

**ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 22, 23 & 24, 2009
DURHAM COLLEGE – OSHAWA, ONTARIO**

“Embracing the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future”

Friday, May 22, 2009
Evening Session

Sue G, OSA Chairperson, opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. A warm welcome was given by Sue and she introduced the Executive and Coordinators. Jacqui K, Area Secretary, completed roll call.

Announcements followed regarding the availability of bottled water, location and use of meeting rooms, the Durham College facility as it applies to our use, cafeteria meals, meeting guidelines along with some housekeeping suggestions.

We were given details about the Ask-It-Basket questions and the Item For Discussion forms and it was noted these were available on the table at the front of the room and could be deposited in the appropriate baskets found there. Ruby - District 22, Achim - District 23, Phyllis – District 24 and Suzanne – District 26, volunteered to join with Gail C and Joan P, our Advisors, on Saturday night, to answer the Ask-It-Basket questions received throughout Saturday.

Corrine S, District 8, volunteered to act as a member of the Literature Distribution Centre Board for this term.

Mary Jane McK, chaired our Friday night speaker meeting; which began with the traditional opening and Gwen D – District 6, shared on ‘*My Service Journey*’. The speaker meeting closed with The Serenity Prayer and The Al-Anon Declaration.

Immediately afterward, an Open Microphone was offered and several shared on their service experience. This session closed with The Serenity Prayer.

Saturday, May 23, 2009
Morning Session

Sue opened the Saturday morning session with a Moment of Silence followed by The Serenity Prayer and reading of The Traditions and Concepts. She again welcomed everyone and repeated the announcements regarding the facility and meals, etc, and a quick review of the agenda followed.

It was determined by Jacqui, through the morning roll call, that there were 39 eligible voters, and that 21 votes would constitute a majority. Our Alternate Delegate, Public Outreach Coordinator and Alateen Advisory Committee Chair were unable to attend and there was no representation from AIS Hamilton or from Districts 5, 9 and 10. Note that the registration packages and the Delegate’s report were sent by Canada Post to those unable to attend. Alternates for Districts 1, 2, 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 28 were present, some of those acting on behalf of their District in the absence of the DR. In addition to the DRs or their appointed alternatives, all of the Executive, Coordinators and

AIS representatives have a vote. Advisors to the Executive and the LDC Manager have a voice but no vote. Our Chairperson has a vote only if needed to break a tie.

**Explanation and approval of voting procedures
and review of Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM):**

Sue presented a review of the voting process as well as the process of knowledge-based decision making and the writing of and voting on motions was explained to the members. Sue indicated that if a new motion is submitted during this AWSC pertaining to a matter which is not included in the Items for Discussion on our Agenda, it will be reviewed at the next Executive meeting and, if appropriate may be tabled for a future AWSC meeting. Sue asked if there were any objections to these procedures and there were none.

***It was moved and seconded that we approve the voting procedures as explained.
Motion carried.***

**Approval of minutes:
2008 AWSC in Oshawa**

It was moved and seconded that we approve the Minutes of the 2008 AWSC. Motion carried.

World Service Conference Report – Claire D.

We had some difficulties with the visual presentation Claire had for us and our Web Dudette, Louise, had to be called on. Claire was able to share a great deal about her experience attending the World Service Conference and becoming “conference approved”. Claire indicated that, while she really enjoyed receiving the ‘love gifts’ from groups and individuals, what was most appreciated, due to ease of transport, were greeting cards or post cards. Claire described some of her feelings and emotions as a new member of Panel 49 at the (WSC). She also related that Darcy of North Dakota has assumed the position of her mentor.

Claire also told us that all 67 areas had responded to questions about using KBDM, and that Ontario South is the only area that seems to be using the system well since its inception. Other Area’s Delegates asked Claire for information about our use of KBDM.

She mentioned a new acronym – TEAM – which represents Together Empowering Al-Anon Members, which will be replacing Regional Service Seminars (RSS). Discussion re TEAM and the continued discussion re conflict resolution are found in Claire’s written report. Also mentioned, and contained in her report is a strategic plan to look at the business side of Al-Anon; that without the corporation we don’t have the fellowship; that the way we do business is changing and that this is a business with a ‘spiritual product’.

