

Open Lines

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

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

April 2016

Volume 38 Issue 1

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

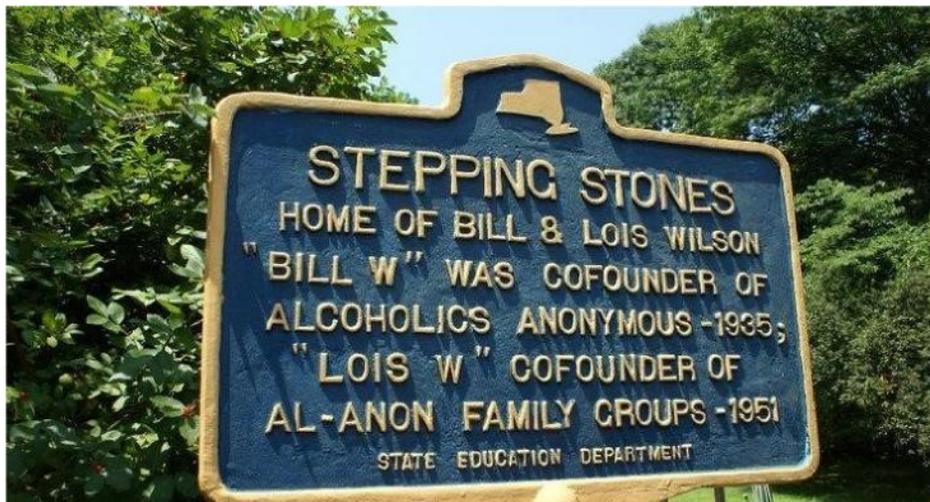
Let it begin with me
When anyone anywhere reaches out for help,
let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be
there and
let it begin with me.

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](#)

Trillium is back in 2016!



Our theme is

“THE FAMILY DISEASE OF ALCOHOLISM”

Trillium is an Al-Anon/Alateen Conference with Alcoholics Anonymous participation. There will be Al-Anon, Alateen, & A.A. speakers, as well as workshops and great fellowship.

Please join us from May 6th to May 8th, 2016, at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel
600 Highway 7 E., (alternate address: 9005 Leslie St.) Richmond Hill, ON, L4B 1B2

1-905-881-2121 or 1-800-668-0101 (Ask for Trillium rate) Website for more information about hotel and its amenities: www.sheratonparkway.com

Hotel charges (per night):

Sheraton: \$129 + 16% taxes & fees (\$149.64)
Best Western: \$109 + 16% taxes & fees (\$126.44) Please call 1-877-772-3297 or 1-905-881-2600 and mention Trillium when you reserve by phone. Reserving on-line may not give you this option. Both hotels offer free parking to guests.

Conference costs:

Full weekend: \$35.00
Friday and Sunday only: \$15.00
Alateen: \$5.00

We need to know:

Your first and last name
Your address
The name you want on the badge
The name of your group
The type of registration you wish.



(Trillium 2016 is a completely separate event from the WSO event to be held in Virginia Beach on Saturday, April 16, 2016.)

You can register in the traditional way: Send registration info and a cheque payable to Denise Paget to:

Trillium 2016
1713 Glenforest Blvd.
Peterborough, ON K9K 2P5

If you wish you may include your e-mail address.

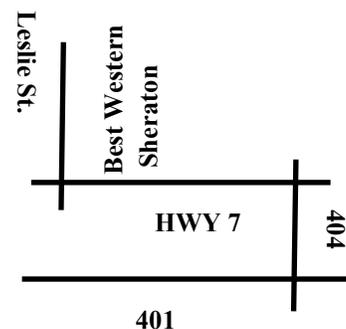
Alternatively, you can register electronically by completing the on-line form at <http://goo.gl/forms/xD0oP011fN>

Or e-mailing your registration information to info to: trilliumtreasurer@gmail.com

You may then pay by e-transfer to trilliumtreasurer@gmail.com or PayPal to trilliumtreasurer@gmail.com

Please note: hotel rooms in the Best Western are limited, and conference registrations are also limited. Please register early and avoid disappointment. Remember— expectations are premeditated resentments.

Registration badges will be supplied and required for the entire conference. Registration fees help us to comply with our 7th Tradition.



Hwy 401 to exit 375 (Hwy 404), Hwy 404 north to Hwy 7, Hwy 7 west to Hwy 12 Hotels are on the right between East Beaver Creek Rd. and Leslie St.

Ontario South Delegate's Report

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I have appreciated connecting with so many of our Ontario South Members, Groups and Districts so far this term. A very special part of being in this role is the direct contact with our membership. I have been inspired by the willingness of members to ask for help and work through service challenges and struggles. There are many strong and healthy Groups and Members dedicated and committed to applying the spiritual principles of our program.

I feel like so much is happening in Al-Anon!

I am excited to attend our **“2016 Area Trillium Convention”** on May 6th to 8th, and hope to see many of you there. This convention is ours! Make it a road trip, if you can't attend for the weekend, come just for the day. :) Share the journey and enjoy the fellowship.

