

ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY  
AWSC – May 28, 29, 30, 2004  
Centennial College, Scarborough, Ontario

**FRIDAY, May 28, 2004**

Welcome: The OSA Interim Chairperson welcomed everyone, introduced the Executive and the Coordinators and passed on announcements regarding the facilities. The “Motion” basket and “Ask It Basket” were introduced to the group and 4 DR’s along with Ruth and Rick (Advisors) were chosen to deal with the Ask it Basket questions Saturday night.

The meeting was opened with a moment of Silence, the Serenity Prayer and the reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Meeting from 8:30 to 9:30 pm “Funny Experiences in Al-Anon” chaired by Rita K. Closed the meeting with the Al-Anon Pledge.

**SATURDAY, May 29, 2004**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions, Concepts and Warranties were read.

**Welcome: Interim Chair– Joan P.**

The Chair extended a warm welcome to everyone attending and advised the participants that the roles of Chairperson and Treasurer (at present filled by interim people) would be open for nominations at Assembly in Ottawa. Think about it. She noted that she had copies of duties and responsibilities with her if any was interested. She noted a change in the agenda. The time slot of 4:30 - 5:30 pm was empty and now we would be moving to the Carmelite room for a session with Delegate on Alateen safety and changes up and coming.

**Roll Call: Secretary –Claire D.** It was determined through roll call that 47 members were eligible to vote. District 11 was not represented. Several alternate DR’s were in attendance as well as Howdy R. (member at large) and Jo-Anne L (Regional Trustee)..

**Approval of Minutes: 2003 AWSC in Belleville.**

Motion to accept the minutes– moved by Marion B. Dist.# 26, seconded by Jo-Anne G. Dist. #28. Motion carried.

**Delegate’s Report – Gail C.**

The 2004 World Service Conference theme this year was Dynamic Groups Today Building Block Tomorrow. Gail met with the Canadian Delegates and Trustees and a lot of great ideas were generated such as:

- 1The issue of Conference calling being too expensive and that e-mail would work just as good
- 2Dealing with problems at the Area Committee level
- 3How to attract members to become Trustees
- 4Use of website guidelines
- 5Making service positions attractive
- 6Starting Action Committees

The Area Highlights committee held 3 sessions about successes, activities and new ideas and concerns.

Four agenda items were chosen from topics submitted by Delegates before the conference:

- 1)Strengthening our Structure, which included lack of participation from the groups in the district, resolving conflict at area assemblies and relating service to growth.
- 2)Our Group: How we must use more than Daily Readers for topics at our meetings. Some ideas were to celebrate our Al-Anon birthdays once a month or have district supported speaker meetings to help support struggling groups and to keep newcomers coming back.
- 3)Alateen Background Checks: This was discussed in our Special Breakout meeting about Alateens – see further discussions.
- 4)Concept One: How we get groups to be the final authority in Al-Anon. A couple of suggestions are to listen to the GR and submit their concerns for Chosen Agenda Items at Conference and when the Conference Summary comes out, show them where their questions and answers appear. Another way is to

use action committees so groups are included as part of the activity.

The Archives staff continues to preserve minutes and other records electronically as well as preserving old material.

The Forum Advisory Committee reviewed and graded 250 manuscripts and critiqued 3 issues of the magazine. Members can access three Forum articles each month on the member's site of the WSO web site.

Gail suggested that all District Representatives who have e-mail addresses to pass these along to her so that Area decisions on items that are sent to her after assembly can be decimated quickly and efficiently in order for her to make an Area decision. For those that don't have e-mail it is suggested that you get an e-mail buddy (someone in your group that has e-mail. Claire jumped on this suggestion as she could then send the minutes out by e-mail and save a lot of money on photocopying and mailing.

The Literature Committee completed the revision of the Blue Print for Progress and the new book is out. More decisions were made by this committee and recommendations were made. Be on the lookout for new materials coming.

