

Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

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

December 2015

Volume 37 Issue 3

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:

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

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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](#)

[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 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](#)

**Assembly—
2015**

**A drawing of
the event.**



Delegate's Report

2015 Ontario South Assembly was a great opportunity to meet so many of you. We all appreciated the willingness and effort put forth by District 27 and so many others to be such welcoming hosts. Thank you to **all** who served by preparing for, presenting at, attending and participating in the weekend!

Follow up from Assembly.....
World Service Office clarifications

DONATIONS TO WORLD SERVICE OFFICE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

World Service Office automatically issues individual receipts to any Canadian member who makes an individual donation by cheque but, of course, cannot when individual contributions are sent as cash in the appeal envelopes. There is no minimum donation for a receipt. Cheques can be made in Canadian Funds. The fastest way to get a donation to WSO is through the U.S. address. They would only use a remailer for any mail sent to the Canadian office. There are also birthday and memorial contribution envelopes to send donations in.

AFG, Inc., 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617.

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE ANNUAL UPDATE SHEET & AREA GROUP RECORDS CHANGES

The "WSO Annual Update Sheet" is a form generated by the WSO and is sent to each Canadian Group in early January. The groups are asked to verify the information the WSO has on file and send the form back to WSO whether there are any changes or not.

If a group doesn't receive this form it could be that new CMA information is incorrect or was entered right before the mailing of the form was completed.

In addition in Ontario South if there are any changes to Group Records information, you are asked as soon as possible at any time when changes occur during the year to send our Area Group Records Coordinator these changes, using our Area Group Records Change Form.

These are two different forms and both need to be completed.

"FIND A MEETING"

This feature is now available on the World Service Website Al-Anon.org.

All meetings in Canada United States, Bermuda & Puerto Rico are now listed. This information is updated live and in real time as WSO receives information.

Information requests I received from members at Assembly:

- Can Ontario South have some sort of Liability Insurance for individual Groups?
 - The Executive did revisit this issue at our most recent Meeting. We understand that having liability Insurance is a considerable concern and challenge for some Groups due to requests from the facilities where meetings are held. We reaffirmed the Area's previous decision that providing any type of Insurance coverage would conflict with the spiritual principles and that Insurance is an outside entity.
- Could further clarification be provided of what our financial donations to the World Service Office are used for?
 - I am creating and will post on our Ontario South website Delegate's Corner some explanations of the pie chart from World Service Office "How your \$10 is used".

Delegate's Report, continued

- Sharing "Area Highlights" at the World Service Conference,
 - I shared the struggles but what about the successes? Without question Ontario South's greatest asset, successes and strengths are its willing members and although getting people to participate in service can be a challenge, Ontario South does have representation from each District and all Executive and Coordinator positions are filled. I also shared that in 2014 Ontario South had a successful Alateen "Unity Conference"
- Some "Area Dreams" shared by members with me from Assembly:
 - My Dream is to have a flowing energy of new members to come to the rooms of Al-Anon always.
 - That we have a vibrant growing Public Outreach Program with strategies.
 - We Can Get Better
 - Spreading the WORD to the new generations-well
 - My take away. Spiritual Principles- my vision- promote my groups engagement thru service.

As 2015 and the first year of our term draws to a close, I would really like to express my gratitude to each of you for your ongoing service to Al-Anon and Ontario South. We are on this journey together and it is an honour to be part of such an amazing fellowship. I look forward to continuing to serve.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I can be of any support to you, your Group or District.

Please also remember to send me a copy of your District's Minutes, it's a great way for us to stay connected. ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com

2016 World Service Conference Theme "Realizing our Spiritual Potential"

With much Gratitude
Debbie P.

OSA Chair's Message

I am about to wrap up year one in my three year term as Chairperson. WOW. I would never have anticipated the things I have learned in this short time. About WSO, the area, about the how the Executive works, but mostly about myself.

I have learned that being part of the executive does not make me special. In fact if anything it magnifies my defects and throws them out there for all to see. I have learned that it's ok to not know an answer. Someone knows or we can figure it out together. I am reminded that I am not alone. I have learned that something as big as Assembly does not happen without the service of many, many people. I have learned that I have so much more to learn.

