

# 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](mailto: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 AMIAS](#)

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

[Area Policy Manual](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

**Option: copy and paste the following to your browser:**

<https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms/>

## 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.

If you wish to receive a paper copy in the mail, subscription rates for copies mailed in Canada are \$15.00 for 1 year.

Please send a request for NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to:

[openlinesosa@gmail.com](mailto:openlinesosa@gmail.com)

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**Ontario South Website** ([al-anon.alateen.on.ca](https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca))

## Districts in Ontario South

- District 1** – Muskoka (Angus, Barrie, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Innisfil, Midland, Orillia, Parry Sound, Sprucedale, Wasaga Beach)
- District 2** – Georgian Bay (Collingwood, Dundalk, Owen Sound, Lion's Head, Thornbury)
- District 3** – Bruce County (Hanover, Kincardine, Mount Forest, Port Elgin, Southampton)
- District 4** – Waterloo Region (Cambridge, Elmira, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, New Hamburg, Rockwood, Waterloo, Kitchener/Waterloo)
- District 5** – Huron Perth (Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Listowel, St. Marys, Stratford)
- District 6** – London Region (London, Strathroy)
- District 7** – Sarnia region (Bright's Grove, Forest, Petrolia, Sarnia)
- District 8** – Windsor, Essex (Amherstburg, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville, LaSalle, Leamington, Windsor)
- District 9** – Chatham region (Chatham, Ridgetown, Wallaceburg, Tilbury)
- District 10** – Elgin region (Ingersoll, Port Stanley, Port Rowan, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg, Woodstock)
- District 11** – Brantford, Caledonia (Brantford, Simcoe)
- District 12** – Niagara region (Dunnville, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, Ridgeway, Welland)
- District 13** – St. Catharines (Grimsby, St. Catharines)
- District 14** – Hamilton West {Amalgamated with District 15} (Hamilton, Burlington, Stoney Creek, Waterdown)
- District 16** – Mississauga (Mississauga, Oakville, Port Credit)
- District 17** – Peel, Halton (Acton, Bolton, Bramalea, Brampton, Erin, Georgetown, Milton, Woodbridge)
- District 18** – GTA North (Aurora, Beaverton, Bradford, Keswick, King City, Newmarket, Orangeville, Stouffville, Sutton West, Tottenham)
- District 19** – Toronto North (Don Mills, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Toronto, Willowdale)
- District 20** – Toronto West (Etobicoke, Toronto, Weston)
- District 21** – Toronto Central (Toronto)
- District 22** – Scarborough (Agincourt, Markham, Scarborough, Toronto, Unionville)
- District 23** – Lakeshore (Ajax, Bowmanville, Orono, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry, Whitby)
- District 24** – Kawartha (Bancroft, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Haliburton, Lindsay, Maynooth, Minden, Oakwood, Omemee)
- District 25** – Quinte (Belleville, Campbellford, Cobourg, Foxboro, Picton, Port Hope, Stirling, Trenton)
- District 26** – St. Lawrence (Brockville, Carleton Place, Gananoque, Kemptonville, Perth, Smiths Falls)
- District 27** – Seaway Valley (Cornwall, Lancaster, Morrisburg, Winchester)
- District 28/29** – Ottawa (Ottawa, Arnprior)
- District 30** – Ottawa Valley (Barry's Bay, Cobden, Pembroke, Renfrew, St. Joseph, Quebec)
- District 31** – Kingston region (Kingston, Napanee)
- District 32** – Kawartha South (Ennismore, Norwood, Peterborough)
- District 33** – Overlay

## From the Ontario South Delegate

One of the things my service sponsor seems to be fond of reminding me is that I am human. And some days, she says, I am more human than others. As it turns out, I was human on the Sunday morning of Assembly! I had spent Saturday evening updating PowerPoint deck with answers to a couple of questions I had received after my Saturday report. Then I proceeded to share the original version of my Sunday presentation, without the updates. So, here now is the info I was planning to share:

Q: Why can't Honduras (or other countries) print their own literature to save money?

A: A country printing its own literature would need to set up its own General Service Office. Sometimes it's cheaper to pay shipping/import than to print internally.

I also received a question about getting Public Service Announcements on the air. Our World Service Office has a contract with a vendor that not only sends the PSAs out electronically to broadcasters but also follows up with emails and phone calls to encourage stations to play our PSAs. They feel members and local committees cold-calling TV and radio station managers might actually work against the efforts being made by our distribution vendor. Unfortunately, some stations have also requested we no longer send thank-you notes as opening this mail takes staff resources they would prefer to use for other tasks important to the success of their stations.

**Here's what you CAN do:** The Public Outreach Committee recommended members focus their efforts on maintaining existing media relationships and outreach to other non-media outlets, like movie theatres, schools and institutions, or sharing the PSAs with their social media networks (if you feel comfortable doing so).

2028 International update: I have been informed that a city has been chosen for AI-Anon's 2028 International convention! But it won't be shared whether Ontario South's bid has been selected until the next World Service Conference in April 2025. Stay tuned!

Yours in Service,

**Jason W. Delegate, Ontario South**

## From the Ontario South Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator

Wow what an exciting time for me. The election at Assembly brought me into this new role.

It is at times challenging and at the same time so rewarding. Service has taught me so much.

As your alternate delegate, I attended the Executive meeting where I learned even more and seen the service in action. Making informed decisions and agreeing after discussion was totally amazing.

In working with the coordinators, I am learning lots too. Each coordinator plays a very important role in our service structure and as a part of that structure I aim to help them in any way possible.

As the 'Forum' coordinator I am looking forward to educating members in the value of this wonderful piece of literature.

In Service

**Sharon R., Interim Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator**

## From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Members of Ontario South,

Areas of focus over the last few months have included:

Executive Meetings: At our recent November meeting, we covered 38 agenda items, and an additional 20 Items for Consideration. That is a lot of preparation and discussion! It was exhausting, however, the fellowship and the experience, strength and hope that each member brings to the table during discussion and shares during our breaktimes, is priceless, and truly the joy of service for me; and of course, the hugs. In Al-Anon, we're taught to live one day at a time; however, in Al-Anon service we're always thinking ahead. The Executive will soon be busy planning AWSC and Assembly in 2025.

Items for Consideration: I am reminded on page 187 of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* that "Our entire Al-Anon program rests squarely on the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust Al-Anon, and we trust one another. Therefore, we cannot do less than trust our leaders in service." Any member may submit a suggestion to the Executive. The item should affect Al-Anon at the Executive or Area level and require a decision that is beyond Group or District autonomy. The responses to the Items for Consideration are published in Open Lines after research and discussion by the Executive Committee. Please read them and share the information with other members.

Assembly 2024: When I was considering whether or not to stand for the position of Area Chair, I shared with the members who nudged me, that I'm a "behind the scenes kind of person." I was reassured that 75% of the role is behind the scenes, and only 25% of the role is up in front. It's true – most of the Chairperson role involves paperwork and organization. However, the other 25% is really 100% when you're up in front! But we did it! Assembly 2024 is behind us now – all of us, perhaps a bit confused, in our first year of service in a new role. I learned a lot, made some mistakes, and learned some more. This service role continues to provide me lessons in what unconditional love looks like and feels like – thank you.

Assembly provided the opportunity to discuss adding an electronic component to our in-person meetings. The charts below demonstrate some of the attendance figures over the last several years for Assembly and AWSC. Upon review of the numbers, the Executive learned that a virtual meeting may not provide greater participation.

Assembly Year	Mode	Location	Voters	#Groups	%Participation
2017 - Elections	F2F	Mississauga	174	329	53%
2018 - East	F2F	Kingston	127	321	40%
2019 - West	F2F	Woodstock	151	317	48%
2020 - Elections	Virtual	NA	154	307	50%
2021	Virtual	NA	126	305	41%
2022 - East	F2F	Ottawa	101	296	34%
2023 - Elections	F2F	Mississauga	125	261	48%
2024 - West	F2F	Sarnia	107	259	41%

#Voters taken from minutes, either roll call or number of votes

#Groups taken from budget sheets

AWSC Year	Mode	Location	Voters	#Members	%Participation
2017	F2F	DC Oshawa	38	48	79%
2018	F2F	DC Oshawa	39	48	81%
2019	F2F	DC Oshawa	39	48	81%
2020	Virtual	NA	43	48	90%
2021	Virtual	NA	38	48	79%

2022	Virtual	NA	35	48	73%
2023	F2F	DC Oshawa	42	48	88%
2024	F2F	DC Oshawa	39	50	78%

#Voters taken from minutes, roll call

#Members (voting) as per OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual

Year 2024 added Technology Coordinator and District 33 increasing the voting members

Here we are, almost at the end of 2024. Time certainly does fly!  
I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Area 86.

