

**ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 20 – 22, 2006
BEST WESTERN HIGHLAND INN – MIDLAND, ON**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006

The meeting opened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Jo-Anne, the OSA Executive Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Assembly. She then introduced the Executive, Advisors, Coordinators and Regional Trustee. Shireen, our Alateen liaison was unable to attend. Assembly Host Committee Chairperson, Dorothy MacL. extended her warm welcome and made some housekeeping announcements. Jo-Anne added a couple of Assembly housekeeping announcements.

Panel – “Moving Forward in Service”

Chair: Nick M.

Speakers: Sheilagh R., Carol L.

Meeting closed with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

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

Jo-Anne, the OSA Executive Chairperson welcomed everyone to Assembly. She then introduced the Executive, Advisors, Coordinators and Regional Trustee. Shireen, our Alateen liaison was unable to attend. Dorothy MacL, our Host Committee Chair made housekeeping announcements. Jo-Anne added Assembly housekeeping announcements.

MOTION SHEETS:

The main motion is in the hand out package. An amendment motion takes precedence over the main motion and we will vote on the amendment first. The tabling of other motions received is at the discretion of the Chairperson. They will be brought forth if relevant to today’s discussion. If not, then they will go to the Executive and/or to AWSC. Our advisors Joan R. and Gail C. will be available to assist anyone with the filling out of motion sheets.

When presenting a motion from the floor, it is to be written legibly on a “blue” paper and seconded by another voting member. Only a voting member can make a motion and it needs to be seconded by another voting member. The motion is “tabled” when the Chair reads it to the Assembly. The “mover” may speak first and she/he may only speak again once others have had a chance to address the Assembly.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SEATING/VOTING ARRANGEMENTS:

Seating arrangements were established with non-voting members to be seated to the right and voting members seated with their DRs in their respective rows in the two left hand sections. Hand out for meeting guidelines were presented and reviewed.

Voting procedures

A majority vote (50% + 1 of votes cast) is required for passing motions. Voter eligibility was discussed. Abstentions were clarified. The sit down, stand up process for voting was presented. All voted in favour.

Delegate's WSC Report – Joan P: (report in package)

World Service Office is planning to use our full name "Al-Anon Family Groups" when appropriate and have asked the fellowship to help accomplish this. We need to remember that Al-Anon is an anonymous program, but it is not an invisible program. Joan also thanked those members who sent "love gifts" to take to World Service Conference this past April. Your District Representatives were given information in May regarding the Conference, which was to be passed on to you as Group Representatives. The Conference summary was mailed out to the District Representative. Three items up for discussion at Conference were electronic meetings, E-Cal and the web site.

Ask-it-Basket Volunteers - Volunteers were called for. Debbie P. Dist.#6, Chris B. Dist. #12, Tish B. Dist.#28, Nadine K. Dist. #5, along with our advisors Gail C. and Joan R.

Workshop Sign up Sheets - Sign up sheets are set up on a side table, back corner of Assembly room. Three workshops are to be conducted in the evening. 1) Intro to WSO and OSA Web Sites, Kathy T. & Don C. 2) Al-Anon Mythbusters, Sandy M. and 3) Growing Alateen, Kristine B.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

Knowledge based decision making information was shared from the WSO summary. Jo-Anne G. shared on the process of discussion guidelines and the aspect of note takers for discussion items. 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 adapt a two-minute time limit for speaking for/against a motion and only one visit to the mic for any one subject. It was respectfully asked that all cell phones be turned off or on vibrate while in session.

Approval of the 2005 Assembly Minutes:

Errors and omissions were asked for. Pat L. Dist. # 28 – amendments noted to pages two and three. Moved by Mary Ellen B Dist. # 32 and seconded by Heather W. Dist. # 4. Vote was called. All in favour, motion carried. Amended minutes will be posted to the website.

