

**Ontario South Assembly
Area World Service Committee
Minutes May 28 & 29, 2021**

Friday, May 28 - Meeting opened at 7:30 pm

Welcome, Serenity Prayer

Traditions: [REDACTED]

Concepts: [REDACTED]

Warranties: [REDACTED]

Roll Call: 37 voting members present; 50 participants at the meeting.

Election of a DR to the Literature Office Committee for a 3 year term:

Diana C from District 22 volunteered. A vote was held, with only the District Reps. Voting Results - 100% voted for Diana C.

Literature Co-ordinator's Report – Jim M – Jim shared his report, saying how important literature is to him and his recovery, and how it also helps during these unprecedented times. Because of the lockdown, the typical exchange of literature between Literature Coordinators hasn't happened yet, but will happen in a couple of weeks. Jim M looks forward to being our trusted servant.

Coordinators /OSAAC Chair Reports, Forum Report – Chaired by Kristine; Jason W. is the timekeeper.

Alateen Coordinator – Carrie E. – Carrie started her service at the end of April. She loves Alateen. A meeting is planned for Saturday, June 26th at 1 pm for all the SAMs to go through the Alateen section of the Area Service Manual. Carrie E. is also starting an Alateen meeting in District 23. She will also sit on the Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee.

Area Alateen Process Person – Jean M – Process for Alateen group registrations, Group Sponsors and SAMs. SAMs have to complete the registration form and get a police check. This is sent to our lawyer. Jean updates the WSO records for this. We have 12 active Alateen groups and 78 SAMs. Next year, all SAMS will need to get a police check, so DRs may want to include this in their budget.

Area Group Records Coordinator – Sharon R. Please use your group number and District number, as group names are not unique. Please use the group records change form. Accuracy is key, so be careful with the digits. Please include the Group Representative name. A physical address is required for the group registration.

Forum Magazine Coordinator – Kristine B. As coordinator, Kristine encourages groups to subscribe to the Forum. A suggestion is to give a copy of the Forum to newcomers. There is a Forum online, which is geared to newcomers. The printed Forum has a page describing an instant meeting. Submissions to the Forum are welcome, especially on service, the legacies and warranties. There is also a members' blog, where people can contribute.

Open Lines Coordinator – Sue – Thanks to all the people who contributed for the last issue. July 11 is the next deadline for the August issue of Open Lines.

Public Outreach Coordinator – Geraldine – is fairly new to the role. Geraldine has asked the Districts about their Public outreach. Some districts are more active than others. Geraldine has been attending some District Public outreach meetings via Zoom, which has been beneficial.

Website Coordinator – Nicky D. – Nicky reiterated that the group number is important for keeping the WSO and website up-to-date. Group names are not unique, there are lots of groups named “Hope for today” and “Stepping Stones” for example. Nicky is working on how to handle hybrid meetings on the website. (Hybrid is a mixture of face-to-face and videoconference.) There are 45,000 subscribers of the AI-Anon app developed by WSO.

OSAAC Coordinator – This report is normally given by an Alateen, which we don't have at this meeting tonight, so this was skipped.

Question and Answer Period

██████ – for Jean M. I have a member who was a SAM, who missed getting certified this year, and has missed going to meetings due to COVID. Sue did not sign his SAM certification form. Was that the right thing to do? Answer: If there is a lapse in certification, then the SAM certification process needs to start again. He does not have to re-do the “three years in AI-Anon” requirement.

██████ – for Alternate Delegate or Website Coordinator. I understood that meetings were either face-to-face or online, so are there really going to be hybrid

meetings? Answer: (by Kristine) There might be upcoming information on this tomorrow from the Delegate.

██████ – for Sharon. What is the pathway to find the list of groups? Answer: Ontario South Website/Members/PDF form of all the groups.

██████ – for Carrie. Is the SAM meeting for all of Ontario South? Wednesday might be an awkward day for people who participate in paid work. Carrie said that June 26th is a Saturday, so that will be more accessible for people.

██████ – for Jim. Is there an alternate way to get literature to newcomers to Zoom meetings? Sometimes, they are not from the same District. Jason advised that the Literature Committee was meeting, so no one was around to answer his question.

██████ – for Jean. How do SAMs get prompted that it is the year to get a police check. How much do police checks cost? Answer – 2022 is the year to get a police check. Cost is approximately \$20 or \$25.

██████ – for Kristine. Our District ordered the Forum in January or February, and hasn't gotten any magazines. Answer – please send an email to Kristine, and she will follow up with ██████. ██████ said that her experience was that it takes a few months to start getting them.

██████ – for Nicky or Sharon. Our Monday night meeting is not listed on the WSO website. When the Group Records form is completed and given to Sharon, Sharon then inputs the record on both the Ontario South Website and the World Service Office database.