Claire talked about contributions to WSO and that the average cost of servicing each group is \$243.77 US. Claire said that group contributions are ‘spiritual bridges reaching out’. She also mentioned that subscriptions to The Forum are below 20,000 for the first time in 20 years. Claire also mentioned ‘abundant thinking’ and that her report talks about human abundance, spiritual abundance, financial abundance and emotional abundance; and about a survey for members and CAMH’s research study.

Claire then introduced us to some Al-Anon members who were having a meeting and the big surprise was that Lois W and Anne B came in to join them at their meeting. The skit by volunteers was very much enjoyed.

Trillium 2009 Convention Report – Jane H.

Jane brought along a written report which was handed out in main meeting room. She shared that 228 registrations had been received and that the committee felt they might be realistically expecting about 600 to attend. The room night reservations have surpassed the 175 required to allow for a reasonable cost of meeting rooms; that mementoes are almost all sold; that the programme will be on the website shortly. Jane explained that Trillium is Ontario South’s own conference and that it needs our financial support. Jane reminded us that in the past baskets were donated by the districts and were raffled at Trillium; that while this had a reasonably good result, an earlier committee had analyzed ticket sales against basket costs and found that more often than not the sales did not cover the cost of the ingredients in the baskets. As a result, that committee chose to ask the Districts to contribute cash in the amount of what they would have spent on a basket; and that this committee has chosen to continue that request. Jane said that just about everything is done and invited us to attend Trillium and to be part of the Journey of Choices.

LDC Report – Joan P & Lyn S

Joan P, as Past Delegate an Executive member on the Literature Distribution Centre Board, discussed the preference for ordering literature through our Area LDC; that WSO does not want individual groups to send literature requests to Virginia Beach. WSO does supply literature too many places and areas which do not have LDCs, and to General Service Offices in foreign countries. Joan praised the operation of our LDC; that orders are filled much faster through our own LDC than if ordered from WSO; that our LDC has been around for “umpteen” years; that we receive prompt and efficient services and that we are very fortunate to have our own LDC with Lyn doing a fantastic job as Manager.

Lyn thanked Joan and said she was very grateful and didn’t know how she would do the job if she didn’t have the Board’s support. Lyn referred to her written report and financials to the end of March and said that, by the end of April, we have actually gained a little on the net income at \$6,300+, which is an increase over April 2008 of about \$8,000; proving that, even though some may think it is easier to order from WSO using a credit card, this Area is really supporting our own LDC. Lyn asked that the individual groups be informed of this success and that their orders are appreciated.

She also mentioned that, along with literature which has been pre-ordered for pick up at AWSC, she can only bring service material due to difficulty to transport and not

enough room for displays. If anyone is not familiar with a particular piece of service literature, Lyn suggested we let her know beforehand and she will bring samples along to AWSC.

Lyn invited the DRs to pick up a package she had made for each district which includes one of each piece of free literature which might be used in service, together with the most current order form, the guideline order form and the speaker questionnaire.

Claire mentioned that SP-91, which has been on back-order for so long, is now at the printers. Also, the order form on the website doesn't show postage, and Lyn has spoken with Louise to make this addition and to put the supplementary order form on the website as well.

The revised 'How Al-Anon Works', which includes the Concepts and General Warranties, and a little bit of re-working of the Traditions, has been received.

Lyn reported that we continue to use Canada Post as continuing research shows that it is the only service which covers all of our Area and at the best price. She also mentioned that Canada Post's charges increase almost every year, and, although we haven't seen the need to increase each time, there will be an increase for shipping over the course of this year.

Secretary's Note: It is interesting to see that our LDC, along with providing literature to Al-Anon/Alateen groups in our Area, also services 10 English-speaking groups in Quebec, 5 Treatment Centres, Employee Assistance Programs, 2 AA groups and 1 AA Literature Office.

