

## What's Happening in Area 86

### A NOTE FROM THE LDC OFFICE

The LDC office will be closed February 7, 8, and 9. The office reopens on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

AL-ANON DAY 2012 - District #28  
 "Reaching Out and Giving Back: The Al Anon Program at Work"  
 When: March 24, 2012 - Doors open at 9-4 pm  
 Where: CHURCHILL SENIORS CENTRE,  
 345 Richmond Road, Ottawa, K2A 0E7

30th Annual Spring Round Up  
 'A Vision of Hope'  
 March 31, 2012  
 Fort Erie Leisureplex  
 3 Municipal Dr. Fort Erie, ON  
 AA/Al-Anon/Alateen  
 More info email [Springroundup@gmail.com](mailto:Springroundup@gmail.com)  
 Flyer available @ [www.aaniagara.org](http://www.aaniagara.org)

"May 4, 5, & 6, 2012 - 47th Niagara Blossom Time Convention at the Doubletree Fallsview Resort & Spa by Hilton, 6039 Fallsview Boulevard, Niagara Falls, Canada. Full AA , Al-Anon and Alateen program.

Check out our website  
[blossomtimeconvention.com](http://blossomtimeconvention.com)  
 for more details.

District 6 is having an Al-Anon Day,  
 Saturday May 12th,  
 St. New James Presbyterian Church,  
 280 Oxford St. East, London, 9:00-3:30,  
 \$5.00, potluck lunch.

Frank G. the DR for District 20 in Toronto invites you to attend the Saturday Night Open AFG in Toronto. It is at 8 pm at St. Ansgars' Church at Avenue and Lawrence Rd. every Saturday night. It's been declining in attendance over the past year or so to the point that we are concerned about it carrying on.

More events are noted inside between reports.

### Districts in Ontario South

- District 1.....Muskoka
- District 2.....Georgian Bay
- District 3.....Bruce County
- District 4.....Waterloo Region
- District 5.....Huron Perth
- District 6.....London Region
- District 7.....Sarnia Region
- District 8.....Windsor/Essex
- District 9.....Chatham Region
- District 10.....Elgin Region
- District 11.....Brantford
- District 12.....Niagara Region
- District 13.....St .Catharines
- District 14.....Hamilton West
- District 15.....Hamilton East
- District 16.....Mississauga, Oakville
- District 17.....Upper Peel-Halton
- District 18.....Dufferin, York,, Simcoe
- District 19.....Toronto North
- District 20..... Toronto West
- District 21.....Toronto Central
- District 22.....Scarborough
- District 23.....Lakeshore
- District 24..... Kawartha
- District 25.....Quinte
- District 26.....St Lawrence Region
- District 27.....Seaway Valley
- District 28.....Ottawa
- District 30..... ..Upper Ottawa Valley
- District 31.....Loyalist
- District 32.....Kawartha South

### Statement of Purpose

Open Lines is published quarterly 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.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Issue 1 January 20, 2012	February 1, 2012
Issue 2 April 15 2012	May 1, 2012
Issue 3 July 15, 2012	August 1, 2012
Issue 4 November 15, 20112	December 1, 2012

Subscription Rates:  
 In Canada \$4.50 (1 year) \$8.00 (2 years)  
 Send NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to:  
 Open Lines Coordinator, Address on last page.  
 All ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on last page

### Delgate's Report

My name is Jane Hurley and a very grateful member to our Fellowship of Al-Anon. My home groups are YANA (You Are Not Alone) AFG and Whitby Friendly AFG.

Like so many in Ontario South, I began a new journey on January 1. I feel great gratitude for the opportunity of serving as the delegate for our area and I thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I feel humbled, somewhat anxious and excited about the prospects that lie ahead. I have my HP close at hand and I ask for the aid of your collective HP's, as well, to guide me in the months to come.

In January, the outgoing Executive and Co-ordinators met with the incoming Executive and Co-ordinators. We had the opportunity to share our experiences with one another and now the flame of service has been passed on. I look forward to our first Executive meeting on the first weekend of March. As all of us become more comfortable with our new responsibilities we will be able to see the joy in our growth. For me, this has begun to happen one day at a time.