██████ – for Nicky or Sharon. If there is a discrepancy between Ontario South's records and those on WSO, what is the process? Sharon said to go to the Ontario South online form – you only need to fill in the information that's changing. But if you are making changes on behalf of the group rep, make sure that you use the Group Rep's name and info. because the person making the changes is assumed to be the Group Rep.

Saturday, May 28

Zoom room was opened at 8 am for checking in and chatting.

Meeting opened at 8:30 am

Welcome, Serenity Prayer

Traditions: [REDACTED]

Concepts: [REDACTED]

Warranties: [REDACTED]

Roll Call 38 voting members, with 51 participants on the call,

Housekeeping – please mute yourselves throughout the day, and turn off your video if smoking or eating.

Timekeeper Geraldine volunteered.

Ask-It Basket – need 4 volunteers. They are: [REDACTED], Kristine B - Alt. Delegate, [REDACTED], Sue - Open Lines

Announcements You can submit Ask-it basket questions in the chat, or email the Secretary.

Explanation of Voting Procedures

Includes open conversation, all available information is provided in order to make an informed decision, Input is limited to 2 minutes and no more than 3 questions. Consider whether your input has already been said. There are 3 possible outcomes – tabled (ie presented) to Assembly, AWSC can vote if it's an administrative matter, or no vote if it is to be kept status quo. Seconding a motion means the seconder thinks that the motion is worthy of discussion. A majority vote among voting members present is required to pass a motion. An abstention vote does not count, only the Ayes and Nays.

Motion to accept the voting procedure as explained

Motion by [REDACTED]

Seconded by [REDACTED]

Voting Results – 34 in favour, 0 opposed. **Carried.**

Approval of 2020 AWSC Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the 2020 minutes with 2 amendments.

Motion [REDACTED]

Seconded [REDACTED]

Voting Results – 38 in favour, 0 opposed. **Carried.**

World Service Conference Delegate Report given by Delegate Gwen D

Gwen attended most of the World Service Conference (WSC) in April, which considered Al-Anon's largest group conscience. During the conference, she also had a friend in end-of-life palliative care. It was a very full week, and the Al-Anon principles were of great help throughout, illustrating the power of the Al-Anon program.

The International guests at the WSC were incredible. There were people from Argentina, France, Australia and other places. The fact that the event was on Zoom allowed the event to be more international than it otherwise would have been. Gwen received love gifts, which helped her feel loved and supported.

Some of the highlights of what Gwen learned:

- The strategic plan was impressive
- Update to the online store – now in three languages, (English, French and Spanish). It's easier to use
- Important to keep our copyright protected
- 55 weekly meetings available through the AI-Anon app
- A taskforce is working on the Service Manual, to come out in 2022
- They have prepared a welcome email for newcomers, with a pared-down newcomer package
- The new daily reader is coming soon
- New Public Service Announcements vendor
- Offered AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism year-round
- Translated the Annual report, and reduced translation backlog
- There was a financial audit in 2020, with an unmodified opinion, which is the top-level of certification
- In 2020, there were \$5.9 million of revenues, \$4.9 million of expenses, for a change in net assets of \$1.0 million (all figures rounded to the nearest \$0.1 m)
- Revenues – 60% from contributions, 34% from literature, 5% from magazine sales, 1% from investment income
- Expenses – salaries, office expenses, occupancy, PSAs, travel and professional fees, conference costs, bank and credit card fees
- In 2020, the average contribution per group was \$181.07, with about 51% of groups contributing.
- WSO requires from each group \$263.33 USD.
- This contribution can be broken down as

○ Group services	\$96.13	37%
○ Public Outreach and Digital Strategy	\$62.61	24%
○ Conferences	\$30.32	12%
○ C.A.L. and Magazine Editing	\$27.52	10%
○ International	\$22.46	8%
○ Translation	\$20.75	8%
○ Volunteer Oversight	\$ 3.54	1%
- The 2021 budget was presented with \$5.4 million in revenue, with \$5.5

million in expenses, with a decrease from Operations of \$0.1 million.

