

OPEN LINES

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Quick Links for Ontario South

[Group Records Change Form](#)

Donation Form or **E-transfers** can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer. Please note **your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer.**

[Form C for SAMS \(AMIAS\)](#)

[Literature Order Forms](#) (Printable and Fillable)

[Area Policy Manual](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Districts in Ontario South

- District 1..... Muskoka
- District 2.....Georgian Bay
- District 3.....Bruce County
- [District 4](#).....Waterloo Region
- District 5..... Huron Perth
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- District 7..... Sarnia Region
- [District 8](#)..... Windsor/Essex
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- District 16..... Mississauga, Oakville
- District 17..... Upper Peel-Halton
- District 18.....Dufferin, York, Simcoe
- District 19.....Toronto North
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- District 27.....Seaway Valley
- [District 28 & 29](#).... Ottawa
- District 30.....Upper Ottawa Valley
- District 31.....Kingston Region

Al-Anon Declaration

Let it begin with me

When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there and *let it begin with me.*

Statement of Purpose

Open Lines is published three times a year by Ontario South Assembly. This newsletter presents service-related news and information to Al-Anon groups in Ontario South to help keep them informed. Personal sharings of recovery should be sent to the Forum.

Subscription: Rates:

Free for personal email subscription.

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Please send a request for NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to:

openlinesosa@gmail.com

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[Ontario South Website](#) (Al-anon.alateen.on.ca)

From the Ontario South Delegate

Hello to all the members of Ontario South, Area 86. My first thought when I began to think about writing my report for Open Lines was “wow, I have a lot to share”. I started to type and what I realized is that I was thinking outside of the Links of Service. I was going to report information that would be shared with you by other Trusted Servants. I was about to share information about Group Records, or AAPP or Literature. My enthusiasm, sometimes called ego, was getting the better of me. So, I backed up the bus and looked at and asked for guidance as to what it is that I am meant to share. So here we go!

Since my last Open Lines report I have had the blessing and the honour to represent Ontario South Area 86 at our World Service Conference. Conference was held in Terrytown New York. Thank you for your support, your messages of love, experiences & suggestions. I felt as if I had a cheerleading section at home. I was so nervous and excited all at once. This would be the first time since the pandemic that I was on a plane or in a space with so many people. Not only that, but I was about to meet “Those People”. You know who I mean. The staff at WSO, The CEO, CFO, and all of the amazing department managers who work at the World Service Office for us, the Al-Anon Group Members. I was also about to meet all the other Delegates from Panel 60 – 61 & 62. What an experience! We worked hard. I developed relationships, learned so much and it was FUN. Yep, that’s right it was FUN. Best part is that that I can tell you that WE are THOSE People. We are all part of the Structure of Al-Anon Family Groups. Each member is important and we all have a voice and a vote. That’s why it’s so important to attend your Home Group business meetings. If you don’t have a home group, ask yourself why?

Conference delegates voted to accept Electronic Meetings to become Groups and part of the World Service structure. We had discussions about budget, Alateen, Public Outreach, Literature, Group Records just to name a few. Our agenda was full each day and we worked until we were done.

For now, I am only choosing a couple of topics to share with you.

Budget. Please consider ways that you personally & as groups can financially support the WSO. Respond to the special outreach letter by sharing what you can. Purchase literature from our LDC (Literature Distribution Centre). Encourage your group to have a budget that includes annual donations to Area and to WSO. Part of having a healthy Al-Anon Group is being able to meet our financial obligations. That’s right, I went there. Hopefully your home group has a treasurer. This is something that you can bring up at your next business meeting.

I also attended, and prepared reports for Area World Service Committee (AWSC) meeting in May. This is the meeting where all of the District Representatives, Area Coordinators and Area Executive meet. This meeting took place on an electronic platform. Please ask your District Representative what their take-aways were from the meeting. Did you know that as a member you are welcome to attend your District Meetings? I encourage you to go and to see what takes place. Get involved! I have heard that Service is one of the best kept secrets of recovery. I want to dispel that idea. Service is a great way to implement the Al-Anon tools of recovery. Service is where we learn about the Traditions and how to play nice with others, even when we disagree with them. Service has changed my life for the better in a scabillion different ways. I am aware that this is not like my previous reports and I’m ok with that. Open Lines is an opportunity to reach out to each Al-Anon member of Area 86 in a unique way. An opportunity to share with our Experience, Strength & Hope gained in and through our Service role. My hope is that just maybe I have

encouraged you to seek out more information about Service. There is a great piece of literature that is focused on Service. If you don't know what that is reach out to our Area Literature Coordinator. If you have questions about how to step into service reach out to any one of the members who have submitted a report in this publication. Their contact information is included.

Yours in Service

Gwen D. OSA Delegate Area 86, Panel 61

Enhancing Our Recovery through Abundance, Unity, and Understanding
Enriquecer nuestra recuperación a través de la abundancia, unidad y comprensión
Enrichir notre rétablissement par l'abondance, l'unité et la compréhension

From the Ontario South Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator

Dear Members,

So far this year there have been 5 wonderful articles published in the Forum from Ontario!!!

Now that we are able to meet Face to Face, it would be wonderful if we had more articles from Ontario.

I would love to help get the juices flowing with Fellowship, Food, and Forum.

This information is for June 2022 from the WSO.

The Group column includes all group subscriptions. It contains both the number of group subscriptions and the number of group copies sent that month. Some groups receive more than one copy of the magazine. (For example, if your state has 50 group subscriptions and receives 63 copies, then between those 50 groups there are 13 extra copies being sent.) Contact your Group Record Coordinator if you need to know how many groups are in your Area.