Alateen Advisory Committee Chair's Report

Veronika, Alateen Advisory Committee Chair, was unable to attend, nor was Tari, AAC Co-Chair.

COORDINATORS' REPORTS

(Coordinators' Written Reports were included in the registration package or delivered in the main meeting room)

Nick M – Area Alateen Process Person: -

Nick reviewed his written report; commented that Matthew H had a tough job and that he had inherited it. He advised we are up to 126 re-certified SAMs and that there are several more coming in. The annual update will have to be submitted by mid-June and any applications received after that will have to be de-activated and re-certified. Nick said he thought it would be clumsy; that he had never done it before but would try to make it as seamless as possible. Nick said he has tried to notify DRs in a timely manner about re-certifications, and, when he has reported to WSO, he will be reporting again to the DRs as to the active SAMs in their districts.

Nick said he is also working on the Alateen group updates. The Current Mailing Address for each of the Alateen groups received a letter from WSO and most of them have sent replies back to Nick. He has updated the group records, subject to a couple of corrections, and, by and large, WSO has been informed of all updated information. Once confirmation is received from WSO, the information will be forwarded to Jane, Group Records Coordinator so that group records and the website may be updated.

Nick mentioned he started working in March on the matter of the Children & Family Services Act, which tells us we are obligated to report to the Children's Aid Society when we learn of an incidence of abuse or the risk of an incidence of abuse of children. Nick has received a pamphlet called 'Reporting Abuse and Neglect – It's Your Duty'; which he will email to anyone interested and will be working on getting this kind of information out to the groups/SAMs. Nick suggested that the DRs or the Alateen Liaisons or someone from your district really needs to be in contact with the local Children's Aid Society. Nick said he felt the CAS is there for the protection of the children and they care as much for them as we do and suggested that Alateens need to know this is a positive approach. A child is anyone 16 years and under or 17 years and under if under the care of the CAS.

Leslie P – Area Alateen Coordinator: -

Leslie mentioned that she and Kristine (previous Area Alateen Coordinator) originally had some difficulties getting together to exchange information now resolved; that the Alateen Advisory Committee Charter is in good hands and is being worked on; that the Committee has discussed the possibility of changing the name of the Committee to Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC).

Unity Conference will likely be held in the same place as last year, i.e. Howard Johnson's, Markham, tentative date October 16-18, 2009.

Our bid to WSO to host the Alateen Advisory Committee was accepted and will be held on Saturday, October 31, at the Area Assembly in Kingston. Leslie said candidates are being sought to act on this Committee – 3 sponsors/SAMs and 3 to 5 Alateens are required, preferably none should be GRs. As current Area Alateen Coordinator, Leslie cannot be involved but any past Alateen Coordinators would be good candidates.

Leslie also agreed with Nick that reporting of child abuse is not exclusive to Alateen, and she can provide copies of the statute and the pamphlets on request.

Mary Jane McK - Archives:–

Mary Jane said that, although our service manual recommends a coordinator's position be for a three year term, when she started in this position there was so much to do and so much to learn it was impossible, at the end of three years, to try to hand it over, but maybe three years from now *you* will be here.

Mary Jane said our background comes from AA and our Traditions say we should always cooperate with AA; that she is forever grateful to the Archivist from A.A. Area 83 who has guided her throughout her learning period and that she appreciates our Area supporting the process of bringing the awareness of archives to a different level. Bill W said *"It isn't hard to prepare a fact sheet. that is dates when people came in, getting started and so forth. The hard thing to lay hold of is the atmosphere of the whole proceedings and the anecdotal material that will make the whole early experience live."*

Mary Jane encouraged DRs/groups/members to become involved in the recording of group histories, all as set out in her written reports here at AWSC and in Open Lines, etc. Of particular interest, oral histories, and Mary Jane's report provides specific and helpful suggestions and her enthusiastic endorsement of the CAL book "Lois Remembers". She also stressed the importance of obtaining a release form from the

person(s) being interviewed; the use of the proper acid-free archival materials (NEVER Scotch tape or lamination). Mary Jane said she had templates for our Area Memorial Book.