HopeUnityGratitudeService

**Deborah F., Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly**

### 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](mailto: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.**

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. [Click here to go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca, for members, donations.](https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca)

The budgeted amount suggested from each group for 2025 is \$175.00 (2024 – \$170.00).

Thank you for putting your trust in me.

**Janet B Treasurer** [osatreasurer3@gmail.com](mailto:osatreasurer3@gmail.com)

### From the Area Literature Coordinator

#### Open Lines Literature Coordinator Update Dec. 2024

#### Service Guidelines Updated!

Al-Anon Guidelines are compiled and published by the World Service Office, and are available here <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/guidelines/>. They represent the shared experience of Al-Anon and Alateen members in various service roles and provide a wealth of helpful information for anyone involved in service. In continuing efforts to make these service tools more current, accessible, and helpful to all members, the following Guidelines have been recently updated and redesigned in English, Spanish, and French:

[Public Outreach Service \(G-10\)](#); [Group Representatives \(G-11\)](#); [Literature Distribution Centers \(G-18\)](#); [Starting an Alateen Group \(G-19\)](#); [Alateen Safety Guidelines \(G-34\)](#); [Area Group Records Coordinator \(G-36\)](#); [Area Public Outreach Coordinator \(G-38\)](#); [Ordering Literature \(G31\)](#)

These newly updated Guidelines can easily be identified on the webpage by looking for the “NEW” tile, which will remain for a period of six months before it is removed. Feel free to visit [al-anon.org](https://al-anon.org) to download, print, and

circulate these valuable resources among local service arms. *The Forum*, March 2024. **Reprinted with permission of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA.**

**Updated Service Manual.** The 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) v4 is available electronically in English, French, and Spanish! For those members who have a printed copy of v2, replacement pages have been posted in all three languages to download, print, and trim to fit in your *Service Manual*. [al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/...](https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/) The changes include updating the *Choosing a Group's Name Policy* text and the *Local Services Policy* text per two 2024 Conference motions.

Check out the **Literature page in the Ontario South website** to find a share about a piece of literature that I am currently finding useful in my recovery. <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/literature/>

Check out the **Al-Anon Member Blog at the World Service Office** where a different topic is posted every month and members are encouraged to post their thoughts <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/member-blog/> December's topics will include Step 12, Tradition 12 and Concept 12. Remember that *"Member sharing on the Member Blog may be used in future Al-Anon publications."*

Some members responded at Assembly to the following questions posted:

What is your favourite piece of Conference Approved Al-Anon Literature?	How do you use it?
One Day At A Time in Al-Anon (ODAT) (B-6)	"I have members sign my book on their Al-Anon birthday. Then on that day I pray for them."
How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics (B-32)	"Great for newcomers; Great for introductions to topics at meetings; Great overall resource!"
Courage to Change (B-16)	"At first, I would look up a topic that was on my mind (in the index) and I would read some or all of what was there (fear, trust). Now I use it daily by reading the day's message. I also use it as a part of each week's meeting if I am chairing either to open or close."
Alcoholism, A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial (P-3)	
Alateen's Dos and Don'ts (M-9)	"Short, punchy, and surprises newcomers. So small, most cannot resist reading through!"

Yours in service,

**Sue M. Literature Coordinator Ontario South** [osalitcoord86@gmail.com](mailto:osalitcoord86@gmail.com)

## From the Archives Coordinator

We are still working our way through boxes but the end is in sight!

The District binders are the next project.

We have been receiving requests from groups and districts who are interested in their start dates and locations.

There is still a lot to be decided about how we will present archives once we have gone through everything.

We want to make it easily accessible to the fellowship and interested researchers.

Still looking forward to receiving surveys sent out after AWSC on how we can be helpful to all and how each group/district looks after their history.

Yours in Service

Valerie P, **Archives Coordinator**

## From the Group Records Coordinator

I attended my first Assembly as Group Records Coordinator in October 2024.

I printed the Group Records for each District and handed these reports to various Districts and mailed six of them to their District Representatives. While attending the Assembly I was also the Chair for the Host Committee. In my verbal report I reminded members that they needed to fill out the JotForm on the Ontario South website if their groups had any changes such as contact person, CMA and GR. It is vital to Ontario South that meeting details be up to date. The link to the website to make changes is: <https://form.jotform.com/OntarioSouth/grchangeform> Also, during the weekend several members approached me with various questions concerning their group reports and I was able to direct them in the right direction. While attending our Coordinators meeting, I learned that it takes 10 years for an inactive group to be deleted from WSO website, and during that time another group in that area can take over the group number and give it another name, and so the process of a new group is much shorter. Currently Kathleen and I are working together as there are several discrepancies between WSO and Ontario South website concerning groups.

Hugs in service

**Christina L, Group Records Coordinator** [grprec@hotmail.com](mailto:grprec@hotmail.com)

## From the Open Lines Coordinator

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity to serve. I am so very excited to share this edition of Open Lines with you! As you read these amazing reports may you be as inspired as I am by the Service being done to carry the message of Hope to those affected by the family disease of Alcoholism.

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

The deadline (*mark your calendars*) for submissions to Open Lines each year are:  
**March 11** (April 1 issue) July 11 (August 1 issue); November 11 (December 1 issue)

I invite all members to submit to me your feedback throughout the year. I will try to incorporate your suggestions as much as is practical to do so. You might find that thinking of your feedback in the form of stop/start/continue might help to provide respectful, honest and meaningful communication that will enhance the value of the Newsletter to benefit our Area.

If you do not currently receive your own email copy, please email me at [openlinesosa@gmail.com](mailto:openlinesosa@gmail.com) to receive your very own free email subscription. The next issue is April 1, 2025.

Yours in Joyful service,

**Loretta V, Open Lines Coordinator** [openlinesosa@gmail.com](mailto:openlinesosa@gmail.com)

## From the Technology Coordinator

From a technical and overall perspective, I thought Assembly 2024 went well. The three overhead projectors, wireless microphone, and built-in speakers, rented from the hotel, in the main conference room worked very well. Additional equipment was rented from an Audio/Video events company, and they setup the microphones, microphone stands, two speakers, two speaker stands, and an audio amplifier. There were no issues with the rented equipment, except that the cables to the microphones and speakers were a little too short. The hotel staff were also very prompt with powering up the Projectors and lowering the Projection screens.

Similar to AWSC in May, I typed up the motions that were brought to the floor of the Assembly, and there were no issues with this process. Having three projection screens in the conference room was helpful for members, further back from the front of the room, in reading what was on the screen.

I brought extra batteries, painters' tape, power extension cords, and power bars to the event which proved to be helpful.

At future AWSC and Assembly events I would like to have time to do some training on logging into the Area's Zoom account, setting email accounts, and good practices on passwords and security.

Recently I have been thinking about recovery through doing service. I have received an opportunity to work with other members at various stages of recovery. It is an enormous gift to have been in Al-Anon for as long as I have been, and this allows me to see Al-Anon from a different perspective, i.e. the organization. I am still in awe when I see members stand at the podium and they are organized, composed, articulate, and humorous.

Yours in service,  
**Anthony S., Technology Coordinator** [os.tc.a86@gmail.com](mailto:os.tc.a86@gmail.com)

### **From the Website Coordinator**

Hello Area 86,

I was grateful to have the opportunity to see everyone at Assembly this year. I have been busy connecting with many of the Districts this past summer and into the fall and I look forward to connecting with more of you into the new year.

This winter there will be a Christmas/New Year meeting closure notification page on the website. If you would like your group's Christmas/New Year meeting notification closure posted on the OS Website, please send an email to [os.website.a86@gmail.com](mailto:os.website.a86@gmail.com)

I have conducted an audit of the groups in the website database and passed along the discrepancies in information to both the Groups Records Coordinator and the Executive. The website database contains more information than the WSO group records database such as which groups are still temporarily meeting online and which were still caught up in an unfortunate WSO glitch earlier this year when they attempted to register as Permanent Electronic Groups. Actively checking in with groups about their group records is necessary to ensure that we are maintaining accurate information on the Ontario South website. I am very grateful that the members that I have spoken to in the past few weeks while conducting this audit have been gracious and understanding of this and have been willing to give me a few moments of their time.

