

Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

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

August 2016

Volume 38 Issue 2

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.

Mailed Out 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 EMAIL or ADDRESS CHANGES please send to Group Records Coordinator address on last page

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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](#)

[Printable Literature Form](#)

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.

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

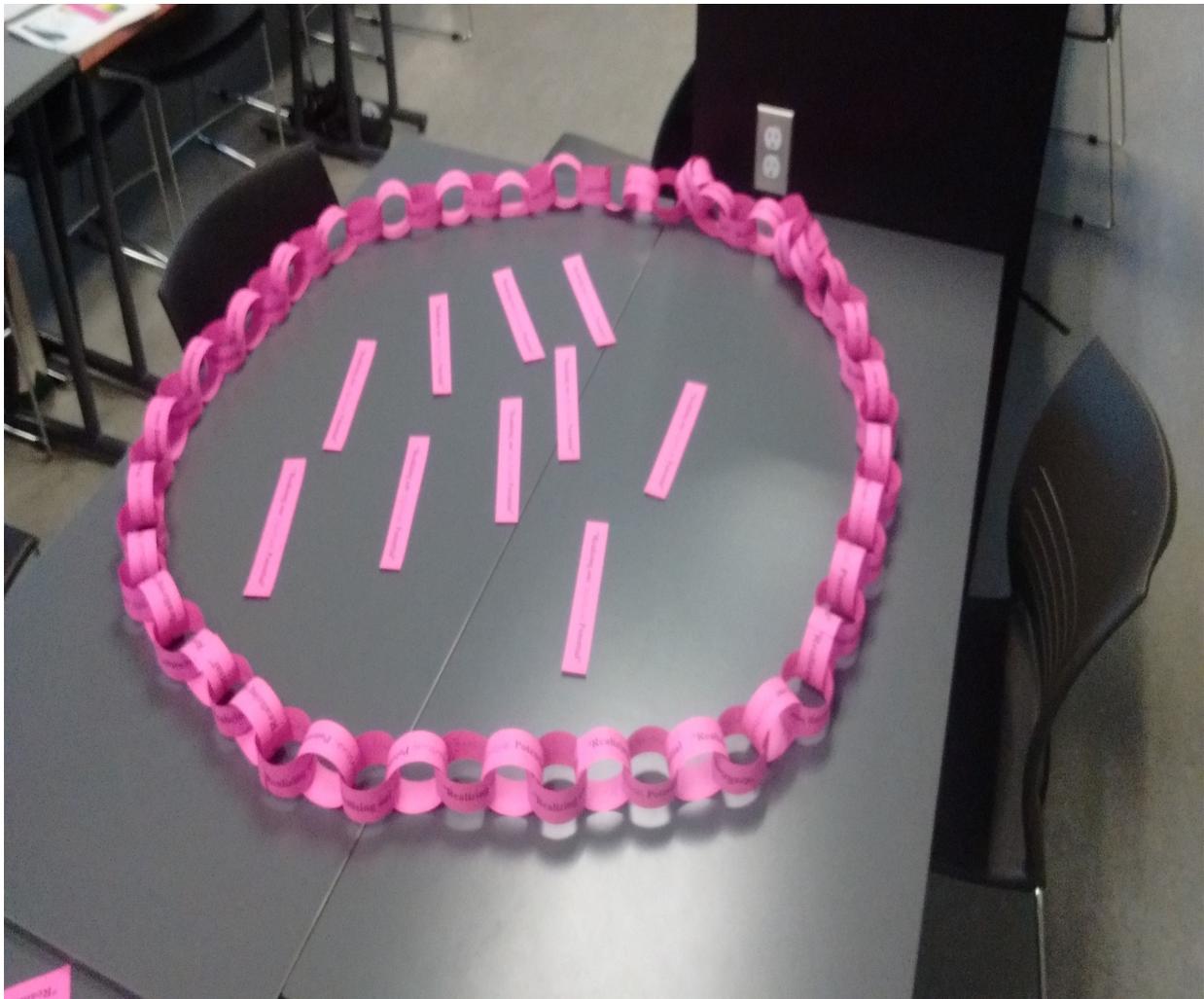
[Ontario South Website](#)