2016 marks Al-Anon's 65th Anniversary.

There is a celebration planned in conjunction with our World Service Conference in Virginia Beach. I have been inspired to learn that there are also celebrations planned in Ontario South. I have heard of a District event and a couple of our Groups have something planned.

Could your Group or District come up with a way to help celebrate/acknowledge this milestone of our Fellowship? Let me know what you have planned.



At our 2015 World Service Conference it was decided that an Announcement Community within AFG Connects would be established that any member could sign up for and have direct access to announcements from our World Service Office. As it turns out, AFG Connects could not support subscribing all members to the Announcement community.

Therefore, the office is currently researching different ways/technologies/vendors to provide the same access to information to members at large. Unfortunately, it's impossible to give a completion date right now, but the Admin Team continues to work on it. Please remember to utilize all our other information sources and our links of service. Our District Representatives have access to the District Representative and Announcement AFG Connects Communities. Look to them to pass the information along. Groups have access to eNews, another World Service Office information source. If you don't see a copy of eNews at your meeting ask your Group Representative. *The Forum*, the monthly magazine, which comes from our World Service Office also contains Service information and announcements interspersed between the members' sharings.

I will be attending and representing Ontario South at our **2016 World Service Conference in April**, in Virginia Beach, the official dates are April 11th to April 15th. This year's Conference theme "Realizing our Spiritual Potential" has been an inspiration for me to look at myself. I am honoured to be representing Ontario South and a trusted servant to Al-Anon as a whole.

I have sent our District Representatives some information regarding some of the topics that will be on the agenda. I look forward to presenting my report from the Conference to our Area World Service Committee Members at the end of May. Look for the report on the Delegate's Corner of our Ontario South Website after the meeting.

I appreciated receiving your notes cards and love gifts while attending the Conference last year. I felt encouraged supported and strengthened by your support. If you, your Group or District would like to offer that same support this year I would welcome it. Please have your mail arrive after April 7th and have my home address in the return address section of the envelope in the event that mail delivery is delayed. (My full name and home address is available on the contact list at the back of this newsletter or ask your Group Representative) Address mail as follows:

My home address

Debbie P _____ (Hold for WSC 4/11-4/15, 2016)
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront
5700 Atlantic Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Delegate Report, continued....

Please remember there is much information available from the World Service Office on our **members World Service Office Website**. <http://al-anon.org/members-site>. You have access to the quarterly “Chairperson of the Board letters”, past Budget and Audit information and much more! Remember too that WSO has websites available in French and Spanish as well.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Ontario South. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any service to you, your Group or District. I am available for you!

With gratitude and love

Debbie P

Delegate Panel 55

Ontario South

Chairperson Report

Happy Spring! This is my favourite time of the year. It’s all about new growth. The chairperson’s position is also about new growth. Many things to learn about myself and Al-Anon.

I have been busy sending out Volunteer letters for SAM’s and working on the AWSC package .

I have had lots of occasion to practice patience and faith in my personal life. This program and service helps me to have tangible things to use and count on to help me get through all situations. Thank you to the Al-Anon program and the loving people in it.

Port of Hope AFG

20th Anniversary Open House

Sat. April 30, 2016 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Registration starts at 12:30 pm

Speaker and Social

Cake and Beverages afterward

Location: Port Elgin United Church (rear entrance)
840 Bruce Street, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C2

OSA Alternate Delegate Update

Please see below the letter from Jennie M., Treasurer, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc., WSO Finance Committee Chairperson:

Dear Al-Anon and Alateen group members,

For several years, your group has received a free copy of The Forum. This service provided by the World Service Office costs over \$100,000 a year. Due to decreased literature sales and increased costs, your Finance Committee has decided to discontinue sending free copies with the March 2016 issue for a one-year trial. The Committee has a fiscal responsibility to keep a watchful eye on Al-Anon's expenditures and make adjustments when necessary. Budget constraints make this decision necessary.

We are not discontinuing the magazine – only the distribution of the free monthly copies to the English-speaking groups. You can continue to read The Forum with a paid group subscription. Also, individual members can subscribe electronically for \$1.49 per issue and access the magazine by smart phone or other device. Al-Anon's monthly magazine contains meaningful sharings of experience, strength, and hope from members around the world. Don't miss out! We are sorry for the necessity of discontinuing free copies, but hope your group has appreciated receiving The Forum.

In grateful service,
Jennie M.,

Come & Join Us as we Celebrate our 60th Anniversary

April 16th 12:00 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

210 Silvercreek Pkwy N,

Guelph, Ontario.

(Between Willow Rd & Speedvale Ave),

Finger Food & Beverages

1:00 PM, Speakers: Patricia W, AA, Guelph,

Magen H, Alateen Cambridge,

Al-Anon OSA, Alternate Delegate, Sue G. London .



Save the 'New' Date!