I have also been asked about more information about the special appeal that was passed at Assembly. I do not have more information at this time, and like the members, groups, and districts, await more information from the Executive. I once again thank everyone for their support and am more than willing to continue to answer any questions in this area.

The website continues to perform well. We had over 17,000 page views in the last 30 days with Trillium and Meetings being the most popular pages. This continues to be consistent with what we have seen over the past year.

As this will be my last report to the membership for 2024 - I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year! I hope that all of you will take a peaceful moment to yourselves to reflect on all the experience, strength and hope that you have gained in this last year.

In service,  
**Kathleen S., Website Coordinator Ontario South** [os.website.a86@gmail.com](mailto:os.website.a86@gmail.com)

## From the Trillium Chair

Greetings Ontario South!

My name is Shannon K and I am the Chairperson for the Trillium Convention 2025 planning committee. I am excited to share that the committee has been meeting regularly since September and plans are starting to roll. The theme for next year's convention is "Al-Anon in Action", giving us lots of options for workshop, speaker and activity topics. The venue contract is currently being negotiated so we're not quite ready to announce it yet. It will be a new venue and it will be in June. Stay tuned for more details in the near future.

Thank you to everyone who spoke with me at Assembly. Any questions can be directed to myself at [OSATrillium@gmail.com](mailto:OSATrillium@gmail.com).

For any groups or districts interested in making a donation to help fund the Trillium Convention 2025, an e-transfer can be sent to [Trillium2025Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Trillium2025Treasurer@gmail.com). Cheques can be made payable to 'Trillium Convention' and sent to the address below:

Trillium 2025 Treasurer, Box 211, Carrying Place, ON, K0K 1L0.

Hope to see many of you at Trillium 2025 or sooner!

Yours in Service,  
Shannon K, Chairperson  
Trillium Convention 2025

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

NO	DATE	NAME	ITEM	RESPONSE
1	25May24	Valerie P – Archives	Would it be a good idea to store the quilt in the archives storage unit, properly packaged, available for all displays.	Thank you for your suggestion and confirmation that the quilt will now be stored in the archives storage unit and transported to area events such as AWSC and Assembly.
2	25May24	Christine C – D12 Diana B – Alt Chair GTAIS	The line item in the budget for "incidental expenses for delegate's use at WSC, no receipts required (US \$ spent)" be reworded to "reimbursement of additional hotel and meal expenses incurred by the WSO Delegate, receipts required."	As background information, the line item in the budget for the Delegate's incidental expenses is \$600CDN, however, expenses are incurred in USD. This line item has been \$600CDN for a very long time, and has traditionally been a "love gift." Currently, all of the Canadian Delegates travel one day early to attend the Canadian Delegates' meeting which occurs over dinner, incurs an extra hotel night, some additional pre-conference meals, as well as travel expenses. This monetary gift to our Delegate is meant as a gesture of gratitude and trust, and has always been meant as a gift (without receipts) to uplift and support the Delegate during the intense and often overwhelming week that is the WSC.  After thorough discussion by the Executive, including feedback from past Delegates, it was determined that (a) if receipts were provided, the actual cost of travelling one day earlier and other conference-week incidentals may be higher; (b) the



				<p>motion may have been made without all appropriate background information available; and (c) in honoring that we are a spiritual program with a business component, it is best left as a love gift.</p> <p>Please feel free to reach out to the Delegate or another member of the Executive if additional explanation is required.</p>
3	24Jun24	Kathleen S – Website Coordinator	<p>Area 86 maintains, reviews, and makes changes to an Area and Guideline Policy Manual (APM), but no longer has an active Committee to maintain review and changes to the APM to ensure that it is up-to-date with the current AI-Anon Service Manual, World Service Office Policies and Guidelines, Area 86 motions as moved at Area World Service Conference (AWSC) and Assembly, Thought Force and Task Force recommendations, and other relevant work as deemed appropriate by the membership.</p> <p>The APM is not concise. It contains approximately 37 sections each representing a different part of Area policy. Many sections contain unnecessary repetition or out of date information. The entire APM will also need to be reviewed to ensure that it is compliant with the inclusion of Permanent Electronic Groups.</p> <p>As the APM is over 200 pages, this makes it difficult to maintain on the website. While having the different sections makes it easy to upload when there is only 1 or 2 sections changed at a time, there have been recent issues with page numbering, and merging to a whole document which has delayed putting the changes on the website. The cost of printing a manual for groups can also be significant to some. The APM is not a commonly viewed page on the website - although this</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion to form a new committee. It is acknowledged that several sections of the OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual may be out of date and need revision.</p> <p>Section 1 of the Area Manual, item 5, states that maintenance is an administrative task and the responsibility of the Policies and Guidelines Manual Committee. The Committee consists of the Alternate Delegate who makes the revisions, the Secretary who updates the motions from Assembly and AWSC and communicates the Area Manual revisions to the membership, and the Website Coordinator who posts the revisions on the website when received from the Alternate Delegate. While there may not be any committee meetings per se, these are the roles involved in the revision process. Area Manual updates are discussed by the Alternate Delegate with the other Executive members during each of our Executive meetings. With the Alternate Delegate stepping down earlier in the year, a gap was created, and this is now being addressed by the newly elected Alternate Delegate.</p> <p>In addition, review and revision of Section 5A (and Section 4) is a task currently being undertaken by the Task Force assigned to implement the suggestions from the Review Committee on the area voting procedures.</p>

			<p>can be expected. The membership can be expected to view this page when it is notified of changes, or close to events such as Assembly, AWSC, and Handover.</p> <p>Several Executive and Coordinators still have listed in their task descriptions “to serve on the Committee that maintains the Policy and Guideline Manual”. However, when inquired I have been told that the Committee is not active and that changes are currently made by the Executive.</p> <p>Last year I was very grateful to serve on the review committee for Knowledge Based Decision Making in the Area. There were many discussions about the APM and the separate document that is sent out to the Area around the voting procedures. One of the recommendations of the Review Committee was:</p> <p>The Executive undertakes a revision of section 5A 12-15 so that it is aligned with the principles embodied with Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM).</p> <p>These changes have not yet been made to the APM. The Executive meets a limited amount of times per year and have several items on their agenda. A Committee has more flexibility to meet as frequently as is needed and is dedicated to their mandate to complete their work.</p> <p>I believe there would be benefit to having a standing Committee made up of members of the Executive, relevant Coordinators, and the membership to review the APM in its entirety.</p>	
4	02Sep24	Diana B – D16	I wanted to share with you some comments/concerns I have related to the Assembly 2024 package, as it	Thank you for your item. It is acknowledged that the Executive accepted the report and recommendations of the Thought Force/Review