The Other column includes all subscriptions sent to individuals, Districts, Al-Anon Information Services, Literature Distribution Centers or others. It contains both the number of subscriptions from individuals and others as well as the number of copies sent that month to individuals and others. Some individuals and others receive more than one copy of the magazine. (For example, if your province has 106 subscriptions from individuals and others and receives 112 copies, then between those 106 individual and other subscribers there are 6 extra copies being sent.)

The subscriptions are listed by state and province, not by Area.

Country	State/Province	Group		Other		Total	
		Subscriptions	Copies	Subscriptions	Copies	Subscriptions	Copies
CANADA	ON	56	69	245	251	301	320

Love in service

Kristine B. Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator

From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Ontario South members. Here is a list of what your chairperson is busy with these days.

AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING: May 27 - 29, held virtually. I put together the agenda and information package for approval by the executive prior to it being sent to the district representatives and others invited to attend. I chaired this meeting. It was a long, tiring day keeping track of the motions and votes and members making comments. It was an honor to serve the area members.

ASSEMBLY 2022: October 14 - 16, Ottawa. The host committee is hard at work planning for another great assembly. I serve as the executive liaison for this committee.

ASSEMBLY 2023: October 20 – 22, Mississauga. Districts 17 and 16 and volunteers have stepped up to form a host committee. If you would like to help, please contact myself or the district representatives.

ASSEMBLY 2024: October. A host committee from the west side of our area (districts 3 through 11) is needed. District reps please add this to the agenda of your next district meeting.

EMAILS: I respond to executive and member emails as often and as quickly as I can.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS: March, June, July. I set the agenda for approval of the executive and chair these meetings. So far in my service term, these have been held virtually.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION: I receive and track these items and send responses from the executive to members. If the member agrees, the question and response are published in this newsletter.

LITERATURE OPERATING COMMITTEE: March. I am a member of this committee and attended the March meeting.

SAM LETTERS: If a member requires a letter to reduce the cost of their criminal record check, I issue the letter.

TRUSTEE: It is not too late to send me your resume for Regional Trustee for Canada Central for the 2024-2027 term.

ZOOM: The area zoom account is available to districts and committees who wish to use it for a meeting. Just send me the day and time and I will confirm availability, set up the meeting, and let you know how to open zoom.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our area executive meets in February, July and November this year.
- Any member can send an item for consideration to any member of the executive at any time. The form for this is on our area website at <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms/>.
- You will receive a response to your item following the executive meeting that it was discussed at.
- All members have access to our area policy and guidelines manual on our area website <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/area-policy-manual/>.

Gratefully Yours,

Sandy O. Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly chairons86@gmail.com

From the Ontario South Treasurer

Donations to the area can be made either by e-transfer or by cheque.

E-transfers can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer.

IMPORTANT Please note your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer. I need more than just the name of your group. The name of your group could be the same as another group in a different district.

Or, if you prefer, make your cheque payable to “Ontario South Assembly” and mail to P.O. Box 1151, Station Main, Guelph, ON, N1H 6N3. For proper accounting please use the donation form found in the area manual. Go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca, member section, area policy manual, Section 10, Form D – donation form.

The budgeted amount required from each group for 2022 is \$110.62.

Thanks again for putting your trust in me.

Janet B Treasurer osatreasurer3@gmail.com

From the Area Advisor, Literature Office Committee Chairperson

- The Ontario South Alateen Guidelines Committee continues to meet to update Section 11 of you Ontario South Guidelines and Procedure Manual
- The acronym SAM (Supportive Al-Anon Member) will now be referred to as AMIAS (Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service). This is the acronym used by WSO and all other areas in Al-Anon/Alateen
- The Literature Distribution Center (LDC) will be closed for the summer from Thursday, July 7 at 1:00 until Monday, August 22 at 10:00. Look for the flyer.

- A reminder that your Executive is here to help out wherever and for whatever is needed. You never have to do anything alone in Al-Anon. Our email addresses and phone numbers are on the back page of this Open Lines. USE US!
- We are looking for District/s in the western section of Ontario South, to host the 2024 Assembly. It's never too early to start thinking about getting involved. I have had the experience and I can tell you, just like anything else in Al-Anon, the rewards are never-ending. Give it a thought! Contact your Area Chairperson for more information.

Sue Gaskell, Area Advisor, Literature Office Committee Chairperson

From the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)

At this year's AWSC a motion was passed to change the reference SAM (Supportive Al-Anon Member) to AMIAS (Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service). So going forward I will be using "AMIAS" rather than "SAM". It will take some time before our Area forms are changed over, so forms with "SAM" will be accepted.

The AMIAS recertification process is over with about half of the existing AMIASs meeting the deadline of mid-June. If you are one of the AMIASs who did not get their documentation in to me, it's not too late to renew as an AMIAS. Just follow the same process as someone applying to be an AMIAS for the first time.

Should you wish to become an AMIAS please refer to the applicable section of the Al-Anon Ontario South, Area 86 website. www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca

Briefly, you will obtain a police record check including vulnerable sector screening from your local police station, in person or on-line. You will seal this in an envelope and give it to your District Representative (DR) along with the completed Area Form C (also found on the Area website). Your DR will complete the form and send it to me for processing.

Some cities, towns etc. may reduce or eliminate the processing fee. If this applies to you, you may request a letter from the Area Chair, Sandy O at chairons86@gmail.com. You will need to provide Sandy with your full legal name for the letter.

Your District may reimburse you for any expenses, if not, the Area will. The Area expense form is also found on the Area website.

Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions about becoming an AMIAS.