Over the past few weeks, I have been receiving information from the World Service Office about my first World Service Conference. The theme of the 52nd World Service Conference is ***Our Spiritual Journey—we get as we give***. It will be held in Stamford Connecticut, this year, April 15—19. During that week, I will be visiting Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois Wilson. I believe that this will be one of the highlights of my week. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers during that week.

One reminder to the District Secretaries: please send me the minutes of your district meeting. It helps to keep the lines of communication open.

I look forward to meeting with you. Please contact me so I can come to visit your district.

With love and gratitude in service,  
Jane

***Our Spiritual Journey - we get as we give***  
Ontario South, Delegate, Panel 52

There is an AA Spring Conference coming up on April 21, 2012, with Al-Anon participation. It is held in Cornwall at the Ramada Inn on Brookdale Avenue. There will be a full slate of Al-Anon speakers/workshops for the day. There is a banquet later that night for a price of \$39.00/person. Come enjoy.

### Alternate Delegate's Report

Greetings to Area 86, Ontario South. My name is Debbie Pangborn and I am your new Ontario South Alternate Delegate. I am from London, District 6 and my home group is the Monday afternoon "One Day at a Time Al-Anon Family Group". It truly feels like home and I am ever so grateful to be a part of it and this world wide fellowship of Al-Anon/Alateen.

WOW, so I feel right on track in the CONFUSED part of year one, year one how about month one! Without question I feel I am right where I am supposed to be; alongside an amazing group of people. We are a fellowship of equals and nowhere more than with service do I feel a part of. Willingness is the biggest part of what I am directed to provide.

I look forward to learning more about how Al-Anon/Alateen works in Area 86. This position holds lots of new experiences and I am honoured to be of service to you and my Higher Power.

Look out for some information regarding The Forum and updates to the Area 86 Manual. These will be part of my focus over the next three years. To the incoming coordinators I look forward to traveling this journey of recovery together!

Please feel free to contact me if you think I can be of service to you!!!!

With Love & Gratitude  
Debbie Pangborn  
Alternate Delegate  
Ontario South Area 86

Oakville Saturday Morning AFG Anniversary  
February 25th  
10-11 am  
Hopedale Presbyterian Church  
156 3rd Line Oakville  
Al-Anon and AA speakers  
Pot Luck and fellowship afterwards.

ORC  
March 16-18, 2012

Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto  
Orc.aagta.org for details and registration  
The weekend includes AA/Al-Anon and Alateen participation

### Secretary's Report

My name is Jean McShane. My home group is the Forward Al-Anon Family Group. We meet every Thursday evening at 8PM at the Hintonberg Community Centre in Ottawa.

Thank you for electing me to serve as your Area Secretary for this term. Although I served as the interim Secretary for the last 8 months of 2011, I wasn't elected – I was appointed by the Executive of the day. Being elected at Assembly was, for me, a humbling experience.

Just putting my name forward for the position took a leap of faith – after all, what if you didn't elect me? Then I realized that if I wasn't elected, my Higher Power had other plans for me. But, here I am – excited and ready to begin this phase of my service journey.

My first great challenge of the term was trying to get to the Handover Meeting in Guelph the weekend of January 13, 14 and 15. There was a bad snow/freezing rain storm in Eastern Ontario on the Friday when I was supposed to leave. As badly as I wanted to be in Guelph with everyone, common sense overruled. Through a flurry of emails, it was determined that we could use Skype to connect Ottawa and Guelph for the meeting. So there I was on Saturday morning, sitting at my dining room table with our Chairperson, Michele D, participating in a day-long meeting. There were technical difficulties and we ended up on speaker phones (Neil's cell and my landline). But we got through it and now know that our collective Higher Power will always work things out.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the new Executive members better and learning more about myself. To those of you who are also beginning a new service position, don't forget to take your Higher Power along for the ride – this is going to be fun!

Love and Hugs in Service,  
Jean McShane  
Secretary  
Ontario South Assembly, Area 86

### Treasurer's Report

Good day, welcome to my first report in Open Lines in this term as OSA interim Treasurer. I know it will be a big job to do and a tough act to follow Marianne (who did a fabulous job for us). All I can do is my best and I promise you that is what I will do thatJ with help from my higher power

My first job is to work on the 2013 budget for AWSC and the approval to take that budget to assembly.

It is looking like we did not reach our estimates for group donations in 2011 and can only pray we reach our 2012 needs, it is very important that those needs are met and hopefully we can all do our part.