Regional Trustee's Report – Jo-Anne L:

Shared her experience on how she became a Regional Trustee. Jo-Anne provided a slide show presentation on the process of elections of Regional Trustee and Board of Trustees. Information is also provided in the 2006 World Service Office summary.

Break 10:10 – 10:30

Timekeeper: Volunteer was called. Donna from District #12

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report (2006) – Jean B:

Jean updated Assembly with regards to registration. There were 256 pre-registered, 48 on-site registrations and a grand total of 304 registered participants. Jean presented current Ontario South Assembly treasury report on screen. Jean shared that the donation form is now posted on the Ontario South website and gave an overview on how to fill out forms with regards to group numbers and such. All donation and registration forms state: "make all cheques payable to *Ontario South Assembly*". Amendment to Profit & Loss statement: date should read July 31, 2006. Details of the prudent reserve process was shared. Revised 2006 Trillium report was presented on screen.

Trillium 2007 Chairperson – Margery K (report in package)

Convention date June 22,23,24, 2007. Early bird information and registration forms were made available at Assembly. Trillium committee has a challenge to each district. Try to come up with one name with contact information for a speaker for Trillium. The idea behind this challenge is to encourage districts to come out to Trillium to support the "hometown" member. Theme "Celebrating Our Recovery 50/15", more information will follow. Dance and gift baskets will be part of the celebration.

Literature Distribution Centre – Gail C. & Lyn S. (report in package)

Gail introduced board members. LDC office closure will be December 22, 2006 to January 03, 2007. Assembly congratulated Lynn on her 25 years of service to the LDC. WSO summaries are available through LDC with no postage costs.

Alateen – Kristine B. (report in package)

Kristine shared quote from Courage to Change, March 01, page 61. Theme of workshop held in September was Alateen In Your Heart. Pink heart project information was shared.

Alateen Unity Liaison – Shireen M. – unable to attend (report in package)

AAPP – Matthew H. (report in package)

Matthew spoke with lawyer regarding police records checks. Each municipality treats records checks differently. First, for those who have not passed their check, there is the process of procuring a pardon. Secondly, Matthew shared information with regards to a vulnerable person check. For re-imburement of the cost of a check, send receipt to Jean

B. OSA Treasurer. Matthew would like to further discuss re-certification process with Executive and AWSC.

Archives – Mary Jane McK. (report to be picked up from table at back)

Two projects are on the go. First, research on how best to digitally re-store records and secondly, how best to preserve Lois's belongings. Feel free to pick up a group history outline. Other handouts were made available at back table to assist in information retrieval and group projects for archives.

Group Records – Darlene K. (report in package)

Currently have 367 groups in the area, including 12 Alateen groups. Darlene shared the process of group records flow of information and background on current mailing address. Feel free to peruse display. Darlene needs district number on your correspondence. Group record change form is available on line through our website.

Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Meeting reconvened with Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

MOTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:

Motion #1 - The 2007 Budget. Jean B. talked to the motion. She then presented the budget. Discussion ensued.

Motion # 1 was moved by Jean B. Treasurer 'that 2007 proposed budget be approved'. Tom C. District #1 Seconded the motion. Vote was called. Motion was carried.

Discussion Item # 1 – Establishment of an Area Alateen Committee

Joan R. (advisor) was asked to read background information to discussion item #1. Mary Ellen B. Dist.#32 and Pat P. Dist. #7 agreed to be note takers. Discussion opened to the floor.