Jane H – Group Records:-

Jane said she hadn't known what she was getting into when she took this position; thanked everyone for their patience; and was grateful for today's reading in *Courage To Change* (p.144) which speaks about being human and making mistakes.

Jane asked the DRs to carefully check the information on the list provided and get any changes to her ASAP. Jane will then be able to provide the changes to WSO in a timely manner. Jane spoke about the importance of an accurate Current Mailing Address to support the delivery of Open Lines, The Forum, etc. She also emphasized the importance of using the Group Records Change Form for *any* change to group information – printed *neatly* – and that, to begin making changes, it is imperative that she have the District number and Group identification number.

Jane thanked Louise for her help in getting the groups' information to the website.

Louise H – Website:-

Louise introduced herself as our “Web Dudette in Service”, and provided a visual presentation of our Ontario South website; and, in particular, the Coordinators' Corner, where Coordinators will be able to post information they want to get out to the membership.

Louise also stressed the need to use the Group Records Change Form and to ensure this is presented to the Group Records Coordinator in order to have the correct information on the website; that she doesn't change information until Jane sends it to her.

Instructions were provided for sending the Change Form electronically as well as using the Event Form and she asked that sufficient lead time be given for changes.

Sharon R – Open Lines:-

Sharon apologized to Mary Jane for an error in printing the Archives report in the last Open Lines. Sharon suggested that Executive and Coordinator reports for Open Lines be kept short and to the point, aim for about ½ page of typing - as cost of mailing is strained by too many pages – current cost is \$.98 – next level \$1.15 each.

Sharon suggested subscriptions to Open Lines could be given as gifts by sponsors to sponsees or vice versa – a card with a note to the recipient can be included with the gifted Open Lines. One member has subscriptions gifted to her through 2012!

Sharon invited us to feel free to take a copy of other Area Newsletters at her display.

Jean McS – Literature:-

Jean shared that she is grateful to have two home groups, one in Ottawa and one in Australia, and that she had brought love and bookmarks from her Australian home group.

Jean said that her job as Literature Coordinator is to encourage members to use Conference Approved Literature – not necessarily to *buy* it but to *use* it, but, if you do buy it, order it from our own Literature Distribution Centre.

Jean suggested that writing workshops might be a way to respond to WSO's requests for submissions for The Forum, etc. She said taking this position was a way of forcing herself to write.

Michele D – Public Outreach:–

Michele was unable to attend but her report was in the registration package.

Update: Area Manual – Heather P:–

In Heather's absence, our Area Treasurer, Marianne, reported that Heather had four issues to report on with regard to the Area Manual. Marianne reminded us that the Area 86 Manual of Guidelines and Procedures should have been passed on from the previous DR to the new DR in each district.

The first two of the issues are simply revision dates for the updates that Heather asked that you print from our Area Website and replace in your Area Manual.

First item is the Regional Trustee Resume form found in Section 2 D. The WSO issues this resume form, therefore, Heather has not assigned a specific form number in the Area Manual as we have no authority to make any changes to the Regional Trustee Resume Form. The date stands as is.

The second item is the Alateen Section 10 Form C, SAM Screening and Re-Certification Form. The revision date has been changed to 2009 and the form has been reposted to the Area Website, so please re-print this for your Area Manual.

The third item is our new Section 12. Jacqui has the dividers to be handed out for your copy of the Manual. *[Secretary's note: These dividers were not available at AWSC and will be delivered no later than Assembly 2009].*

This Section is dedicated to records and information and is currently in draft form, while Heather continues to do research and amend with the appropriate information. Heather said she feels this information will be a valuable guideline for the Area districts and groups who are now asking more questions regarding archiving. Heather said her goal was to have the information posted to the website in the early weeks of June, so hopefully if you go into the website you will find the section and you can print it out to put it in your manual. An announcement will be sent out via email when the new section is available.

