

## Coordinator Reports to Ontario South Assembly 2017

### ***Literature***

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.

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.

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.

### ***Public Outreach***

I am grateful to have been able to attend AWSC this past June. Lots of good information and ideas were exchanged. We had a Public Outreach / AIS meeting Friday night that was well attended. The members who attended were enthusiastic about outreach projects in their districts and upcoming opportunities. Public Transit signs are being implemented in some districts. Al-Anon Days that were to include invitations to the public were being planned. One comment I heard continually was that there are so many opportunities and not enough people to help. We had a good discussion about ways to encourage members to step up and get involved in Public Outreach. I am so thankful to those who participated in the meeting and brought great questions and solutions to the table. We did not necessarily come up with any concrete fix all resolution, but we left knowing that none of us are alone & we can be there for each other.

This is my last report to the Assembly before I step away from the role of Public Outreach Coordinator. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of Ontario South.

Thank you for your emails and for your meeting minutes. Thank you for the phone calls and the questions and then for the terrific conversations that followed the question. Thanks for sharing your ideas, for your ongoing commitment to this beautiful program and this way of living. Thank you for your passion and for spreading the word and for reaching out. I am grateful for the collaborative efforts of groups and districts. Thank you for sharing your artistic talents (posters and flyers). I was overwhelmed by your generosity and your invitations to visit your districts, your groups, and in some cases your homes. I have learned so much during the last three years. I have made new Friends. I have grown in my personal recovery and I have certainly grown in Service. Thank you to the executive and to the other Coordinators. I appreciate your dedication and I am grateful for your guidance, encouragement and support. I know that I have learned so much from each of you. This experience has truly been a gift of learning and growth.

### ***AAPP***

This position has the responsibility of processing all applications for Supporting Al-Anon Members (SAM). Once every 3 years, all SAM's are required to provide a new Police Records Check and application. This is submitted to the District Representative (DR),

sent to AAPP and then to the lawyer for review. Once the lawyer has approved the application, WSO is updated.

New applications are processed the same way but once WSO is notified, a new identification number is provided.

There are some outstanding applications which have been sent to the lawyer. Once I receive them from the lawyer, I will notify the DR and SAM.

Next year, all SAM's will be required to complete the recertification form prior to May 1st to allow AAPP to update WSO.

The following year, a police check will be required.

Any changes to Alateen meetings should be sent to AAPP and not Group Records.

If your area is having an event where Alateen may be participating, a list of active Sam's can be provided.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I appreciated the opportunity to serve our Area.

### ***Group Records***

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Ontario South Assembly! I'm your Group Records Coordinator for this term. I will be handing over my laptop, printer and other materials to the next lucky person who takes on this position.

It has been quite a learning curve for me in the last three years. I have learned to rely on my instincts, and members of the Executive have been very helpful. Even people outside of Al-Anon have helped me tremendously.

I would like to reiterate again: that some members are still sending their group changes to WSO first, instead of me. There is a way for me to check the WSO changes for our area, but it is a long, tedious and often gruelling task. It's not very user friendly. But, in January of each year, WSO sends out a list to the GR's of their groups in Ontario South, and asks them for corrections and changes. Any changes would be made and sent back to WSO. If you could send me the same information, it would greatly improve communication between WSO and Ontario South. Ongoing, I will see what WSO says about this.

Some common questions by members of Al-Anon::

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 your 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 them to me. I have many many emails with changes, but I find that I end up emailing people back for a change form or something that was left out of the original email.

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 update all of the information to WSO after Ontario South Group Records have been done. If changes go to WSO first, then Ontario South records will be delayed getting updated. I found out, in 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.

Any changes, etc. for Alateen go directly to the AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person), not Group Records.

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.

The cut-off date for Group Records changes is October 11, 2017. After that all changes will take place after Assembly.

### ***Open Lines***

Reminder to us that anyone who wants an electronic copy is to leave your name and email with him and he will send you a copy. It is also available on website

### ***The Forum***

As a Group Representative

You are asked to encourage members of your group to subscribe to and submit articles for The Forum, Al-Anon's monthly magazine.

New Forum Writer's Guide

To access the new Forum Writer's Guide go to the WSO website – [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members). From there do the following:

In the Password box, print in your Group's name followed by AFG, click on Individuals, click on Featured Publications, under Send Your Sharings, click on read more, click on The Forum, then Download The Forum Writing Guidelines (F-1)

Reprinting Specific Articles in the Forum

As it states on page 106 of the 2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual:

“AlAnon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature (CAL), The Forum, and most service materials/tools are copyrighted. The WSO does not grant permission for substantial reprints of CAL in Area, district, or other service arm newsletters, or to outside publications, in the U.S. and Canada.”