		<p>pertains to the decisions of the Thought Force on the Voting/Motion Procedures in Ontario South. The Executive told the membership, in their monthly newsletters, that they agreed to approve all suggestions made by the Thought Force but I see that the statement that the members found most controversial is still in the Motion process on page 11 (under 'What happens if I submit a motion at Assembly'). I am referring specifically to the statement "The fact that a motion has been made and seconded does not place it before the Assembly for consideration, as the Chair alone can do that". It was my understanding from all the discussion during our Thought Force meetings (which I attended), and our final report, that the majority of the Thought Force wanted that sentence removed. In the past, the Chairperson has said that they needed that clause in there as they often received many similar motions and the Chair had to decide which to present. The Thought Forces suggestions of having all motions go through the Advisors, so they could work with members to reduce similar motions down to one, was to allow the Chairperson not to have to decide which motions to read but rather be able to read all motions presented, so the voice of all the Assembly members was actually being heard. In reviewing the final report sent by the Thought Force to the Executive, it stated the committee recommends "The Assembly is presented with the motions that come forward. If more than one motion on the same discussion point is presented, the Assembly votes to determine which motion will be discussed first." If the Executive is not going to accept all the Thought Force committee's</p>	<p>Committee. The mandate of the Review Committee was to make recommendations, not make decisions nor prescribe specific language. There was considerable discussion that the new document should not be too prescriptive as it is not a policy nor procedure, but rather an information sheet providing background information and education on the principles of making an informed group decision and the motion process. Revision to the applicable sections in the Ontario South Policies and Guidelines Manual remains in process.</p> <p>You are correct that the Advisors are there to help the members craft their motions with the hope that duplicate or similar motions might be avoided. Concept 3 defines effective leadership through the right of decision, and the Chairperson is entrusted with the right to make decisions for the good conduct of the business. This may include having to decide to table a motion to AWSC (if for example, it is a new motion not related to the Discussion Topics at Assembly). This does not mean that the motion or the voice of all Assembly members is not heard. In fact, tabling a motion to AWSC allows the motion to be researched, framed, background information provided, and distributed through the links of service so that all members have the information and a voice, not just the voting members attending Assembly.</p> <p>One rationale for the suggestion to have a vote on which motion to hear first was around the issue of opposing motions. However, when the decision points are neutral and do not direct a specific decision, it removes the bias of what might be considered opposing – one motion is as relevant as the next. Further, multiple motions should be minimized if full knowledge-based-decision-making discussion occurs first. Therefore, whether the Chairperson takes a vote on which motion to present to the Assembly first, or chooses to present the motions in the order in which they are received, that is the Chairperson's right of decision. As identified at this year's Assembly, and moving forward as a best practice, waiting until the Advisors and members have returned to the room will better ensure that all motions have been submitted to the Chairperson before discussion and voting occurs.</p> <p>Your suggestion around adding another line to the information sheet regarding reading and recording motions that have not been presented is</p>
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		<p>suggestions, then they need to be transparent with the members and let them know that. As a member of the Thought Force committee, I feel that the committee's hard work and decisions are being misrepresented by the Executive and are misleading the members into thinking that the Thought Force committee approved the Chairperson should retain the ability to decide which motions are heard, when in my opinion we most certainly didn't. I would like to ask that the Executive remove this line from the Assembly/AWSC package or let the members know that the Executive did not accept all the suggestions of the Thought Force. In the second part of the sentence noted above on page 11 of the Assembly package, it says that 'if there is a new motion, not related to the discussion topics at Assembly, it will be reviewed at the next Executive meeting.' The Thought Force in their report recommended "that there be a designated time in the agenda to read and record motions that have not yet been presented. The Executive will research and respond to the member before determining if the motion goes forward to AWSC". This happened this year at AWSC and two motions were shared with the members on the Sunday. If the Executive is adopting this recommendation from the Thought Force, could a line be added to the end of this statement to reflect that motions that have not been presented will be read where ever you put this in the agenda. I noticed that there was no where in the current Assembly agenda where these motions would be read. It seemed to work well at AWSC to read these motions on the Sunday, perhaps that is where you can put it in the agenda moving forward. I hope that if there are any such</p>	<p>acknowledged. This process was implemented at AWSC in May, and at Assembly in October.</p> <p>Thank you for acknowledging that this process was implemented at AWSC 2024 and worked well.</p> <p>Your Area Executive is working very hard at being transparent and doing all they can to help the membership understand the business of Al-Anon.</p>
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			<p>motions at Assembly this year that they will be shared with the members.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing my concerns and I hope they will be addressed.</p> <p>Yours in service,</p>	
5	18Sep24	Brenda McG – D4	<p>We had a business meeting and there was discussion about ordering ebooks from Amazon and other companies. On the Amazon site there is a direct link to the Ontario South website. Some group members want to print off a qr code and put it out with the literature. Is this not going against Tradition 3. Why does the Ontario South online ordering say the ebooks are available from these 5 sites. Is it okay to advertise this on our table. Please bring this up to the Executive committee. I also have talked to Linda, our Ontario South literature person. She was not aware of this link to outside companies.</p>	<p>The Amazon.ca site has a direct link to Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. (the author/publisher), which is the World Service Office (WSO) website, not the Ontario South website.</p> <p>Statements from our Ontario South website include: “Members on the WSO ‘Literature Thought Force’ highly encourages Areas to have their own LDC and that the members purchase from their LDC rather than WSO.</p> <p>When ordering from the LDC, shipping time is 2-4 business days. WSO shipping time for literature is 4-6 weeks.”</p> <p>The WSO site, upon ordering a digital product, provides links to 5 outside digital providers: Amazon, Apple Books, Google Play, Barnes &amp; Noble, and Kobo. Also included on the page is the statement: “This announcement is informational only and not an endorsement of any electronic media provider, reader, or other products sold by electronic media providers.”</p> <p>The following background information has been previously provided by Tom Coffey, past Associate Director of Literature: “The WSO makes its electronic literature (eBooks and audiobooks) available to our members by contracting with Amazon and certain other electronic media providers. In return for their royalty fee, the providers handle all set-up, processing, returns, reformatting as technology advances, etc.- all things that at this time would be cost-prohibitive for the WSO to set up on its own website. In a related way, when you buy a physical book, a portion of the price you pay covers the printing, which is also handled by an outside vendor. The WSO does get the majority of the income from the eBooks that are listed with links on our online store.</p> <p>The WSO does not get a higher percentage of income for electronic literature than printed</p>

				<p>literature. However, we understand the ease and convenience of electronic literature, and therefore want to make it available to our members.</p> <p>The WSO does not have any such contract with outside booksellers for physical books. As a not-for-profit entity, the WSO must sell literature to anyone who wishes to purchase it, but does not sell books to any book dealer at as great a discount as to LDCs. This is why the new books sold directly from outside vendors are marked higher than the WSO price. The lower-priced books are usually used books. If you wish to support the AI-Anon fellowship when purchasing printed literature, the only option is either through the WSO or through your local LDC. Any other method does not support the AI-Anon fellowship.</p> <p>Please remind your Area groups and members that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing eBooks and other electronic literature through the outside entities listed with links on our online store supports AI-Anon Family Groups.</li> <li>• Purchasing printed literature through the WSO or your local LDC supports AI-Anon Family Groups, including local AI-Anon services.</li> <li>• Purchasing new printed literature through outside entities has a very high markup to support the outside entities.</li> <li>• Purchasing used printed literature through outside entities may save you money, but it supports the outside entities.</li> </ul> <p>Groups and members all have a choice-they can support local AI-Anon services and the AI-Anon fellowship or they can support outside entities. We remain obedient to the unenforceable, but when groups and members are aware, many will choose to help AI-Anon be self-supporting.”</p>
6	24Sep24	Susan B. – D5	<p>What is status on considerations for "hybrid" meetings (AWSC/Assembly etc.) People are busy. Resources are constrained (financial and time.) The costs to hold these events (especially Assembly) are considerable, plus the travel costs. I realize the human connection is important, but a choice could be offered. Why flip it East/West</p>	<p>Traditionally, the Assembly meeting location has been rotated from east to west to central. A central location is preferred for the year when elections will be held to allow as many groups as possible to be represented. This rotation of location has provided an equitable opportunity for attendance by the greatest number, given the vast geography of our Area, as members may live anywhere between Sarnia and Ottawa.</p>

			<p>annually? Hold in central location (i.e. north of Toronto) - rent a meeting hall, Legion, Community Centre, other community meeting spaces vs expensive hotel facilities.</p>	<p>The costs of renting hotel facilities is often offset by a contracted number of hotel nights. Renting non-hotel facilities for the business meetings could require members to find accommodations in multiple locations, also impacting any potential savings in a block/group rate.</p> <p>If you are able to research suitable facilities, obtain quotes for the required services outlined in the Bid Forms and submit the information to the Executive, it would be most welcome.</p> <p>The Technology Coordinator role has been filled in this service term starting in January 2024. Consideration for in-person meetings with an electronic component can be further explored. A timed discussion was held at Assembly 2024 regarding this topic.</p>
7	26Sep24	Annie M. – D28	<p>I was wondering if you would consider sending out an Appeal Letter (similar to what WSO does quarterly) to all of the groups in Ontario South to appeal for financial support? I read thru the Assembly documents and see that Ontario South is in quite dire shape financially. I think all groups need to know this and appeal for a donation from each group.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. In our effort to inform groups, the Executive Newsletter from July included the following information: “As of June end, group contributions to OSA were \$16,070 out of \$44,358 budgeted (36%) and only 90 out of 259 groups have contributed to the Area (35%). These numbers are concerning as we are more than 50% through the year. The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (pg. 52) and Guideline G-41 Reserve Fund, (al-anon.org), are useful resources to assist groups with finances and budgets.”</p> <p>The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming.</p>
8	01Oct24	Annie M – D28	<p>Would it be possible for Ontario South Assembly to consider an umbrella policy for insurance for groups? Groups are spending hundreds of dollars on insurance for their group location. This money is coming out of our 7th tradition donations. If there was an Ontario South Assembly policy that covered all groups then we would have significant cost savings. Could this be investigated please?</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. This was investigated in 2019 with an Area survey, and discussed again in March of this year as a result of previously received Items for Consideration. At both times, there would have been costs incurred for the Area to hold and be named on a master policy; and in adhering to Traditions 6 and 7, the Area did not pursue such a policy.</p> <p>That being said, it is acknowledged that more groups are required to have insurance, and insurance products are changing or new ones could be available. This is an ongoing conversation and the Executive may consider undertaking another Area-wide survey to gather more information.</p>
9	19Oct24	Daniele G – D14	<p>Groups have been having difficulty securing independent insurance for their home groups as most venues (churches) are now requiring</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. This was investigated in 2019, and discussed again in March of this year as a result of previously received Items for Consideration. At both times, there would have</p>