Jean McS, aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com

From the Alateen Coordinator

The Ont. South Policy Alateen guidelines review committee continues to work on the review and revision of those guidelines and are close to being done. We had a sub-committee meeting recently wherein we invited some current group sponsors, a former AAPP and Ont. S. Alateen coordinator to weigh in on question 5 on form 10C as it relates to the DR and AAPP signing the form (or not). It was, and continues to be, an informative process, and is all in the service of ensuring that the Safety and Behaviour Guidelines are complete, easy to understand and navigate and above all, provide safety for teens and sponsors. There were some suggested changes to these sections of the manual by the committee which will make their way to Assembly for final approval in due time (for sure not 2022 but hopefully 2023).

On Sunday, July 10, I will attend a National Alateen Coordinator monthly meeting in which there will be a mock FRESH event, i.e., Forms, Resources, Experience, Strength and Hope. This is being provided by Eleanor J and Cindy J, Area 9 AAC and AAPP and are virtual AMIAS Training and certification events that are held in Central and Northern Florida. The one we will be going through in this meeting is Module 2: Alateen Recovery is Al-Anon Recovery. These training events are a necessary component of becoming certified to be an Alateen AMIAS (group sponsor) and while we do not have these training sessions as part of our process in Ontario South, I would like to hold workshops which feature the concepts and information provided. It has come up in our review of the safety and behaviour guidelines that this might be helpful to the group.

Yours in service,

Carrie Earl Ontario South Alateen Coordinator os.alateen.coordinator@gmail.com

I check it frequently and will always answer any queries you may have.

We love you, lots and lots, and more and more, and then some. And whole bunches baby.

Hug someone as soon as you can – it's good for your health 😊

From the Group Records Coordinator

Happy Summer to all,

I first feel I need to make an amends for being very blunt at AWSC.

As anyone who attended could probably tell I reached a frustration point. I get emails that do not have all the necessary information and it makes things difficult to process. I am sorry but I have no idea what city/town you are from and if George is a street, avenue or crescent and no idea of the postal code.

All groups in order to have an active status with the WSO must have a Current Mailing Address full name with a mailing address and current email address and phone number. They do not have to have a Group Representative.

To clarify, the Contact person is the person and phone number that WSO will give out to the public if someone calls and requests a real person to speak to. This is why groups are encouraged to use your telephone answering service or local public outreach or AIS number. This way a newcomer will get a real person with accurate information about the group.

It is so frustrating for me when I get notes that a group is in no mail status or the message that the group is not meeting, and I cannot contact anyone because the information is not accurate. (I have actually called someone who informed me that the person I was calling was deceased and had been for several years).

Newcomers can quickly become frustrated, and we will lose them!

I have sent out and received hopefully, most of the districts group records changes using the group records change form and all changes are up to date.

We currently have 254 groups registered as active with the WSO.

We have 7 groups in a no mail status and 1 in as reported as not meeting. I have reached out with no responses. I find this frustrating and cannot even imagine what a newcomer feels.

We have 2 groups in the process of registration, and I am awaiting the group numbers to allow me to add them to our database.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Hugs to all and I look forward to seeing you all at Assembly in the fall.

In service,

Sharon R, Group Records Coordinator grprec@hotmail.com

From the Open Lines Coordinator

In this position of Open Lines Coordinator, I had the opportunity to attend and participate in my first AWSC! As I prepare for the next edition of Open Lines (the one you are currently reading) I am filled with anticipation to continue to learn and be part of this amazing Ontario South Area!

Thank you to all of the Executive, Coordinators and District Representatives who continue to submit to each issue of Open Lines!

My role is simply to gather and publish. Without your input there would be no Newsletter! As is so perfectly stated in Concept 4 "Participation is the Key to Harmony"

Upcoming deadline for submissions to Open Lines December 2022 issue is *November 11th*. Remember you can submit your reports before the deadlines! I look forward to future submissions for the December issues!

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity to serve.

Loretta V, Open Lines Coordinator openlinesosa@gmail.com

From the Website Coordinator



The emphasis of the website work in the past few months was on changing the status of meetings from online and inactive to in-person.

At the moment I am writing this report, my Ontario South files show the following numbers:

Online: 108 meetings
Hybrid: 18 meetings
In-person: 114 meetings (hurray!)
Groups with independent online meetings: 14
Groups that only meet online: 2
Inactive: 87 meetings

Total meetings (Al-Anon and Alateen): 323 (315 groups).

I now also received the first announcement of a 'global electronic meeting'. This group, that originates from the GTA, is not part of any current Area or District and will only be listed on the WSO electronic meetings list. I am sure this will not be the last occurrence of this phenomenon and I follow Area discussions closely to find out how to deal with these meetings on the website.

Thinking it over, I realize there are many things that need to come to the table, both at international levels and closer to home within Ontario South.

I find 19 groups that have more than 1 meeting, even from before Covid hit. Some of these groups now have independent Zoom meetings and from what I have heard, they want to keep them going, so that members who are unable to attend physical meetings of their home group can still get their Al-Anon vitamins. There might also be members who feel a kinship to a particular group, but live at too great a distance to attend the physical meeting. Others might have health issues that make traveling to the physical location a problem. And of course, when meeting on Zoom, a group opens their hearts to visitors from abroad as well.

Whatever the reason is for a group to continue online meetings on top of the physical portion, there are many things to consider in the conversation about their position and place in the current service structure. Here are some things I heard: if an online group is run independently, there will sooner or later come a time they might wish to have their own vote in the Ontario South decision making. Their position might bring them to different opinions than their physical counterpart. Which means they will have to appoint a group representative and fill other group

service positions. There is also the issue of the Seventh. Do online meetings still 'belong' to a physical area and do donations flow to a particular district? (Thereby indirectly supporting the Ontario South Area and through them WSO.) Many members strongly believe in our grassroots structure: all groups are autonomous and can decide to keep their online meetings alongside the in-person portion, or not. Ontario South might want to create their own virtual Canadian Electronic Meeting Area... I think all of this will trigger some mighty interesting conversations at different level. In the end, as the website coordinator, I will take direction from whatever the final group conscience outcome will be.