Each group donation to Ontario South Assembly amounts to \$95.92 for 2012 to balance our budget With God's grace this will come to fruition.

We have a central mail box so we will keep the same address today and in the future. This way all donations you send will **continue** to be sent to **P.O. Box 1151, Guelph, ON N1H 6N3.**

Yours In Service  
Neil Stuart  
Interim OSA Treasurer, Area 86

### Chairperson's Report

My name is Michele and I am your new and confused Chairperson. That's right, it's that time of service where once again I have no clear or comfortable idea of what I'm supposed to be doing. My predecessor, and many others who have walked the service road tell me that it's ok. I'm where I'm supposed to be. WHEW!!! That's great to know. So now I can settle down, connect with my HP for grounding and tackle what needs to be done next. I can ask for help and guidance from my service sponsors, yup, more than one, and do the best I can.

So tomorrow I'll be going through the many items passed onto your new Executive, sifting and sorting and asking for help in prioritizing. By the time you read this I'm hoping the rough draft for our 1st Executive meeting will be in place, and an outline for AWSC will have been created. And maybe I'll be a little less confused.

I'm looking forward to the next three years and the growth and discovery that will surely come my way. I hope you come along for the ride.

Hugs in service  
Michele

The Windsor-Essex County Al-Anon Convention Committee will be hosting its annual spring pot-luck dinner Saturday April 28th at Bethel-Maidstone United Church  
933 Talbot Rd  
Maidstone, ON  
There will be Al-Anon and AA speakers.  
Doors open at 6 with dinner at 6:30 followed by speakers and 7th tradition.  
Bring a dish to share but no desserts please.

### Open Lines Coordinator

Hi everyone, my name is Sharon I am a grateful member of the Southend Al-Anon AFG in Niagara Falls and I am honoured to have been asked to continue on as your Open Lines Coordinator. After much discussion with our incoming delegate, my sponsor and my higher power I have agreed to continue as your Open Lines Coordinator for the next 3 years and see the electronic conversion through to the end!

Welcome to hand over year! This is the year of confusion. Files were handed around and points were passed on at the handover meeting in Guelph on January 14th. It was a time of great confusion, hugs, tears and also great excitement!

For all the new GRs and DRs please remember to send your group records forms in either via the links on Ontario South's website <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/> or have the form printed and mail it in. Bonnie is anxiously awaiting your new information. Changes made in a timely fashion ensures your group receives all the communication from Ontario South as well as from WSO. Please remember this year to include your email address as well as we move forward with the electronic distribution of Open Lines.

New for the May edition will be the first edition of the electronic version. For the trial run all the Executives/ Coordinators and DRs will receive their copy via email. Be sure to drop me an email or note if this does not work for you for some reason or another let me know and I can help you get the email version or make arrangements for you to continue receiving paper copies. I look forward to AWSC and the feedback on this new endeavour.

For now personal subscription will remain a paper version unless I hear from you personally. My contact information is found on the last page of this edition.

As your Open Lines Coordinator I look forward to continuing to do my best to provide you with the information I am tasked with to pass on. Please note the email address change [openlinesosa@gmail.com](mailto:openlinesosa@gmail.com).

Hugs in Service  
Sharon R  
Open Lines Coordinator

### Website Coordinator

Denyse was unable to submit a report at this time due to a personal issue. We look forward to her report in May.

### Literature Coordinator

Its December 30th, in the house there wasn't a peep  
The last deposit to the bank is now complete  
Away go the cheque books  
Away go the balance sheets  
I've packed up all the rubber stamps,  
Staples, paper clips and receipts  
And turned down all my burning through the night lamps

Statements have been checked  
No more reconciliation's to do, all expenses are paid  
There were moments I felt like a wreck  
But, God gave me strength while I listened and prayed

Then with a moments silence wisdom struck  
What happened next was strange luck  
I looked around and all I could see  
Was boxes upon boxes of literature to read

I opened a box and took out the top book  
Discovering Choices...Ha who'da think i could have more than just one  
I'm sure at first I had quite a bewildered look  
I curled up on the couch with a tea and hot cross bun

Ahhh what a life, now I can sit back, enjoy the growth and reeaaad!

