

**Assembly
October 25, 26 & 27, 2014**

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AI-ANON ACRONYMS

A.A.	Alcoholics Anonymous
ADR	Alternate District Representative
AFG	AI-Anon Family Groups
AGR	Alternate Group Representative
AIS	AI-Anon Information Service
AAPP	Area Alateen Process Person
AWSC	Area World Service Conference – Annual meeting of OSA Executive, DR’s, Coordinators, Trustees, AIS Chairs, Literature Office Committee (LOC), Alateen Advisory Committee and Trillium Chairpersons
CAL	Conference Approved Literature
CMA	Current Mailing Address
DR	District Representative
GR	Group Representative
ID#	Number assigned to every group when it registers with WSO Example: Area # 086 District # (1-32) Group ID# (8 digit number)
LDC	Literature Distribution Centre
LOC	Literature Office Committee
NPIC	National Public Information Centre
OSA	Ontario South Assembly (Area 86)
OSAAC	Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee
PRC	Police Records Check
REP	Representative
SAM	Supportive AI-Anon Member
TEAM	Together Empowering AI-Anon Members (Event in partnership between an Area & the WSO for members to learn more about service)
WSC	World Service Conference (Annual meeting of all Delegates in North America)
WSO	World Service Office – Virginia Beach, Virginia

AI-ANON TERMS

AREA MANUAL - Ontario South Assembly Policy & Procedures Manual

ASSEMBLY- annual meeting of Al-Anon/Alateen members from groups in Ontario South including: Executive; Advisors; Coordinators; AIS Chairs, Alateen Advisory Committee and Trillium Chairpersons; Literature Office Committee; Trustees; DR's; ADR's; GR's; AGR's and any Al-Anon/Alateen member that chooses to attend.

ELECTION YEAR ASSEMBLY - the year when new Executive members are voted in for a three-year term. (2014 is an election year)

EXECUTIVE - members of the Area Executive Committee are Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and two Advisors. The term 'Executive' may also refer to the Committee of which they all are a part.

EXECUTIVE HANDOVER MEETING - a meeting of the newly elected Executive members and the past Executive members held in the January after an election assembly.

MAILING PACKAGE AWSC - information that is mailed, by the Executive, to members of AWSC prior to the annual AWSC meeting

MAILING PACKAGE ASSEMBLY - information that is mailed, by the Executive, to District Representatives for distribution to Group Representatives prior to Assembly

OPEN LINES - Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

PO - Public Outreach

POLICIES & GUIDELINES MANUAL - a manual, compiled by and maintained by the OSA Policies & Guidelines Manual Committee for OSA members

REGISTRATION PACKAGE - information given to attendees at AWSC and Assembly at time of registration

SERVICE MANUAL - Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual published by the WSO.

TRILLIUM - Ontario South Assembly Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups Annual Convention

UNITY - OSAAC Annual Alateen/Al-Anon Conference

(Updated August 2014)

COMMONLY USED WEB SITES

ONTARIO SOUTH www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE www.al-anon.org/members

(Updated August 2014)

THE 3 “C”S OF SERVICE

* * * * *

1ST YEAR – CONFUSED

2ND YEAR – COMFORTABLE

3RD YEAR – CAPABLE

(And then we're out!)

Alateen

Congratulations to District 1 Muskoka for hosting our Area Alateen Unity Conference in June. The combination of District 1 Al-Anon Day and Alateen Unity brought together the best of our inspiring program. The day was a complete success with Alateen coming together for fellowship, program, great food and entertainment. There were 34 Alateen members 88 adults which included 24 Alateen sponsors from 7 different Districts. The AAPP Coordinator conducted a workshop on becoming an Alateen Sponsor and 2 Al-Anon members are now becoming Alateen sponsors, with a new Alateen Group not far behind.

Thank you to all of the Al-Anon/Alateen groups and individuals who generously donated their time and money to the Alateen Unity Conference. A Special THANK YOU to all members of the TAG Alateen Group, their sponsors and friends who cut out hundreds of Alateen Hug Scarves. To the members who travelled miles to sell Hug Scarves in support of Area Alateen Unity. To every member who bought scarves often in each color!! They raised over 900.00. Alateen Unity needed your support and you were there. Hug scarves have been popping up in other Areas of North America with the same excitement generated here, in support of Alateen.