Back to the website: I have made some changes to hopefully make it easier to enter a group change via our online form. It is now divided in shorter pages, so it is less daunting to navigate. I hope you will experience this as an improvement.

I wish you all a healthy, safe and relaxing summer!

Yours in service,

Nicky D., Website Coordinator Ontario South os.website.a86@gmail.com

From the Trillium Chair

Greetings Friends!

I'm hoping, by now, you have heard the news: **Ontario South's very own Trillium Convention is re-blossoming!** *<insert sounds of cheering>* For many of you, the mere mention of "Trillium Convention" may bring forth a flood of memories; for others, you may not be familiar with this event which took place yearly from 1992 to 2013, with a final gathering in Richmond Hill in 2016.

With the decision taken at Assembly 2021 regarding the location and duration of the Area's Al-Anon convention, as well as widespread adoption of technology that allows planning meetings to take place virtually, there is an opportunity to learn from/build upon our past experience and tap into a new energy of trusted servants. There are now plans in the works for a **virtual celebration on September 10, 2022**, followed by an **in-person gathering in 2023!** Details are not yet confirmed, so be sure to keep your ears perked and check out the Trillium Convention website (<https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/trillium/>) regularly.

My name is Jo-Anne G. and I am from District 28 (Ottawa). It seems I find myself currently in service as the Trillium Committee Chairperson! I wasn't looking to take on a service position at this time, but apparently my Higher Power thought it was time. I am reminded of this quote from our brochure Joy of Service (S-57): *"You don't get ready to be a trusted servant, you get to be a trusted servant and then the Higher Power gets you ready."*

When I was first approached about this service opportunity, my inner fear-based voice said: Nope. I had many reasons why this was not right for me. But I knew enough to say "Can I take some time to pray on it?" And as I went for a walk, HP's voice came in loud and clear: **DO YOU TRUST ME?** The message came so quickly! And it was categorical: *"Do you trust me, yes or no? You can't trust me just a little bit. You either trust me. Or you don't."* And I realized that I was being

invited to trust more deeply... to trust my Higher Power and to trust all the members I would encounter on this service journey. Because when I look back on it, service in Al-Anon has always been just that: an invitation to trust. And so, here I am - ready to be made ready by my Higher Power.

**SAVE THE DATE: September 10, 2022 (details on free virtual celebration to follow) **

Jo-Anne G.
In service as Trillium Chairperson



District Representative Updates

District 2 – (Georgian Bay) Update

We do not hold District Meetings in July and August so everyone can enjoy their summer.

Our Lions Head Group has officially closed now so we have 6 Groups in District 2.

The Owen Sound Wednesday night and Thornbury meetings are hybrid. The Collingwood Wed group continues on zoom.

Dundalk and Collingwood Monday night meetings are in person.

We have decided to postpone our discussions re: holding our District Al-anon Day until next year.

The following is the update from Our Owen Sound AFG:

Our Owen Sound Al-Anon Family Group celebrated our 35th Anniversary on Wednesday, June 15th, 2022. Our group held our first Al Anon speaker meeting at our location, her story was phenomenal and her first time sharing in person (not over Zoom!). As the Group Rep, my personal worry and anxiety set in due to the Covid pandemic fears and wondering if we would have a good turnout, well my Higher Power played an important role as we had roughly 35 people in attendance who ranged from District 2 and District 3 zones, which is Warton down to Mount Forest and across from Kincardine to Collingwood, covering a 330km area.

The chatter in the room was filled with beautiful souls surrounded by their own Higher Powers who all shared their personal experience, strength and hope with other members. Feedback from members was remarkable! Our group is hoping to hold more speaker meetings and will continue in celebrating our anniversary going forth.

Sharing & Growing Through Service

Rosemary Peer- DR District 2

District 3 (Bruce County) Update

District 3 meetings have all returned to “in person”. Although we lost some wonderful people who had been regular attendees during the zoom sessions, all groups are seeing new people enter our rooms. We miss those who live far away but hope they find a meeting in their community and know we need to be in person to serve the community where we live.

Monday - Port of Hope at 7 p.m.

Wednesday - As Lois Sees it at 10 a.m.

Thursday - Penetangore at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - Hanover Roundtable at 8 p.m.

Saturday AlAnon participates at an ALL A's meeting in Lucknow at 12 noon

Grateful to be of service

Cheryl K.

District 6 (London Region) Update

The London and Region Al-Anon Family Groups responded quickly to the pandemic, offering one in person meeting throughout the duration of the pandemic, and more than a dozen meetings moved to an online platform (Zoom meetings) to offer support to our fellowship.

During the course of the last two years, we had an AFG meeting move locations after 62 years at the same location and two AFGs that lost their physical locations in hospitals and LTC homes. We had a few meetings that did not meet at all while a new meeting opened in the last few months. Further, one temporary online meeting has decided to register as an Al-Anon Electronic Group moving forward!

Interestingly, we have members that have never been to an in-person meeting but found the experience, strength and hope in Al-Anon thanks to online venues.

Our virtual Al-Anon Day 2021 was a success with Al-Anon, AA and Alateen speakers.

Our Public Outreach committee meets every month and is focused on connecting with the professional community, spreading awareness of Al-Anon and what we offer.