The Public Outreach Committee explained the new service tool called AI-Anon is for Adult children of Alcoholics. Our new PSA is called "Reality" and now they are working on the 2005 PSA. It will be distributed to radio and TV selected stations in Canada and the USA in June. Public Outreach Coordinators and Delegates will receive a list of stations in our areas so we can target the other stations. Posters, tapes and CD's will also be available in June.

Group Services shared that we have 26, 140 groups worldwide a decrease from 2003. There are now 440 active AI-Anon & Alateen Spanish –language groups in the WSO structure. We have one such group in our Area. The 2005 Conference site is to be in Stamford Connecticut from April 16- 20 2005. A visit to Stepping Stones is part of the plan.

Jo-Anne L. from District 12 is our new Regional Trustee for Canada Central. Congratulations Jo-Anne! Good Luck!

AI-Anon will be participating in the AA Convention in Toronto in 2005. The theme for the AI-Anon workshops and meetings is "Let It Begin with Me". Registration forms will be mailed to all groups in September 2004. We are looking for a contact person from our Area to work with AA and the WSO as a liaison person. Gail has had a conversation with someone that we all hope will take this monumental task on. Rick J. Advisor to the executive attended a meeting in Toronto with the AA's as an "Amateur Drinker" and has a wealth of information. Rick suggests we may need up to 600 Volunteers.

AI-Anon's World Convention in 2008 will be in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania on July 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Start saving your pennies.

All this information will be in the Conference Summary.

Discussions were held on dual members, lack of promoting the use of the Forum in a meeting, attracting newcomers to service, how do alternates get into service and getting people to volunteer for Area Level positions.

All this and more to appear in the Conference Summary.

Gail thanks all those who sent cards and Love gifts to her while she was away.

#### **AA CONFERENCE 2005 TORONTO:**

Rick J. attended meeting with AA's. The Conference is from Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.

There will be 200 meetings in 3 languages (French, English Spanish) with simultaneous translations going on.

This will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Ctr and in the Sky dome. The AI-Anon headquarters is to be the Harbour Castle Weston. The AI-Anon contingency is expected to be around 5000 strong. 90 countries are to be represented. Registration is \$115.00 Canadian before and on site \$130.00. 11,000 rooms are booked in Toronto and they are distributed by a lottery system by the AA's. As mentioned before registration packages are to be out by September 2004. The area will keep us informed, as we get closer about volunteers etc. The Area will have a core committee together. Rick has been in contact with the last committee Chair and information from that committee will be forth coming to the Area.

All Volunteers must register.

**TRILLIUM 2004 REPORT: Kristine B.**

The countdown begins, 3 weeks to go. There is a fabulous line up of speakers. Room nights are low at this time with only 187 registrations as of May 28th. Remember that the cost of our meeting rooms depends on room nights booked with the hotel. This is the only way we can keep the cost of the Convention reasonable. Please encourage your members to stay at the hotel and enjoy the wonderful experience of sharing a weekend with Al-Anon members. A challenge was put to all DR's to fill a 1-hour spot to help out in the Hospitality Room. "This hour is brought to you by District # ---" Volunteering for the Hospitality Room or to be a greeter are great ways to put our recovery to service and tell the rest of Ontario South just how great your District is. Remember this is OUR CONVENTION, ONTARIO SOUTH

The Program has been slimmed down this year. The DR's were acquainted with the "Baskets" as part of our fellowship time. Those wanting to supply a "Basket" are encouraged to do so. Tickets will be sold at the cost of \$2.00 each and 3 for \$5.00.

Remember this is OUR CONVENTION, ONTARIO SOUTH

**Break: 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.**

**REPORTS:**

**LDC REPORT – Lyn (manager) and Ann K. (LDC Board Chair)**

Lyn's report was in your package. **Highlights:** Closure this year for summer vacation is July 19- August 10. (3 weeks). The LDC Board is working on a new Amended Charter. Will be presented at Assembly. See Lyn's report for more information. Lyn noted that she would only be bringing from now on new materials and service materials. If there is anything you want and need please advise her before hand.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Jean B.**

**Donations: Group** Donations to date are \$10,753.82. We are behind budget by \$761.15. Remind GR's as to where to send money this year. We have a new Treasurer. Cheques are still going to last year's Treasurer and the previous to that. Please do not make cheques out to Jean. Jean has made up new forms with her name and address on it. Please pick up some of these forms and feel free to make copies for the groups in your District. Expense forms and mileage forms are also out on the back table.

