

## AIS

### **AI-Anon Information Service Ottawa**

AIS Ottawa has had a busy year. Our core public outreach activities (the ones we support on a continuing basis) include maintaining a monthly speaker series at the Royal Ottawa Hospital, a telephone answering service, an area website and providing space and literature for a weekly open speaker meeting at McNabb. Other projects included redesigning our website, outreach events at Rideau high school and Recovery Day Ottawa, running bus ads, developing an AI Anon business card outreach tool, an AIteen poster and bookmark, and improving the meeting list.

For literature we supply our weekly open meeting with literature and meeting lists and have copies of daily readers and How AI-Anon works for sale. We maintain a display board and stand-up banner for use at outreach events and local AA conferences and our AI-Anon day. The new business cards were popular this year. We continue to distribute our business card outreach tool and have created an AIteen focussed bookmark for outreach purposes.

The website redesign went live in June 2016. It features a meeting list section which is sortable and linked to googlemaps and two printable meeting list formats, an AIteen section, and a service section so members can locate how to provide service to AI-Anon and AIteen. Information is being updated regularly.

Web enquiries are responded to or redirected to the AIS chair, District Representative or District Secretary for disbursing to all Groups. Questions about AI-Anon are handled with a letter outlining what AI-Anon is, what to expect at the first meeting and meeting types along with a meeting list. This past year there were 130+ emails with the bulk being from WSO and OSA. There has been a drop in requests for information from the general public about meetings (26) and from the professional community (3).

The telephone answering service (TAS) has been maintained throughout the year and we have succeeded in filling 4 open shifts in the telephone answering service this year. Call volumes are down from the early days when less was available on the internet.

We staffed a booth at Recovery Day Ottawa in September for the third year. It was a successful show, and well-attended. Traffic at the AI Anon booth was down from previous years as it was located in a new, more-private screened in area. We've requested this be reconsidered next year.

YouthNet at CHEO, a program for outpatient youth with mental illness, made contact last spring through the TAS and we supplied AIteen literature for their youth centre, but were unable to capitalize on their interest for training at the time. AIteen outreach has been affected by the difficulty of maintaining an AIteen meeting. The sole remaining English meeting was suspended in August due to a lack of SAMs, however a new AIteen meeting is starting in May. We developed an AIteen bookmark and poster to mirror the bus ads, but held production until AIteen meetings restarted.

We organized an outreach event at Rideau High school in November 2016. We coordinated with the Rideauwood counsellor at the school. Three members staffed a display table over the lunch hour where they spoke with students and handed out AIAnon literature. About 50 students/people stopped for information, and the new business cards were popular.

Our group experienced significant turnover in 2016 and continues to evolve. AIS Ottawa lost considerable institutional memory this fall when the Alternate District Rep, Chairperson, and Secretary stepped down and we are actively looking to fill those positions. We currently have a Treasurer, Web Site Coordinator, Web Mail Responder, Telephone Answering Service Coordinator, Royal Ottawa Coordinator, a new Literature Coordinator, a Meeting List Coordinator, and representation from several of the groups in district 28 at the table. The group has been graceful at supporting people's needs, and is a lovely place to learn to grow through service.

## **G.T.A.I.S.**

### **(GREATER TORONTO AL-ANON/ALATEEN INFORMATION SERVICES)**

The GTAIS committee meets once a month from September to June (excluding January unless warranted by upcoming event commitments). 'Greater Toronto' covers Districts 16 to 23 and represents approximately 100 groups.

The GTAIS committee has had a busy and productive year. Most of the Executive is new as of January, 2016 but we benefit from the guidance of the past Chair and other long serving committee members.

Public Outreach -GTAIS has a separate Public Outreach committee. The committee meets every two months on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the same location as the GTAIS committee meeting.

