

Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Ontario South Website: <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/>

August 2014

Volume 36 Issue 3

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.

Deadline
November 15th, 2014

Distribution
December 1st, 2014

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

Quick Links for Ontario South

There are some common forms that groups and members are asked to fill out all the time. I have made the following links available for you. To access these forms hold your control key and click on the underlined words. A new window will open and your document will be there. Be sure to click ok to the warning you will get about unsafe documents.

[Group Records Change Form](#)

[Donation form](#)

[Form C for SAMS](#)

[Literature Order Form](#)

Al-Anon Declaration

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

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
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

<http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/>

All districts with websites are underlined and hyperlinks are available. Hold your control key and click the link.

AWSC 2014
ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Is the chant "keep coming back, it works if you work it" CAL approved?

A. No. This issue has been discussed at WSC and we do not have chants in Al-Anon.

Q. If the Secretary doesn't show up for the meeting, can the Chairperson take the minutes?

A. Yes, the Chairperson could take the minutes for the meeting. We suggest that as the Chairperson already has a responsibility they may wish to ask another member to take the minutes.

Q. Why do we have Form FGR3 "Alateen Registration/Group Records Change Form" in French in our Area Service Manual? Why is it the only form in French?

A. This was a downloading error.

Q. Is it possible to submit quarterly appeal donations to WSO electronically? Our Treasurer usually sends a money order but the cost of the money order often exceeds the value of the donation.

A. You can make on-line donations to WSO - there is a link. However, the link is intended for personal donations and not specifically for "Quarterly Appeal".

Q. There is a very "difficult member" in my District who has created disharmony in many groups. Lately her behaviors are such that she was asked not to attend a specific group. My question: she has made it known that she may start her own group. Do I have any responsibility, ethically or otherwise, to report this information to WSO?

A. No, this is not the avenue for this. A group would not be registered until it was established anyway, and it may not get there if members know of this member and issue. We feel you don't have any responsibility to WSO in this matter.

At AWSC the districts on a three year rotation give reports as to what's happening and what problems may have occurred in their district.

This information can be found on the [Ontario South Website](#) along with a lot of other great stuff.

Check out this link to all the area reports including the district ones!!!

[Area Minutes and District Reports](#)

MARK YOUR CALANDERS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES IN OSA

October 24 - 26, 2014 - Assembly in Toronto

November 14 & 15 - Executive meeting in Guelph

Happy Summer!

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for the many cards and good wishes that I received once again at this year's World Service Conference. It is a wonderful thing to decorate my hotel room with them. It keeps Area 86 with me while I am away.

This year, when I left the conference I truly felt an inner peace and that I had represented Ontario South with honesty and integrity. I have felt very honoured to have participated on your behalf in the evolving fellowship that gives all of us a new way of living - emotionally, physically and spiritually.

At AWSC this past June, part of my report was interactive. I would encourage you to ask your DR's about the activities we participated in about healthy home groups, spiritual principles underlying AI-Anon procedures and developing a group/district budget. Perhaps you would like to incorporate them into one of your AI-Anon Days or service workshop days. I would be happy to help you in any way that I can.

I am hoping that many of you are considering the service that you will be able to offer your group, or district or our Area in this upcoming new term. Be still and hear what your HP is leading you to do. My experience is that each and every one of my service activities has brought me forward to a new place in my journey. Both the bumpy and smooth paths have been my teachers.

Those of you who are considering an Area Coordinator position, you may e-mail your intention to me between now and Assembly. I will pass them on to the in-coming delegate. Please ensure that you read the responsibilities and guidelines for coordinators which can be found in our Area Guideline and Procedure Manual.

I look forward to this year's Assembly where once again I will be among my many family members.

Blessings,
Jane H.

Alternate Delegate's Report

As we approach the end of this service term (December 31st) I would really encourage each of you to reflect and ask your Higher Power how you might grow and expand your recovery with AI-Anon Service.