- They usually have 50 staff, this was reduced due to Covid-19, they are back up to 45, hope to get to 50 by the end of 2021.
- They are looking to resume travel in 2021, and also complete a membership survey
- A lot of face-to-face Al-Anon meetings have resumed in the United States and in Europe
- We had a half-time break with a deep breath and the serenity prayer, followed by a 15-minute break
- Alateen preamble has changed from “our alcoholic parents” to “our alcoholic relatives”.
- Alateen is creating a Just for Tonight Bookmark
- There was a literature motion about the archaic language in ODAT. ODAT was published in 1968. WSO gets lots of requests for updating the language. It has been frozen in 1978, which means the only changes would be for typos, with a preface added to give historical perspective. The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage has had a similar treatment.
- There was a three-year trial period from 2019 to 2021 to have professional interpretation for French and Spanish. It was moved to continue this professional interpretation and add the cost on an equalized basis for the three languages – English, French and Spanish.
- WSC recommended that we launch a longitudinal study over 5 to 10 years to generate “valid data and insights to demonstrate to professionals the long-term impacts of attending Al-Anon.” You may opt-in to this study through the Al-Anon Member Survey, and then people will be randomly selected.
- Trustees – Mega Issue – How can we attract more people to apply for this vital service role?
- Canada Central now has Debbie P as a Trustee to represent us! (Happy Dance by Gwen)
- 9 regional and 9 at large trustees (7 of each are filled)
- Workshops – Concepts, Conflict Resolution, and Dreaming Big. Any questions about the content, please ask Gwen.
- Al-Anon’s 70th Anniversary Celebration is virtual and is on July 10, 2021.
- Road Trip is in Cleveland Ohio on October 23rd 2021
- Al-Anon International Convention with AA participation in Albuquerque New Mexico June 29th to July 2nd 2023.
- Thought Force – maintaining a sustainable future using abundant thinking applying knowledge-based decision making. “To live a creative life we must lose our fear of being wrong.”
- We were treated to a virtual tour of Stepping Stones – the home of Bill and

Lois Wilson.

- “It is in letting go that we receive.”

Financial Update - Treasurer Janet B.

2020 Income Statement

- Lots of differences due to the pandemic
- No revenue for AWSC or Assembly, because they were virtual
- We had income of \$20.0 K, mainly from group donations
- We had expenses of \$12.2 K, the main expense was \$6.0 K to WSO
- Income was \$7.8 K.

2020 Balance Sheet

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Cash in Bank | \$34.7 K |
| • Advance Payments | \$14.0 K |
| • Invested Assets | \$ 9.0 K |
| • Computer | <u>\$ 0.1 K</u> |
| • Total Assets | \$57.8 K |
| • Prior Retained Earnings - | \$50.0 K |
| • 2020 Earnings | <u>\$ 7.8 K</u> |
| • Total Earnings | \$ 57.8 K |

2021 YTD Income Statement to April 30, 2021

- Lots of differences continued due to the pandemic
- We had income of \$7.5 K, mainly from group donations
- We had expenses of \$1.7 K
- Income was \$5.8 K.

Question – There was concern expressed about how the decision was reached to donate \$6 K to WSO by the Executive. Answer – The decision was made at the November 2020 executive meeting, with extensive discussion. At the time of this meeting it was known what the 2020 financials would look like for Ontario South, as well as the financial condition of WSO. Jason to check minutes of the meeting.

Question – [REDACTED] – There was a \$2,500 deposit for the Fall Assembly in Ottawa. What happens if the meeting is not face-to-face? Answer – we’ll have to see whether the meeting can be face-to-face.

Question – Kristine Alternate Delegate. What is in miscellaneous? Perhaps it should be noted. Answer – Janet agreed.

Question – [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] is confused why we sent \$6,000 to WSO when it was less than our reserve. Janet – did not know how to answer, as she was not on the Executive at the time of the decision. Jason – as Advisor – Idea was to apply 2020 surplus to the WSO, rather than adding it to the Area’s surplus. The suggestion was to apply one-half of the surplus to WSO, rather than the total surplus of \$13 k. A reserve is often one-year’s worth of expenses, which is typically \$44 K, but was much lower in 2020 (\$12.2 K) Assets after donation was \$57.8 K. [REDACTED] – She is hearing that the procedures weren’t followed, however, it was a strange year. It is also concerning that WSO is running a deficit, which does not seem in line with the “fully self-supporting” principle. Sandy – Chairperson – said that this wasn’t a question she could answer, but it could be made as an excellent item for consideration. WSO does have an ample reserve of \$5 Million. [REDACTED] noted that after the 2020 donation the assets after donation were \$57.8 K, well above one year’s worth of expenses which is often \$44 K in non-pandemic times (and a lot lower during the pandemic). Sue said that the Executive was not trying to hide anything, and was trying to make a decision for the good of Ontario South and the good of WSO.

Literature Distribution Centre Report – Linda P

Linda has been in constant communication with WSO. There are no:

- B-21 “Survival to Recovery”
- B-29 “No Opening our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses”
- B-26 “Living Today in Alateen”

Have 15 bundles of 25 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2020 \$13.00 + 5 tax % + shipping

Question [REDACTED] – Question about hours – why do limited? Is the LDC supposed to get all the work done in those hours? – Answer: Hours are 10 to 1 on Wednesdays, and no there is work done outside those hours. Hours are when the LDC will respond immediately to phone and email requests.