Some Changes to Open Lines

Recently, the executive was asked to consider some changes to the way Open Lines is sent out. The results are listed below:

- Open Lines will be sent electronically at no charge to Executives, Coordinators, and all Area 86 Current Mailing Addresses (CMAs). This will happen every issue. Please ensure that your email is correct with Group Records (Joan T is the coordinator)
- If individual members want to read Open lines it is accessible on the area website.
- We will begin next April publishing reports from District Reps for that issue. This is completely voluntary. I think it might be a good idea to hear what is happening in our districts across Ontario South. I will send out a reminder well in advance to the DRs.
- Having said that, all members of Area 86 are welcome to submit service submissions to any issue.
- Paper copies will continue to require a subscription and the rates continue to be \$8.00 for 2 years.



The Paper Chains from the recent AWSC meeting;

The purpose of creating the chain was for each member of our Area World Service Committee to write on the back of the paper what their service position was. DR. Coordinator, Executive etc. In connecting them together, it was to show a visible sign of how the Groups are being represented by Districts, our District are being represented at our Area and our Area is represented through our Delegate at the World Service Conference.

"Through the Links of Service we are all Connected".

Delegate report, continued....

After a couple of year's absence we saw a return of our Ontario South Assembly Al-Anon/Alateen Trillium Convention in early May of this year. I attended and appreciated the fellowship it provided. Thank you to the committee members and other volunteers who contributed to making this Ontario South event happen.



2018 Al-Anon International Convention – July 5th to 8th, 2018
Baltimore, Maryland Save the date!
Registration etc. will open September 2017

As I continue to serve Ontario South I am continuously reflecting on our spiritual principles and that which connects us to a power greater than ourselves. It takes courage and strength to be responsible and accountable to carry out the “business” of Al-Anon. We are all called to respect, honour and protect our Traditions and Concepts, which can be challenging at times. I am reminded often of the reality, that we all have the same objective, which is the continued health and growth of our Al-Anon Groups and Members. “Talk to each other, reason things out with someone else.....”

We are in “this” together! Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any support to you, your Group or your District.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Ontario South Assembly in October, here in London!

With gratitude and love

Debbie P

Delegate Panel 55

Ontario South

Chair Report

Lots of interesting things have been going on in Ontario South since the last Open Lines. We had a Trillium event in May. The membership really enjoyed the fellowship. Many Districts have had celebration days. We are actively planning Assembly.

The next thing I must do in my role as Chairperson is ask if there is a member willing and able to host the 2017 Trillium Convention. The person who would be invited to chair would be able to use the Principles, Traditions and Concepts of Al-Anon and abide by the Trillium Charter, as well as having all the positions filled. The Trillium Charter is a document that has been formulated and voted on by the membership. It can be found online or in the Area Policy and Guidelines manual.

A letter is being sent out with additional information.

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer.

I hope to see you at Assembly in London.

Till then,

Yours in service

Deb C

OSA Alternate Delegate Update

Hi Everyone,

- ◆ If you, or any members of your group have an article published in the Forum, please let me know as I would like to add it to the ones already contained in a binder our Past Delegate put together.
- ◆ As you can see below World Service Conference is in the process of developing a new piece of Conference Approved Literature.

The Forum Book (working title)

Have you ever read a *Forum* sharing that:

- ◆ helped you look at something differently?
- ◆ made you laugh?
- ◆ touched your heart and reminded you that you aren't alone?
- ◆ had a unique way of presenting the topic/subject?
- ◆ will stand the test of time?

Those are the sharings we would like to include in THE *FORUM BOOK* (working title).

The 2015 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval to develop a piece of Conference Approved Literature based on member sharings published in past issues of *The Forum*. The piece is intended to compile thoughtful sharings that are important enough to be read for years to come.

You are cordially invited to send us your most memorable and relatively recent, *Forum* sharings (2005 – present). There's only one caveat! Please let us know the title, month, and year in which it appeared in the magazine.