The Forum is celebrating its 60th year of publication. Please remember that "YOU" can share your recovery by submitting an article. Submitting an article is a wonderful way to celebrate your own recovery and share it with others. Using *The Forum* magazine articles at an AI-Anon meeting is an ideal way to initiate a topic and generate discussion. Have you downloaded an issue of *The Forum* on your electronic device yet?

There will be several amendments to our Ontario South Area Policy & Guidelines Manual being sent out soon by email. They will also be available electronically on our Ontario South Website. If you are a member of our Ontario South AWSC (Area World Service Committee) please make sure your hard copy of the manual is updated and ready to pass on to your successor at the end of this term.

I have appreciated the opportunity for communication between several Districts and individual members over the last few months. I remain available if I can be of any assistance or support please feel free to contact me.

With much Love & Gratitude
Debbie P.

Area Secretary's Report

I was unable to attend AWSC at the end of May. I was dealing with a loved one's health issues and didn't feel I could be away from home. Carl F (DR for District 28) took down all the stuff (baskets, blank evaluations, SAM identifiers, etc) and then brought everything back for me. My other duties (taking the Minutes and assisting Marg at Registration) were taken over by Debbie P. Thank you to both of them for stepping up on very short notice to help me out. I spent that weekend, and the weeks that have followed, working Steps 1, 2 and 3.

I am so grateful to Al-Anon for getting me prepared to face a situation over which I have no control and giving me the tools to deal with the moments where I struggle with acceptance. My sponsor and Al-Anon friends have been endlessly supportive. Carrying on with my Al-Anon service responsibilities has been a "sanity" keeper. Focusing on the positive and doing something has been really good for me.

The Minutes from AWSC and District and AIS Reports that were presented at AWSC are now on the Ontario South Website (www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca). The next big Area event will be Assembly on October 24, 25 and 26 in Toronto. The Executive have planned a full agenda. I will be emailing all the information that you will need to register and prepare for Assembly to your District Representative in late August and he/she will distribute the package to Group Representatives.

Looking forward to seeing you at the end of October!

Love and Hugs in Service
Jean McS

Area Treasurer's Report

My name is Marg K, a very grateful member of and the G.R. for Learning to Live AFG in Toronto and am the treasurer for Ontario South. I have been in this position since mid-March 2013 and have to say that I am enjoying the service and meeting everyone either in person or through your emails.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer. Thank you very much for your donations so far during 2014 **Please remember to use the donation form** that can be found in the area manual or online to ensure that donation is recorded to the correct group. See the link . To access the [DONATION FORM](#) hold your control key and click on the words Donation Form.

If you decide to send a cheque without using the form please make sure you include your group name and group number. And remember that when you go on vacation your group is still there.

Marg K
OSA
Treasurer

Chairpersons Report

Hello all,

I hope that this summer is finding you rested and relaxed. Taking that break from all the usual chores and responsibilities that occur in your life. Contemplating your navel, or your life, or your future.

In that time of contemplation have you thought about this falls Assembly? It's a voting year at the Area level and I'm sure that it's a voting year in most groups. If you've ever wondered about service and what you can get out of it, or from it go to The Forum, July 2014, page 30/31. It may give you something to think about.

See you at Assembly in Toronto.

hugs
Michele

District 6-London & Area
Al-Anon/Alateen Service Meeting

The Joy of "SERVICE" OUR 3rd LEGACY

What is SERVICE? How does it work? What is my part?

Tuesday August 26th, 2014
6:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m.Fellowship
(Bring your dinner if you like and we will have desserts)
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Meeting
All Saints Anglican Church
249 Hamilton Rd. @ Inkerman
London, Ontario

Area Archives

My name is Heather P and I am your Ontario South Archives Co-coordinator. 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.

AWSC was another fabulous event with lots of learning, sharing, laughter, and oh yes, business. Life is now slowing down a bit as we enter into the summer holiday season.