I want to thank everyone who attended AWSC and or Assembly for making those weekends enjoyable and productive .

I have kept my notes of encouragement. They are special to me. I remember the kind words and the surprises.

I want to thank each one of you for attending, participating and being a part of how Al-Anon works.

Yours in Service Deb C. OSA Chairperson

Area Secretary Report for Open Lines

Well, these past few months I have been organizing for the Assembly and completing all of the necessary service tasks that follow, with an Executive meeting to prepare for just 3 weeks' later!

I really enjoyed this year's Assembly in Cornwall. There was a feeling of warmth and fellowship present that was palpable. I came away with a sense of our service accomplishments, but also feeling inspired in recovery and hope - having had plenty of fun and laughter with our members after the business was put to bed. ! It was wonderful meeting members — putting faces' to so many I have been communicating with electronically. All of us together growing in service and recovery One Day at a Time - "How Great is That !" The Assembly 2015 minutes have been posted on our website. You will be able to find them at: www.al-anon.alateen.on.ca Go to al-anon members, then area meeting minutes Assembly 2015

During this Area level of service I have acquired a Service Sponsor who has helped me immensely both personally and adapting to this new role. She is a patient and kind soul with a wealth of experience available to guide me through uncharted territory. This has truly enhanced my experience. I now highly recommend Service Sponsorship every chance that I get, as an opportunity to ease into a new service role and grow personally. Very soon we will be into the busy hustle bustle of the holiday season ahead. I wish you all joy, love, and serenity "One day at a Time" until we meet again.

Best Regards in Service' **Mary Ellen B. Area 86 Al-Anon/Alateen Secretary**

Treasurer Report

My name is Marg K. a very grateful member of Learning to Live AFG and its GR and am also 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 want to thank everybody for their support and kind words during Assembly and look forward to continuing in this position for the next two years.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and an enjoyable winter. Thank you very much for your donations so far during 2015. 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.

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 if you are fortunate enough to be travelling to someplace warm this winter your group is still at home.

Marg K. OSA Treasurer

Ontario South Area Alateen Coordinator's Report December

Wow, I can't believe the first year is almost over. I have felt like I have grown so much over the year. I love service and really enjoy being a part of Alateen.

Please consider putting in a bid for Unity 2016. One option is to hold an Alanon Day and Unity on the same day. This worked really well in Barrie. Unity is a great opportunity for Alateens to get together with each other. As an Alanon member I love attending Alanon Days and Conferences. Alateens should be able to have this same opportunity.

It looks like Trillium is going to happen in 2016. SAMS will be needed for this event. Please, consider being a SAM it really is a great experience. If you are interested in being a part of the Alateen program at Trillium email me at odat.cheryl@gmail.com and I will pass on the information to the Trillium Chair.

Ontario Regional Conference-March 2016 in. Joanne J. is the ORC 2016 and along with a volunteer Alateen she will be setting up the Alateen program. She is also looking for volunteers; SAMS, speakers and chair persons for the conference. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested please email Joanne jojd1574@gmail.com

Thank you to all of the SAMS for their service. Alateen would not be possible without SAMS.

Suggestions from Alateens for Meetings:

- Paste slogans to cards and play a memory match game. When a match is found share on the slogan.

- Have an informal meeting every few months in order to have fellowship.

- Have a meeting where questions can be asked to the SAMS about the program and directed to Literature for understanding ie why is the 7th tradition so important?

- Have a meeting where they listen to a CD of an Alateen speaker

- Have a spinning wheel with topics on it and they can spin it to find a topic

As of right now there is not an Ontario South Alateen Advisory Committee (OSAAC). There are a few Alateens that have expressed an interest. Please talk to the Alateens in your group about the OSAAC. There will be time set aside at Trillium 2016 and ORC 2016.

Contact me at osap.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.

Alternate Delegate Report The Dilemma of the Forum Coordinator's Corner

It is interesting how I procrastinate. I believe it has a lot to do with fear.

I truly want to update the Forum Coordinator's Corner, but I am using the excuse that it looks great just the way the past Alternate Delegate created it. "Why update it?" I say to myself.