Literature Office Committee Report – Sue G.

- On behalf of the Literature Office Committee (LOC), I would like to welcome all the new DRs
- The LOC serves as the governing body of the Literature Distribution Centre, (LDC) directly responsible to the Ontario South Assembly through its Executive Committee
- The members of the committee are:
 - Gwen D. Delegate
 - Sandy O. Ontario South Chairperson

Past past-Delegate Debbie P. Trustee
Jim M. Literature Coordinator
Janet B. Ontario South Treasurer
Linda P. LDC Manager
Diana C. elected DR from District 22

- We had our first meeting of this term's committee last night.
- From that meeting I would like to report that the LDC will continue to be open on Wednesdays from 10-1 but will now also be open Thursdays from 10-1.
- Summer holidays will take place the weeks of July 19 and July 26.
- Hopefully, we will be meeting in person for Assembly 2021. If that is the case then Literature pre-orders and payments need to be into the LDC office by Sept. 7 at 3:00pm

Question – [REDACTED], given the low value for the computer equipment, how old is it, and do we have a plan for replacement? Answer – Linda said that the computer is probably close to 10 years old. She will start thinking about what she needs as a replacement and how much that might cost.

Question [REDACTED] Is it possible to get access to pamphlets digitally? Answer LDC – Linda. The office does not have access to digital resources. There is some information about this on the WSO website.

Question [REDACTED] Would it be helpful to ask WSO about this to help it happen. Answer LDC – Linda. It wouldn't hurt. Gwen also noted that it's important to follow the links of service. A suggestion would be to ask the Literature Coordinator, Jim B. Jim B. noted that he will look into this and get back to the person who asked the question.

Question [REDACTED] – Noted that we haven't had an answer to where the \$30,000 surplus came from. Answer LDC – Linda – When the office moved from Niagara Falls to Smith Falls, it was noted in 2016, it was said that there was probably enough money to cover one year's worth of operating questions. There wasn't a balance sheet provided. We set up a prudent reserve, and the money came from Niagara Falls. There is probably about \$7,000 that the office has made since the office moved to Smith Falls. We were told to drop prices when we could, without losing money, and we have dropped prices on our best sellers.

Question – [REDACTED] – Often copies and pastes the link to the online newcomers' package to newcomers via email. This includes a link to the Forum.

Question – [REDACTED] – What I'm hearing is that the funds were always there, and

they were simply allocated to the prudent reserve, is that right? Answer Linda P – Yes.

Question – [REDACTED] – Was the LOC established after the office moved to Smith Falls? Answer – No, it always existed.

Stopped for Lunch at 12 noon.

Opening after lunch at 1:00: Moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

Chairperson announced that we would move Gwen’s presentation to the end.

Discussion Item #1 Proposed 2020 Budget

Decision Point: Should the proposed budget for 2022 be forwarded to Assembly 2021 for approval?

Janet’s Budget Presentation: The 2022 Budget is based on the assumption that 2022 AWSC and Assembly will be in person.

Income:	
Assembly:	\$ 8.2 k
AWSC:	\$ 6.9 k
Donations:	\$29.3 k (this was determined to balance the budget)
Total Income	\$44.5 k

Expenses:	
Assembly:	\$12.2 k
AWSC:	\$12.9 k
Conferences:	\$ 2.5 k
Coordinators expenses:	\$ 2.3 k
Delegate Expenses:	\$ 2.0 k
Executive Meetings:	\$ 7.5 k
Operational Costs:	\$ 1.6 k
Other Expenses:	\$ 3.6 k
Total:	\$44.5 k

The donations for Ontario South work out to \$95.95 for each of the 305 groups we had in February of 2021.

Questions – Jean AAPP – Request for clarification in the notes. SAMs are recertified each year, it is the police check that is done every 3 years.

██████ - What are Area World Service Committee Revenues and Expenses? Answer – yes, DRs are reimbursed for travel expenses to AWSC. What are ADRs? ADRs are Alternate District Reps. Also asked to consider when the computer needs to get replaced. Answer – duly noted, thank you. Treasurer clarified that the \$2,250 = 9 times \$250 each.

██████ – There is a \$600 figure for Love Gifts. ██████ thought they were provided at the donor’s expense. Sue replied that the \$600 love gift is for extra expenses that might be incurred by the delegate. There are also love gifts that Ontario South members buy (at their own expense) to show appreciation to the Delegate. Allison suggested that the \$600 be renamed something such as Miscellaneous expenses to make it more clear that it’s not a freely given gift. Answer. Sue thanked ██████ for the suggestion, which will be considered.