Jean went through the "Proposed Budget 2005" and was able to answer all questions (not many) with great accuracy. Thank you Jean for making this a smooth process.

**DISTRICT REPORTS:**

Reports were given by DR's from Districts # 6,7,8,9 and 10.

**CO-ORDINATORS REPORTS:**

All the reports were included in your packages.

**Group Records:** Martie commented on the new registration form that Gail has put in our Alateen packages. Please use this form to register the groups. Bob is trying to get this form on line so that we can fill it out and send to Martie from the website. If you are going to e-mail Martie, she asks that you send her all the information as it is presented to you on the form.

**Public Outreach:** Carol commented on her new venture of contacting the AA groups to make our Al-Anon meeting list available at their meetings. They were quite responsive.

**Website:** Bob suggested we all take a look at the WSO website. It has been revamped. He also has a page on Cross talk on our site from Inside Al-Anon.

**APPROVAL OF VOTING PROCEDURES:** Experience has shown in the past that a simple majority by a show of hands in an effective procedure for AWSC meetings. If a majority is not clear from a show of hands, we will have a stand-up, sit-down vote to count off. Only DR's, the Executive members, Coordinators, AIS Liaisons, Alateen Unity Chair, Trillium Chairperson can vote. Trustees, Advisors and LDC Manager do not vote and the

Chairperson does not vote unless there is a tie.

**MOTIONS: AWSC 2004 Motions:**

**#1- Approval of the Proposed 2005 Budget.**

Jean answered all related questions and made changes where necessary. A motion to approve the 2005 Budget came from Kristine B (Dist # 16) seconded by Jacqueline K (Dist 22). Discussion was held. Group donations are the responsibility of the Dr. It was carried unanimously.

**DISTRICT REPORTS cont'd:**

The Unity Co-Chair and AIS gave reports from Toronto, Niagara and Ottawa.  
The meeting closed with the Al-Anon Pledge.

**Lunch Break – 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity prayer.

Three items were up for discussion starting with **Trillium**.

Rick J. Advisor gave the background for the Trillium Convention. Why it started, how it started and where it is now.

OSA supported ORC and this was considered our Area Al-Anon function. In 1989 it was suggested that Ontario South put on their own conference with Al-Anon, Alateen and AA participation. A motion was put forth for a 3-year trial. It was voted upon at Assembly with a Charter set up and a \$4000.00 start up fund. That seed money is still there and every year it is returned to OSA with a profit. The 1<sup>st</sup> year there were 1086 people present. The numbers are dwindling with 504 in 2004. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference it was voted (again at assembly) to make this Conference a permanent fixture in the Area and hold in the Central region as it would be easier access for the entire Area and it needed to be seen as "an Area Conference". The members of the committee are selected from around the Area. In 2005 there is no Conference due to the AA World Conference in Toronto.

Judy T 2006 Chair (Dist 25) spoke to the issue of wanting to move Trillium 2006 to Kingston and how she was having trouble getting people to come on board for the Shadow Committee. It's quite difficult to get people to commit that far ahead of time. She also said that people were tired of seeing Trillium as a "Toronto Convention" and that was why she wanted to move it to Kingston. Judy said that this would be the perfect time to move it, go for a change because of the year off. She wants to see if we can get the numbers back up. She wants to attract people who can't afford to come to Toronto. Parking is also an issue in Toronto. She challenged Al-Anon to commit to this Conference by taking the opportunity of a year off to move the Conference and try change.

Discussion was held on the floor. No motion was made to move the Conference. Nothing changes at this time. Trillium will remain in the Central sector of our Area, namely in Toronto.

