to get to Toronto. If it rotated, the members might be able to have an opportunity to experience Trillium at least once every couple of years instead of never being able to go. Answer: 1992 held in Toronto- no bid from a district outside of Toronto.
38. Please keep to the Agenda!!!! It is unfair to keep everybody waiting. Ask for a vote to change the agenda. An approved Agenda needs to adhere to. Answer: (No answer was recorded on Ask It Basket sheet).
39. Is it possible to get the package for registration out earlier? I.e.: April/May? Answer: (No answer was recorded on Ask It Basket sheet).
40. Suggestion:
If the Delegate can billet when traveling around, why can't the executive and Coordinators billet? It seems the biggest expense for assembly is Coordinators and Executives expenses. I agree they should not be out of pocket, but there are ways to cut expenses. A bed to sleep in is all that is necessary. Why can't they meet at someone's house and sit around the table and order food in? I'd be glad to do this: Coffee, bagels 7 cream Cheese are great for breakfast. I'd be happy to billet people 7 cook breakfast, lunch, dinner as part of service. If we are looking for ways to cut expenses this is where it starts. Groups are scrimping and saving to get to Assembly. So the Executive and Coordinators can do the same. Why should they have the Cadillac treatment when the OSA needs the money? We could put this money into Public Outreach and carrying the message. This is what it's all about. Let's get real about what is reasonable and what can be afforded. Also why does the Delegate get .25 cents/km for mileage and everyone else gets .20 cents/km? We are all equal in AI-Anon. Also most people coming to Assembly shares rooms with 3 to 4 people to keep costs down for our groups. Coordinators should do the same- we are all equal.
- Warranty 5- we keep a prudent financial reserve- so why do certain AI-Anon members spend more so we don't have a reserve? Tradition 6 – "lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim". It is not necessary to stay in hotels when Executive and Coordinators meet. Prestige means above and more important than. Imagine how the AI-Anon members fell who scrimped every penny, and didn't buy cookies for the meeting so the GR could come to Assembly and sleep 4 in a room! I've done a lot of service and have always stayed 4 to a room regardless of the group funds. Groups meet in church basements and all kinds of places to save money. I feel a real sense of inequality when some AI-Anon members have more privileges than others and to do this have to spend the group's money. I will certainly tell my group members and other groups that I visit why the Coordinators expenses are so high. Please be prepared to answer why. Let's stick to the traditions and concepts. We moved the LDC to Lynne's basement to save money. So the Coordinators should do the same. I know many who would love to billet. And what an enriching experience for all. Do you think groups will send money to OSA when they know the Executive & Coordinators get to stay two to a hotel room for meetings? Lois and Ann would have never gotten AI-Anon off the ground if they stayed in hotels. They opened their homes for days, weeks and months and we are the benefactors. Please give us the opportunity to help and keep OSA solvent.
(No answer was recorded on Ask It Basket sheet).

Early Bird Registration for Trillium 2004 – Wendy H from Guelph won the draw.

DELEGATE'S UPDATE – Gail C. (District #28)

Hurricane Isabel is history. WSO had no wind or water damage. The Ramada Plaza Resort Hotel was not so lucky. The US and Canadian professional conference that was to be held in Toronto May 3rd weekend was canceled due to SARS. WSO was quite pleased with the cooperation of our Toronto AIS in their willingness to assist at this conference. It is nice to see that we are getting more multi-cultural groups in our Area. Please make sure to use our new video and posters in these districts. We also have Spanish and French literature available. There is a new French Service Manual released. There are a lot of Districts I still am not receiving your minutes from District meetings. If you have e-mail send them that way. I am able to access them now. When you are sending your minutes please include your District Number I attended Trillium conference this year and had many people approach me to ask questions. This is great. Also had some DR's make dates for me to visit their District. Regional Service Seminar is being held in Calgary this year on Nov. 7-9. The Public Outreach Project that we submitted an entry into we are still hoping for a chance in the November draw. I have already had the opportunity to visit the Windsor, St. Catharines/Niagara Falls, Toronto, Kingston and Cornwall Districts. I will be visiting Pembroke, and Ottawa by the end of

November. The Forum campaign for professionals is being done again in Nov. during Alcohol Awareness Month. This year there were 771 orders received for the September issue and there were 68,500 copies mailed out. I hope you have ordered your copies of the Forum to give out to the professionals in your District. I would like to thank Mary Lou for attending our Assembly this year and sharing her Al-Anon story as well as doing a Public Outreach presentation. Claire R. from the WSO was in Ottawa and needed some help to do a survey. I put things in motion with the two Districts in that location. Also there were concerns about the Al-Anon phone number and the NPIC phone number in the Telephone Directory that needed clarification. A meeting dealing with this situation was also arranged. On October 20th the Dear Abby column in the newspaper had an article dealing with Al-Anon and listed our toll free meeting line number in the article. WSO will refer callers to our DR's and Information Services when the need arises. Regional Service Seminar is being held August 13-15, 2004 in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Radisson Suite Hotel. The International Conference in 2008 will be held July 4-6, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. World Service Conference for 2004 is April 18-22. Start preparing your group love gifts. Love gifts are mementos donated by individuals, groups, or districts that are shared by the Delegates at World Conference. They are not meant for me personally. Assembly 2004 will be held in Ottawa on October 15-17, 2004.

Our new web site coordinator is Bob T.

Questions concerning groups or districts that you feel you need more help with please e-mail or write me before December 1, 2003. I will submit them to World Service for Ask-it-basket questions that will be used for Workshops and Breakout time at Conference 2004. If you have any major difficulties in your groups, districts and would like help let me know and I will submit them to WSO which will be the basis of our workshops and breakout sessions for next years conference. This must be done by Dec. 31.

Any concerns are only a phone call or e-mail away. Always use your Service Manual to try to find the solution. If more help is needed any member of your Executive is their to help.

Evaluation forms: Members were reminded to complete these forms as they provide information for the executive in planning the next Assembly. If you know of someone who would like to participate as a speaker or a workshop leader, ask if you can put his or her name forward.

Open Forum: Several members took this opportunity to share their gratitude for the efforts of the host committee, and for the wonderful experience of attending this Al-Anon Assembly.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

SPIRITUAL PANEL was held.

The Assembly closed with the Serenity Prayer