I am looking forward to September and sharing a bit of history on Al-Anon's beginnings and a workshop on their group histories. Other than that, simply plunking away with the Area Archives making sure all is in a semblance of order to handover to the next Area Archivist at the Executive meeting in January 2015. Is anyone looking to expand their knowledge of Al-Anon, to get out and meet new people? How about a fun way to enjoy all the gifts this program has to offer? Well this is a great place to start! Talk to you HP, your sponsor or me should you be thinking about your next step in service.

See you at Assembly!

Love & (Hugs) in Service,
Heather P

AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON REPORT

The Ontario South 2014 Supportive Al-Anon Member (SAM) re-certification process is now complete. The WSO requirements have been met. We presently have 159 certified SAM's in Area 86.

The Alateen Group Annual Update is also complete and the WSO requirements have been met. We presently have 35 Alateen Groups in Ontario South.

Thank you to all who have participated in this annual process. I look forward to our time together at Ontario South Assembly.

Love in Service
Marg McC

At AWSC the District Representatives along with the executives took a lot of time and worked hard at looking at service and why there seems to be no one willing to step up. One of the many tools we used was looking at Concept One. Here are the questions we asked ourselves and were encouraged to take back to the groups as a topic for a meeting!!

Concept One Workshop

What makes your group the best?

What is a healthy group?

What are the characteristics of a healthy group?

What are the practices that demonstrate the actions of a healthy group?

How can the concepts of a home group benefit Al-Anon?

How can I let it begin with me?

Literature Coordinator Report

Hello Friends! Hope life is good to my Al-Anon / Alateen friends. Here's a little news from your area literature coordinator.

What a great summer! So far the number of perfect days out way any others. Lying on the beach or relaxing in my sun porch after super with a good Al-Anon book can sure calm the day.

Again, submissions are still required for the new books in motion – from parents and grandparents affected by the disease of alcoholism and intimacy. Everyone's submissions are more than welcome and the sharing sheets for each of them are a great help giving ideas on how and what to share.

Anybody have an Al-Anon Day coming up? Want about doing a **Workshop** or have a **Skit** included in your day?

I have some Workshop outlines and some Skits available for a District or Group if interested. Workshop topics such as Sponsorship, Facing the Ghosts of Our Past Workshop, or a Workshop on Loss of the Dream are a few examples. Please contact me for information.

Wishing you a wonderful rest of the Season.
God Bless,
Marianne E
Area Literature Coordinator

Area Alateen Coordinator

Alateen Unity Conference was a BIG success. Along with District 1 Al-Anon Day the whole day was filled with speakers, panels, workshops, outdoor activities, a dance and delicious meals and snacks supplied the entire day and night.

Through the very generous donations to OSAAC (Area Alateen Advisory Committee) from many Al-Anon and Alateen Groups, Districts and our very Special TAG Alateen of Barrie for their financial support from the sales of hundreds of Alateen Hug Scarves this event was self supporting. THANK YOU to all those who attended June 7th, we appreciate your support and your hugs.

In attendance were 34 Alateen members, 88 adults (AA/Al-Anon) which includes 24 Alateen Sponsors from 7 different Districts.

VERY BIG Alateen HUGS to the committee and countless volunteers, for their hours of hard work. Thanks to all who donated food items for the potluck lunch, delicious!

Alateen groups in our Area continue to keep their doors open. There are groups flourishing and groups floundering. It is a fact that we have these teens in our families; please bring them to a meeting. Alateen can make a huge difference in a child's life. Alateen is Al-Anon for younger family members. Has Al-Anon helped you? Please share the Alateen program with those you love.

I know there are Al-Anon members feeling the nudge towards this service position. I will tell you everything about Alateen warms my heart and gives me hope. I have had a very special 3 years as Area Alateen Coordinator and wouldn't change it for the world! The friends you make in Alateen are special

I had promised to do a puzzle or word search, some fun activity for you to do, in this issue of Open Lines, it is my hope that my life and those around me will be more manageable for the next issue.

I will simply say, Thank you for your love and support of Area Alateen!

Alateen Rocks!
Janet T

Public Outreach word search.