Our next discussion item was the **Website**.

Discussion was held on the point brought up and it was suggested that the Executive formulate guidelines for the website and have these put out before Assembly. We will vote on them at Assembly in Ottawa. We need to ensure that Tradition 6 is maintained and that there are direct lines of accountability and responsibility. That the events should be sponsored vs. private.

**AWSC Accommodation Costs** was next. AWSC now pays the cost at 4 to a room. Many were heard on this issue. A motion was put forth.

**Motion #2: AWSC pays the cost of 2 people to a room for current eligible members.** Motioned by Sharon M (Dist 12) and seconded by Pam R. (Dist) 18. The motion was accepted unanimously.

**Motion from last AWSC:** It was referred back to the Executive to look at having Open Lines sent out electronically. This was looked into and not everyone has the same program that the Open Lines Coordinator uses, therefore many would not be able to open attachments. Open Lines is now on the website (minus contact names and numbers). For those wishing to download and save the Area money please e-mail Martie to remove you from the mailing list.

**Motion # 3: if an Al-Anon group chooses to use the Lord's prayer in their meeting format, then at least once a year a group conscience be taken, to verify that the Al-Anon group is meeting the purpose of Al-Anon and the needs of the group members and potential members.** Motioned by Dorothy M (Dist1) seconded by Agi L. This is an invalid motion as it is Group Autonomy.

**Break: 2:55 - 3:15 pm**

Reports were given by DR's from Districts # 23,24,25,26,27

**CO-ORDINATORS WORKSHOPS YEAR END REPORTS:**

**Alateen:** Matthew

See written report. He reported that they used the 2000 experience for the Alateen Sponsor Day and Road show. Very well received.

**P.O.:** Carol

25 groups were represented with just fewer than 50 people in attendance. Sessions were held on Public Speaking, Public Outreach, Group Records, Archives, Website, Alateen Sponsorship, and 3 Obstacles to Success. Thank you to all in Districts 1 and 12 to 22.

**Literature:** Joan for Fred. This was done at Assembly, banners, book reports, live CAL and skit. People read more literature. Every district had a book to read and report on. Bookmarks were given out. Book reports are in Open Lines and they were sent to the Forum also.

The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer to allow members to attend the Alateen session and for dinner.

**Alateen Session chaired by Gail:**

Gail reported on the new procedures for Alateen and Alateen Sponsors. This program will be implemented by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and Ontario south needs to get on board very quickly. Gail handed out a package to all those present. It's all about Alateen safety and the safety of the Alateen sponsors. Gail went over the package with us highlighting certain issues. The motion presented was passed by the World Service Conference and is in effect now. No changes can be made to it. We are doing this and showing "Due Diligence". The motion covers the minimum safety and behavioural requirements for Alateens and their sponsors. There are new forms in the handout package and all Alateen groups must register through OSA

Who in turns sends the forms to WSO according to our guidelines. Any participation with Alateen will require clearances be it a Conference, a workshop, a plenary or a meeting.

A motion was presented:

**Motion # 4:** Motioned by Michael (AIS Toronto) seconded by Jason W. (Alateen Unity)

- 1) **OSA establishes area level guidelines for Al-Anon members who are involved in Alateen Service.**
- 2) **That the area level guidelines for Al-Anon members who are involved in Alateen service must include: the 6 points outlined by the Trustees as the minimum safety and behaviour requirements; what service positions are identified as those who are involved with Alateen service; and the process & procedures for an Al-Anon member to become certified as meeting the area level guidelines requirements.**
- 3) **That OSA guidelines for Al-Anon members who do Alateen service work be drafted by an AWSC committee chaired by the OSA Alateen Coordinator and is comprised of the Alateen Unity Executive Committee; the Alateen Coordinator has veto power in the draft process and final proposal.**
- 4) **First draft of the aforementioned proposal sent to all AWSC members for review and feedback by Aug 1, 2004. Second draft by Set 15, 2004. Final draft sent to all GR's for approval at Assembly as soon as possible.**

This motion was withdrawn after much discussion

**Motion # 5:**

**Motion to accept parts 1 and 2 of the withdrawn motion.** Motioned by Jean (Dist 20) seconded by Jo-Anne (Dist 28)

Discussion again.