The committee, and its chairperson, Allison E., has been the driving force behind our very successful TTC Poster Campaign that showcases our new and striking Al-Anon poster. Through contract with Pattison Signs, we currently have a guaranteed distribution of 8 Al-Anon posters in 8 subway stations. In addition, there are 29 posters in circulation in trains and stations on a rotating basis depending on space availability.

Also through Pattison Signs, the Public Outreach committee has investigated an option to place digital poster ads in the elevators of residential buildings, and in a 7 story commercial building on Bay Street, to increase our poster coverage beyond the boundaries of the TTC. This initiative has the full and enthusiastic support of the entire GTAIS committee. However, for now, it is being reserved until the finances of Public Outreach, and of GTAIS in general, are in a healthier position.

The members of the Public Outreach committee have also been focusing on reaching out to schools and providing packages of Alateen literature and Alateen posters in an effort to encourage Alateen membership. This initiative will continue to the end of the school year, at which time the focus will turn to visits to Police Divisions during the summer months.

As with anything, it takes people and money to run an effective outreach campaign. As stated before, GTAIS covers eight Districts (16 to 23) and represents approximately 100 groups. The committee that

meets right now is small but mighty. Please help it grow by encouraging your groups to send a representative and help spread the message of Courage, Strength, and Hope.

And it cannot be said enough, please send your Public Outreach donations to:

GTAIS

P.O. Box 75094, 20 Bloor St. East, Toronto, ON M4W 3T3 (Make sure you note on your cheque 'For P.O.')

ORC 2017

ORC 2017 was held at the Royal York Hotel on the weekend of March 10, 11, and 12.

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The GTAIS committee is responsible for coordinating and staffing an Al-Anon Literature Table, the Al-Anon Hospitality Suite, and also for recruiting the Al-Anon Liaison and the Shadow Liaison for the conference each year.

Due to the closure of the Ontario South LDC at the end of 2016 we were required to place our ORC literature order directly with WSO in Virginia Beach. Tight finances being a challenge this year we placed a much smaller order than we would have normally done and the whole, expensive shipping process was certainly not without its glitches. However, there is always an upside and this year it's that we sold all but 10 of the books that had been ordered. All-in-all though, it was an experience that highlighted the need for our own area LDC and we're ecstatic to hear that it will be reopening.

We also hosted a popular and highly successful Hospitality Suite this year. Due to numerous and strategically placed posters reminding members of Al-Anon's 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, we ended the weekend with an extremely healthy 7<sup>th</sup> of \$510.40. That, combined with the generosity of groups that sent in contributions specifically earmarked for ORC and the help of individual members who donated food for the room, left us very close to the breakeven point for the first time in, well, certainly in our memories.

The committee would like to thank Greg M., Al-Anon Liaison to ORC 2017 and Wendy C.-L., Al-Anon Shadow Liaison for all of their work in making the Al-Anon/Alateen participation in ORC 2017 the tremendous success that it was. Wendy will be stepping into the position of Liaison to ORC 2018. The GTAIS committee is currently recruiting for a Shadow Liaison to ORC 2018 who will become the Al-Anon Liaison to ORC 2019.

Telephone Answering Service

Our TAS (Telephone Answering Service) is staffed by experienced Al-Anon members on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On the weekends,

a volunteer checks in and responds to any messages left. At any other time, the caller is invited to leave a message, and the call will be returned by the person on the next shift.

We are looking to include volunteers who speak additional languages, particularly Spanish or Polish.

Information Line at 416-410-3809 Outside GTA call 1-888-425-2666.

The TAS Coordinator also maintains the AI-Anon Meeting List for the GTA that can be found on the Ontario South AI-Anon/Alateen website. Updates to the GTA AI-Anon meeting list can be sent to the Coordinator at the following email address: [gtais.updates@gmail.com](mailto:gtais.updates@gmail.com)

GTAIS Outreach -Despite the Greater Toronto Area covering a large and populous region that plays host to around 100 AI-Anon groups, GTAIS encounters the same issues with attracting members to service on the committee as we've heard groups and districts talk about service in general in recent years. To address that, some committee members got together and created a document that we called, 'GTAIS and You'. Initially, we considered it something to be used as an outreach tool that would provide information about the committee to groups and members just within the GTA. Then we thought that it could make a good tool to help other districts that are struggling with starting their own AIS committees or attracting members to service.