I travelled to a few Districts sharing how, when and where to start an Alateen Group. One thing is certain to me; the interest to strengthen and provide support to teens affected by someone else's drinking is growing in Ontario South. The difficult part seems to be that Alateen Groups are scattered far and wide in Ontario South, so Alateen continues to struggle. There are only 35 Alateen Groups in our whole Area. Just for an **example**: District 1 Muskoka includes Barrie north to Orillia, Parry Sound, Huntsville, Bracebridge and south west to Wasaga Beach. The District has 2 Alateen groups open at this time. TAG Alateen in Barrie and Wasaga Beach Alateen. Consider a teen in need of an Alateen meeting in any other town or city in the District. Teens definitely need transportation to and from, there may be no driver available in an alcoholic family, and sometimes simply there is NO vehicle. Many towns have no bus service or transportation to the next town or city. These teens are in deep distress. Teachers, councillors, police services and members of the clergy have contacted me this year from all over Ontario South looking for an Alateen group. Most of those calls came from towns or cities where NO Alateen meeting exists.

Alateen continues to need Ontario South Al-Anon support in order to carry the message of hope to teens. WSO Service manual (in part)*where there are no Alateen meetings available, young people are encouraged to attend Al-Anon meetings.* (pages 81 and 89 address Al-Anon and Alateen policies)

I have been incredibly blessed to have been Area Alateen Coordinator over the past 3 years. I have been a part of an Alateen program filled with miracles, where I certainly never expected them. There are those among us who will understand when I say there is nothing magic about Alateen, it has been and will continue to be Higher Powered!

My husband and I are retiring as of November 1st, heading to our new Florida home, expecting our new grandchild around Christmas, and I have found an Alateen Group on Tuesday nights in my new winter hometown. Florida South is willing to have me certified as an Alateen Sponsor as soon as I move in. Thank you to our Delegate Jane for asking me and trusting me to be of service to Area Alateen. I am grateful to Leslie P. past Area Alateen Coordinator and good friend, who calmly guided me through this part of my journey in Al-Anon/Alateen service.

Alateen Rocks!!!

Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC)

OSAAC had two very successful events this year. One was the Ontario Regional Conference (ORC) in Toronto, an AA conference with Al-Anon and Alateen participation. The Alateen had an incredible turnout of support, with Alateen from Ontario, Quebec and USA in attendance. The AA committee was committed to Alateen and provided them with room nights, food and a budget for their conference needs. Thank you to all the SAM, Alateen sponsors for your love & support.

Alateen Unity Conference in June hosted by TAG Alateen of Barrie was also a great time for Ontario South Alateen to meet each other, share program, enjoy some outdoor activities, dance and pretty much eat all day. Alateen love all these activities!

At this Assembly, OSAAC executive will be looking to vote in a new executive. Robyn W. our OSAAC chair will have completed her term. Ruth T was to become the new chair but we are not certain that will happen. Listed here are OSAAC positions available and ready to fill. Chairperson, co-chair, secretary, newsletter editor. There are also positions available for an Alateen Road Show team. There is a need for an Al-Anon Advisor (or 2). These advisors need to be currently certified with OSA. The position is usually a 1 year term. The OSAAC executive was designed in the OSA Alateen charter to function as our OSA Al-Anon Executive does. While this seems practical on paper it has been extremely difficult to function in this way, at least it has in the past few years. A small number of Alateen are situated all over Ontario South, getting them together in one location to plan OSAAC events and keep Alateen connected can be a difficult task. This can also be expensive for OSAAC. Presently many of our Alateens are under the age of 18. It is more likely many OSAAC members will need transportation to get to and from meetings taking place in various locations in Ontario South. Just like the OSA executive, OSAAC executive positions require some work. OSAAC positions can require some organizational skills, a computer, the internet, writing reports, sending submissions to Open Lines (3times a year), and give verbal reports while attending AWSC and Assembly and OSAAC planning meetings. Ontario South Assembly pays the expenses only for the OSAAC Chairperson to certain events. All other committee members' expenses are paid by OSAAC. Fundraising and donations to OSAAC are important in order for OSAAC to operate as suggested in the charter. In 2014 OSAAC meetings were held at ORC (Toronto), Unity Conference (Barrie) and one is scheduled for Assembly (Toronto) this fall. OSAAC used to have the most productive planning meeting at The Trillium Convention. OSAAC looks forward to adding new faces and new ideas in the coming year.

Alateen Rocks!