Kristine B. (Dist 16) called for the vote, seconded by Norma B. (Dist 13).

Motion passed. 1 opposed and 1 Abstained.

Much discussion followed on how we should do this.

**Motion # 6: That the AWSC strike an ad-hoc committee to draft Minimum Safety and Behavioural Standards for Ontario South. This committee will be chaired by Matthew H. (Alateen Coordinator) and Kristine B (Dist 16).** Motioned by Jason W. (Alateen Unity), seconded by Jean B (Dist 20). Motion was accepted. 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

**Motion # 7: To adopt part 4 of Michael's original motion: First draft of the aforementioned proposal sent to all AWSC members for review and feedback: by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. Second draft sent to all AWSC members for feedback and approval by Sept. 15, 2004. Final draft sent to all GR's for approval at Assembly as soon as possible. Prior to being sent to GR's it should be sent to a Lawyer for approval.** Motioned by Jean (Dist 20) seconded by Paula (Dist 29).

An amendment to: **include that the draft be presented to the OSA Executive prior to going to the Lawyer then as a motion to the GR's at Assembly.** Proposed by Rick (advisor) and Paula (Dist 290) seconded the amendment.

The vote was called. The amended motion was carried with 0 opposed and 2 abstained.

The administrative process was left to the committee.

**Dinner 5:30 pm till 8:00pm**

**WORKSHOP CHANGE OVER: 8:00 pm till 8:30 pm (as per minutes of Executive meeting)**

All District Representatives along with the Coordinators moved off into break out rooms to discuss district activities.

**Area #1:** Open Lines/Literature/Forum:

Moved to the East Districts 23 - 32

**Area # 2** Public Outreach/Group Records/Website/Archives

Moved to the West Districts 2 - 11

**Area # 3-** Alateen

Moved to the Central Districts 1, 12 -22

At 8:30 pm everyone reconvened in the main meeting room for a discussion on Area Procedures. Joan (interim chair) presented a partial manual that she has been working on. This part of the procedures was presented to the Executive at the November Executive meeting.

It was noted that we aren't the first Area to do this. Missouri has a great Procedure Manual as well as Hawaii. There are other areas out there as well. Joan does not want to reinvent the wheel so she will look at these established procedures.

A good discussion followed with pro's and con's.

**Motion # 8: Direct the OSA Executive to establish an ad hoc committee to review all Assembly motions, procedures and other relevant Executive decisions and compile and format them into an Area manual.**

Motioned by Michael (Toronto AIS) seconded by Jason W. (Alateen Unity)

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Closed Meeting at 9:15 pm with Al-Anon Pledge.**

### **SUNDAY – May 30, 2004**

The Chairperson opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence, Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Announcements were made as well as general housekeeping information.

#### **Delegate's Update: Gail C.**

- ❖ Congratulations to Jo-Anne L. as she is now the new Central Canada regional Trustee.
- ❖ Are all groups using the new Welcome, steps, Traditions, and Concepts that were mailed out by WSO?
- ❖ Refrain from using our Daily Readers as a source for our meetings. We have a lot of other literature available.
- ❖ Order your September issue of the FORUM for professional week to be held in November. Deadline to order is August.
- ❖ Use the Concepts at your District and AIS meetings
- ❖ Order your copies of Blueprint for progress, service tool pamphlets for your PO work, and the new PSA "reality" as well as posters and tapes.
- ❖ Make sure Gail has your e-mail address or your e-buddy.
- ❖ Use the new Group Change Forms
- ❖ Incorporate all the changes that have been made for Alateen and Sponsors as well as use the new form to register old and new groups. Use the sponsor form as well.
- ❖ Gail visited 8 groups last year. Has your group filled out the form or spoken to Gail about her coming to visit your group this year?
- ❖ A chair is still needed for the Al-Anon Hosting Committee for World AA Conference in 2005. Someone has already been approached.
- ❖ Thanks to all those who sent cards and gifts while Gail was at WSC.