			<p>independent insurance since Covid. I know AA has their own "area or global" insurance that covers their groups. Are other areas experiencing this and can this be something to be looked at? Thanks!</p>	<p>been costs incurred for the Area to hold and be named on a master policy; and in adhering to Traditions 6 and 7, the Area did not pursue such a policy.</p> <p>That being said, it is acknowledged that more groups are required to have insurance, and insurance products are changing or new ones could be available. This is an ongoing conversation and the Executive may consider undertaking another Area-wide survey to gather more information.</p>
10	14Oct24	Diana B – D16	<p>In reviewing the Ontario South Policy Manual I believe there are some corrections that need to be made to Section 4, pages 1, 2 and 3, in relation to Motions passed at AWSC 2023 and 2024 regarding the AIS Chair(s) and Alternate AIS Chair(s). The suggested changes are as follows:</p> <p>1) Section 4, page 1, #2 (Members), paragraph 1 of the Ontario South Policy Manual- lists Alternate AIS Chair(s) as members of AWSC, along with all other voting members of AWSC. For the sake of clarity, and since the AIS Chair(s) are the voting members at AWSC, I wondered if the Alternate AIS Chair(s) should be removed from the list? The Alternate AIS Chair(s) ability to attend AWSC as an observer is covered in the paragraph below the one I'm referring to.</p> <p>2) Section 4, page 1, #2(Members), paragraph 2- For clarity, could the last sentence be reworded to read "...they have no vote, unless acting as the DR for their District or Chair of the AIS?"(as per the motion on page 9 of the AWSC Minutes 2023).</p> <p>3)After the motion at AWSC 2024 passed, which has the Area now covering the cost of the meals and accommodation package for AIS Chairs(s), and AIS's contributing to the equalization travel costs, Section 4 pages 2 and 3 under #10 (costs for travel, accommodation, meals) needs updating to reflect the motion</p>	<p>Thank you for identifying the errors in Section 4 of the Area Manual.</p> <p>Section 1 of the Area Manual, item 5, states that maintenance is an administrative task and the responsibility of the Policies and Guidelines Manual Committee. The Committee consists of the Alternate Delegate who makes the revisions, the Secretary who updates the motions from Assembly and AWSC and communicates the Area Manual revisions to the membership, and the Website Coordinator who posts the revisions on the website when received from the Alternate Delegate. While there may not be any committee meetings per se, these are the roles involved in the revision process. Area Manual updates are discussed by the Alternate Delegate with the other Executive members during each of our Executive meetings. With the Alternate Delegate stepping down earlier in the year, a gap was created, and this is now being addressed by the newly elected Alternate Delegate.</p>



			(page 24 of the minutes). Perhaps no one has had the opportunity to update this section yet, but I would be willing to make an attempt at drafting up the changes to the wording of this section, for the Area Executive to approve, if they would like the extra help. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone if you would like the additional help to do this. Thank you for your time and service.	
11	20Oct24	Kathleen S – D26	That the Report to the Executive from the Review Committee on the Review of Explanation and Acceptance of Voting Procedures be published to the Area in full through both the links of service and the Ontario South website.	<p>Tradition 9 guides us that we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. The Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, section WSO Committees, page 71, indicates that “None of these groups (Thought Force, Task Force) is a decision-making body, but they may make recommendations. Each body’s objective is to complete its activity and present it to the originating body, to move forward.”</p> <p>The report from the Review Committee was received by the Executive Committee, the originating body. No additional action is necessary.</p> <p>As a member yourself who sat on the Review Committee, if you have any specific questions or concerns, please reach out by email to the Chair of the Review Committee or a member of the Executive.</p>
12	29Oct24	Sandra C – D5	On behalf of the Saturday Serenity Family Group, St. Marys, I thank you for this opportunity to identify the following item for consideration. Neither our District Representative nor our Alternate District Representative was able to attend AWSC earlier this year. Our concern lies in our understanding that currently, there is no apparent mechanism in place to receive feedback from individual family groups and/or members in situations where the D.R. and/or A.D.R. is unable to attend. In our opinion, this seems contrary to one of Al-Anon’s spiritual principles, that is, that every member of Al-Anon has an equal voice. Specifically, we are asking what the mechanism is to voice our	<p>The OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual, Section 4 (AWSC), item 18, Voting, confirms that District Reps, or a member acting as District Rep, has a vote. Therefore, it would be acceptable to identify another member to attend AWSC in the place of the DR or ADR – perhaps a GR could be identified via District group conscience - to represent your District and participate in the conversations thus bringing information/opinion from the District (and groups) to the meeting.</p> <p>The links of service provide the mechanism: member → GR → DR → AWSC. If the links of service are working, information will flow to and from the District, AWSC, Assembly etc.</p> <p>It would appear that the only issue may have been in identifying someone willing to attend AWSC.</p>

			<p>opinions regarding the discussion questions that form an important function at AWSC when neither our D.R nor our A.D.R. are able to attend. Please note that all we are asking for is a mechanism to have our individual and/or family group opinions heard. We are not arguing to have a vote.</p>	
13	01Nov24	Carolyn S – D26	<p>The Item that I would ask to be considered is that of the formation of a Thought Force to look into options for holding Assemblies in Ontario South, including, but not limited to, hybrid Assemblies. With the decline in attendance at in-person Assemblies it seems it is time to examine other possibilities for Ontario South. As quoted on page 1 of the Assembly package “The OSA meeting is an important one. We need and value your participation.” There are a number of Traditions and Concepts which are relevant to this matter, (Tradition 1, Concept 5, Warranties 3 and 5), but perhaps the most important is Concept 4 – “Participation is the key to harmony.”</p> <p>There are arguments in favour of various options to encourage and enable participation, including hybrid, and it seems that having a Thought Force to look into all types of options, the pros and cons, would be a sensible course to take. A Thought Force would not add any expense to Ontario South. Using Knowledge Based Decision Making, it could examine the various possibilities and present a clear picture to Ontario South of the choices we may have. This could include: needs of the membership, financial implications to both the groups and Ontario South, logistics, volunteers required, etc. This Thought Force should be granted sufficient time to conduct a thorough study.</p>	<p>As a result of discussion that occurred at Assembly 2024, the Executive will strike a Thought Force to explore the issues and the feasibility of adding an electronic component to Area meetings with a view to have a report come back to the Executive at a future date.</p>