OSAAC Financial Report from Assembly 2013 to Sept 2014

Balance: Sept 30 2013		3,576.95
Bank fees: Oct 2013-Sept 2014	-29.25	
Dec 11 2013 (Robyn W. OSAAC Co-Chair expense to Windsor Assembly) (OSA pays for OSAAC Chairperson)	-301.13	
Feb. 04 2014, Donation: Keep It Simple AFG.		+100.00
Feb. 11 2014 to Staples (Printing of Unity Flyers, with Alateen medical & permission forms Section 10 Forms A&B)	-68.93	
Feb 27 2014, Tag Alateen proceeds from sale of HUG scarves From the Bradford Roundup		+220.00
OSAAC expenses Apr-May 2014 (Wendy L & Olga covered Blossom time expense 184.84) (Alateen Public Outreach literature 114.30)	-299.13	
Alateen Unity Convention June 2014	-2623.71	+3558.35
August 2014 Donation Let It Begin with Me AFG. Dist23 Oshawa	+65.00	
Balance Sept 2014		4198.15

Note: Alateen Unity Convention resulted in a positive Position of + 934.64, due to TAG Alateen Hug scarf sales, registration and generous donations from Al-Anon & Alateen groups.

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)

Hello, Everyone! It's hard for me to believe that the third and final year of my term as AAPP is almost complete! What a truly wonderful experience it has been.

Ontario South presently has 163 Supportive Al-Anon Members (SAM's) compared to 154 in 2013 (an increase of 6%) and 35 registered Alateen Groups which is unchanged from 2013. My most sincere thanks to everyone who helped us complete the 2014 re-certification process within the World Service Office (WSO) time frame.

One of the most exciting changes that has taken place during my term as AAPP has been the evolution of the "WSO Alateen On-Line Group Records for SAM's and Alateen Groups". The AAPP, Area Alateen Coordinator and Area Delegate can now view all Area SAM and Group information. The Area Group Records Coordinator can view the Area Alateen Group information. District Representatives can view the SAM's and Groups in their own district only. The AAPP can now update SAM and Group information on-line. The annual WSO SAM re-certification process is now paperless. It has been an amazing experience to be part of this transformation from 2012 to 2014.

At this time, I am filled with gratitude for everyone at the Member, Group, District and Area level who contributed to making Alateen Groups safe in Ontario South. You have helped us to meet the WSO requirements within the specified time frames. The ongoing guidance and support we received from WSO Group Records has been invaluable.

Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity to serve Ontario South Alateen.

Archives

Here we are, the last Assembly of this term.

You will notice that the Archives display at the back of the room looks a bit different than Assemblies in the past. Instead of all the district binders, there is the "In Loving Memory" board. Please feel free to add to it! You will notice

there are the member's name, the group they attended and the district they came from. There are plenty of post it notes and two pens that can be used to pass that information along by simply posting the note to the board.

There is the binder with longtime member interviews and written memories of those members who are no longer with us. It is never too late to add a sharing or pick up the phone and ask a longtime member to share their story with you.

This weekend, I will not be asking you all to update your group history, or ask you to invite me to your district Al-Anon Day to do a workshop. I will leave the inviting up to the new incoming District Representatives so that you can get to know your new incoming Archivist and all that your Area Archives has to offer. As yet, no one has been appointed. So I ask if you have had that nudge, that whisper in your ear, to take the leap and talk with our Delegate. There is a saying that some of you may have heard out there. "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"

For me, each service position that I have held has had many rewards and growth in ways that seem immeasurable at times. The same I wish for my successor. My work here is done and I bid you all a fond farewell. As always, sending you all love and (hugs) in Service.

Forum

Welcome to our 2014 Assembly, the last one of our current service term. If you are an outgoing GR hopefully you have become confident and capable in your role as your Group's Forum Coordinator, and if your term is just starting let me introduce you to one of your duties as Group Representative.

The updated *Al-Anon guidelines*- Group Representative G-11 - under duties states: Encourages members to subscribe to and submit articles for The Forum, Al-Anon's monthly magazine.

In our Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017 under Duties of Assembly Members – Group Representative Pg. 156 - The GR and *The Forum* states: The GR is also The Forum representative. So we are definitely inspired to make it a part of our meetings and our recovery.

The Forum celebrates its 60th year of publication this year. To me this shows evidence of what a consistent part *The Forum* plays in our Al-Anon Family Groups. It's been around a lot longer than I have. 😊

The Forum has been a valuable part of my recovery. It's a portable way to take "Al-Anon" with me and have the voice of others available to me at any time through print. And this year it has become available electronically as well as in its paper format. Each group receives a complimentary monthly copy from the WSO. We are encouraged to obtain our own personal subscription as well as submit articles for potential publication. This is our magazine!

In this year's 54th Annual World Service Conference Summary there is an over two page comprehensive report on the value, effectiveness and challenges of *The Forum*. The highlights of the good news about *The Forum* are; there is STRONG reader interest, it reaches deeply into our fellowship and readers tend to be more engaged in service. However, the suggestion is that it only reaches about 12 percent of our fellowship. We can do our part to make it more visible and more utilized.