#### **Ad Hoc Alateen Committee** was formed.

The members are:

Jason W. (Unity)

Lyn S. (LDC)

Kristine B. (Dist 16) Co-Chair

Michael E. (AIS Toronto)

Matthew H. (Coordinator) Chair

Debbie E. (Dist 31)

Emma

The first draft is to be ready by July 4-5, 2004. This draft will go to the OSA Executive first with a 2-day turnaround. It will then be sent to the DR's with a 2-week turnaround time. The second draft will be ready and sent out by the end of July (same format as 1<sup>st</sup> draft.) By the end of August this document should be ready to go to the legal advisor then forwarded to the GR's so that when it goes to Assembly there will be no discussion; just a yes or no.

Howdy and Gail are to be included in this process (WSO/AWSC) as part of the discussions between the members of the committee.

After the assembly OSA has till December 31<sup>st</sup> to implement this new process. They will need the help of all the DR's to vet all the Alateen Sponsors and re-register all the Alateen groups with WSO.

#### **ASK-IT-BASKET –**

1. District 3 has one group with only 1 or 2 members for the last 10 years. We now have one member who has been GR or Alternate for 7 years, alone for the most part of 2 years. Should this be disbanded if the lone member is willing to continue?

**Answer:** This has to be the decision of the member whether to fold or not – we cannot tell the group what to do (pg. 50 of the Service Manual)

2. Because of the cost, could OSA be held one night only (Friday) and one full day (Saturday)? This could reduce cost, and still time would be sufficient for business at hand.

**Answer:** Motion accepted by the Assembly Oct 17, 1987 to have a two-day meeting to conduct

business on 3-year trial basis for Saturday and Sunday. June 10, 1990 motion passed as permanent by AWSC.  
3. Can tapes from talks with seasoned members that are in archives be digitized to the Al-Anon/Alateen website?

**Answer:** This would take up too much space on the website. (Tradition 11).

4. To save costs could the WSO mailing list be set up to exclude Committees and other sub groups from the Quarterly Appeal letters?

**Answer:** The Quarterly Appeal letters are sent to the GR's and D.R.'s only. Refer to Service Manual PG 73.

5. What is the scope of Concept 3? Does the "right of decision" only apply to DR's attending AWSC and Delegates at WSC?

**Answer:** Anybody who has been empowered to a vote has the right of decision. GR – Assembly, DR – AWSC, Delegate – WSO Conference.

6. While awaiting electronic group records form on website, can changes be sent to Martie by e-mail? DR's and AIS Chair/TAS can then be copied?

**Answer:** You can e-mail the changes provided all of the information that needs to be filled out on the change form is included.

7. There is no DR for District 11. What can we do to encourage someone to volunteer for it?

**Answer:** protem/bring a friend

8. When a speaker comes a long distance is it customary to offer travel expenses?

**Answer:** Pg 77 in Service manual. If unable to cover the expenses the speaker must be told that in the request .

9. One of the reasons we have trouble filling service positions is that we have a lot of double winners. We have no AIS representative. Service manual is clear on not having Double Winners in service positions, but we wonder why this would apply in the case of an AIS rep?

**Answer:** Should the above people become AIS Chairperson, they would be accorded coordinator status and that could lead to delegate. (Pg 70).

10. Has anyone been asked to vacate their meeting room in a church due to the new insurance restrictions? We in District 3 have had to move twice.

**Answer:** Has any other group experienced this kind of situation? What was the outcome? Ruth had answers from the floor.

**Evaluations:** Attendees were asked to complete the forms and hand in or mail to the secretary.

**Open Forum:** The meeting was opened for a brief period to allow for personal sharing and comments. We received many thank you's re: weekend.

**The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. (10:30 am)**