Alternate Delegate's Report-Continued

I need to update it because that is part of my service work as Alternate Delegate of Area 86. My goal is to have the update completed by the end of this year. Perhaps I am setting my sights too high. ("I need to have an amazing Forum Coordinator's Corner that everyone will admire.")
Wow, that sounds egotistical.

Actually what I need to do is personalize the site. Make it mine. With the help of my Higher Power it will look exactly how it is supposed to look.

I also have some fear around facilitating a Forum writing workshop. I have put out the suggestion that I would like to help to make a workshop possible for a Group or District. If that materializes, I will ask my Higher Power for help and know it will be what He has decided.

If your service work brings up some fear, please know that your fear can be turned around to faith and that you are not alone. Ask for help from other members and your Higher Power and 'hang on'.
Blessings in Service,
Sue G.

Alternate Delegate and Forum Coordinator

Open Lines Coordinator

Hello Everybody;

I tried my best, but still didn't get this newsletter out on time. Oh well, there is always next year, plus according to something mentioned at Assembly, I am still in the "confused stage," but it is definitely coming along.

As I mentioned in assembly and on the webpage, I am looking for ideas and suggestions as to the content of this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Also, I will post any news items or posters for upcoming group and district events as long as I receive them before our deadlines. (See page 1)

It's getting to the busy time of the year for many, although it can also be challenging for many of us. Please have a serene and wonderful holiday.

Please contact me via email at openlinesosa@gmail.com

Yours in service; Brian S. Open Lines Coordinator

Archives Coordinator Report

I really enjoyed meeting so many people at Assembly. I was unable to have the time to set up a display for Assembly but next year I will definitely have a display.

History of our program is so important to the future of the program. Group History and individual stories are a great asset. If you have written out your story and would like to submit a copy to archives it would be a great asset.

Another great suggestion is to put a binder together that includes important things from your group – Flyers, minutes, forums, cds. Then you can pass the binder to another group at the district meeting and each group can add to the binder. Then the district can submit the binder to be held in Archives. Please remember to date things. The information in our Archives is made accessible to members in line with our traditions and in keeping anonymity. If your group or district is having an event and would like to have an archives display at your event please feel free to contact me at the email below.

Yours in Service,
Jason M.

Literature Coordinator Report

NUDGE, NUDGE, NUDGE.

Have you felt a **nudge** to share your story in a truly anonymous way? All of our Al-Anon literature that we enjoy has been written by Al-Anon members. All of our members have been given anonymity at the highest level and have also helped many of us in our recovery. To date the World Service Office is asking for us to share our experience, strength and hope with others by writing and sending it in to the World Service Office.

We are able to contribute our stories directly to the World Service Office through our WSO website: <http://al-anon.alateen.org/> > Member site > log-in > Individuals > Featured Publications > Send Your Sharing > Upcoming Projects - from there we can select which project we would like to share on and fill out the form and the text box with our sharing.

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>

There are some areas and districts that have put on writing workshops to help support and encourage members in writing, as a part of their recovery, to share their experience, strength and hope. If your district is interested in having a writing workshop for the purpose of Al-Anon recovery, please feel free to contact me at 86literature@gmail.com

Thank you for your support and encouragement.
Bonnie R.
Area 86 Literature Coordinator



Ask It Basket-Assembly 2015

Q- Where does the money collected in the hospitality room go?

A- 7th Tradition principles-money collected goes back for the expenses of the host, as we are self supporting.

Q- Has there ever been an institutions coordinator for OSA?

A- It is now considered as Public Outreach.

Q- Does the closing prayer, etc. need to be CAL approved?

A- No. Group conscience as to how to close the meeting. Al-Anon/Alateen Manual Pg. 22

Q- Can a group separate from a district and join another or form a new district if the district they are in is veering too far away from the Al-Anon principles?

A- Section 1 General in Policy and Guideline Manual Pg 3 of 5 # 7. Group wanting to change districts initiates the action. GR takes a group conscience of group. Take to DR for decision through another group conscience. DR takes to proposed new DR to inform of decision. New DR takes group conscience and if all agree then can choose an effective date.