Our website and telephone services experienced an important increase in traffic during the pandemic and these services continue to be the first point of contact for most of our newcomers.

Later in 2021, we conducted a District Inventory and are currently considering the information that we received from this important endeavour.

The London and Region AFGs continue to make important decisions about physical locations, returning to meet in-person and registering electronic groups. Currently, we have approximately 7 meetings temporarily meeting online, 4 hybrid meetings, and 3 in-person meetings.

Tannis R, DR District 6

District 23 (Lakeshore) Update

Hello from District 23! There have been a few changes since our last update. Lakeshore District 23 currently has 11 registered groups. Meetings stretch from Pickering in the west to Bowmanville in the east, and Port Perry in the north.

Bowmanville Serenity AFG on Thursday evenings and New Hope Pickering AFG on Tuesday evenings are currently using a hybrid format. YANA AFG on Sunday evenings (Oshawa), Just For Today AFG on Monday evenings (Port Perry), Traditions AFG on Tuesday evenings (Oshawa), Morning Glory AFG on Monday mornings (Oshawa), Let It Begin With Me AFG on Thursday mornings (Oshawa), and Peace and Serenity AFG on Saturday mornings (Whitby) have all reopened their doors to in-person meetings. Paths To Recovery AFG on Tuesday evenings (Pickering) and the Whitby Alateen meeting continue to use a temporary electronic platform. Brooklin New Beginnings AFG remains inactive for the foreseeable future until a new physical location can be identified.

District 23 Public Outreach hosted their 2nd Annual Virtual Spaghetti Dinner in April. The evening included entertainment (and comedy too!), speakers and fellowship. There was a Writing Workshop held in May that included a speaker sharing on using writing as a recovery tool, a reading from The Forum, highlights from The Forum Writing Guideline (F-1), and a timed writing exercise after which the attendees shared. Many of us left the Workshop having accomplished our first written submission to The Forum!

A few members from District 23 have some exciting news to share! A new permanent electronic meeting has been registered with the WSO and will be part of the new Global Electronic Area – Hope and Faith AFG. A GR has been elected and other service positions will be available. The first meeting will be on Monday, July 11 at 7:00 PM. The Zoom meeting ID is 817 6843 6632 and the password is 905416. Any questions can be sent to hopeandfaithafg@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

District 23 Al-Anon is also excited to be participating in the 50th AA Lakeshore Districts' Conference happening on August 12-14 as an in-person event. For program information and ticket sales, please visit www.aaldc.org and check back often for updates.

Happy Summer!

HUGS

Hope, Unity, Gratitude, Service
Deborah F, DR District 23

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update

Good day everyone. I'm writing this for Open Lines just before the office begins summer closure. **Note the office closes at 1pm Thursday July 7 and reopens at 10am Monday Aug.22.** You may leave voice mails or emails with inquiries or orders during that time to be attended to upon reopening **but please do not send any payments** until you have confirmation that I have the items you want. Due to covid and many forest fires the printers are having issues making stock for us. Because the delays are sometimes exceptionally long, I will not hold payment pending receipt of the literature on my shelves. I will set up a separate order for any items you want that are not available and when they arrive, I will call you to let you know they are here. At that time, you can pay, or you can request that the order is cancelled. Also please note I am continuing to take pre orders for the service manuals but now WSO doesn't anticipate we will receive them until the end of the year.

I have been getting several inquiries regarding groups using and/or displaying non-CAL items or altering our slogans. "What do you think" I get asked. As a member I have thoughts on this, but it isn't my thoughts that are important, but our program is. Our program has answers right at our fingertips. **Page 3 in Why CAL (P-35)** speaks on this topic. It is very clear why we don't use outside literature. It is confusing for members, especially the newcomer. We often walk in desperate to find out how to live with this illness and we need our program, not another one or other outside concept we can find in the local bookstore. Many of us have tried everything, to no avail. Having only CAL keeps Al-Anon, Al-Anon, which is what we are searching for. This pamphlet has so much more too including copywrite material and why we need to be mindful that the Al-Anon program is copywritten **page 5**. This is great for a meeting topic, especially in the groups that may not be aware of why this is so important to adhere to. **Our service manual (P-24/27) on page 113 or (116 in the updated service manual)** speaks also to the Use of Material at Al-Anon meetings. It shares why we as individuals on our own time can use anything that helps us grow but why we don't bring it into meetings. It specifically speaks of the use of AA literature in meetings and why we don't use it or display it. If anyone wants to look this up, the new service manual is available for free download or to view online at alanon.org. Note the page change above. Finally, **tradition 4** says "that each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole. Using AA literature or other material in a meeting of Al-Anon does affect our program as a whole. It waters down what Al-Anon is and how it can help. It could push someone away who desperately needs help, but they are not alcoholic, or they may not agree with the views of other outside publications. If they need AA because they qualify as a dual member, they will find it or be guided there. If they need outside help, we don't discourage that, but they need to find it outside of our meetings. In an Al-Anon room (virtual or face to face) we need to offer safety, caring, hope and Al-Anon. Let's hope that is what they find in each meeting they go to.

In service,

Linda LDC Office Manager os.literature.distribution@gmail.com

Ask-It-Basket Responses to Questions from AWSC



Here are the questions submitted and the responses by the Ask-it-Basket Committee, from this spring's Area World Service Committee meeting:

MY QUESTION IS: *At a recent business meeting at my home group a service position was being voted on, and the GR had a vote in her possession from a member of our group who was absent that night. Since that night I have looked in our service manual for any direction if this was allowed. I questioned the GR and everyone in the group agreed with her and we proceeded to vote. Can you clarify this issue for me, are we allowed to have a member that is not present at the business to vote?* Name: Christina L, District 9

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: “Groups are within their autonomy to decide how to conduct their group business and how to reach an informed group conscience.” - *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (2022-2025)*, pg. 47
See also page 48 of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (2022-2025)*, “Voting at the Meeting.”