Share this with other members – including our wonderful Alateens! You can submit your suggestions on-line. Go to the Members' Web site at al-anon.org/members. Click on Individuals, Featured Publications, *The Forum*, THE *FORUM BOOK* (working title).

- If you are a Group Representative, remember that you are the Forum's representative for your group. Encourage your members to subscribe to the Forum and use it in your meetings.

Blessings,

Sue G

Alternate Delegate and Ontario South Forum Coordinator

Alateen Coordinator's Report

I received a lot of positive feedback from the Alateens that attended Trillium. They really enjoyed the Alateen program. I want to thank the Trillium committee and all of the SAMs that helped out with Trillium. I am looking forward to Trillium 2017.

The Alateens are really missing their Unity conference. It's been two years since the Alateens have had a conference. ORC in March and Trillium are the only opportunities for all of the Alateens to get together. In order to have Unity, a district needs to put in a bid. The last Unity conference was held in Barrie in June 2014. Unity is important to them but they can't do it alone. Please consider putting in a bid for 2017. The last one was held in conjunction with District 1 Al-Anon day and the turn out was great. Let's support our Alateens and have a Unity conference in 2017.

The 2017 ORC SAM (Margery) is looking for someone to shadow her so that there will be a 2018 ORC SAM. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will pass on the info.

If you sponsor an Alateen meeting, I would love to hear from you. What is the meeting like? How many teens attend the meeting? What do the Alateens have to say about what keeps them coming back? Is there another meeting (AA/Al-Anon) held at the same time? Email me or come talk to me at Assembly in October.

Please remember that teens are always welcome in Al-Anon especially if there isn't an Alateen meeting in the area.

Contact me at odat.cheryl@gmail.com or at ontario.south.alateen@hotmail.com with any questions, suggestions, concerns, or if you need a speaker.

Yours in Service, Cheryl M

Archives Coordinator's Report

I will be at assembly in October if you or your group have anything to donate to archives.

Please consider updating your group histories and/or submitting oral histories or writing histories of long time group members. Flyers for events in your district are also a great addition to archives.

Have you had experience with an Alateen group? Consider writing down the history of that group (even if it has shut down). If it's still active, suggest that the members of the group update their group history.

If your district would like me to put on an Archives workshop, please email me at odat.jason@gmail.com

If you have any questions, regarding what to keep, please email me.
Yours in Service, Jason M

Literature Co-ordinator's Report

WSO is still accepting written sharings for a new daily reader, Intimacy in alcoholic relationships, and Parents and Grandparents of young problem drinkers. Your story is essential for the recovery of others and can aid in your own recovery process and is truly anonymous.

Here are three projects currently on the go.

NEW DAILY READER (working title) "Your sharing will help assure that our new daily reader will reflect our fellowship as it is today. Please help us make this new daily reader a vital, rich, and multifaceted expression of the Al-Anon program of recovery." <http://al-anon.org/members/new-daily-reader>

* Note: it is the hope of the World Service Office to have this daily reader ready for distribution at the Al-Anon International Convention in 2018.

INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title) "The 2011 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for "a new piece of literature on intimacy in general, including sexual intimacy, in alcoholic relationships." The Literature Committee is seeking sharings from Al-Anon/Alateen members for possible use in this piece. We hope to receive enough sharings from a wide range of members to make this new piece of literature a reality. Please share from your heart and help develop this exciting new addition to Al-Anon's Conference Approved Literature." <http://al-anon.org/members/intimacy-in-alcoholic-relationships>

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS (working title) "The 2013 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for "a new pamphlet to address parents and grandparents whose children (teenagers and young adults) are problem drinkers." The Literature Committee is seeking sharings from Al-Anon members for possible use in this piece.

Please share your experience, strength, and hope regarding how you have been affected by a young person's drinking, and how Al-Anon has helped you deal with it. Please share from your heart and help develop this exciting new addition to Al-Anon's Conference Approved Literature." <http://al-anon.org/members/parents-grandparents-pamphlet>

Thank you for your support and encouragement.
Bonnie R.