Well a poet I am not as you will all profess  
But one things for sure and I will confess  
For the next three years there will be workshops, travel and fun  
Cause my new service roll of Area Literature Coordinator has begun!

Looking forward to the next 3 years!  
God Bless  
Marianne Embro  
(Incoming) Area Literature Coordinator

### Open Lines New Subscription or Renewals

If the date on your envelope is highlighted it is time to renew!

Please check applicable box

- 1 year 4 Issues \$4.50
- 2 years 8 Issues \$8.00
- Renewal
- New Subscription
- Gift Subscription

Please make cheque payable to Sharon Reeb and send to:  
5224 Bridge St.  
Niagara Falls, ON  
L2E 2T3

### **Archives Report**

My name is Heather Paret and I am your Ontario South Archives Co-ordinator. I am a grateful member of this world – wide fellowship of Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups, and my home group is the Love & Hope Angus AFG in District One.

Happy New Year and welcome to the new Executive, District Representatives and Group Representatives, to your journey in service, and may you all experience the same kind of fellowship I have been privileged to enjoy.

To start off the New Year, I would like to continue the work that Mary Jane has started. Each year has 365 days and our Ontario South Area 86 has 322 groups, give or take. So, I would like to put out a wee challenge to you all. I am asking the District Representatives to help this challenge along by encouraging all their Group Representatives in this endeavor.

I would like to see each group adopt an old timer and interview them. Even if you are a newer group, choose a member from your group. Perhaps your group can do this as a meeting topic. If your group has more than one old timer, feel free to interview as many as you like. My hope is to get in 322 interviews by the end of the year. Remember, we do not have to do anything alone in Al-Anon and together we can make this challenge happen by the end of 2012. As I write this, I see we are already 18 days into the new year so there is some time to be made up.....

As a gentle reminder you will find the required guidelines and such on the Ontario South website by clicking on Co-ordinators Corner from the Home Page and click on Archives. You can send your interviews in by either e-mail or snail mail, whatever works best for you.

So please keep your love of the program and our history alive. Thank you in advance for taking on this challenge. Do not forget to stay tuned to Open Lines as I do the countdown.

(Hugs) in Service  
Heather Paret  
Area 86 Archivist

### **Area Alateen Process Person Report**

Greetings Everyone,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Marg and I am a grateful member of the Waterdown Al-Anon Family Group and a SAM for the Waterdown Alateen Group.

During my 12 years in Al-Anon, I have had several Service roles at the group level including Alternate Group Representative and Group Representative. In December 2011, I completed my three year term as District 15 Representative.

My areas of special interest within Service are Sponsorship and Alateen.

At Assembly 2011, the Supportive Al-Anon Member Area Certification and Re-Certification Process was amended along with Form C. Please refer to the Ontario South Website: [al-anon.alateen.on.ca /Members/Area Policy Manual/ Sections 10 and 11B](http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/Members/Area%20Policy%20Manual/Sections%2010%20and%2011B). As a result, the Re-Certification Police Record Check is now required every three years. This will occur in year two of each AAPP term (2013).

Please note that the new e-mail address for the AAPP Coordinator is:

[aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com](mailto:aapp.ontariosouth@gmail.com)

I am excited about my new journey. I would like to say Thank You to those who have given me this new Service opportunity. Also, a huge Thank You to Nick for all that he has done for Alateen during his extremely busy term and for agreeing to be my much needed Service Sponsor. I look forward to fulfilling my duties to the best of my ability as my Higher Power shows me the way.

Love in Service,  
Marg McClelland

### **Group Records Coordinator**

Hello everyone! This is my first report since becoming your new Group Records Coordinator. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I had my last meeting as DR in November and even though I felt rather sad at leaving that position I know I have left it in good hands with the new DR for District 4. I look forward to the coming months because it gives me an opportunity to increase my own growth in the program as well as continuing with service work. I cannot say much more as I have only just started and I am still in the confused state, however, I am working to become more comfortable and confident as I did in my position as DR of District 4.

Bye for now and I look forward to May when I will be attending my first AWSC in my new position.

Bonnie Ball  
Group Records Coordinator

### **Alateen Coordinator**

This is my first submission to Open Lines. Thank you to Jane for asking me to consider standing for Alateen Co-ordinator. My love and enthusiasm for Alateen made my decision quite easy. I have never considered service beyond the district level, because I guess I am comfortable there.