MY QUESTION IS: *What would be the status of a group that chooses to remain meeting virtually permanently, are they still considered part of their District or do they fall under the World Service Office (WSO) as one of their e-meetings?* Name: Leslie P., District 1

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: Any group that registers as an electronic meeting is automatically part of the new electronic Area, unless their geographical Area has an electronic meetings policy. Ontario South does not, at this moment, have an electronic meetings policy.

For more information, please refer to the Delegate's 2022 AWSC report or consult the Delegate for any further questions.

MY QUESTION IS: *Where is it written in the manual or elsewhere that the chairperson of AWSC is the only person that can decide if a motion gets presented to AWSC for discussion and therefore before the Assembly, and (b) is it considered a rule or a guideline?*
Name: Sue S., District 16

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: It is written in the voting procedures, which are approved by each meeting of the Area World Service Committee and the Assembly.

More information on how items from the membership are handled at Area World Service Committee meetings can be found in the *Ontario South Assembly Policies & Guidelines Manual*, Section 4a, under 15. Motions.

Concept Three tells us that “The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.” More on this Concept can be found in the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (2022-2025)*, pg. 185-188, as well as the first paragraph on pg. 263 of *Paths to Recovery*.

MY QUESTION IS: Can we review the procedure under voting to allow a Motion to come to the floor of AWSC or Assembly without it being approved by the Chairperson?

Name: Louise W., District 18

ASK-IT-BASKET ANSWER: This question has been referred to the Executive Committee as an Item for Consideration at its next meeting.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

NO.	NAME	ITEM	RESPONSE
1	Carolyn S-P, D26	<p>What is Ontario South’s position on keeping established groups in their District/Area if they choose to continue their meetings online rather than return to in-person after the pandemic is declared over?</p> <p>Background: As you know, many groups moved their meetings to electronic meetings during the pandemic in order to keep going. Now that we appear to be emerging from this situation many groups are discussing returning to in-person or remaining on-line. In our conversation with Group Services at the WSO we were advised that once the CDC declares the pandemic over that any established groups that decide to remain online would be removed from their District/Area and placed in a Virtual Area. Some of these groups want to remain as part of their District/Area – continuing to take part in decision-making and offering financial support, just as they have been doing. The only difference would be that they would be holding their meeting online, instead of in a church hall, for example.</p>	<p>Thank you very much. You have a good understanding of the situation at the moment.</p> <p>New electronic groups are now automatically registered in the new electronic area.</p> <p>If a group is already registered it can continue meeting online and be a part of Ontario South for now.</p> <p>This is an Item for Discussion for Assembly 2022.</p> <p>Group Reps will receive this information from District Reps prior to Assembly to bring to their groups.</p>

		<p>We find it particularly concerning that these established groups would be arbitrarily removed from their District/Area and placed in a Virtual Area. This seems to be a direct contradiction of Tradition 4 (Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.); Tradition 5 (Each Al-Anon Family Group has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics.); Concept 1 (The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups.); and General Warranties of the Conference numbers 2 (that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members), 3 (that all decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible by unanimity), 4 (that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy) & 5 (that though the Conference serves Al-Anon it shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon family groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.).</p> <p>WSO also explained that this is under discussion and that in the future Areas might be able to petition to have these groups in their Area, but “this will not be a quick process”.</p> <p>We respectfully request some feedback on this matter, and ask if this is perhaps worthy of presenting at Assembly. We believe it would be very helpful to have some discussion on this issue prior to WSO’s decision so that groups can make a fully informed group conscience decision.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
2	Sue S, D16	That an item be added to the agenda for Assembly 2022 that a task group with representation reflecting the various links of service be formed to review the current	This is a Discussion Item for Assembly 2022. The assembly will be asked if a Thought Force with respect to area voting procedures

		process for inviting ideas and Items for Consideration to the AWSC and Assembly agendas from the membership.	needs to be set up. This could include how Discussion Items are chosen and motioned.
3	Ian S, D28	Can Online Meetings be represented and have a vote at District and Area Meetings.	New electronic groups are now automatically registered in the new electronic area. If a group is already registered it can continue meeting online and be a part of Ontario South for now. This is an Item for Discussion for Assembly 2022. Group Reps will receive this information from District Reps prior to Assembly to bring to their groups.
4	Nicky D, D17	<p>In the context of optimal and open communication between the membership and the Executive, actively using the links of service, I would like to suggest that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The dates of Executive meetings are communicated to all AWSC members well ahead of time 2. Prior to each Executive meeting, the received items of consideration are communicated to all AWSC members, unless the person submitting it indicates that it should not be distributed to AWSC and kept private 3. All AWSC members have the opportunity to attend Executive meetings (without vote) when their District's Items for Consideration come to the table <p>Rationale: At AWSC 2022 the Chair elaborated on the fact that the Assembly Agenda is, in part, determined by the received Items of Consideration. Items that are received multiple times, are more likely to make it to the Assembly Agenda.</p> <p>As pointed out at AWSC 2022, the Executive discusses all received items and posts their response in Open Lines. Open Lines only comes out 3 times per year. The Executive meets at least that many times, but the exact dates are generally not known. There also are no decision lists or minutes to be consulted afterwards. So a lot can get 'lost in time'.</p> <p>The proposed communications will keep</p>	<p>Thank you, Nicky, for your interesting and worthwhile suggestions.</p> <p>Executive meetings are held in March, July, and November. (Area Policy Manual, Section 3, page 1 of 2)</p> <p>Executive meetings are closed, by invitation only. (Area Policy Manual, Section 3, page 1 of 2)</p> <p>Items of Consideration can be sent in at any time. You have kindly added the form to the website for us.</p> <p>Executive meeting dates are set by members of the current executive that are meeting at that time as per their personal availability and not set year after year.</p> <p>Coordinators are advised of the dates of the executive meetings in advance when asked for their reports.</p> <p>Members receive responses to their item from the chair.</p> <p>Yes, in addition some items are posted in Open Lines for everyone to learn from.</p> <p>Executive meetings are historically held face to face, lately at a hotel in Guelph. Logistics and cost are to be considered.</p>