C R A D I O N Z P U A Y C T R
K O O B E C A F N V T T O E E
C R O Y N Q J I O Y T I M N T
H E Z P I O V E R Z R M M R L
U H A N E E I A H A A Y U E E
R A Q S R R R T I H C N N T H
C B L S P B A D O W T O I N S
H K I Z I R E T P M I N T I H
Z T R L R M E N I R O A Y O A
Y D I S P L A Y K O N R S R I
E S U O H T R U O C N P P E R
T E L E P H O N E L I F U T P
E G E L L O C G N T P O Y S O
T W I T T E R I A F J M X O R
L O O H C S N L Y A I J E P T

- AIRPORT
- ANONYMITY
- ATTRACTION
- CHURCH
- COLLEGE
- COMMUNITY
- COOPERATION
- COURTHOUSE
- DISPLAY
- EMPLOYER
- FACEBOOK
- FAIR
- HOSPITAL
- HOTEL
- INTERNET
- LIBRARY
- MEDIA
- POSTER
- PROMOTION
- PSA
- RADIO
- REHAB
- SCHOOL
- SHELTER
- TELEPHONE
- TWITTER
- UNIVERSITY

source <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/bestofpublicoutreach.pdf> The Best of Public Outreach: Service Tool for Public Outreach, and http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/WordSearchSetupForm.asp?campaign=flyout_teachers_puzzle_wordcross source for creating word search.

In Service
Marthanne R
Public Outreach Coordinator

Website Coordinator Report

Hi My name is Denyse K. and I am your Ontario South Website Coordinator. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far.

It was really nice to see everyone at AWSC in May/June. We are at the last stretch of our 3year term and just asking that you look at what service position you would like to adventure in. Feel the service nudge.

The website is doing good. The visits for the month of June have risen since AWSC and is up to 5848 visits for the month. With most of the visits are made on the events, meeting lists, Delegates Corner.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at ontariosouthwebsitecoordinator@outlook.com I appreciate any feedback and comments to make the website a better place.

Yours in Service
Denyse K.
Ontario South Website Coordinator



CAME TO BELIEVE

What: 63rd. Annual Eastern Ontario Fall Conference

When: October 17th to 19th 2014

Where: National Art Centre Ottawa

Conference Info: <http://fallconference.ottawaaa.org>

Al-Anon Fall Conference Program

Friday 6:30 pm	Get Creative Workshop
Friday 7:30 pm	Open Mic: Coming To Through Creativity
Saturday 9:00 am	Speaker Panel: Higher Power Relationships
Saturday 10:30 am	Came to Believe Conflict Can Be Resolved: Workshop
Saturday 1:30 pm	Speaker Panel
Saturday 3:00 pm	Al-Anon Keynote Speaker Janet T from Wasaga Beach On
Sunday 9:00 am	Speaker Panel: Came To Believe
Sunday 11:00 am	Family Panel (combined Al-Anon/ AA meeting)

This is an awesome setting for some awesome Al-Anon meetings. Get a carload together. A meeting ticket for all 3 days is only \$20.00.

67th Annual AA Cornwall Fall Conference with Al-Anon Participation will be November 7 & 8, 2014

Watch for more details to come.

Open Line Coordinator Report

At AWSC it was discussed and the decision was made to have Open Lines publish 3 times a year. The executive will be making the decision on publication dates and more will follow.

Also, an attempt is being made to include a lot more of service content and for the membership to be included in the information being sent out. To this end you will notice a lot more "fun" things and information included.

Coming soon.... Ask the delegate, Notes/ pictures from Archives, puzzles and more...stay tuned.

Please feel free to call or email me I would love to hear your suggestions and look forward to seeing more service news.

Hugs in service
Sharon R

Group Records Coordinator Report

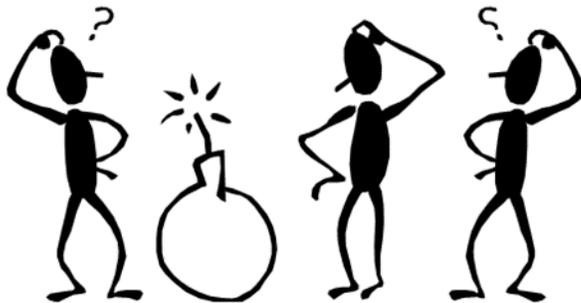
Hello everyone, I hope your summer is going well.