I thank all of our members for your support encouragement and the opportunity to serve our Area this term. It has been an honour, joy and privilege to serve Ontario South and I sincerely appreciate how blessed we are with such passionate people who are willing to share their journey. I will treasure this part of my personal path of recovery.

Group Records

I cannot believe that it is time for Assembly already. The change in the colors around us indicate the changes that will be happening in our lives. This assembly we will be electing new Ontario South executives and choosing new Coordinators for the next 3 year term.

I have learned so much over the last 3 years that I have been the Group Records Coordinator and I encourage all of you to consider moving up to a service position for Ontario South. There have been challenges of course and computer maintenance that was necessary, however, through these

challenges I have never been alone. I have always had support and assistance when needed.

During the last few days I have processed 36 changes for groups and I hope all groups will have up to date lists ready for Assembly. I have processed new group registrations and some groups that have unfortunately disbanded, GR changes plus so much more. I also receive emails from people who are looking for a meeting to attend for the first time, plus of course the odd junk mail.

Thank you, everyone for the support I have needed and felt throughout my term. I look forward to seeing you at the Assembly in October.

Literature

Hello Executive, Coordinators, District Reps, and friends:

Here's the latest update of literature news:

Revised Literature: The latest printing of *Why Anonymity in Al-Anon?* (P-33) is a major revision of the pamphlet that covers many aspects of this topic, including anonymity on the Internet and as an important spiritual principle that we place above personalities. It remains eight pages long and can be purchased from our Literature Distribution Centre

Explaining Why We Only Use CAL in Meetings: Did you know that *Why Conference Approved Literature?* (P-35) is also available as a free download on the Al-Anon Online Store and the Members' site? Pass this link on to those who ask "Why CAL?": <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/P35.pdf>

New Daily Reader: A writing guideline for the new daily reader is planned to be included as an insert in the November issue of *The Forum*. In the meantime, a pre-designed Word document version of the guideline is posted in the Resource Library section of this e-Community. Please distribute this throughout your Area!

Sharing's are still Needed for

“CAL Corner”

From parents and grandparents of young problem drinkers

Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships

Have a Great Assembly Experience!

Open Lines

Hi all, if you don't know by now I am Sharon your Open Lines Coordinator and a grateful member of the Southend Discussion AFG in Niagara Falls.

I reflect back on all the changes Open Lines has gone through in the last 6 years and am totally amazed at what we all have accomplished together.

Open Lines has gone electronic and the savings realized are large.

At AWSC it was decided to publish Open Lines 3 times a year and that schedule will be realized with the next coordinator.

Talk to the delegate has been introduced and is receiving good reviews.

There is a lot more light heartedness to the report only type Open Lines we had originally.

As my 2nd term as Open Lines Coordinator draws to a close I reflect on what this service position has taught me.

It has truly enhanced my computer skills.

I have learned to reach out for new ideas and to implement and if they fail to keep going forward (sounds like a life lesson to me).

I have learned patience.

I have learned that if others cannot meet deadlines it is not my problem.

I have truly learned to let go of situations beyond my control.

I have learned that my opinion matters and if I make suggestions that they are heard and that others truly care. I have learned to listen and learn.

As I move forward in my program I thank each and every one of you for making the last 6 years a safe and fun place and time to grow.

Public Outreach

I stepped into this service position in late 2013 to fill a vacancy. Key tools in this position are the reports sent by the various districts regarding their local activities, and thanks to all of you who sent those in, maintaining the email account alanonpublicoutreach@yahoo.ca, and communication with World Service Organization (WSO), through email, conference call and the online e-communities.

I admittedly did not pursue any active projects this year, though did respond to requests. I travelled to Barry's Bay (200 km west of Ottawa) to participate in a public outreach to professionals evening organized by the local AA's. The professionals who attended greatly appreciated the presentations by me and the AA public outreach representative. They were grateful for the literature (provided by local Al-Anon groups) and the opportunity to have a conversation about the Al-Anon and AA programs

As part of National Recovery Day in September, Canadian cities hosted various events, including Ottawa and Toronto. Districts may want to mark September 2015 as National Recovery Day and see what is happening in your local communities.