Q- How does a Delegate get a motion on the floor at WSC?

A- Member can be directed to Al-Anon/Alateen manual pg 143-144. If more answers are needed you can ask the Delegate.

Q- What is the difference between Public Outreach and Al-Anon Information Services?

A- Public Outreach is explained in Service Manual Pg 109-116. AIS-Pg. 71-Definition Pg. 63-Local Service of Public Outreach; Usually performs-Pg.64.

Q- Are there any Al-Anon groups within Onario South that visit prisons or detention centres? I found the prison webcast very empowering.

A- Please consult the Area Public Outreach Co-Ordinator to get that information.

Q- Can we have a SAM signup table at Assemblies, conferences, Al-Anon days, where GR & DR is available onsite? Coordinators can be available for helping direct people on how to get police check (online police check & have laptop available or paper form to fill out) and give refund to the AL-Anon member there all on same day. Have the forms easy to find in PDF fillable forms with submit buttons.

A- This is an Item for Consideration by the Area Executive.

Ask-it Basket, continued

Q- I have noticed the executive using their last names. How does this fit in with anonymity? When was this decision made?

A- Pg. 92 "Members use their full name within the fellowship when they wish. The degree of anonymity a member chooses (first name, pseudonyms, or full name) is not subject to criticism. Each member has the right to decide"

Q- Can AA members sponsor AI-Anon members?

A- Service manual Pg. 48

Q- Can we have a sponsorship manual? Could there be a more formal guideline/ workshops/ more complete suggestions for "the process" of being a sponsor? Whether it is an in person workshop or a manual-either one works.

A- Service manual Pg. 48

Q- Why can't we add internet to Tradition 11?

A- Service manual pg. 172 d, e.

Q- Are host assembly volunteers able to come in to assembly to hear what happens at Ontario South Assembly? If not, why not? Great way to introduce them to service.

A- If registration fee is paid-then yes.

Q- If a person wins a lottery-how much can they donate to different AI-Anon places?

A- Pg. 56- WSO 1% of previous year operating budget.

!Q- How are Delegates empowered or not empowered to participate and set the agenda at the World Service Conference?

A- Service Manual Pg 80

Q- Is it appropriate for our AFG to announce AA events (with no AI-Anon participation) with our announcements?

A- If it is not within AIAnon the answer is No. No AI-Anon participation makes it an outside entity. AI-Anon service manual Pg 9 & Pg 124 & Tradition 6.

Ask-it Basket, continued

Q- Waiter in restaurant asked what conference we were here for. How would we answer that?

A- A personal choice to how you answer. Also-Pg 91 & 23 of Service manual.

Q- Can a registered AI-Anon meeting run a second meeting at a different time and date and not register the new meeting?

A- Yes. It is not a new meeting. Service manual Pg 81, 37.

Q- Assembly is open for anyone to attend. Do they have to be AI-Anon members?

A- Yes-As this is AI-Anon business. Policy manual-Section 5-A, # 1 & # 2.

Q- Should we have a listing of members who consider our group their home group? Some have said yes in case of a vote on a group conscience. Others have said we should have a count of members for WSO.

A- This would be a group conscience. The # for WSO is given when the group registers to WSO.

Q- How will a successor be chosen for the Executive Director who is retiring within the next few years?

A- The Board of Trustees would make that decision.

Q- Are Delegates required to sign a non-disclosure document at WSO?

A- Please refer to the Delegate

Q- Could a searching and fearless moral inventory be conducted at all levels of AI-Anon? OSA, AWSC, WSC.

A- Pg 13 Service manual-All members at every level of AI-Anon live by the 12 steps so yes, all levels could do an inventory. Step 4

Q- I noticed one district has the exact same website as WSO with their own info. Is it possible then for districts to simply use the website of WSO? Don't know the word for website-format? structure? program?

A- This question is not clear. A district can link to the WSO website.

Q- Regarding Trillium Charter. We need to be very careful that our Trillium Charter does not get confused with the Trillium Foundation. We may need to change the name.

A- This is not a question. Ontario South Assembly is aware that a Trillium Foundation exists.