Note-takers' synopsis on discussion item #1: *Should Ontario South proceed with the formal establishment of an Area Alateen Committee/Council?*

Role of the former Alateen Unity Executive Committee was to act as a clearinghouse for complaints within Alateen and to plan the Alateen Unity Conference through their own fundraising. They wrote their own charter but have not brought it to Assembly for a vote. (To guide them in their activities and plan to report to Assembly) Past concerns from some AI-Anon members regarding the lack of adult guidance and managing as it relates to: large amounts of money in budget. (Many donations from members privately as well as fundraisers) Billeting being done for Alateens attending Unity. (Presumably the legal and safety concerns. Alateens were much stronger when they accomplished this in the past. We are just re-establishing Alateens and need to get Alateen strong again prior to starting up a committee again. "Walk before we can run". Only able to have three or four Alateens present at Assembly this year, thus would we be realistic in thinking there

would be enough Alateen ready to do the service tasks. Meanwhile, Alateen could be a strong part of Trillium Convention. Past Delegate, Gail C., found at World Service Conference, that other Delegates do not have this level of service by Alateens alone in their areas. Their Alateens are involved, in conjunction with Al-Anon at conventions under the guidance of the adults. Also noted, was that other World Service attendees were representing areas that had already long established Basic Safety Requirements. Alateen could be represented in Ontario South as a part of our Ontario South Executive Committee. Alateen would have a voice with Al-Anon members, at least one voice and perhaps an alternate. How will this person hear concerns of other Alateen groups? This link between Al-Anon/Alateen on Executive would create accountability and communication. Former Alateens stated that Alateen Unity Executive Committee involvement taught them responsibility and organization skills. Growth through service. Double headed management is a concern. If any motion is put forward as a result of this discussion – we should include the following: There must be a minimum number of active Alateen members on the committee to proceed. An idea put forth is to ask the existing Ontario South Executive to appoint a committee of people who were past coordinators, former Unity members and active Al-Anon members to get together and make a plan for a committee and report to Assembly next year. (NOTE: Synopsis was not read to Assembly, since motions were brought forward to Chairperson prior to completion of the synopsis by the note-takers.)

Break 4:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Reconvened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Changes to the agenda were presented to the Assembly, in light of the time taken for Discussion Item #1. Remaining Coordinators' Reports will be deferred to Sunday Morning.

Three motions related to the Discussion Item were received by the Chairperson. Advisors agreed to meet with members who put forth motions to discuss if the three motions could be combined into one.

While this was being done, Assembly proceeded with next Discussion Item.

Discussion Item # 2 – Scheduling of Trillium 2008

Claire D. (Alt. Delegate) was asked to read the background information to discussion item #2. Jean McS. Dist. #28 and Sheila R. Dist.#1 agreed to be note takers. Discussion opened to the floor.

Note takers synopsis of discussion item # 2. *Should Ontario South Assembly modify its current plans for holding a 3-day Trillium Convention in June 2008, due to the proximity (distance & timing) of the Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention in Pittsburgh, PA?*

Observation from informal survey was just as many members want to go to Trillium 2008 as to go to the International Convention. Very few members plan on going to both. We need to keep in mind that our Alateens may have problems going to the United States because of border concerns and child safety concerns. (Will a SAM be able to get a child

that is not his/her child across the border without tons of paperwork?) We should not abandon our Alateen members by not offering Trillium for them.

Diner 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Reconvened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Motion #2 on Alateen discussion was moved by Jane McF district #28 that “the former Alateen Unity Committee charter be used as the guideline to establish an Alateen Advisory Committee with an OSA Executive Committee liaison”. Patty W seconded the motion. Discussion opened to floor. Vote was called. Motion carried. Five opposed.

Motion #3 on Alateen discussion was moved by Diane T district #2 that “the current Alateen liaison be appointed as “Interim Chair” of the Alateen Advisory Committee”. Patty W seconded the motion. Discussion opened to floor. Vote was called. Motion carried.

Discussion Item #2 did not lead to any motions for changing the status quo. Trillium Convention will proceed as planned in June 2008.

Meeting closed at 7:30 p.m. with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration and the Serenity Prayer.

WORKSHOPS:

1) Intro to WSO & OSA Web Sites (Kathy T. & Don C.)

A humorous skit was performed by Don and Kathy. A demonstration of how to get into the website and the various links was presented. Don will be using the feedback that he receives from the surveys that are in the assembly package to make the site more accessible and user friendly. Step One, “admitted we were powerless over computers and that our lives had become unmanageable”.