The WSO emailed in late August when they heard about the event and provided this explanation: *“Although Al-Anon does not endorse or affiliate with outside entities, Al-Anon can cooperate with them by providing information about our program. The WSO is making this information available to support and encourage members’ efforts to inform more families and friends of alcoholics about Al-Anon and Alateen.”*

Here is a sampling of activities and ideas for public outreach across our District:

Literature packages for churches, medical clinics and local organizations, literature displays at AA events (D 31)

Pizza night (Alateen), donations of literature for Al-Anon Day and to Alateen groups, participation in AA Cooperation with Professionals event, pamphlets in hospitals and shopping centres, spaghetti dinner fundraiser, donations of books to schools and advertising in post-secondary intuitions (D23)

Bus ads, including a new Alateen ad, in local transit, participation in post-secondary service fairs and speakers at addiction awareness events, tabling at community and workplace events, weekly speaker at rehab program, literature displays at AA events, participation in Recovery Day Ottawa (see above) generated requests from 25 community organizations for literature about Al-Anon, as well as some requests for speakers. (D28)

Check out [Open Lines](#) August 2014 for a fun word search that will give you some other public outreach ideas and resources.

My term ends at the end of this year. I hope some of you will consider serving in public outreach whether with your group, at your District or at our Area level.

Website

Hi Ontario South☺

I cannot believe that this is almost the end of our service term. I've learned a lot about myself and others and will never forget the experiences I've had over the past 5 ½ years. Thank you to all the members who have encouraged and supported me throughout this process. I hope that whoever takes on the Website Coordinator position will experience as much growth as I have felt.

Now for the business part of the Website. The website has been doing extremely good in the past couple of months. In the month of August the visitors amount have gone up almost 600 visitors. An amount of 5658 was

reported for that month. I will have an update at Assembly with the figures for September and maybe a glimpse of what October might look like. Most of the visits are the meeting lists, events, contact us info and Openlines. Please keep sending your events/celebrations. It is always good to celebrate within the AI-Anon fellowship.

Lastly, if you feel the service nudge and have a passion for AI-Anon and want to give back what has been given to you, it is a wonderful growth experience. At Assembly keep an open-mind with what you might be pulled towards.

Participation is the key to harmony. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Assembly.

Literature Distribution Centre (LDC)

The LDC serves groups and members in Ontario South receive AI-Anon Conference Approved literature in a timely manner – usually within a week. By ordering from the local LDC, the World Service Office is able to keep the literature costs down by shipping in bulk to area LDCs rather than sending many small orders to individual groups.

Financial:

The U.S. exchange rate has averaged 9.67% this year, this is an increase of 6.91% from 2013. As a result, literature costs have increased and we are currently operating at a slight loss.

Office staff and volunteers: At this time we have 1 volunteer who comes one day a week and 1 full-time employee.

Literature

Please remember: when you receive a notice regarding a new item from World Service Office, the price is quoted in U.S. dollars, the item is available at the LDC. Please contact the LDC by phone, email or the order form on the LDC website for the Canadian price. The latest Literature order form is dated

080114. This is available on the Ontario South website. Click on Literature, and scroll down to the desired format. Also available is a listing of all downloadable pamphlets available from World Service office.

We try to process and ship the orders as soon as we receive the payment for them. If items are out of stock, we will ship the items we do have and backorder the out of stock items. The backordered items are shipped as soon as we receive them. Thank you for your patience and understanding when an order is delayed.

If there is a difference in the payment and the cost of the order, we will adjust the order to reflect the amount received. This simplifies the bookkeeping process. To assist us in completing your order please enter your group ID and district number on the order, this goes a long way to help the procedures to run smoothly.

Normally it takes 1-3 days for an order to be delivered from the office. If you have not received your order within 2 weeks of sending your order, please contact us.

To speed the processing system many groups are paying for their orders with email bank transfers. This is a simple process available to all that have online banking. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Groups can save money by:

- Combining One Day at a Time (B-6) and Courage to Change B-16) as a B-18. This results in a savings of \$2.30 per set.
- Purchase 24 or more books of the same title at one time and receive a 15% discount this includes purchasing Reaching for Personal freedom (P-92)..
- Consider ordering literature with a neighbouring group or as a district and receive reduced shipping costs.

Consignment Orders: These are available for special events such as Al-Anon Days, Round-up, and Conferences. We need at least 6 weeks notice prior to the event to process the orders. Contact us for the details.

Speaker List: We try to maintain a list of members who have expressed a willingness to speak. Currently we are updating the information about the

speakers as often people move, phone numbers change etc. If you have gifted persons in your group willing to speak, please complete the questionnaire and send it to me. Families are always needed.

Flyers and Registrations: If you have flyer for Conventions or Al-Anon days, we will gladly include them in the outgoing shipments for you.