Question – ██████ – How do we make interact e-transfers? Answer – can be used by the group or the individual. Please indicate the group number, and District if it’s on behalf of a group.

Question – ██████ – Please explain the \$200 of Bank charges. Answer. There are a lot of electronic transactions, and there are bank charges associated with these.

Question – ██████ – District 28 – Should we change the budget to include what is decided on regarding Archives? Answer – Janet agrees.

Question – ██████ – Did you build anything in for inflation? Answer – Not really, but Janet did round up. Question – what about police checks? Answer – The Area pays the lawyer \$11.00 ish per SAM recertification, the cost for the police checks is covered by the District.

Question – ██████ - Any thought to equalizing the website costs at one-third of the cost-every-three-years (as opposed to only putting them in every 3 years when paid)? Answer Janet said that this would be considered.

Question – ██████ – What is the procedure – can we postpone the decision about whether to accept the 2021 Budget until after the Archives Discussion? Answer – Sandy said yes, that’s a good idea.

Question – ██████ – Any thought to having AWSC virtual, rather than in-person to

both save money and to get more people to attend? Answer Janet – It is cheaper, but we miss the face-to-face. It will be taken to the Executive to consider.

Question – [REDACTED] – Note – the manual says that the Area pays for the police checks, and failing that, the District covers it. Janet said that the expenses in the budget for SAMs are for the lawyer, who reviews the certification including the police checks.

Question – [REDACTED] - Is the count of 305 groups both Al-Anon and Alateen or just Al-Anon? Janet said that it includes Alateen.

MOTION on the budget deferred until the Archives Decision is made.

Discussion Item # 2 - Storage of Ontario South Archives

DECISION POINT:

How do we, as AWSC members, wish to proceed with the Ontario South Archives?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Archives are important because they provide evidence of activities and tell us more about individuals and Al-Anon in Ontario South. They tell stories. They also increase our sense of identity and understanding of our program. Archives is a place where people can go to gather firsthand facts, data, and evidence from letters, reports, notes, memos, photographs, and other primary sources. They tell our stories and help us understand who we are as individuals and as a program. Archives inform the future by helping us to learn from the past.

At present the Archives for Ontario South (OS) are being stored in a past Archive Coordinator's spare bedroom. As the Archive Coordinator, he housed them from January 2015 to December 2017. Then from January 2018 until today he has continued to house the Archives and was paid \$400 a year. He has asked to have the Archives moved out of his home by June 30th, 2021.

An Al-Anon member has diligently catalogued all our Archives. OS Executive has suggested that we place the Archives in a climate-controlled storage unit until we can find a suitable, accessible location. Cost of storage for a 10X10 unit would be between \$250 and \$275 a month. There may be discounts depending on the length of the contract.

A member has come forward, willing to be the OS Archive Coordinator as long as she does not need to house them. She lives in Holland Landing which is where the Archives are now being housed.

July 2001 a motion was made that the Artefacts (Archives) held at the LDC be preserved for presentation in appropriate equipment and be displayed by OSA Executive at events.

Question – what about digitizing some of the Archives? Answer – some of them can be, but not much can be done

Question – [REDACTED] – Can we use metric measurements? Sue said that this would be considered.

Comment – Perhaps we should strike a Committee to digitize as many of the Archives as possible. Sue thanked the person for their comment.

Comment – [REDACTED] – The physical archives are inaccessible to most people if it's in the Holland Marsh.

Comment [REDACTED] – Groups from District 26 think that the Archives are inaccessible, and is happy if they would be digitized. She noted that someone in the chat, who is [REDACTED], District 25 offered to store the Archives until we figured out what to do them. She also offered to pick them up from the current storage spot. Jason noted that we have a quilt that can't be digitized. The quilt is displayed at Area events. Linda at LDC said the quilt could fit at the LDC.

[REDACTED] – Asked about digitizing some of the Archives, but not all. We are facing the same issue with District 6 Archives, ie where to store stuff that we can't digitize.

Sue – Advisor - Question – how far is Brighton from Holland Landing? Answer about 250 km.

[REDACTED] - There is value in having temperature-controlled storage. Storage costs would work out to \$10 per year per group. Note that if the Archives are digitized, then a system to make it accessible is required.

[REDACTED] – If we think of our purpose to help friends and families of alcoholics, does this help shed light on how we should consider this issue?

██████ – Maybe we could bring the Archives to Assembly this year, and then make a decision?

██████ – via chat - Intergroup in Toronto has no room (for storage.)
Digitizing \$.06 to \$.11 per page - each box contains between 1,000 pages to 15,000 pages plus there are things like original letters from Lois and her shoes and a purse and the picture of Lois and Ann.