		<p>all AWSC members in the loop about the questions and concerns within the greater membership and gives them the opportunity to check with their GRs and add to those items as needed, thus possibly push the item to the Assembly Agenda.</p> <p>I want to underline that I am bringing this item for consideration to your attention from an attitude of complete love and trust for all AI-Anon members in service. My hope is that it will strengthen the connection and the feeling of being included in all service processes within our membership and specifically between GRs, DRs and the Executive.</p>	
5	Donna P, D16	<p>That sometimes we run out of time for some motions to go on the floor for discussion at AWSC and Assembly. Our chairperson makes the call/decision to put a motion on the floor. It seems we are shortchanging floor discussion which is way more inclusive than the Executive deciding. If the Executive puts off the motion until the next AWSC/Assembly then that honours open discussion but if the Executive decides then we are not honour our principles of being inclusive and the membership being the body to make decisions. Suggestion: Extend the length of ASWC and Assembly to ensure open dialogue and discussion by those in attendance.</p>	<p>Thank you, Donna. Virtual AWSCs and Assemblies have been shorter due to the fatigue experienced by many members.</p> <p>When any of these meetings run long it is decided to either extend the length of the meeting or move items to another meeting. This would normally be decided by all present. Items and Motions may be duplicates, already mentioned, not applicable. Motions are considered in the order received. The Chair does have the job to decide these things. Advisors are present to assist the Chair and the members. Our current voting procedures are based on the experience of previous Assemblies. "If opposing motions are received, the Chairperson will advise the Assembly of this fact and a discussion may result.</p> <p>If it is a new motion, not related to the Discussion Items here at Assembly, it will be reviewed at the next meeting of your Executive and, if appropriate, may be tabled at a future AWSC." (Explanation and Approval of Voting Procedures as voted on by AWSC.) This is a Discussion Item for Assembly 2022. The Assembly will be asked if a Thought Force with respect to area voting procedures needs to be set up.</p>

6	Nicky D, D17	<p>I would like to propose that the AWSC membership is consulted before the actual AWSC agenda is determined. Main objective: in the AWSC evaluation members are asked to volunteer for a workshop or discussion topic. As far as I know, there is no follow-up after the evaluations are processed. Nor is the outcome shared with the AWSC membership.</p> <p>Asking for volunteers outside of the Executive team ensures that those who offered their services via the AWSC evaluation get a chance to follow-up on that. By inviting those volunteers to one of the Executive Meetings where the AWSC agenda is discussed, more members will feel involved and included and a conversation can be held about the content of the offered workshops and discussion topics.</p>	<p>AWSC and Assembly evaluations are sent to the Area Secretary who prepares a report for the executive to review and consider. They are also published in our area newsletter, Open Lines.</p> <p>Items for Consideration can be sent to any member of the executive at any time (Area Policy Manual Section 5A, page 5 of 7, item 21)</p> <p>It is a role of the executive to consider these Items and the Evaluations Forms. We do need to avoid double headed management. (Area Policy Manual Section 4, Item 11, Planning. Section 2A, page 5 of 12, Chairperson's Duties)</p> <p>Other items may be put on an agenda due to necessity or being time sensitive (e.g., Trustee, Road Trip).</p> <p>Yes, members are asked every year if they would like to have a role, this is helpful information. Members have participated in workshops at AWSC.</p>
7	Leslie P, D1	<p>Request that the Area undertake a review of the Voting Procedures to address the following issue: Once a Motion has been submitted, seconded and discussion is underway it should be allowed to proceed to a conclusion (put to a vote). If time is running out then the Chairperson should be permitted end the discussion and call for a vote but should not be allowed to remove/withdraw the motion for any reason, including time constraints. It is my feeling that once a Motion is in motion it belongs to the voting body and the Chairperson's role is to manage the voting process only. The role of Executive members is to serve the greater membership, the current situation as described during the May 25th, 2022 AWSC suggests a lack of accountability</p>	<p>There is no record of a motion being withdrawn by the Chairperson after a discussion on that motion has begun. However, there is a Discussion Item for Assembly 2022. The Assembly will be asked if a Thought Force with respect to area voting procedures needs to be set up</p>