			<p>Therefore, I respectfully suggest the formation of a Thought Force to examine options for conducting Assemblies in Ontario South, including, but not limited to, a hybrid Assembly.</p> <p>Should the Executive choose to pursue establishing a Thought Force, I would like to offer to be of service in this endeavour. Respectfully submitted,</p>	
14	20Oct24	Donna P – D33	<p>Knowing that there was healthy dialogue about in-person, online, and hybrid Assemblies during the timed discussion on Oct 19th, it is recommended that the Executive establish a Thought Force committee to analyze the merits of each form of Assembly and make a recommendation for future gatherings.</p>	<p>As a result of discussion that occurred at Assembly 2024, the Executive will strike a Thought Force to explore the issues and the feasibility of adding an electronic component to Area meetings with a view to have a report come back to the Executive at a future date.</p>
15	19Oct24	Anonymous	<p>Institute a trial (as soon as practical) AWSC virtual meeting one time in every 3-year mandate. Consider holding meetings in blocks of time (not 2 days straight online).</p>	<p>Virtual AWSC was trialed in 2020, 2021 and 2022. As a result of discussion that occurred at Assembly 2024, the Executive will strike a Thought Force to explore the issues and the feasibility of adding an electronic component to Area meetings with a view to have a report come back to the Executive at a future date.</p>
16	19Oct24	Rosemary M – D20	<p>A suggestion from my home group, TGIF AFG: Hold Ontario South executive meetings online, instead of in person, to reduce expenses until there is a significant increase in contributions from the groups.</p>	<p>Since returning from post-pandemic shutdowns, the Executive has been holding one meeting/year virtually. The other two meetings are held in-person. Executive meetings are long, starting at 7-9 PM on Friday night, 8:30 AM – 5 or 6 PM on Saturday, and sometimes reconvening from 7-9 PM again on Saturday night, depending on the length of the agenda. The July meeting ended at 9 PM on Saturday. This past November meeting ended after 8 PM. That is a very long time to sit and actively participate in all of the discussions. Having more frequent but shorter meetings would require the Executives to give up even more weekends than they already do. Meeting in-person provides fellowship, an opportunity to grow and learn through shared experience, strength and hope, and laughter and hugs – all the things that are absent from a virtual on-screen experience. This is the joy of service. At present, conducting the February meeting virtually provides balance in costs while honoring that we are a spiritual program.</p>

				The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming.
17	21Oct24	Judy D – D4	<p>Given the approval of the 2025 Budget, knowing there was a deficit in 2023 and the strong potential of a deficit in 2024, is it possible to address the shortfall in group contributions in a two-stage process:</p> <p>1) Immediate attention to 64% or 166 groups out of 259 groups not paying annual fees in 2024. Let's not forget our new electronic group – District #33.</p> <p>2) Moving beyond 2024, a Thought Force be put in place to address the declining group fees by a combination of data collection, surveys and qualitative analysis.</p> <p>#1) Consideration for immediate attention to 64% of groups not paying annual fees in 2024: The approved 2024 budget suggested each group pay \$169.95. With 64% of the groups not paying equals \$28,211.70 (166 groups x \$169.95/per group). Keep it Simple – prepare a year-end 2024 appeal letter with the importance of respect and consideration.</p> <p>a) Acknowledge the purpose of the 2024 contribution, framing the issue clearly.</p> <p>b) Highlight contributions are voluntary, encourage group discussion and possibly a group conscience decision is required.</p> <p>c) If the annual contribution is not feasible for your group whatever amount feels comfortable for your group will help.</p> <p>d) Provide simple, clear instructions as to how to pay either online or by mail.</p> <p>e) Close with gratitude.</p> <p>f) Reach out to the 36% of groups who have paid their 2024 annual</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestions. The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming to all groups.</p> <p>Al-Anon has no dues or fees; according to our Seventh Tradition, every group ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions. We contribute in gratitude, with both time and money, for what we have received from Al-Anon. Group expenses include support of all of our service arms, including the Area.</p> <p>Page 54 of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual illustrates how a group financially supports all levels of service; and page 102 outlines the spiritual principles of Al-Anon's self-support.</p> <p>For those groups that may be struggling, page 54 of the Service Manual, section Considerations Regarding Group Finances, guides us that if a group is not able to support the service levels due to excessive meeting expenses, it may wish to reconsider its choice of meeting locations; a group may need to periodically review its budget as changes to expenses, or changes in attendance occur.</p> <p>Prior to implementing a Thought Force, it is worthwhile to focus on sharing information and educating our members through the links of service. It must be recognized that there is a role for all of our trusted servants, at all levels of service, to share the importance of contributing to all of the service arms, and why it matters. Guideline G-41 (<a href="https://al-anon.org/for-members">https://al-anon.org/for-members</a>) is a useful tool and explains financial responsibilities and suggests monthly or quarterly contributions. Without consistent and regular contributions, building the Area's proposed budget can be problematic.</p> <p>Contributions can be sent to:  <a href="mailto:osatreasurer3@gmail.com">osatreasurer3@gmail.com</a> (e-transfer)</p> <p>~ or ~</p> <p>Ontario South Assembly</p>

			<p>fees thanking them for payment and suggesting if they have any 2024 surplus funds to please consider a further donation.</p> <p>#2) Moving beyond 2024 put in place a Thought Force: The Thought Force could study the trends of AI-Anon groups that do not pay annual fees by combination of data collection, surveys and qualitative analysis. By looking at past and present trends, our fellowship can identify patterns and reasons behind non-payment and make recommendations to improve fee collections moving forward. The Thought Force will help us understand the larger picture and assist in offering solutions tailored to the needs and challenges of the Ontario South AI-Anon Groups.</p>	<p>P.O. Box 1151 Guelph, ON N1H 6N3 Cheques must be made payable to Ontario South Assembly</p>
18	19Oct24	Diana S – D14	<p>To help alleviate some strain and conversation at Assembly, a Budget Committee be instituted moving forward. As a committee, the onus is not on one person – the Treasurer – to complete this task. More hands make less work, more minds working together could help create a budget that we can all agree on.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. Lack of knowledge or information was a contributing factor to the budget discussions at Assembly, for which a budget committee would not alleviate. The proposed budget was brought to AWSC, discussed with the DRs and accepted to move forward to Assembly. It is acknowledged, however, that we are in a new service term with new DRs and GRs.</p> <p>Ensuring the links of service are working and information is shared is important. AI-Anon has many tools available to us to help us understand how the business of AI-Anon works. Importantly, the group conscience of the Assembly was to accept the budget; and group contributions are the primary source of revenue for the Area. The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming.</p> <p>The Executive Committee acts as the budget committee, and plays a role in assisting the Treasurer in drafting the budget. The Treasurer is never alone.</p>
19	19Oct24	Donna P – D33	<p>Given that only 35% of the groups in Ontario South (OS) contribute to OS, and given that 50% of our groups are here at Assembly 2024 in-person to hear the passion about OS financial</p>	<p>The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming. Part of our discussion included a review of the Area Financial Inventory section of Guideline G-41. Two questions considered</p>

			<p>stability, therefore, it is recommended that the OS executive implement a financial appeal program in 2025 to contributing and non-contributing groups.</p>	<p>were: Is an explanation given to the groups at the Assembly on the importance of their financial contributions? Does the Area have an annual appeal to the groups?</p> <p>This is a good reminder that while conversations on finances may be awkward or challenging, they are also crucial for the health and growth of our Area and Al-Anon as a whole.</p>
20	19Oct24	Gail K –	<p>Develop a Task Force to review the means of establishing a balanced budget by: (1) Reducing costs; (2) Increasing revenue (in particular from groups not contributing). This Task Force should be made up of at least 1 member of the Executive, ideally the Treasurer, DRs, GRs and other general members. An appeal for volunteers could go out from the Executive to the groups by way of DRs.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. As defined in the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, page 71, a Thought Force would lay the foundation work of a Task Force; and a Task Force could choose one of the suggested strategies from the Thought Force. The proposed budget for 2025 is a balanced budget; expenses are balanced by the groups' contributions, and those contributions are defined on a per group cost to support the annual budget. Prior to implementing a Thought Force, it is worthwhile to focus on sharing information and educating our members through the links of service. It must be recognized that there is a role for all of our trusted servants, at all levels of service, to share the importance of contributing to all of the service arms, and why it matters.</p> <p>The Executive is always considering costs and how to reduce them. Some recent examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sending to WSO only the Equalized Expense (rather than the Full Amount) for the Delegate to attend WSC 2025</li> <li>• Reducing the number of in-person Executive meetings</li> <li>• Reducing the size and number of break-out rooms at Assembly</li> <li>• Researching and cost comparison of alternative venues for AWSC</li> <li>• Requesting early bids for Assembly from all appropriate Districts such that multiple bids are received and a cost-efficient venue can be selected</li> </ul> <p>The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming.</p>

## District Representative Updates



### District 4 (Waterloo Region) Update

#### 7th Tradition Considerations

Al-Anon, for me, has been a program of personal responsibility. I have learned to take responsibility for my feelings, my words, my actions, my mistakes and also my finances. At the group level, we practice this personal responsibility through the 7th Tradition of giving a little bit of money when the basket is passed to help cover group expenses. But what are those group expenses and who is responsible for looking after the money?

