

**ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 23, 24 & 25, 2008
DURHAM COLLEGE – OSHAWA, ONTARIO**

Friday May 23, 2008

Welcome: The OSA Chairperson Jo-Anne opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. A warm welcome was given to all by Jo-Anne and the Executive and the Coordinators were introduced.

The Secretary completed roll call.

Jo-Anne then presented the members with announcements regarding water, meeting rooms, the facility, meals and meeting guidelines along with some housekeeping suggestions.

The baskets for Ask-It-Basket and “item” for discussion forms were presented to the members and their suggested forums. Jo-Anne asked for four volunteers to join with Gail C. and Joan R., our advisors, to answer Ask-It-Basket questions Saturday night that are received throughout Saturday.

Speaker meeting chaired by Isabel H., opened with traditional opening. Sue G. shared on *My Service Journey*. Meeting closed with the AI-Anon Declaration.

Saturday May 24, 2008

The Chairperson, Jo-Anne G., opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions and Concepts were then read.

Jo-Anne welcomed everyone to the day. Announcements were made with regards to facility and meals. A quick review of the agenda ensued.

Secretarial housekeeping and roll call was completed by Secretary Heather P. It was determined through the roll call that 41 members were eligible to vote. District Five, Nine and Fourteen were not present. Eight Alternate District Representatives were present.

Approval of voting procedures:

A review of the voting process was presented by Jo-Anne. The process of knowledge based decision making was reviewed and the writing and voting on motions was explained and clarified to the members. There were no objections to the procedures.

Approval of minutes: 2007 AWSC in Oshawa

Motion to accept the minutes as amended on page six as: “Bob T. presented the Pittsburgh video as a lead into the 2008 *International Al-Anon Convention*” – Moved by Jacqueline K., seconded by Carol L. Motion carried.

World Service Conference Report – Joan P. Verbal report was presented and written report is in package that was handed out in main meeting room. A skit by volunteers was presented for Joan P. in two parts on *how not* to read appeal letter, then, *how to* read the appeal letter. Pictures from Stepping Stones were shown via projection. Joan’s three minute talk at World Service Conference this past April will be published in the June Forum.

Trillium 2008 Convention Report – Bob T. Update was given. Highlights are that the program is put together. The memento for this year’s Trillium is a book bag selling for two twonies. A letter from the Trillium committee regarding volunteers was mailed out in February and District Representatives were asked to forward any names of volunteers to the co-ordinators. Also, an e-mail listing volunteers can be sent to Bob T. and he will forward to the appropriate co-ordinator. Please ask Group Representatives to continue talking up Trillium. Thanks went out to those representatives that spread the word throughout the area. Bob will be asking the committee if they would be willing to post the agenda on our Area web site. Bob spoke on the importance of pre registrations and it was announced that there are 137 pre registrations. The draw for a free night’s stay was held and Marjory K won the free night’s stay. This year, rather than districts preparing baskets to be raffled, the Trillium committee is asking for donations.

Trillium 2009 Convention Update - Jane H. A flyer has been brought to AWSC to be picked up by District Representatives to then be distributed to the Group Representatives asking for volunteers to get involved on the committees for Trillium 2009.

Break: 10:20 – 10:40

Reports:

LDC Report – Gail & Lyn – Gail read Lyn’s report in her absence. Literature sales for the first quarter are down compared to 2007. We are in the black on postage so there has been no increase and Lyn continues to monitor this closely. April sales have a slight increase and April expenses show a slight increase as well. The new book is to be ready for sale at the International Conference in Pittsburgh. The cost for Canadian sales is \$21.00 and the name is Discovering Choices and can be found under (B30) on order form. Summer closure of the LDC office will be July 28 to August 19. Please continue to support our LDC office in order to keep it open.

CO-ORDINATOR REPORTS:

Mary Jane - Archives - Thanks to those who continue to send in their group histories. A challenge was put to the Area to have all our group histories up to date by Assembly. Another challenge to the Area is to see if we can get an oral history going. There are kits and forms in your package for histories. Please use white gloves provided on the back tables when looking through archives to protect what is there. Guidelines for preservation of your archives are in your package.

Penny – Literature – Thanks to all for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Exciting news about the literature projects, in that our Area gave the most amounts of submissions. There seems to be a trend that after a new book comes out, they go into group lending libraries, or go missing, or the groups are not buying the books due to the expense. The questioned posed by Penny is, “is this a deterrent to the members to not buy the books?”.