Gwen – Delegate – Regardless of what we want to do, we must get the Archives out by the end of June. The people currently storing them are not prepared to move them.

Sue G. Advisor – The amount of storage, 10 by 10, was determined because it fills a bedroom – 63 boxes and 5 bins.

Kristine – Alternate Delegate – currently the new Archives coordinator lives in Holland Landing, so that's why we want to store it there.

██████ – Do we also have to figure out the expenses to move the Archives?
Sandy answered, that yes, once we figure out what to do with the Archives then the budgetary implications would impact the 2020 income statement. The 2021 budget is locked in, so there are no changes to 2021.

██████ – Paul has a photo of the Archives that he can share.

Motion by ██████ ADR District 4, seconded by ██████ DR, District 26. That the Area Executive rent climate-controlled storage until at least the end of November 2021, and form a committee to research more long-term solutions and present a proposal to Assembly 2021.

██████ Is the new Archivist on the committee? Who would form the committee?
██████ responded that we would decide today who would serve on the committee, and it would make sense to include the current Archivist on this committee.

██████ – As a member, commented that he has learned over the years to put more trust in our trusted servants.

██████ The Archivist is normally a 3 year term, and the transfer costs for the Archives are covered by the Area.

Voted on Motion by [REDACTED] ADR District 4, seconded by [REDACTED] DR, District 26.
That the Area Executive rent climate-controlled storage until at least the end of November 2021, and form a committee to research more long-term solutions and present a proposal to Assembly 2021.
Voting results – 38 Ayes and 2 Nays. **Carried.**

Impact on Budget 2022: Janet said that we don't know what we will be doing with Archives in 2022, because the decision will be made at Assembly. Therefore, she proposes that we add about \$239 per month plus HST to the 2022 budget as a worst-case scenario.

[REDACTED] – Question – we are currently paying \$400 per year for storage. Do you remove the \$400 when you include the new figures? Answer: Yes.
Janet shared the new Budget. Group Donations are now \$32.2 K. The Archive storage has been changed to \$2.9 k. The group contribution from the 2022 budget is now \$105.26 for 2022.

Motion: Moved by [REDACTED] District 26, seconded by [REDACTED] – District 12. **“That the AWSC forward the proposed 2022 budget to Assembly 2021 for approval, after the Archives ad-hoc committee presents its report.”**
Voting Results: 27 Ayes, 9 Nays. **Carried.**

[REDACTED] asked if this was the budget being presented is the amended one? Sue advised that it was not. Jason agreed.

Discussion Item #3 Open Lines

Information was sent out in the AWSC package

DECISION POINT:

Does Ontario South need to continue to offer the option of a mailed subscription to Open Lines?

Sharon – was Open Lines coordinator when it went digital. (3 years at printed, and 3 years after converting). The idea was to switch over to digital, and to get an email buddy to print it off if it was hard to get access.

[REDACTED] District 16 – There was unanimity in the District that a printed version continue to be made available.

[REDACTED] – District 31 – Her District thought that perhaps the District could print the Open Lines rather than the Area.

Open Lines Decision Point #1 Motion: by [REDACTED], seconded by [REDACTED] **That Ontario South Area continue to offer a mailed subscription option for Open Lines.**

Voting Results – 32 Ayes, 6 Nays. **Carried.**

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION:

If it is decided that Ontario South will continue to offer a mailed subscription of Open Lines, what is the appropriate cost of a mailed Open Lines subscription?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The current cost of a paper subscription to Open Lines is \$4.50/year, and \$8.00 for a two-year mail subscription. This has been the cost of the mailed subscription from at least 2009.

The approximate current costs to mail a ten-page double-sided newsletter in Canada, as of April, 2021 are as follows:

- cost of postage is .92 cents/issue
- cost of printing newsletter is .12 cents/page x 20 pages = \$2.40/issue
- Total per issue is .92 + 2.40 = \$3.32
- Total per year is 3.32 x 3 = \$9.96
- Total per 2-years is 9.96 x 2 = \$19.92

(All costs are approximate based on a 20-page, double- sided document being printed at Staples.)

Comments:

[REDACTED] – The cost should reflect the cost of production, and operate at neither a profit nor a loss.

[REDACTED] – Postal costs are subject to inflation.

[REDACTED] – May want to remove the 2-year option, so that costs can be adjusted as necessary.

[REDACTED] – agrees, that stamp mail tends to go up in price a lot.

– A suggestion is to charge \$10 per year.

[REDACTED] – Noted that it costs 0.92 for a regular stamp which is 4 pages, and Open Lines is 20 pages. Sue from Open Lines said that she agrees, it would cost more.