So, with Assembly 2016 coming up, we decided to "go public" and present the document to the area. We were generously provided with a breakout room at Assembly where we met with Group Representatives, AIS Reps, and other interested parties to discuss the role of an AIS committee and brainstorm on ways to spark interest in this very valuable Service.

In addition, we decided to use the new AI-Anon poster as a talking point and 'visual aid' so we printed a batch of letter-sized copies and made these available to folks at Assembly. The response was overwhelming! So much so that we had the posters and 'GTAIS and You' document professionally printed and made them available at the Literature Table at ORC 2017.

Both of these documents are available in electronic form and can be obtained for use within the AI-Anon guidelines by groups inside and outside the Greater Toronto Area by emailing the GTAIS Chair at [chair.g.t.a.i.s@gmail.com](mailto:chair.g.t.a.i.s@gmail.com).

#### Google Groups

Yes, that's right, we have a Google Group. It's called AISTORONTO. Simply put, it's a group email distribution service provided by Google (of course) that gives us the ability to do mass e-mailings to anyone who is a subscriber to the group. So, for example, if your group has a flyer for an Anniversary that you would like distributed to AI-Anon members in the GTA you can email the flyer to

aistoronto@googlegroups.com and the Group Administrator, a member of the GTAIS committee, will distribute the flyer.

In closing, I would like to say, 'thank you' for the opportunity to report to AWSC and to learn more about the inner workings of Al-Anon.

Chair, GTAIS chair.g.t.a.i.s@gmail.com

Getting the message out, one pamphlet at a time.

### **Open Lines Coordinator Report for AWSC**

To all:

I have two reports, one about Open Lines activity and one outlining the position.

#### Activity

I like to think that Open Lines has improved since I have taken it on. It is now published three times per year: April 1, August 1 and December 1. The April issue was reports from all of the district reps and I think this is a good feature to continue in future years. It gives a district a chance to talk about their successes and challenges, report on Alateen and public outreach activity in the district, and outline where meetings are in the district. The response to the request was generally good and we had quite a number of people reporting. One of the complaints from some of the district reps were that they didn't have sufficient time or notice to consult with their GRs and prepare a response. That would be addressed if we made this a permanent feature of the newsletter. Reaction from the membership, executive and coordinators was overwhelmingly positive regarding this change. I only received one negative response from one of the membership stating that she prefers Open Lines to report exclusively on executive activity. I publish what the executive and membership want and am trying to keep the publication interesting to that group. However, if directed to, I will publish whatever the membership and executive wish.

August will be the AWSC issue and December will be the Assembly issue.

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Open Lines is now almost exclusively electronic. I have 6 subscriptions and the rest is electronic. I will send a copy to anyone that provides me with an email. We do have some issues with how the email list is generated, but hopefully by the end of term, Joan T and I can resolve those small issues.

#### Position

Publishing Open Lines three times a year is relatively easy, provided that you have a computer with Microsoft Publisher on the computer and any type of pdf converter software so you can convert pdfs to Word. Working in Word makes it much easier to work with Publisher software.

It does take some time to collect the reports and flyers for events throughout the year and lay them out in publisher prior to publishing the issue. The final issue is produced in pdf format since that is readable on any computer without the need for any special software. A web version is also created and sent to the Website coordinator for publishing on the web. All personal names are removed since this could affect someone's anonymity.

I maintain a list of paper subscribers on my own since it is much simpler to do so. The large electronic list is generated by the Group Records coordinator and provided to me prior to publish dates, which are April 1, August 1 and December 1.