Each group needs to have a Treasurer, or someone to do the job of the Treasurer. The Treasurer's responsibility is to count the money that comes in each week and make sure that it gets deposited into the group bank account. The Treasurer is also responsible for paying the bills of the group which may include rent, insurance, fellowship expenses like coffee or tea, administrative expenses like photocopies for meeting lists or stamps, and literature materials like newcomer packages for outreach or books to have on hand to sell to members when they need them. When the needs of the group are taken care of, we share the responsibility of sending money to the district, the area and World Service Office to cover expenses there.

Al-Anon at the ground level is powered by volunteers but each link of service incurs expenses that help keep our fellowship running which helps keep Al-Anon available when friends and families of Alcoholics reach out for help. Your district may have a website or a zoom account that needs to be paid for. Your district will cover the costs for your District Representative to take your voice to the area level. We are in the area of Ontario South. Ontario South takes care of group records, registers AMIAS', complies with government requirements in the checking of those AMIAS applications, maintains a website, and covers the cost to send a delegate to the world service level. The World Service Office is responsible for making sure that our Conference Approved Literature is available, maintains a website so that members can access information worldwide, makes sure that online meetings are registered worldwide, maintains the Al-Anon app and many other things. Ontario South employs one person to manage our Literature Distribution Office and the World Service Office employs many people to keep things running. The World Service Office earns much of its income through the sale of Conference Approved Literature. So how much do things cost at the District, Area, and World Service levels and what does that mean for me and my group?

Our District, number four, has calculated our cost per group at \$120 per year. The Ontario South Area expenses for 2024 are \$169.95 per group, per year. The World Service Office has calculated the cost per group, per year, for 2024 at \$443.95. That means that \$14.20 per week goes to support the links of service at the various levels. For a group with 10 attendees, that's \$1.42 per person. This amount is in ADDITION to the contribution that members make to their OWN groups for things like rent, insurance and local outreach. Calculating the costs like this has helped me to understand where my money is going and how my contribution helps Al-Anon remain fully self-supporting. After all, I want Al-Anon to be there for families and friends of alcoholics when they need it, just like Al-Anon was there for me.

In Service

**Karen F. District 4 Representative**

## **District 6 (London Region) Update**

It is a pleasure to report that District 6 is doing well.

We have thirteen registered meetings, one Alateen meeting and two institutional meetings in our district. Our Alateen meeting is scheduled at the same time as an Al-Anon and an AA meeting and we currently have several Alateen members attending. Our other meetings are either in-person, hybrid (in-person with an online component) or electronic. They welcome new members regularly. We have an Open Speaker meeting which is held the first Friday of every month on Zoom. Our newest meeting is a beginner's meeting, London Newcomer Open AFG. It has already had several newcomers attend.

At the district level, we have most of our positions filled including an Alternate District Representative. We are still looking for a Public Outreach coordinator. In the meantime, the Public Outreach committee meets regularly to share Al-Anon in our district. We had a lovely Al-Anon Day in May with several speakers, one being an Alateen member who shared his story. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the speakers.

Yours in service,

**Colleen K, District 6 Representative**

## **District 18 (GTA North) Update**

This past summer, an Al-Anon Day took place in Newmarket with the theme "Recovery Through the Traditions." The day was enjoyed by around 70 attendees, who were treated to a meditative sound bath interwoven with readings on the traditions, speakers from Al-Anon and AA, and panels. Profits from the 7th tradition basket, after meeting expenses, are being used to place "How Al-Anon Works" in libraries throughout District 18.

In Service

**Brenda F, District 18 Representative**

## **District 25 (Quinte) Update**

1. Tammy the Volunteer Coordinator at Quinte Detention center is looking at organizing a Workshop for that will include Al-Anon members, AA members and security from the Detention Center. The purpose of this would be to brainstorm ways to assist each other in Public Outreach and have Security educated on what Al-Anon means for the inmates at Quinte Detention Center, some are not familiar with the program of Al-Anon.
2. Trenton Hope and Serenity Group, Thursday evening at Ebenezer Christian Reform Church in Trenton celebrated their 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Night on September 12, 2024. We had approximately 45 in attendance and our speakers were Kelly M from AA and Terri K from Al-Anon who shared their Experience, Strength and Hope. It was a wonderful night with some very positive messages to all who attended.
3. The Wednesday Night A.F.G. Group has moved to the Ebenezer Church on 18 Fourth Ave. in Trenton, Ontario. Meetings are still being held Wednesday evenings at 8pm.
4. Kathleen the Website Coordinator from Ontario South visited our District meeting September 15, 2024 to discuss how we could support each other with our New Website. It was a very good meeting. Kathleen is very knowledgeable when addressing the OSA Website and had lots of recommendations and tips for our Website Coordinator, Chique. Everyone enjoyed the visit and the information we received.
5. We are still canvassing for AMIASes in our district but haven't been very successful. Judith the Alateen Coordinator paid a visit to our October 27 District meeting and spoke with the GRs touching on the process in becoming an AMIAS, the importance of pursuing members to become AMIASes, where the best spots are to set up Alateen meetings,



mentioning ideally, we want to look at facilities that are already hosting AA and/or Al-Anon meetings so members of those two groups have the opportunity to introduce their children to the Alateen program. Everyone really enjoyed the presentation from Judith and the GRs had some take aways from the meeting.

6. District 25 has a new location for their District Meeting. We are now holding them in Cobourg at the Trinity United Church at 284 Division Street.
7. On October 31,2024 New Beginnings A.F.G. hosted their Anniversary Day. The speaker for the event was Gloria from Oshawa, who shared her Experience, Strength and Hope. There were 16 in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time and shared their day with one another.

In Service

**Don V, District 25 Representative**

## **District 31 (Kingston Region) Update**

District 31 had a successful Day of Al-Anon. Thanks to all who attended. Here is the report from the Chairperson of the committee, who ran a successful workshop as part of the day and thought others might be interested in what was shared in small groups by the attendees.

The Kingston District 31 Day of Al-Anon Oct 5, 2024 was well attended. Registration had 88 people sign in but it was felt that there were people that might not have signed in so estimated we had closer to 100 attendees.

The theme of the day was taken from our newest CAL reader "A Little Time for Myself". There were 4 speakers, 3 Al-Anon and 1 from AA. Speakers were from Montreal, Bainsville and 2 from Cobourg. There was also a workshop.

The workshop seemed to be enjoyed and most people participated. We explored the different aspects of taking time for ourselves, using the following questions as a jump off (members were invited to contact the Chairperson for the answers to these questions):

1. What does taking a little time for ourselves mean to us?
2. What do we do to take care of ourselves physically?
3. What do we do to take care of ourselves emotionally?
4. What do we do to take care of ourselves Spiritually?
5. What do we do that is creative?
6. How do we nurture and take care of ourselves?
7. How can I treat myself with more kindness for today?
8. How can we make time to work on ourselves?

Thank you to everyone that came to help our District to help celebrate our 64th Day of Al-Anon. A special thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success. Whether you were part of the committee, came to help celebrate a day of recovery, participated in the workshop, or stayed to share in wonderful fellowship, everyone's presence is what made the day a success. 1. What does taking a little time for ourselves mean to us.

In Service

**Debbie E., District 25 Representative**

## **District 33 (Overlay) Update**

### **IS YOUR GROUP MEETING ELECTRONICALLY?**

Did you know that we are trying to formalize this district which is comprised of electronic meetings registered with D33 in Ontario South? A meeting will be held on January 13, 2025 at 7:00 pm to information share and elect service positions. Zoom ID: 758 372 7700 Passcode: 303729

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7583727700?pwd=lvop7TTvc9hGtKkDkxaQldH8c8NPzx.1&omn=88245094828> or

Do you know what District 33 is all about?

Has your group had a group conscience and decided to stay with your existing District in Ontario South?

If your group is still undecided as to whether you're going to stay on-line or go back to meeting in person you will need to decide soon what your status is going to be. You have 4 options:

1. Meet in-Person and stay in your current District within Ontario South
2. Meet Electronically and stay in your current District within Ontario South
3. Meet Electronically and align with District 33 (Overlay District) in which case your District meetings will be on-line (but your group needs to attend Assembly in-person)
4. Align with the WSO Global Electronic Area

If you choose #1 or #2 or #3, the Ontario South Website needs to be updated to reflect your status. Currently there's a lot of group information that is not up-to-date. Your group needs to either a) remove that you are meeting electronically and show that you're meeting in-person OR b) delete your "in person meeting address" and show that you are meeting electronically and aligning either with your current District or District 33 (Overlay District). Please complete the Group Records Change Form on the OS Website.