[REDACTED] – noted that the postage may be low, but that the Staples cost may be high. Sue replied that the 12 cents was the best of 4 places she checked.

Someone said that postage would be about \$1.98 per issue, so roughly \$6, and the printing would be about \$1.20 + HST per issue, so roughly \$4, for a total of around \$10. (With some uncertainty about postage and envelope costs.)

Open Lines Decision Point #2 Motion by [REDACTED], seconded by [REDACTED] that **Ontario South Assembly offer a one (1) year mailed subscription option for Open Lines for \$15.00.**

Voting Results – 32 Ayes and 8 Nays, **Carried.**

ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION:

Payment of mailed Open Lines subscriptions be made to the Treasurer, and that the Open Lines editor submits their expense receipts to the Treasurer.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In the past, payments for mailed subscriptions were sent to the Open Lines editor. It is suggested going forward, that the payment for mailed subscriptions go to the Treasurer. The Open Lines editor will then submit receipts to the Treasurer to reimburse any expenses.

DECISION POINT:

Payment of mailed Open Lines subscriptions go to the Ontario South Treasurer, and the Open Lines editor submits receipts to the Treasurer.

Discussion

[REDACTED] – This makes sense.

Moved by [REDACTED], seconded by [REDACTED] **To have payments for Open Lines subscriptions be sent to the OSA Treasurer.**

Voting results – 38 Ayes and 2 Nays. **Carried.**

Workshop – District Rep 101. Presented by Sue S. – DR for District 16.

One of the first things she did as a District Rep was to get a Service Sponsor. Will cover AFG connects and the WSO website and the Ontario South Website. Also will cover service sponsors and how to connect to Delegates.

AFG Connects – WSO sends out email to all new District Reps to join AFG connects. It's a forum to ask questions, get answers, and discuss things. There is a video and a printed guide to how AFG works.

WSO Website – has a search function for meetings by language, location and day of the week. Also has guidelines and Service Manuals, which are searchable.

OSA Website – Similar to WSO where you can search for a meeting. Policies can be found under the "For Members" section. Also information about SAMs.

Service Sponsorship is a special relationship about service in Al-Anon, helping both the Sponsor and the person with the Sponsor.

District Representative benefit from service – for example, learning to take risks, a sense of purpose, more connection with others, less isolation, meeting others. Service can reboot your program.

How to get to know your Coordinators and Delegates. We have an opportunity to introduce our Coordinators and Delegates to our Group Reps at a District Meeting. This helps demystify what Coordinators and Delegates do and who they are.

Question re AFG Connects. How does WSO know who the District Reps are?
Answer – the Delegate lets WSO know who the DRs are.

Question – by [REDACTED] Can Al-Anon Day be advertised in AFG connects? Answer by Sue S. The purpose of AFG Connects is to ask questions, so it wouldn't be used to advertise Al-Anon Day.

Jean – AAPP can see all the records for Al-Anon and Alateen groups for Ontario South Assembly. It seems that the consensus is that the information is available on AFG connects. Sue provided the following information after the meeting: DR's can use this link, and the username and password is the same as the DR uses for AFG connects.

[https://al-anon.info/OnlineGroupRecords/\(S\(qrhr1cphxrozpk551eu3wstz\)\)/default.aspx](https://al-anon.info/OnlineGroupRecords/(S(qrhr1cphxrozpk551eu3wstz))/default.aspx)

Sue S. created a document called AWSC WORKSHOP – IMPORTANT LINKS AND PATHWAYS which has been distributed with these minutes.

District Reports - Highlights

District 22 – [REDACTED] Toronto East – 7 groups in the District, including a jail Group. DR meetings every two months. All meetings are on Zoom.

District 23 – [REDACTED] Toronto Lakeshore – 11 groups in the District, 8 on Zoom, 3 are closed temporarily. One more closed temporarily for the Summer. District meets 9 times per year. Good group of people that works together well as a team. Working on getting an Alateen meeting set up. Fairly active public outreach committee. Had a virtual fundraiser – pasta dinner, with virtual entertainment. Sold 70 tickets, was very popular. Want to have a writing

workshop for submissions to the Forum. Some financial conversations need to happen with Groups that give money to the District, rather than to Area and World Service.

District 24 – ██████ Fenelon Falls – Some groups have been meeting outside. We have lost and gained a group during the pandemic. Looking forward to the lifting of the shutdown so that we can have a District barbeque this Summer.

District 25 – ██████ – 9 groups, 5 meet virtually the other 4 aren't meeting, but have some phone contact. Financially it is difficult, because the 7th tradition isn't happening. Would love to learn more about public outreach.