The fourth item is in regard to Assembly Host Committees. The Area Executive has reviewed Section 5 B and there have been a couple of administrative wording changes to the forms in the Area Manual. This was indicated through an email from Jacqui. Also we have reviewed to confirm the responsibilities of the Host Committee and the expense of Hospitality Rooms at Assembly. When the Executive asks Districts to consider hosting Assembly, we ask that the District Representatives please review the guidelines in Section 5, Item 9.

Saturday, May 23, 2009
Afternoon Session

The meeting was reconvened with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, and Sue reviewed the process for Ask-It-Basket questions and Items For Discussion. Advisors, Gail C and Joan P volunteered to help craft/review motions prior to Chairperson presenting them to the floor.

#1 – Proposed 2010 Budget

Joan P read from **Discussion Item #1 Proposed 2010 Budget** [delivered via email to all DRs, Coordinators and Executive prior to this meeting].

Background notes included:–

Proposed Budget 2010 + Analysis of Calculations and Assumptions;
Statement of Operations – Actual vs. Budget (January 1 to December 31, 2008)
and Balance Sheet (December 31, 2008)

Decision Point: Should the proposed budget for 2010 be forwarded to Assembly for approval?

Marianne, Area Treasurer, explained that previous Treasurer's gave information regarding only one year past, but she had decided to provide the two past years for comparison purposes. The Budget for 2010 is based on the budget for two year's prior, that is 2010's budget is based on the actuals for 2008.

There were many questions asked and answered regarding the Balance Sheet and the 2009 Actual vs. Budget Statement.

Marianne commented on several items, including that group donations in the first quarter totalled \$5,900, which is approx. 17% of the budgeted amount; we expect \$5,700 for AWSC revenue, have received about \$3,000 and there are still registration fees for AWSC to be deposited and only partial advances have been paid to Durham College to date.

The equalized rate for our Delegate to go to the World Service Conference in 2010 will be paid in October of this year (2009). Coordinators' expenses are about on average. Delegate's recent expenses are still to be submitted. Pretty much on target for Executive Meetings. Next meetings are July and November, and are being held in a central location in Guelph, which should help to reduce travel costs. Handover meeting was held in January, and there is no budget for this item for the next two years.

This is the first year for the budgeted amount of \$5,000 for Alateen, which was budgeted due to the costs for attorneys and police checks and this will be a learning curve as it's the first year we've had to re-certify SAMs, etc. \$5,000 is also included in the 2010 budget as we don't know what the total for this year will be. No amount has been included in the budget for the Alateen Advisory Committee's expenses. There was some discussion about a district paying for the SAMs' police checks. Most agreed that the Area should pay the police checks for all districts so that the actual costs would be known, and that, if a particular district cared to do so, they could donate the funds back to the Area.

Moving on to the 2010 Budget, Marianne explained that the calculations and assumptions will help to understand how the totals were determined. Marianne mentioned that registration for Assembly is based on 300 registrants at \$30.00 each (up \$5.00 from previous years). AWSC room rates and meal rates went up so the budgeted amount had to be increased as well. Miscellaneous Income remained at \$1,000 and other donations were set at \$500. Total Assembly Expenses for 2010 (for Executive and Coordinators and meeting rooms, administration, etc.) set at \$8,900.00 (increases to

Assembly expenses are limited as it is not an election year and accommodations may not be as expensive when not in the Greater Toronto Area).

AWSC expenses are increased as Durham College raised room rates and meal rates in 2009.

Although the Regional Service Seminar has been discontinued, \$750 was left in the budget as a buffer in the event our Delegate is required to attend another conference or event. The \$1,600 for World Service Conference is the equalized payment required to be paid (based on \$1,250 US) for our Delegate to attend in 2011.

Coordinators' expenses have been increased to a total of \$250 each, for supplies, administration and travel expenses.

Delegate's expenses include \$500 for administration; \$3,400 for meals, travel and hotels for a total of \$3,900, includes travel to groups/districts as a speaker.