It has been a challenging month for me with group records. I have had major computer issues (AGAIN). It seems to me that I have not had a month without something happening with my computers. For years I have had no issues with security on computers and now it seems every time I turn around there is a new issue. We have had server issues this time and it affected all of our computers including the one for Ontario South.

I have just sent off the changes from July to Denyse and hopefully this has everyone caught up. Assembly is coming soon and I will need all changes sent to me by October 15th in order for the reports to be up to date for Assembly.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer and I will see you in the fall.

Bonnie B
Group Records Coordinator



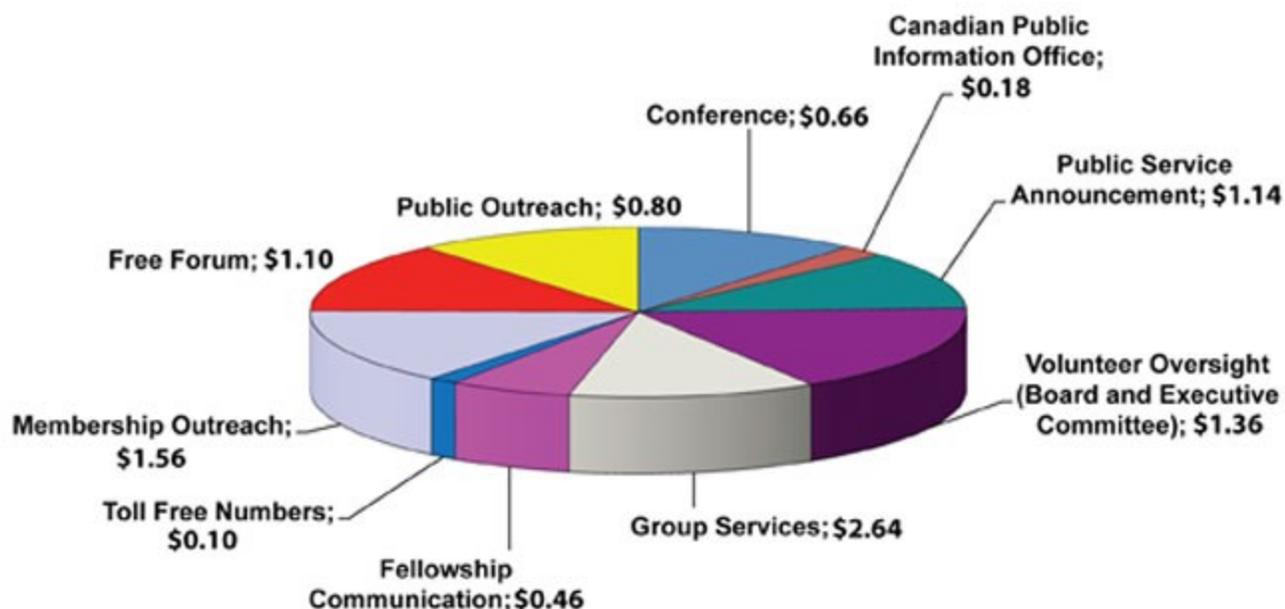
This looks like a problem, what should we do?
I have an idea, let's ask a Group Representative...
Right, I forget we are Group Reps
Okay, so who remembered to bring their Service Manual?

Cartoon submitted by
Leslie P. District 1
This was to encourage new
Group Representatives at
their first district meeting!

From our Delegate:
It is often asked how our donations to WSO is used.
This pie chart explains how WSO uses a \$10 donation.

How your \$10 is used

Direct Services Expenses



Salaries, occupancy and other expenses are funded from literature sales

If after reviewing the chart and you still have questions please feel free to contact Jane. Her information can be found on the last page of this publication.