There is a little freedom to make small changes to *Open Lines* on your own, the goal being to make the publication readable and interesting to the membership. Recently, I have made the April issue reports from District Reps and I think it is worthwhile to continue with this effort.

I have made it a rule to send electronic versions to anyone wishing to read *Open Lines*, although the only people that must get a copy are the executives, coordinators and District reps. In today's age of electronic communication and the need to widely communicate what is going on with the organization, I believe it is worthwhile to continue offering free electronic copies of *Open Lines*.

### **Archives Coordinator's Report AWSC 2017**

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I am happy to have this service position. I have had a lot of changes in my life and one of them has been an increase in travel with work. Therefore, I have not had much time to do anything with Archives. I have accepted that my role right now is to store the Archives and keep them safe. So far that is going good. The Archives are safe and sound and take up one of our bedrooms in our house. The Ontario South Archives has a lot of great things that have been collected and saved over the years. Below is a list of just some of the things that make up Ontario South Archives.

- District Binders that hold things that groups/districts have given to archives.
- All of the Trillium stuff
- Boxes of Old Forums
- Records of Area Minutes
- Personal Stories from Members
- Copies Past Open Lines

### **Alateen Coordinator's Report & OSSAC Report-AWSC 2017**

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Alateen has been struggling in Ontario South. Some of the struggles were communicated by the Alateens and I would like to share them with you.

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1. Alateens are finding it hard to find an Alateen personal sponsor because of the low attendance at their meetings. Some Alateens are the only Alateen attending their meeting. If an Alateen has a sponsor sometimes it is hard to connect with their sponsor because of the restrictions of being a teen and sometimes they are grounded off of their phones/computers etc.
2. Meetings are not close to where some of the Alateens live and have to rely on a drive to and from meetings. This contributes to low attendance because if they are unable to get a drive then they can't make their meetings.
3. Some meetings don't have an Al-Anon meeting at the same time and the parent does not want to wait in the car while the Alateen is in their meeting.
4. If there is an Alateen meeting in their city then it is usually once a week and if they miss that meeting then they don't have an option to attend an Alateen meeting on a different night. They wish there were more meetings available on different nights like Al-Anon has.

5. Most Alateens are aware that they can attend an Al-Anon meeting if they choose to but feel that they would relate more to teens than adults.
6. Most Alateens are aware of online Alateen meetings but feel that they miss out on the face-to-face experience and that the online meetings lack fellowship and hugs. They would prefer a face-to-face meeting.
7. Alateen groups with low attendance or intermittent attendance have a hard time being self-supporting and are afraid their meetings will close.
8. Some Alateens have a hard time purchasing literature because they don't have jobs and their parents won't give them money.

Now I will share some of the positives:

1. Those who attend meetings are so grateful to have them and the SAMs that make it possible.
2. The Alateens are grateful to the districts/groups that donate to their Alateen groups to make it possible for them to have a meeting until they can be fully self-supporting.
3. Alateens are grateful to the SAMs that drive them to events/meetings etc.
4. The Alateens love meeting at ORC and Trillium when it happens.
5. Alateens that were able to attend Unity when it was on are very grateful.
6. Some Alateens who were unable to buy literature for themselves have been given books by someone and are very grateful for the donation.

### **AAPP**

I am always grateful to be of service to Al-Anon and am often provided with opportunities to learn and grow.

Here is an outline of the responsibilities of the Area Alateen Processing Person (AAPP):

Each SAM (Supportive Al-Anon Member) must complete the application form which is signed by the District Representative and then submitted to AAPP. The form is completed at the initial set up and each year following. Each SAM is required to provide a Police Records Check (PRC) at the time that they are first signing up and during the 2nd year of the 3 year Area term. Everyone was required to provide a Police Records Check in 2016 and then it will be required again in 2019. The AAPP must receive original copies of the Police Records Check and forms.

The Renewal forms need to be sent to the AAPP by May 1st as World Service Office (WSO) requires all renewals prior to July 1 of each year. The renewal forms can be scanned and emailed.