Gail commented that when the Regional Service Seminars were still being held, when an RSS was held in the area of Canada Central, we were required to pay a portion of the costs of the event, thus the previous amount of \$750.00. The amounts shown as Delegate's expenses are what it actually costs for the Delegate to attend the event.

Claire said that the event now to be called TEAM may invite our Delegate to attend but the Delegate is not required to attend and we are not required to pay an equalized fee and Claire clarified that TEAM is a local event that WSO will send representatives to run the sessions with our input.

Joan suggested that the \$750 shown as RSS funds should be re-named TEAM, but maintained as a cushion as we don't know what our requirements might be as yet.

It was moved and seconded that the proposed 2010 budget be forwarded to Assembly 2009 for approval.

#2 – Requirements for elected positions on the OSA Executive

Gail C read the background notes on Requirement for elected positions on the OSA Executive as put forth for consideration in the pre-AWSC packages.

Discussion was opened to the floor and Gay McM, ADR, District 8, agreed to record main items of interest. There were many opinions expressed regarding the need or lack thereof for a hand-written signature on the resume forms including security concerns, and there were even more opinions expressed for and against the idea of a person being able to submit more than one resume in any one election year.

Sue read the following motion:

“Moved and seconded that "members need to sign manually their resume and deliver it by any means, electronic or mail, with Area acknowledgment receipt by any means.”

Discussion followed to clarify the meaning of “sign manually” and the method of acknowledging receipt, which resulted in submission of the following amendments:-

“Moved and seconded, that "amend the original motion to read 'to sign by hand' instead of 'to sign manually'.”

This amendment was carried.

“Moved and seconded that "amend original motion to read 'in an appropriate manner' instead of 'by any means'.”

This amendment was carried.
The original motion, as amended, was carried.

So, the amended motion to go forward to Assembly will read:

"Moved that members need to sign by hand their resume and deliver it in an appropriate manner, electronic or mail, with Area acknowledgement receipt in an appropriate manner."

Regarding the 'one resume' question, Sue read the following motion:

"Moved and seconded that 'members can apply for more than one Executive position, submitting separate resumes for each. No member may occupy more than one Executive position at a time.'"

Discussion followed which resulted in submission of the following amendment:-

" Moved and, seconde, that 'amend to read 'separate resumes for each, HOWEVER, no member may occupy more than one Executive position at a time'."

This amendment was carried.

The motion, as amended, was carried.

So the amended motion to go forward to Assembly will read:

"Moved that members can apply for more than one Executive position, submitting separate resumes for each, however, no member may occupy more than one Executive position at a time."

Saturday, May 23, 2009-06-29
Evening Session

The meeting reconvened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

District Reports:

District Representatives gave reports from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. (District Representatives' reports are sent as a separate 'attachment' to these Minutes).

Workshops:DR 102 – Chaired by Bonnie B - Service Sponsor – Chaired by Ruby S were presented from 4:00 to 4:45 pm and from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Sunday May 24, 2009
Morning Session

Sue G opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, and the reading of the Traditions, Concepts and Warranties.

2009 Assembly Registration Package

There were questions regarding the timing of delivery of the registration package for Assembly and members were assured that the Chairperson and the Executive would

do their best to get the appropriate information out in sufficient time to be of use to the Districts and to the Groups.

Final announcements were made including request for members to complete the evaluation forms which may be filled out and handed in before leaving or they may be mailed in to Jacqui K-OSA Secretary, at the address on the form.

District Reports:

District Representatives gave reports from Districts 6, 7 and 8. (District Representatives' reports are sent as a separate 'attachment' to these Minutes).

AIS Reports:

Representatives for the Greater Toronto Area Al-Anon Information Service and the Ottawa Al-Anon Information Services gave their reports. (These reports are sent as separate 'attachments' to these Minutes).

Delegate's Update: Claire D –

Claire had a power point presentation which the task force on Anonymity gave at WSC on the three levels of Anonymity. Claire said that anonymity is still a really big issue; questioned why we are hiding; and that Anonymity is the most misunderstood part of our program.