There still seems to be some confusion out there about electronic meetings and if any action is required by your group. The answer is yes: if you're not meeting in person anymore you need to complete a Group Records Change Form and decide to align with your current District or District 33.

If you have questions, please contact your District Rep or Donna P the CMA for District 33 by e-mail at [donnapounder@rogers.com](mailto:donnapounder@rogers.com) or call 416-277-7775.

In Service

**Donna P., District 23 Representative**

## **Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update**

I want to thank the members for supporting your LDC. The office has been steady and your response to the new booklet P-95 *Healing Within our Alcoholic Relationships* has been super. This year we opted to try selling the holiday bundles for a limited time with the request to preorder. There were 74 pre ordered!!! I have ordered more over and above, and they are on the way here. But once they are gone, they are gone. I may not have another opportunity to order them from WSO. I will keep the window for buying them open until Jan 31<sup>st</sup> or until they are sold out. With a response like this I anticipate the LDC will offer the holiday

bundle each year when WSO decides what it will be. But as mentioned, preordering is the only way I can guarantee you will get them.

Just a reminder when your literature rep changes, I need to be advised of a full name, address, phone number and email to put on the system. If this isn't done, I have no way of connecting with your group and things will be mailed to the wrong place which will cause more postage to be needed. Even if it is your GR who gets the shipments, changing your group information on the group change form does not update me. I am a separate entity from this and that is probably good because most groups have a literature person, and it is not the GR or CMA person.

Orders may be placed by phone, by email or by jot form. The jot form doesn't know if items are in stock. So, under no circumstances send a payment. Please wait until I contact you to advise the total and to send the money. I don't want your money if I can't get you the literature in a reasonable time frame. Always provide your district number. You may think you are the only group with your name but that is rare. Also provide me with the actual group name and/or number. You may call it Tuesday night but if it is Let it Begin with Me, I have no idea what day you are meeting and will not be able to locate your group. If you are a new group, please let me know your district number, group number, group name and the contact person. It is so exciting to see new groups coming together. Let me know the name of the person who will be paying, whether by cheque or etransfer and let that person know when they send an etransfer I need to know the password because we don't do direct deposits. This is because many payments are not for the right amount, or I have multiples for the same total and have no idea which one belongs to which.

I know I sound like a broken record, but these things still don't happen all the time and are vital for getting your orders out in a timely and safe manner.

I feel so blessed to be able to serve Ontario South. I appreciate your support, even when I make an error, and your feedback and questions are always welcome. The office is open Monday-Thursday 10-1 but you can email or leave messages outside of that time frame. I will get back to you as promptly as possible during office hours. The winter closure begins at 1pm on Dec 19 and we reopen 10am Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Wishing you all a safe, peaceful and AI-Anon supported holiday season.

Be well. I am so grateful to serve you.

**Linda LDC Office Manager** [os.literature.distribution@gmail.com](mailto:os.literature.distribution@gmail.com)

[Click here for Upcoming Events!!](#)

# NEWS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE

11/2024

## AREA MEETINGS WITH AN ELECTRONIC COMPONENT

As a result of discussion that occurred at Assembly 2024, the Executive will strike a Thought Force to explore the issues and the feasibility of adding an electronic component to Area meetings with a view to have a report come back to the Executive at a future date.

## TREASURER'S CORNER: TWO APPEALS

### Computer for the Website Coordinator

Resulting from the motion carried at Assembly, an appeal to the groups will be forthcoming to raise funds specifically for the purchase of a designated computer.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: A shortfall in group contributions

We contribute in gratitude, with both time and money, for what we have received from Al-Anon. Group expenses include support of all of our service arms, including the Area. Significantly less than half our groups donate to the Area. The Area requires **\$175/group/year** to support the budget that has been accepted. That is only \$3.36/group/week. The Area finances were discussed at the November executive meeting and an appeal letter will be forthcoming. E-transfers can be made at any time to [osatreasurer3@gmail.com](mailto:osatreasurer3@gmail.com)

## ASSEMBLY 2026 - ELECTION YEAR

For Districts in the central section of our Area, it's never too early to consider hosting Assembly 2026. Bids to host Assembly 2026 are requested by 01May 2025. Multiple bids provide an opportunity to select the most cost efficient venue.

OSA Website: <https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca>

WSO Website: <https://al-anon.org>

## AWSC 2025

May 23-25, 2025

Durham College Oshawa

## ASSEMBLY 2025

October 24-26, 2025

Kingston

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO WSO IN CDN (NEW ADDRESS)

Al-Anon Family Groups (Canada) Inc.

222 Queen Street  
Suite 1000

Ottawa, ON K1P 5V9

## WSO BUDGET

\$444 CDN/group/year

## AAPP COORDINATOR

The Area Alateen Process Person service role is vital to Alateen. Please reach out to our Delegate to express your interest.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES

February 21-22, 2025

July 11-12, 2025

November 7-8, 2025

**Looking for Volunteers to  
Help Grow Alateen in Ontario South (Area 86)**

Has Alanon helped you? Then why wouldn't you want to give that *gift* to your child (or to other children)?

We currently have **13** Alateen Groups  
Across **30** Districts in Ontario South.

***Looking for Volunteers to help!***

Our goal is to have one Alateen meeting in each district: We need Al-Anon members to volunteer and register as AMIASS (Al-Anon Members In Alateen Service)

Training will be available  
Alateen needs the support  
Of Al-Anon to grow  
Alateen

For more information,  
please contact:  
Judith W  
os.alateen.coordinator@  
gmail.com  
647-215-3048

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

**DISTRICT 14**

**32 Anniversary meeting on Monday December 2 at 8pm**  
**Speakers Jenn T from Morning Hope AFG**  
**Tori from Prince George AA**

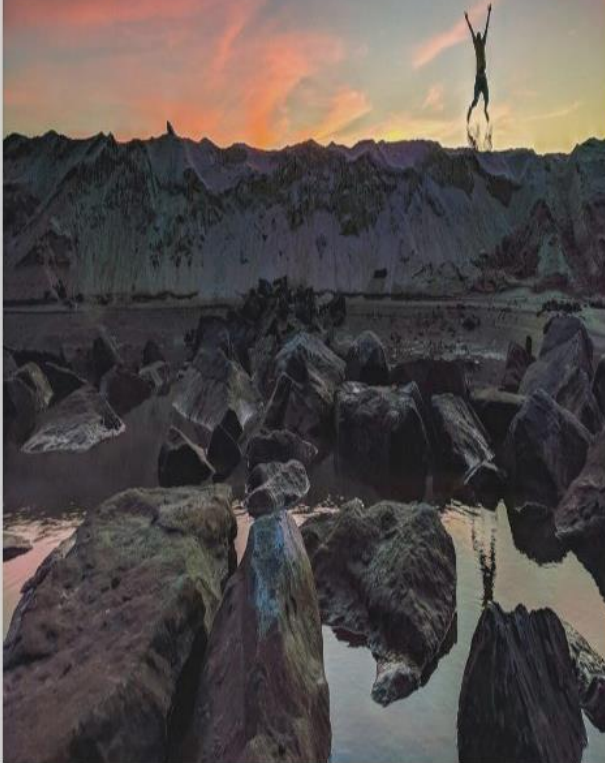
**Gratitude Meeting on December 9 at 8pm**

**[click here for meeting location and information](#)**

**Seasonal Saturday**  
**Toronto Saturday Night Open AFG**  
**Dec. 14**

**Pot luck at 7:30, meeting and speakers at 8:15.**  
**St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, 1498 Avenue Road, Avenue Rd. and  
Lawrence, we are accessible.**

A NEW HAPPINESS



## Service Opportunity

### AL-Anon ORC Chair & Shadow

- The ORC is looking for a 2025 AL-Anon Chair & Shadow.
- There are many AA Conferences held around the world. Toronto hosts the largest one in Canada.
- We are looking for an enthusiastic and outgoing member or group to take on the task of hosting the AL-Anon portion of this amazing event.
- If this is something you or your group would be interested in doing, please reach out to: **Donna P.** by email at [gtais.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gtais.chair@gmail.com) or call **416-277-7775**.



## Ontario Regional Conference

March 14, 15, 16, 2025