Don – Web Site – Please go back to your district meetings and talk up that we need to find a new web site co-ordinator. There is much potential for our web presence in Al-Anon. There is the possibility to co-ordinate the connection to other sites and to connect to other areas. Don is very willing to share on how to automate group records with that co-ordinator. Some programming has been done and he is willing to continue on with that project. Don posed the question, “how can we automate police records checks for the AAPP person?” which will need further investigation and programming.

Michele – Public Outreach – Same as report in Open Lines. There are the three new PSAs available. Michele is receiving lots of reports from the districts and there is some really good work going on out there.

Martie – Open Lines – Martie asked that everyone have a look at the display at back as there are oodles of letters from other Areas that you may have but please leave the copies of our Open Lines. Please consider that you are receiving a complimentary copy of Open Lines until February so please file in your subscription for Open Lines to keep yourself current on our Area business. Martie asked if anyone is interested in this position to please come see her and she will answer any and all your questions.

Kristine – Alateen – Kristine spoke on the Re-Unity conference, the opportunity for a trip to NOMAAC, starting an Alateen meeting and the need for certified SAMs to help out at the International in Pittsburgh. Kristine also spoke on the idea of having a District liaison for Alateen and the need for Alateen sharings. Kristine presented the ideas on warm fuzzies and bookmarks for fundraisers and had examples.

Kaitlin – Alateen Liaison – Read by Kristine in her absence. Kaitlin spoke at length on the Re-Unity Conference with all of its challenges and joys. Kaitlin also acknowledged the love and support of the Al-Anon sponsors as they work with the Alateens to make their presence in the Area stronger.

Matthew – AAPP - Matthew shared on the process currently in place for re-certification and handed out information to District Representatives on current SAMs that are required to be re-certified. An issue that Matthew posed the question on is “can Police Record Checks in the Area work as a once every three years occurrence?” Keeping in mind that different areas have different Area standards. Another issue Matthew would like further discussion on is how best to identify a SAM at Area events.

Darlene – Group Records – unable to attend. Report is in package.

Update: Area Manual – Joan R. – Thanks to Bob for all the work he did getting the first version polished and distributed in 2005. Bob, Carol P. (past PO Coord) and Joan P. our Delegate and myself, were part of the committee that started this in 2004, so we have been working at it for 5 years. Thanks to Don, our Website Coordinator who keeps the website current. Please maintain your binder with the current versions. This is most important this year as these binders are to be handed on to your successor! As usual, when revisions are distributed, please remove and destroy the corresponding old version from your binder and replace with the revised version. The main changes were explained and all changes are shown on the revision history. If you need help, please talk to me or contact me for guidance.

Lunch Break: 11:45 – 1:00

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

Jo-Anne our Chairperson reviewed As-It-Basket and “Item” for Discussion forms. Gail C. and Joan R. have volunteered to help review motions prior to Chairperson presenting to the floor.

Discussion items for AWSC 2008:

Treasurer’s Report - Jean B. – Figures were presented in regards to 2007 Balance Sheet, the 2008 Budget figures. Questions regarding above were answered.

#1 – Proposed 2009 Budget

Jean B. presented the Proposed 2009 Budget figures. Opened discussion to the membership and questions were answered by Jean.

MOTION:

Moved by District 4, seconded by District 12 that “the Proposed 2009 Budget be forwarded to Assembly 2008”. *See amendments below.*

Moved by AAPP Person, seconded by District 23 that “the 2009 Proposed Budget amends the funds for Alateen to the amount of \$5,000.00” Motion carried.

Moved by District 4, seconded by District 12 that “the Proposed 2009 Budget be forwarded as amended to Assembly 2008”. Motion carried.

#2 – Renewal of SAM certification – Area Process

Claire reviewed background notes on Area Process for SAM certification requirements and renewal. Information and questions were put forth to consider in your pre AWSC packages. Jo-Anne read the response from the lawyer regarding our points to consider today.