The District Representatives (DR) should be provided with a list of the SAMs in their area to allow them to follow up with the individuals.

The AAPP person will review the documents and forward them to the Lawyer. There is an Excel website which is updated and a number is assigned to each application. There is a Cover Sheet which is sent with the applications and PRCs to the lawyer.

Once the lawyer has reviewed the PRC's, they will confirm acceptance of the SAM.

The AAPP will then update the WSO website and WSO will provide a registration number. Once this is received, the DR should be advised that the SAM has been accepted. The lawyer will send an invoice which will need to be forwarded to the Area Treasurer for payment. This acceptance and invoice have been sent via email.

The AAPP will provide a list of registered SAMs for any event that is held in the area. This report is pulled from the WSO site.

AAPP is also responsible for updating the Alateen Group information on the WSO website.

The busiest time for this position is the second year as all SAMs are required to provide the Police Records Check. The Area Chairperson is able provide letters for the Police departments upon request. They will require the full name and address.

### **OSAAC Finances:**

The bank balance \$5,046.49. It is a no fee account. (no debits or credits in 2016 or 201

### **LDC Report**

Hi Ontario South members. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Linda Pipher and I have been offered the opportunity to serve Ontario South as your new literature distribution centre manager.

I have been a member of Al-Anon Family groups which includes Alateen for 34 years. Over the years I have had the privilege to serve in different groups and districts in many positions including GR, DR, Alateen Unity executive Chair, Alateen sponsor and on committees for conferences and events.

Service has helped me to grow in ways I never would have dreamed possible coming through the doors battered and feeling unworthy of life.

I feel I was guided by my Higher Power to apply for this position to serve in yet another way, to give back to the program that has held me up in all of life's struggles and blessings over the years. I am working with the LOC to get the office up and running so that your groups will have a direct means to getting literature again.

I am looking forward to this new adventure. I have been blessed to see the LDC in action in the past both when it was in an office building at Yonge and Eglinton and when it was housed by Lyn. I thank Ann for the work she has done since then and trust the experience of seeing them all in action will help to guide me in this journey.

Thank you Ontario South for your allowing me to serve you.

### **Literature Coordinator's Report**

*WSO is still accepting written sharings for a new daily reader, Intimacy in alcoholic relationships, and Parents and Grandparents of young problem drinkers. Your story is essential for the recovery of others and can aid in your own recovery process and is truly anonymous.*

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***Here are three projects currently on the go.***

***NEW DAILY READER (working title)*** "Your sharing will help assure that our new daily reader will reflect our fellowship as it is today. Please help us make this new daily reader a vital, rich, and multifaceted expression of the Al-Anon program of recovery." <http://al-anon.org/members/new-daily-reader>

\* Note: it is the hope of the World Service Office to have this daily reader ready for distribution at the Al-Anon International Convention in 2018.

***INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title)*** "The 2011 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for "a new piece of literature on intimacy in general, including sexual intimacy, in



alcoholic relationships.” The Literature Committee is seeking sharings from Al-Anon/Alateen members for possible use in this piece.

We hope to receive enough sharings from a wide range of members to make this new piece of literature a reality. Please share from your heart and help develop this exciting new addition to Al-Anon’s Conference Approved Literature." <http://al-anon.org/members/intimacy-in-alcoholic-relationships>

[PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS \(working title\)](#) "

The 2013 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for “a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers and young adults) are problem drinkers.” The Literature Committee is seeking sharings from Al-Anon members for possible use in this piece.

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Please share your experience, strength, and hope regarding how you have been affected by a young person’s drinking, and how Al-Anon has helped you deal with it. Please share from your heart and help develop this exciting new addition to Al-Anon’s Conference Approved Literature." <http://al-anon.org/members/parents-grandparents-pamphlet>

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We also have a new piece of literature available. *Paths To Recovery Workbook*.