		on the part of the Chairperson (Area Executives) if they are permitted to remove a standing motion and are not obligated to re-instate it for a vote.	
8	Martin H, D32	That Ontario South considers taking advantage of new available technology and cease having in person AWSC meetings and save the approximately \$13000.00 expense as well as costs to individual groups by having a Virtual AWSC annual meeting.	Al-Anon's primary purpose is to help families of alcoholics. AWSC has been held virtually for several years. Al-Anon is an in-person experience. There are multiple benefits to meeting face to face. Many members find virtual business meetings more taxing than in person ones.
9	Linda P, D26	<p>I am requesting our area consider strongly keeping electronically registered groups from our district in our district. If we don't keep them, I see Ontario South shrinking dramatically. I hear many groups saying that due to the distance they need to drive to attend a meeting, aging members, or those with health issues the experience of attending a meeting in their own home has become something they think is beneficial going forward. I know this has already been brought forward for consideration, possibly more than once but I am addressing specifics that have come to mind about it.</p> <p>What I wonder/envision is if we don't let them stay and instead, they go into the virtual area our area loses experience in service and finances. We may lose members who are currently serving as a coordinator or other service position because they choose to stay with their home group which votes to split, leaving them to register a virtual group or who vote to take their present group to electronically registered.</p> <p>What about the LDC? Guideline G-18 clearly state that LDCs have accountability to the area it serves. Could it still send literature to these groups if they are physically in our area although not part of it? If it does will it need to have financial accountability to the virtual area? If not, then can we even remain open?</p> <p>I believe the concern WSO has, and</p>	Thank you Linda. This is a Discussion Item for Assembly 2022. The members will be asked if a Thought Force on whether to establish an electronic groups policy needs to be set up. The districts will need to make their own choices as well.

	<p>maybe the area has is that electronic groups could have someone who lives in Africa voting on things not happening in their area. This could happen as well with a group that is face to face with an electronic component. To be honest this could be handled in two ways in our area manual. It could clearly state that group votes be made by local members, or we can go in the spirit of our fellowship and as the service manual already states we remind members they only have 1 vote in their home group. If the person in Africa considers this their home group, then the vote affects them. Just as we wouldn't follow a member who attends meetings from group to group to see if they vote in more than one place we would trust in the process.</p> <p>I also feel that it would need to be noted that the groups voting member, GR, DR must be prepared to attend district and area meetings in person unless they are planned otherwise.</p> <p>It saddens me that there are probably going to be less face to face meetings but it saddens me more than once the CDC declares the pandemic over we could be minus half our area.</p>	
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Gratefully Yours,
Sandy O Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly chairons86@gmail.com

Upcoming Events!!

Check out Ontario South Website for upcoming events

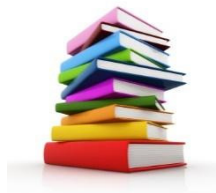
The following are some of the exciting events!!



Summer 2022 Closure of the Literature Distribution Office

Thursday July 7 at 1:00 – Monday August 22 at 10:00

Pre-orders of Literature for Assembly 2022



We are asking you to have your literature orders to the LDC by September 6 at 1:00 and based on availability of literature you will be advised as to the cost. Payment is due

by September 12 at 1:00.

A reminder, that if literature is not picked up at Assembly you will be responsible for the postage.

Hold the date Sat. Sept. 17th

Chatham-Kent Al-Anon (District 9) will again host a one-day workshop 10 – 4 doors
open at 9:30

Trinity Anglican Church – 61 Selkirk, Chatham

MANY topics will be covered (at our last workshop we shared on **40 topics** – WOW!

Speaker(s) from Ontario South (to be announced soon)

Potluck lunch - bring your favourite dish

For more info, or to receive a flyer directly, please email bonnieoagst@gmail.com (if you've received this email, you are automatically included for future news)

A flyer will follow soon with registration info

FALL WORKSHOP

DISTRICT 9

Saturday, September 17, 2022

10am to 4pm

Holy Trinity Church – 81 Selkirk, Chatham, ON

Raffle and Door Prizes

More than 30 Topics to be covered - - - - Guest speakers

Bring a friend, a sponsor, a sponsee

\$5 by August 26, 2022

OR

\$7 at the door

Potluck Lunch – bring a dish to share

*New Item Donations for Door Prizes are appreciated! Contact
Bonnie at 519-354-9320 or bonnieoagst@gmail.com*

Pre-Registration

(by August 26, 2022)

Name: _____ City

Group name: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Cheques Payable To: AFG District 9

Mail Cheques & Registration Forms To:

AFG District 9 c/o Lewsaw – 10 Phyllis Avenue, Chatham, ON N7M 3B9

Note: If sending as a group, please include a list with the names and phone numbers of all attendees.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 29

35th Anniversary

(in-person) New Beginnings AFG – Cobourg

Save the date – June 29 – July 2, 2023

2023 AI-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation

Albuquerque, New Mexico

TRILLIUM EVENT

Just as the ancient Phoenix obtained new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor, so the Trillium Al-Anon Conference will be reborn...

For many of you, the mere mention of “Trillium Convention” may bring forth a flood of memories; for others who may not be familiar with this event, you might wonder “What is Trillium?” Ontario South’s Trillium Conference occurred in Toronto yearly from 1992 to 2013, with a final gathering in Richmond Hill in 2016. Each gathering took place over a weekend in early summer - a conference of various speakers, workshops, and social events organized and hosted by Al-Anon and Alateen, with a full companion program for our AA guests. Truly a Celebration of our Recovery!

After years of dormancy, Trillium will re-blossom in 2023! Following changes to the Trillium Charter, decided upon at Ontario South Assembly in 2021, as well as developments in technology that allows planning meetings to take place virtually, so arose an opportunity to learn from/build upon our past experience and tap into a new energy of trusted servants. A burgeoning ‘Trillium 2.0’ committee is preparing a virtual revival of Trillium on the afternoon of September 10, 2022, followed by an in-person gathering in 2023! Updates will be posted regularly on the Ontario South website “Trillium” page. Keep your eyes peeled!

Ontario South Trillium Convention – Virtual Gathering

Saturday, September 10, 2022 - 1pm – 4pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86575380016?pwd=RXA4L3A2SFdwSFBVUmNNVEFzMkFWUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 7538 0016

Passcode: 718071