Area 86 Literature Coordinator

Secretary's Report to Open Lines

I have spent time preparing for and attending AWSC, communicating with AWSC members and organizing reports, transcribing and sending out minutes, as well as compiling the "Items for Consideration", and Evaluations to present at the July executive meeting.

I will be attending the executive meeting on July 22, 23rd and am busy preparing for a weekend of business in a setting of service fellowship.

I feel a sense of gratitude for this area level position. Service helps me to stretch a little outside of my comfort zone, which always provides me with positive personal growth dividends for my investment.

Having said that, we are now midway through our area service positions and I have a sense that I am moving from confused into the confident stage. I find that this is spilling out into my personal life as well. I am feeling more confident, contented and true to myself in many areas.

Sincerely; Mary Ellen

Website co-ordinator's report – August 2016

Welcome to summer! Submissions to the website have slowed but I'm still here, making sure things are up-to-date.

Thank you to everyone who's been updating Group Records on your meeting's changes. Please remember that if your meeting's information is incorrect on the website, 95 per cent of the time Group Records is not aware of the discrepancy.

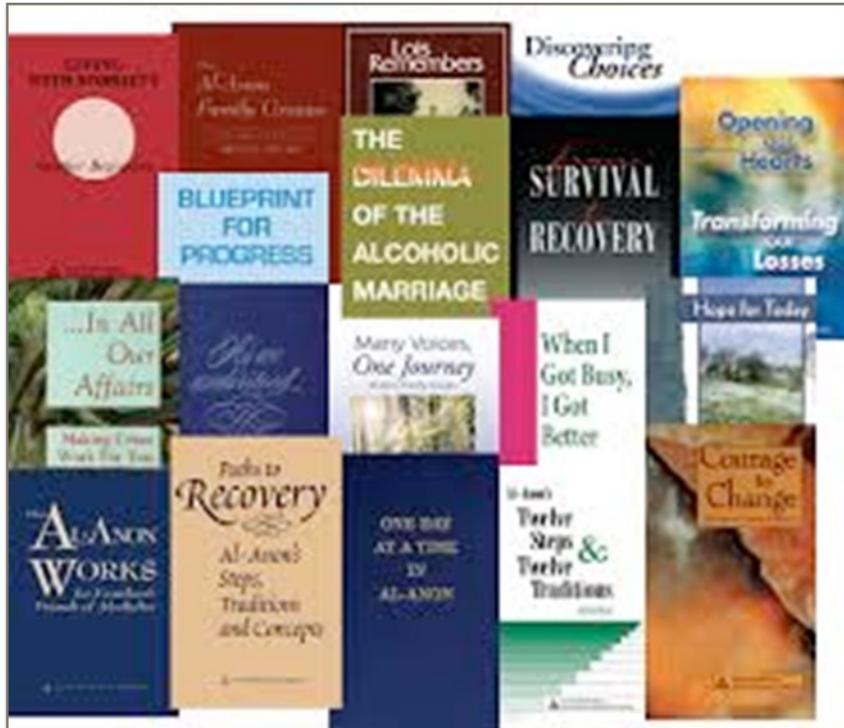
Please submit your Al-Anon/Alateen events for the website's Upcoming Events section at least two weeks in advance. This gives me enough time to get it on the website and for members to see it before your event.

When your event has a flyer, thank you for submitting an electronic version. When you submit a flyer, a PDF is best; it makes for less work on my end and guarantees that members will see your flyer appear on their screens exactly as you designed it.

When your meeting closes for a holiday or some other one-time event, are you letting members know via the website? You can e-mail me your temporary closures at ontario-southwebsitecoordinator@outlook.com and I'll place an alert on the Meetings page.

Thanks!

Yours in Service,
Jason W.,
Ontario South Website Co-ordinator



LDC Summer office closure

begins July 18, 2016

&

reopens August 29, 2016

Orders submitted after July 14th will be filled in August.