District 26 – ██████ Carleton Place – Zoom meetings are going strong, but the in-person meetings are weak. Some have stopped meeting and may close. After the pandemic, District meetings will likely continue on Zoom, as the District is really spread out, so it's good not to travel to District meetings, particularly in the Winter.

District 27 – ██████ Seaway Valley We have 5 groups. One group recently closed, and the money was donated to the District. The District has a window in the Library that they can use to advertise Al-Anon, which is helpful. Two Zoom meetings happen in the District, the other groups are not meeting during the pandemic. They also operate a phone line with Bell. Members are starving for face-to-face contact and warm hugs!

District 28 – ██████ Ottawa and Surrounding areas. We had 18 groups before the pandemic, plus an Alateen group. 15 of these groups have moved to Zoom. The Alateen is going well on the Zoom platform and there are 11 SAMs. About 70% of the groups send members to the District meeting, which is pretty good.

District 30 – ██████ Ottawa Valley. This is my sixth year in service. We had 7 groups before the pandemic, now we have 6. Some groups are small, one with 3 members, another with 5 members, and they have suspended meetings and keep in touch by phone. The District has no public outreach, nor an Alateen group. The District is pretty rural, and no newcomers for a while.

District 31 – ██████ Kingston Area. Speaker meeting on Second Sunday of every month, which groups take turn hosting. Seen lots of newcomers. Some AFA pamphlets have been put in little free libraries. Public Outreach doesn't have a chair, but members take turns chairing so the committee continues.

District 32 – [REDACTED] Peterborough. The District had seven groups before the pandemic, two of which have closed, and four have moved to Zoom. Some groups have increased attendance over Zoom, which is good. One idea for Public Outreach came about by the police being concerned about domestic violence, which often involves alcohol. So Al-Anon information will be available in the police station and perhaps in police cruisers. They had a writing workshop between lockdowns, and two pieces were submitted to the Forum and published. We were really pleased with that.

AIS Report - Greater Toronto Area AIS – Diana C

G.T.A.I.S. represents approximately 100 groups.

The general purpose of any Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) committee is to disseminate information about Al-Anon and Alateen, and to support and empower any Al-Anon group, District, or member in doing the same.

We no longer have an active Public Outreach committee meeting. However, our former Chair, [REDACTED], has remained as liaison with Pattison Signs for the TTC poster campaign of which many of you are aware.

The Ontario Regional Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous with Al-Anon and Alateen participation was held via Zoom. It was a successful day.

Last year, [REDACTED], our Liaison to ORC 2020, created a GTAIS Speaker Series utilizing the speakers who had been scheduled for that year's ORC. We continued the series after the initial five speakers and, never imagining this much success, it has been going strong ever since. It is held every Wednesday at 12 noon.

On May 1st of this year we hosted a GTA Al-Anon Day of Recovery with the theme, Breaking Through Isolation: You Are Not Alone.

Our Telephone Answering Service (TAS) 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 messages. 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 always looking to include volunteers who speak additional languages.

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

GTAIS operates a Google Group, which is a group email distribution service. The group email address is aistoronto@googlegroups.com.

AIS Ottawa – [REDACTED] We maintain a telephone answering service, a website and a weekly meeting. We have done bus ads, but not this past year. We had a very successful Spring conference with AA. About 130 people attended the AI-Anon portion. There is a bit of Zoom fatigue, but some people want to see a Zoom option when the pandemic ends.

Links of Service Workshop – [REDACTED] The Links of Service are really important to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] experienced that she did feel better when she got busy. Links of Service helps communication happen. District Reps take information from Groups to the District and from the District back to the groups. Similarly, District Reps bring group information to the Area, and Area information back to the groups. Any person can be a member of AI-Anon if they say they are. Any group can join by registering with WSO. Group Representatives are voted in. An Assembly is for the exchange of AI-Anon business information. Any AI-Anon member has a voice. Only GRs can vote at Assembly, but everyone has a voice. At Assembly, members become better informed. Each AI-Anon Family Group has one vote at Assembly. The Area Representative is also called the Area Delegate. The links of service keeps the circle of communication open.

Delegate Update – Gwen C. Thanks to all who listened and asked questions and participated in any way today. That's what it was like for me to attend the World Service Conference. The beauty of AI-Anon is that if we are applying the principles of the AI-Anon program is that we can pivot when things change. I had to ask for help, which is a humbling experience. Please email Gwen with one of your takeaways from the weekend? How were you moved by the process? I have lots of business experience, and AI-Anon has a unique approach which invites people into service and listens to each voice. Involve other AI-Anon members in service, as it is an opportunity for them to grow and contribute.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm with the AI-Anon Declaration.