The main exceptions to this are the three articles each month from The Forum that indicate reprint permission can be used. These can be used without reprint permission, provided that the proper credit is given.

However, members may photocopy Conference Approved Literature and The Forum for use in Al-Anon/Alateen meetings without written permission, provided it is for a one-time use (such as for a meeting topic), the photocopy is limited to the number of members attending and what can be reasonably discussed within one meeting, and the material is not for sale or being distributed beyond the group. We do ask that you include the following credit line: “From The Forum, copyright by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. One-time reprint permission granted by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.”

For further information about copyrights and reprint permission see the article from the July 2017 issue of The Forum page 18.

Associate Director—Literature  
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

## ***Alateen***

My term is coming to an end and I would like to say that I have really enjoyed this service position as Alateen Coordinator. There is a special place in my heart for all of the Alateens and I thank all of the Supportive Al-Anon members (SAMs) for their service.

I have had the opportunity to be able to go to different districts and speak on Alateen. I have also been able to drive Alateens to speak at different events. I have learned a lot and met a lot of people.

It can be discouraging when SAMs show up for an Alateen meeting and there are no Alateens but please be patient. They need us to be there for them when they do show up. I was in Alateen and was devastated when I moved to a town that didn't have an

Alateen meeting. Remember a lot of Alateens don't drive and need drives to their meetings. They are more likely to get a drive if the Alateen meeting is on at the same time as an Al-Anon/AA meeting is held. Alateens need SAMs for them to have a meeting please consider being a SAM.

Alateens are responsible for their meetings and the SAMs role is to keep the meeting safe and to help them keep the focus on Alateen. When there attendance is small or the members are new SAMs are encouraged to participate but not monopolize the meeting. SAMs are not teachers or Counsellors. As SAMs, we can recommend reading the literature when they have a problem. One of the most important things I learned in Alateen was the 3 C's- I didn't cause it, I can't control it and I can't cure it.

World Service has an Alateen Service e-manual. If you would like a copy of it I can email it to you please email me at odat.cheryl@gmail.com. There is some great information in it on Alateen meeting ideas and the roles of sponsors. The e-manual states that "It is important in all interactions with Alateens for the Alateen Group Sponsor(s) never to interfere with give opinions about, or otherwise intervene in a way that puts the Alateen Group Sponsor in an adversarial role with the parent/guardian."

Please remember that teens are always welcome in Al-Anon especially if there isn't an Alateen meeting in the area.

OSAAC Finances:

The bank balance \$5,046.49. It is a no fee account. (no debits or credits in 2017)

Unity

Please considering hosting Unity 2018. The Alateens would love to have their conference back.

## ***Archives***

As 2017 nears to an end so does my service position as Archives Coordinator. Please consider stepping into this service position. I won't minimize the amount of space needed to house all of the archives. We have one room in our house dedicated to the archives. It might be time for us to consider storing it somewhere else other than a member's home. But, if you have the space then this would be a great service position.

My job has kept me traveling a great deal and I have not had the time that I would have liked to put into this service position. I was being hard on myself and then someone reminded me that I can only do what I can do. Most of this service position is housing the archives in a safe spot. Some time is needed to sort through new additions to the archives unfortunately I don't have the time to sort through new items. A lot of work has been done by past archivists to organize the things that were already there.

I have attended some events where I was able to bring the archive displays and that has been a wonderful experience. The time that I have had to put into sorting has been amazing. I love history and I love the looking and reading the history of our program. I would like to thank those members who have contributed to the archives. I would encourage each district to have their own archives also.

One of the best things about being a coordinator is participating in AWSC and Assembly. I have met so many people and I really feel like I am part of a family. I have gained so much from being of service. Thank you for this opportunity. I didn't expect to take on a service position when I drove my wife (The Alateen Coordinator) to the handover meeting a few years ago. But, when I was asked I said yes. I have grown and learned a lot about myself and doing service has kept me somewhat sane. I am happy to give back to a program that has given me so much.

### ***Website***

Thank you for using the Group Records Change form to keep me and our Group Records Co-ordinator up to date on your meeting information. All meeting information on the website is supplied by Group Records.

The meeting lists are the most-used section of the website, but the events section is number two. Thank you for sending me your group anniversaries, roundups, conferences and local AI-Anon Day.

Our World Service Office has launched a new website. That resulted in several broken links on our website. I have fixed quite a few, but may have missed some. If you find links on our website that no longer work, please send me an e-mail to let me know.

A major increase in traffic to our website that began last fall has continued. We would typically see 6,000-7,000 unique visits per month, but now receive around 12,000, essentially doubling the number of people using our website. The cause of this increase isn't clear.

Thank you for your support during my time as Website Co-ordinator. I look forward to watching our next co-ordinator learn and grow in this position as I have.