Discussion was opened to the membership and Gwen agreed to record main items of interest as:

- PRC checks required every year with regards to litigation
- signed declaration
- commissionaire more costly
- PRC on off election year or every other year
- declaration that all information is not disclosed
- notary statements not a great idea
- declaration to be more specific without notary or PRC
- large districts not knowing all the SAMs is a concern
- new data base procedures could very well change amount of paper pushing
- declarations signed by two other members of two years who know the SAM
- legalities regarding who could get sued
- currently in compliance and pay attention to legal advice we have already been given
- let’s see how this moves forward as this is our first time for re-certification

Proof of SAMs

- carry PRC on person
- have list at events provided by AAPP
- placitized card
- nametag specific to SAM

MOTION:

Moved by District 16, seconded by District 12 that “a process be established to identify S.A.M.s at events within the Area by the A.A.P.P. in consultation with the Area Executive”. Motion carried

Break 3:00 – 3:30

Workshops:

Bridging the Knowledge Gap – Chaired by Bob T. who presented four questions to the group.

1) Where do we get the information: WSO service Manual, WSO office, Area policies & guidelines manual, service sponsors, advisors, Executive, members with experience, guidelines, traditions & concepts, CAL, Ask-It-Basket and web site.

2) Have we used these resources (feedback): service seminars, attend other Area service seminars, carry forward the message of Sponsors, ask another member who has been in service a long time to join you at the next meeting. The more I learn, the more I know, and the more I grow. Keep handing over your minutes from the District.

3) How do you help the new-comer: Get someone to shadow, get GR to communicate with AGR to get them comfortable, get new DR that is coming in to do your job one month to get the feel (you are no longer alone”, GR to advise group there are different resources other than the group business meeting,

Sharing Our Energy – The Executive members shared their experiences of their term and how it has enhanced their program and personal lives.

Dinner 5:00 – 6:15

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

District Reports:

District Representatives gave reports from Districts #12, 13, 14 (in absentia), 15, and 16.

Workshops:

Bridging the Knowledge Gap – Make use of a service sponsor. When issues cannot be resolved at district level, go to Delegate. Resource answers through our CAL literature and service manual. Conference summaries can also hold some answers to our questions. Traditions help to guide us to our answers. Submit question to Ask-It-Basket at AWSC or Assembly. Review Ontario South Policy & Guideline manual. Ask other groups for past experiences.

Sharing Our Energy – The Executive members shared their experiences of their term and how it has enhanced their program and personal lives.

Sunday May 25, 2008

The Chairperson Jo-Anne G. opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

Final announcements were made including request for members to come to the front and pick up the hand out on insurance liability concerns and the request for evaluations to be filled out and handed in before leaving. They may also be mailed in to Heather-OSA Secretary, address is on the form.

District Reports:

DRs gave reports from Districts # 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22.

AIS Reports: Toronto, Ottawa & Hamilton/Burlington.

Assembly 2008 Update – Jacqueline – Our voting Assembly will be held the weekend of October 24 – 26, 2008 at the Four Points by Sheraton located on Airport Road in Mississauga.

Delegate's Update: Joan P. – Report is in your package. Presented the new *Sketches* PSAs that will be sent out in July. Joan spoke briefly about the WSO Executive workshop that will be held on the Thursday at the International Convention. Only those registered will be able to attend, registration forms are online. New book on history to be published 2011. Assembly 2009 to be held in Kingston on October xxxxx. Love gifts received by Joan P. are available to be taken home today by the AWSC members. Joan P. gave thanks to those assembled for the opportunity to serve as Delegate.

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWERS – Joan R., Gail C. & volunteers (these questions and answers are as they appear on the pink Ask-It-Basket form and will be published in Open Lines at a later date)

1) Which police records check is necessary for SAM – the \$10.00 or \$25.00 check?

Answer: Regardless of the price: get a police records check that meets the requirements of point #4 on our SAM screening application and certification form.

Special Note: There will be an amendment to the phrasing on the form.

2) Can members of A.A. be Alateen sponsors?

Answer: No, strictly speaking, unless as page 33 of the Al-Anon/Alateen service manual states “dual members who meet their Area’s certification requirements may sponsor Alateen meetings by virtue of their Al-Anon membership.”

3) Is ACOA part of Al-Anon?

Answer: “Adult Children of Alcoholics” is not a part of Al-Anon. However, there are “Al-Anon” Adult Children of Alcoholic groups”.

4) Is it written somewhere that a member should have 2 years in the program before accepting a group executive position (secretary, treasurer)?

Answer: This lies in Group Autonomy. There are no defined requirements.

Open Forum: The meeting was opened to personal sharing on the weekend and any additional comments.

The meeting was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and the Lord’s Prayer