My sponsor was a very active Alateen sponsor in the Ottawa area when I first came to Al-Anon. I always heard about Alateen and was constantly reminded that to sponsor an Alateen group will have rich rewards for ALL. I had worked with Alateen on different committees such as Public Outreach, Trillium, even billeted 2 young teens from Scarborough while they attended the Alateen Unity Conference hosted in Ottawa one year. (You could do that back then!) It took me 15 years to make a decision regarding Alateen sponsorship. I moved to Brampton in 1991 and by 1998 finally asked the question, "Why is there NO Alateen group in our District?" Our District was strong, lots of Al-Anon meetings but no Alateen. That is how Alateen gets its start! Al-Anon is such a HUGE part of helping these Alateens to have a meeting, a place to be together.

I believe that more work needs to be done, in educating, informing the Al-Anon members/groups on how they can support Alateen, even if they don't have an Alateen group. How about displaying the table card "Has Al-Anon helped you?" (Available from your literature office) What about having a supply of Alateen literature on your table, for the parents, relatives, and guardians who arrive as newcomers? These newcomers can carry the written message of hope home to the teens. So simple but so effective.

I did attend Assembly last fall to see and hear for myself how Ontario South supports Alateen. I really appreciate all the HARD work by Leslie and Joan, and countless other Alateen committee members to complete the Alateen Charter. Alateen will now have its own finances to work with, and the ability to accept contributions to the Ontario South Advisory Committee (OSAAC) from groups and districts. Ontario South Assembly voted to return Alateen their funds, which is showing great support to Alateen. These funds, like those of Al-Anon are used for seed money to the district holding the Alateen Unity Conference, expenses for Alateen to attend service workshops, and perhaps rekindling "The Alateen Road Show". Alateen are GREAT fundraisers too. They are very talented and committed in carrying their message of Hope to other teens.

I would like to stimulate conversation with Alateen group sponsors, SAMS, to be available to participate in Alateen workshops in districts and perhaps Al-Anon Day events. My contact information can be found on the back of Open Lines.

Alateens are welcome to contact me or the Alateen chair of OSACC directly and privately through our account. It is

important that they know they have someone to talk things out with/share with regarding group matters. The OSACC email is for the use of Alateens ONLY and all others would direct their communications to me.

I look forward with a warm heart to the new Alateen experiences ahead.

Alateen "Rocks"  
Janet Taylor

### **Trillium Coordinator**

Now that the snow is finally here, and we've all hunkered down to suffer through another Canadian winter (and we Al-Anons do know how to suffer!), I want to ask everyone to keep in mind how special 2012 will be. No, I'm not talking about the Mayan calendar ending, but rather the 20th anniversary of the Trillium Convention on June 15-17th weekend. What an opportunity to rejoice!

Not simply is the Trillium this area's only weekend Al-Anon conference - truly an event to attend in pride! - but with such a loaded program of speakers, workshops, meditations, celebrations, dances, and fellowship, it would be a challenge not to feel the power of Al-Anon healing we invite all members to come and share in. Trillium is far from being just a "day", or a simple "meeting" - it is an entire weekend of chances to hear, see, and participate in active recovery.

The conference starts Friday with Jack C., an Al-Anon member from California, sharing his story, followed by a karaoke dance for the lively spirits, or a gratitude meeting for the more serene. The next day offers workshops and speakers, including Ellen C. from Texas, for members to reflect upon and grow. For entertainment, we have a skit and another dance later in the evening, as well as meditation sessions. We've just arranged on Sunday morning a special "Country Breakfast" meeting (for \$26), hearing the experience, strength and hopes of past Trillium chairpersons, followed by a spiritual speaker to close the conference. Not to mention all the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton has to offer guests (from restaurants & boutiques to a waterslide pool and spa area). This event is basically PACKED!!

The committee is coming out with various commemorative items to help honour Trillium's 20 years - the first being a colourful sheet of Al-Anon slogan fridge magnets (\$3 each or 2 for \$5). We also plan on presenting Trillium 2012 pens and T-shirts for purchase in the approaching months.

So let this not be your "winter of discontent", my friends. Instead, hold the hope and promise of the coming of spring and the Trillium in your hearts to warm you.

Blessings,  
Greg Marshall, Chair