This new workbook contains all the thought-provoking questions on each Step, Tradition, and Concept of Service found in the book *Paths to Recovery* (B-24), with space to write answers. It can be used for personal study, partnership with a Sponsor, or group study during meetings. The *Paths to Recovery Workbook* gives us an opportunity to explore in writing our relationship with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, and deepen our understanding of the *Paths to Recovery* (B-24) book. In effect, through the action of taking pen to paper, we become active participants with the book in our recovery journey. Also available as a set (K-31) with the *Paths to Recovery* book.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

## **AWSC GROUP RECORDS REPORT**

Some common questions:

1. Why can’t I send you the changes without using the Group Records Change Form?

Completing the form ensures your Ontario South Group Records Coordinator will have all the pertinent information to accurately reflect the changes that you intend to have made; especially important is you WSO I.D. Number or your Group I.D. number.... that number will guarantee that the information you send to me will be applied to the correct group. The O.S Executive would like me to ask all members to send me any changes, etc. on the Group Records Change Form found on [www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca](http://www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca) instead of emailing me.

2. Do I have to send the changes to the World Service Office (WSO)?

NO – The Group Records Coordinator gets the changes FIRST, and then will send all of the changes to WSO after Ontario South Group Records have been changed. If changes go to WSO first, then Ontario South records will be delayed getting updated.

3. WSO conducted an online Area Group Records Coordinator survey in which I participated. The results of the survey are reported on “AFG Connects” and below:

- 86% rated WSO usability application as easy to use.
- 86% selected “Reports” as a useful feature, followed by “Search” selected by 79%.

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95.8% felt the WSO application met their needs. The remaining entries were neutral.

- 87.8% use the data “Group Printouts”, followed by “Email lists” which is used by 42.9%.
- 36.8% use WSO to upload meeting information onto O.S. website. 22.9% indicate they share reports with A.I.S websites.

I just found out, this month (April), that I can get a report from WSO concerning all changes for Ontario South. I never knew this! I am working on a 31 page report called a "Change Log". Every group in Ontario South that has a change in the last 90 days is there. The report is not easy to read. I found a lot of group changes that were sent to WSO first, but O.S. Group Records were never updated. I would still like to see changes sent to me first, and then I update WSO, but if changes go to WSO first, then I run the Change Log and I can check if my group records were ever changed. The Change Log only goes back 90 days. Maybe I did, who knows!! Progress not perfection!!

If you have more questions, go to my Group Records Coordinator Corner on our Ontario South website. [www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca](http://www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca) Click Coordinators Corner, click on whatever coordinator you would like to see.

### **Website co-ordinator's report to AWSC – June 2017**

I'm your website co-ordinator since January 2015.

Thank you to everyone who's been keeping our Group Records Co-ordinator up-to-date with information about your meetings; sending her the new times and locations of your groups makes sure the website has the most accurate information available for members and potential newcomers. Please remember that if a meeting's time, location or other information is inaccurate on the website, it's usually because Group Records has not been informed.