Why is it important? Confidentiality of members' identity – confidentiality of sharing – guarding against any member seeking public recognition (ego) – freedom for members to determine their own level of anonymity, which is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions.

Claire described the three approaches to anonymity as Personal, Inside Al-Anon, and Outside Al-Anon. As a newcomer, I can use my first name only, my first name and first initial of last name, my full name or a pseudonym (alias)

On the other hand, if I'm in the fellowship for a while and become active in service beyond the group level, it's okay to give other members in service my contact information so that we can communicate with each other, my full name, my postal and email address, my phone numbers.

Even if I'm not yet involved in service beyond my group, I might attend a group anniversary, a workshop in my district, an Al-Anon convention or any other special Al-Anon or Alateen function, and there it's okay to give my new friends my full name, address, email or phone number.

When I send an Al-Anon related letter or email message to a member, I use AFG instead of Al-Anon or Alateen names on the subject line of the message. My anonymity is broken when my full name is included on a program-related report, flyer or newsletter posted on an Al-Anon website that's open to the public. When we send out our Open Lines our names are there but that's okay because that page is delivered only among the membership – on the website the last page is deleted.

When I become comfortable enough in my program, I'll want to tell others outside the fellowship of the recovery I have found in Al-Anon and Alateen. I will need to know about Anonymity and carrying the message outside of our fellowship. If I say I'm an Al-Anon member and appear in or am quoted in any type of media, I only use my

first name or a pseudonym . I do not show my full face and I don't identify any other Al-Anon, Alateen or A.A. member. When I communicate face to face about Al-Anon or Alateen with any individuals in the media or a professional, I may give them my full name and contact information. When I speak, I need to think about who is in the audience. As a speaker I am free to decide how much anonymity I want. I need to remember that when I state my full name and I'm being recorded my sharing may be posted on a website. When I use email to reach out to professionals or the media, I use my own or an Al-Anon-related email instead of a work email address. I have choices when I sent a letter to professionals or the media; I can use an Al-Anon name for the return address on the envelope; can sign a letter using my full name if I ask in writing that it not be published; or my first name and first initial along with the name of an Al-Anon group. Because I want to be considered a credible source of information about Al-Anon and Alateen, I want the professionals to know how to contact me.

When I give my personal information to anyone outside of Al-Anon and Alateen, I need to tell them about anonymity, by explaining Tradition 11, asking specifically that they not use my full name or full face in print, radio, films, TV or on the internet.

When it comes to the anonymity of others, I carefully guard against revealing the name of any Al-Anon, Alateen or A.A. member to anyone outside the fellowship. It's their choice, not mine.

For more information on anonymity, see our Service Manual on Pages 24-27 and Pages 50-51-52-53 in the small digest. Service manual is available from our LDC.

Claire further shared that the building in Virginia Beach will be paid for in the year 2010; that the Al-Anon International "Join The Dream" will be held July 5-7, 2013 in Vancouver, followed by an Alaska program-cruise. Claire also tried to show us the new "Sketches" public-service announcements (unsuccessfully). Reported that an Alateen meeting has been operating on-line, which is now on hold while it is investigated for security. An authorized Alateen Chat Room is coming soon after completion of due diligence. Eventually, each Area may have an Alateen Chat Room if they so choose

A new Service Manual will be issued next year -2010. Claire also reported that the Alateen Traditions had been adopted during Joan P's 3-year term and this year they were adopted into the Charter so that the Alateen Traditions are now protected as our Al-Anon Traditions are.

There was a presentation on diversity and it called upon us to expand our thinking in outreach activities to the diverse population and we were cautioned against a narrow interpretation of this term – more on that topic in the 2009 WSC Summary which will be received late August.

There were three International guests, from Germany, U.K. & Eire, and Italy. The Italian speaker's talk will be printed in The Forum for May.

. Please refer to Claire's report in your registration package and to the 2009 WSC Summary.

Ontario South Assembly

We were reminded that Ontario South Assembly will be held October 30-31 and November 1, 2009, at the Ambassador Hotel in Kingston, Ontario.