2) Al-Anon Mythbusters (Sandy M.)

A very humorous workshop. Came away with a better understanding of anonymity for everyone and how to reference the manual.

3) Growing Alateen (Kristine B., Helen N., Dawn Maire, Leslie P.)

Shared and encouraged members to use the “Alateen In Your Heart” project. Had a breakout session where main group was split into three groups and the groups were asked three questions. All returned to one group and the feedback was shared.

Evening Entertainment (as organized by Host Committee)

Meetings:

1) Ask it Basket committee 2) Alt. Delegate with Coordinators

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22, 2006

Meeting opened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Jo-Anne G. the OSA Executive chairperson made a couple of Assembly announcements. Explained the Executive role and asked those in service to explore Tradition 2, Concept One and Concept Nine.

Bob T., Trillium 2008 chairperson extended an invitation to anyone who would like to join in and serve on the 2008 committee.

Dorothy MacL. made final Host Committee Announcements. Dorothy introduced and thanked the host committee.

REPORTS: (cont'd)

Literature – Penny F. (report in package)

WSO is planning Courage to Change CD rom available by December. Penny asked for sharings on how groups use their literature.

Open Lines – Martie B. (report in package)

Gentle reminder that the cost for Open Lines is \$4.50 for one year or \$8.00 for two years. When sending in an event to be published, please supply contact number, start and finish date of event.

Public Outreach – Kathy T. (report in package)

Referral pads are in second printing. Public Outreach Forum is into the second printing. WSO is hosting a luncheon for national organizations and government officials. A Proclamation will be read in Canadian parliament to congratulate Al-Anon for our 55th anniversary. Al-Anon will be represented by three WSO staff members, our Canadian Trustees and Executive Committee members. Al-Anon has been invited to the Toronto School Board.

Website – Don C. (report in package)

Thanked members for opportunity to serve. Received many valuable suggestions and ideas on how to improve the site. (Search engine) If you want to Google on Al-Anon, we are the second web site.

Ask-it-Basket Answers:

Questions shared with Assembly members. (1) “To become a S.A.M. along with the P.R.C., do you also need to have attended an Alateen workshop?” Answer: No, this is not

an Ontario South guideline. (2) “Is the RSS something our DR needs to attend for his/her journey as the DR of the district? Is it the responsibility of the GRs to pay for the DR to attend a RSS, or is it the sole responsibility of the DR to pay their own way when it is in another part of the country or U.S.? Are we restricted to local/regional for RSS?”

Answer: No, they do not need to attend. This is District autonomy, if funds are available.

(3) “How do we advertise the meetings without breaking anonymity? Some people are concerned about advertising addresses of meetings.” Answer: We are not breaking anonymity. Public Outreach is advertising where and when meetings are held. If you feel more comfortable in a small town just use Al-Anon meeting and phone number. *All other questions and answers will be published in Open Lines.*

Delegate’s Update: (report in package)

Joan P. thanked the host committee. She also thanked those groups who send in their district minutes. The 2007 WSC will be held April 22-26, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Virginia Beach. The 2007 Regional Service Seminar will be held in Sault Ste Marie on August 17-19, 2007. Come support Jo-Anne L. our Trustee who will be chairing the event. The 2008 International Al-Anon Convention will be held the July 4th weekend in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2010 A.A. International Convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas on the July 4th weekend. The 2013 International Al-Anon Convention is looking for an Area to submit a bid. If anyone is interested, Joan has the forms.

Open Mic: The floor was opened for those who wished to share with the Assembly.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer - Followed by a speaker meeting on “A Spiritual Journey”. Chaired by Karen P., Speaker Pierrette V.

THANK YOU for your participation.....

See you next year in London.

October 20, 21, 22, 2007 at the Four Points Hotel in London Ontario