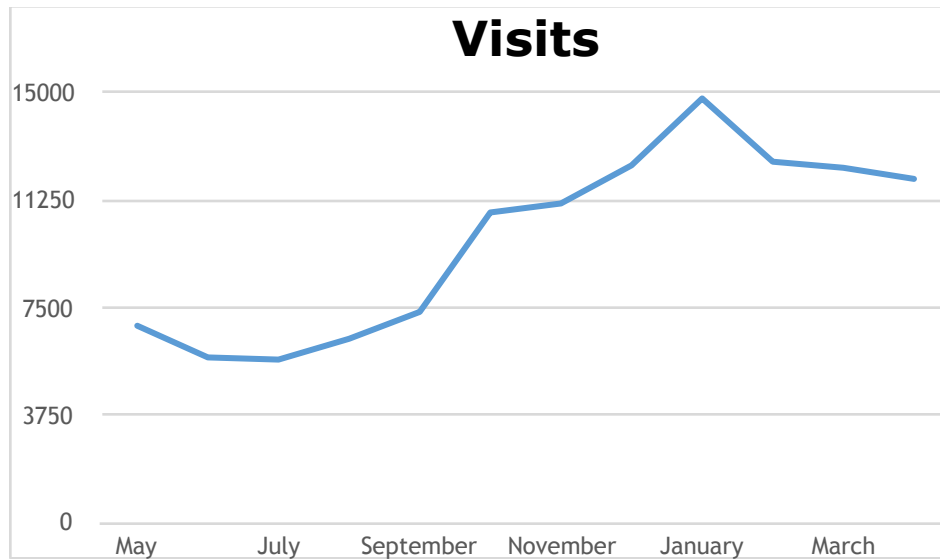
Second only to meeting information, Upcoming Events is one of the most-visited areas of our website. Thank you to everyone who's used the events form on the site to submit your group anniversaries, roundups, Al-Anon Days, etc. Flyers are always welcome, but please remember that *if you have a flyer, a PDF is best.*

Please submit your event at least two weeks before the date to ensure enough time for it to get added to the site and for members to see it.

My activities as your website co-ordinator have been centred on making sure the meeting lists are updated when I receive your meeting's changes from the Group Records Co-ordinator, posting events to the Upcoming Events when you send them to me, and other content management. The biggest project taken on this year has been the Ontario South Website Survey, the

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results of which I wrote about in the most recent edition of Open Lines and which I will discuss further in my verbal report.



Our website has recently seen a significant increase in the number of visits per month. Typically, our website has received 5,000 to 7,000 visitors each month but beginning in October 2016, that number has doubled and stayed consistently high. In January 2017, we received 14,810 visitors. Without historical data it's impossible to say whether that's a record, but it is the highest number of visitors in one month since I began my term.

The website typically sees traffic spikes after New Year's and between the end of summer and Assembly, but I don't have an explanation for this recent sustained increase in traffic.

I can tell you that about half of our website's hits (hits = visits + page views + files accessed) are via mobile devices; a significantly higher portion of traffic than the recent website survey indicated.

Finally, please let me know if something isn't working or you see something that's not right on the website. I can be reached by e-mail at [ontariosouthwebsitecoordinator@outlook.com](mailto:ontariosouthwebsitecoordinator@outlook.com).

Ontario South Website Co-ordinator

## **DR Reports**

### **District 16**

Covers the Oakville and Mississauga Area.

We have sixteen meetings altogether. They include two Alateen Groups, two Adult Children Groups, a Polish Group and One Open Speaker Meeting. All the others are regular Al-Anon meetings. Three of the regular Al-Anon meetings meet at a similar time to an AA meeting at the same location.

District 16 had a very successful Annual Al-Anon Day of Recovery on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. There were six Al-Anon speakers and six AA speakers, and an Alateen who shared their experience, strength and hope on the Twelve Steps.

We have five certified SAMS. Unfortunately two of our SAMS did not re-certify so we are looking to other members to consider this vital and important service work. There were fourteen Alateens at the

Monday Night Alateen Group in Oakville recently, five of whom were newcomers. Hoping that these Alateens will return.

We have an active PO Committee, placing Al-Anon and Alateen WSO approved posters in appropriate places. Our PO Committee have monthly meetings and continue to encourage members in our District to attend their meetings.

District 16 has struggled with difficult personality issues, dual members and an obvious power struggle and much has been learnt. Like living in an alcoholic family where confusion and insanity take over, we have been able to continue with the help of our HP, and look forward now to rotation of leadership. We hope that working on Assembly 2017 will bring this district healing, peace and unity. Our chair on this committee is very dedicated and we look forward to hosting 2017 Assembly in District 16.