Trillium 2011 Chairperson

Sue announced that a decision had been made to appoint Jo-Ann Mayo, of District 18, as Chairperson for Trillium 2011.

Ask-It-Basket Questions & Answers

Joan P., Gail C. & volunteers presented the questions and answers as follows: (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)

Question 1) Regarding our dist. Treasurers position. Our Treas. has attended only one meeting since Jan. 2009 (Jan.). we have received partial reports with little clarity or background. Our concern & dilemma: This translates to lack of info, receipts not being paid, important position – no voice. No communication etc. Manual offers no guidance on how to proceed. We are open to suggestions on a way to handle this situation.

Background. Treasurer is not attending regular group meetings – does not return calls or emails – has not responded to specific report request. This person also holds the position of Dist.Archivist. Thank you for any assistance. Yours in service. Gwen D, District #6

Response: Have District Guidelines in place to outline the responsibility – excellent tool. May choose to send registered letter and ensure that groups don't send any more funds.

Question 2) Re: PARTICIPATION AT AA ROUNDUPS. Does the group in roundup area supply speakers? Does the Al-Anon group buy thank you presents for Al-Anon speakers? Uncertain of Al-Anon District's involvement with AA District. How do other districts handle it. Janet – via Suzanne, District #26

Response: (1) The District needs to decide whether they want to participate. (2) District can decide. See page 104 of the Service Manual. There is a guideline for Al-Anon & Alateen participation.

Question 3) Why would a service meeting be noted as a group in our District? They act as Public Outreach in the correctional facility. Ruby S, District #22

Response: It is a registered group with WSO so therefore a meeting in your group.

Question 4) Does a SAM, who is not a GR, get a vote at District Meetings? Joan (SAM, Kemptville), District #26

Response: No, one vote per group.

Question 5) (1) Why do we not have an AWSC/WSO knowledge portal accessible by/from the internet? (2) Why not make Forum available electronically i.e. internet? Michael Hisocks, District #28

Response: (1) In place – have a meeting to learn how to navigate. (2) Permissible parts are, permission goes to WSO – meeting in your pocket, to carry with out – internet does not serve that purpose.

Question 6) (1) Why don't we have greeters at registration desks? Can't get into an open AA meeting without being greeted. Tks! (2) In reports, put ph.# &/or email address of each delegate. They keep saying contact me – but need fast & easy access! or on power point – with the exception of Lyn Sowden. Rita, District #16

Response: (1) Request that via motion & group conscience. (2) See list – See Area 86 Contact List, Open Lines Contact List – confidential.

Question 7) If 2 separate groups share the same meeting space on different nights, should they share a box with their books, etc? Suzanne, District 26

Response: Group autonomy to be decided by group conscience between the two groups. “Self-supporting” through our own voluntary contributions.

Question 8) Can we make all documentation for AWSC and Fall Assembly available on the OSA website @ least 2-3 months ahead of the scheduled meeting dates in order to provide GR's with material and enough time for understanding and discussion @ group/district level. Lise L, District 28

Response: It is the responsibility of the DR to bring it to the attention of the GRs as soon as the DRs get it. The Executive has deadlines and sends out info early enough.

Question 9) Is there a reason why the designation of a motion (either administrative therefore reviewed by the executive or to be tabled by the assembly) is not revealed until after the voting has occurred? Leslie Parsons, District #1

Response: We don't know the outcome of the motion until the motion is presented.

Question 10) Suggestion. In our envelopes, each page numbered, so therefore, go to page 13 for budget, not searching through all the pages. Rita, District #16

Response: Please address this to Evaluation Sheet.

Question 11) Group Conscience. If the GR takes a group conscience at a business meeting with perhaps 6 or 7 only attendees, but the group is 20 members, does this constitute a group conscience? Gwen G, via Suzanne, District #26

Response: See P38 & 39 [Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual] on group conscience.

Open Forum:

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

The meeting was closed with the Al-Anon/Alateen Declaration – When anyone anywhere reach out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and let it begin with me.