Recently a GR had access to the DR AFG Connects and printed out something that I had posted and it was read out aloud at the March, 2017 District Meeting. I felt my privacy and trust has been violated and this issue still has not been resolved. This particular GR refuses to speak with me on the matter as to how he gained access to this Forum. At the same meeting the GR's placed a motion on the table to vote me out of the position of DR and it was defeated to a 5/5 vote. Clear division in our District. We have invited our Delegate, Debbie P to attend our District Meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, to assist our District to move forward towards Peace and Unity. More about that at AWSC after her visit.

I chose to stay away from the District Meetings, for several months and I have now resumed as Chair to see out the rest of my term.

#### District 19

There are 14 groups in our district; at our first meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 there were only 5 group representative at our district meeting. The place of our meeting was at a church in a corner of a big hall partitioned from another choir group (noisy and not very private). For a while we had only a treasurer but no secretary; so GRs took turn to take the meeting minute.

Today we have grown as a group and have learned a lot from each other. The DR position does take some time and effort but I am truly grateful for the great people that I have met and the growth I have had while serving this position.

At our first meeting on January 2015 there were only 5 GRs present while there are 14 groups in district 19. We had a treasurer and GRs took turn to take the meeting minutes. The place of our meeting was at a church; in a corner of the main hall partitioned from another noisy choir group.

Now in the third year of serving as a DR we have grown both in size and strength. We have moved to a new location where we meet in a quiet nice board room. On Feb 09 2017 there were 14 people at the meeting (10 GRs and 4 Alt-GRs and past GR), we have a treasurer, a secretary and alternate DR who will continue to serve as a DR from 2018 to 2021. We all are equal and well united, all GRs take part in the meeting and share their experience strength and hope.

In our meeting we have been discussing / studying:

- GRs share the Issues/ problems of their groups and we discuss Al-Anon principle which can help to resolve the problem(s).
- Study selected topics from the Al-Alon/ Alateen manual
- Review and discussed different Guidelines

- Study the 12 concepts
- Study Steps and traditions and how they can be used to resolve issues/ problems at groups
- Review “Task Force” from WSC 2015 and 2016

It has been a pleasure to serve district 19.

In our meeting we discuss Issues/ problems in Al-Alon meeting and Al-Anon principle which can help to resolve the problem(s). In the first year (2015) GRs took turn and selected a topic from the Al-Alon/ Alateen manual and presented the topic to the group and we studied the 12 concepts, in the second years (2016) we reviewed and discussed different Guidelines and this year (2017) we are discussing varied topics like (Dilution of the Al-Anon Program – Labels (Service Manual page 124 – 125), WSC 2016 Task Force (Acceptance of Communities Cultures and Beliefs). In addition we discuss a step and a tradition in every meeting.

Suggested donation of \$5 / Month

## **District 7**

Sarnia, Lambton

We currently have 8 active meetings. Attendances have been very steady with several groups hosting 15 or more members. Our Tuesday afternoon 1:30 p.m. meeting recently relocated to St. Paul’s United Church due to building logistics at St. Luke’s United and they are very happy in the new facility and the group is thriving. Unfortunately two meetings have had to close in the past year. For several years a Friday night beginners meeting tried to get established on the local reserve but try as we might we just could not get the support that was needed. Also a new group tried to start up on Thursday nights but that group too was unsuccessful in being able to get established. Like many districts we are struggling to figure out a way to get more Al Ateens involved. Currently we have had no Al Ateens.

District 7 celebrated our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a open meeting/Pot Luck lunch in September. Inspiring Al Anon and AA speakers were enjoyed. On April 22.17 we held out annual Spaghetti Luncheon and enjoyed great food, fun and fellowship. At Christmas time we enjoyed a Candlelight Gratitude Meeting as well as a “Spirit of Christmas” over Christmas and New Year’s. Over the summer we also enjoyed our annual ODAAT Campout. Two days of wonderful fun, fellowship and great speakers.

All in all I think we have had a very good year. Personally the love and support I have received from my district has been overwhelming.