**AL-ANON DAY 2016 – Saturday, May
14th, 2016**

**All Saints Anglican Church
249 Hamilton Road, London, Ontario
9:00 – 3:30**

**Cold Potluck Lunch
(stay tuned for updates)**

Secretary Report

Well, since our last Open Lines in December there has been changes in my personal life; with the loss of my Mother in late December requiring a lot of my attention and responsibility. I notice in my response to life's challenges and obligations, that the program principles more automatically come to mind, bringing me a lot more serenity and peace of mind at the end of the day.

In my secretary position of the Ontario South Executive, I was able to finalize the minutes of our December executive meeting that had been kindly taken for me by our Alternate Delegate Sue G. Also, I have been keeping our AWSC contact list up to date and forwarding various events to the members on this list.

I am quite excited about our Trillium Convention in May and hope to see many of you there.

After that, I will be preparing my tasks related to our AWSC meeting later in May

Sincerely

Mary Ellen B.

CELEBRATE AL-ANON'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 13

POTLUCK DINNER

ROAST BEEF

SPEAKERS

50-50 DRAW



SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016
SILVER SPIRE CHURCH, ST. PAUL ST.
6:30 PM, DOWNSTAIRS

St. Catharines, Ontario



"CIRCLE OF RECOVERY"

**DISTRICT 6
41ST ANNUAL AL-ANON DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
SPEAKERS, FELLOWSHIP, COLD POT-
LUCK LUNCH
TICKETS \$6**

**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
249 HAMILTON ROAD AT INKERMAN
LONDON, ONTARIO**

District 25 celebrates 65 years of Al-Anon Recovery

18th Annual Al-Anon Day

Time: 9:30 – 4:00
When: Saturday April 16, 2016
Where: Trenton (Grace) United Church
85 Dundas Street East,
Trenton Ontario
Cost: 7th Tradition

Theme: Our Common Welfare



**Al-Anon and AA Speakers
Workshops
Raffles
Fellowship
Pot Luck Lunch**

Family and Friends Welcome

Website co-ordinator's report – April 2016

Thank you to everyone who's been submitting Al-Anon/Alateen events for the website's Upcoming Events section. Please submit your events at least two weeks in advance, in order to give me enough time to get it on the website and for members to have a chance to see it before the event.

I and the members who use our website appreciate your flyers that you've been submitting with your event notices, either by e-mail or by using the online form. 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 ontariosouthwebsitecoordinator@outlook.com and I'll place an alert on the Meetings page.

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

GROUP RECORDS COORDINATOR REPORT

GREETINGS to all my Al-Anon/Alateen friends from the Seaway Valley in District 27. I'm your Group Records Coordinator, and a member of the New Hope AFG in Morrisburg, Ontario.

My setback concerning deletion of two essential reports has been repaired. I must thank Doug for his patience, kindness, but most of all his time in getting these important reports back for me.

All DR's and the LDC will now be able to get their reports come AWSC time. I trust that all the DR's stay in touch with their groups and all changes are forwarded on to me. The closing date to send me all changes before AWSC will be May 16th, 2016.

Please remember to fill out the Group Records Registration Change form on the Ontario South website for all changes, etc. I do like your emails, but sometimes I don't have your Group ID number or District, and it is difficult to find. Please remember to send anything concerning Alateen changes to Ruby S. (AAPP) first, and then she, in turn, will send it on to me to change on Ontario South group records.

It was brought to my attention that the DR's can go to the WSO website and see if all their information is correct. It may not be correct on the Ontario South website, due to the fact that changes may have been made with WSO first. That means that Group Records for Ontario South will never get updated unless you send me your changes first, then I update the WSO website.

The weather has been warm for this time of year, and spring is almost here.

See you at AWSC! Blessings in service, Joan T.

Archives Coordinator's Report

My work has kept me traveling all over Canada the past little while. The downside is that I have not had a lot of time to go through the Archives. The upside is that I have been able to attend Al-Anon meetings all over Canada. What an amazing experience to attend meetings while traveling. I am so grateful to this program.

There is a lot of things that have been held for Trillium in Archives for the Trillium committee to use this year at Trillium. Trillium will be a great place to have an archives display so I will be asking the Trillium Chair for space to set up a display.

I am looking forward to setting up an Archives display at the District 6 Al-Anon day on Saturday May 14, 2016.

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

Please consider having an updating your group histories and submitting oral histories or writing histories of group members.

Hello Area 86, Ontario South

Happy Spring to everyone. As I sit down to type this report, the birds are singing, the sun is shining and it is a beautiful day.

I want to thank everyone who has been sending me the minutes of your district meeting/public outreach meetings. I am overwhelmed by the level of creativity, dedication and enthusiasm that I read in your minutes. There are some districts working on bus signs, some are working on posters, tear away sheets and business cards. Some public outreach groups have been invited to speak at Libraries and elementary schools. All in an effort to take the message of Al-Anon out into the community and to folks young, old and right in the middle.

Have an idea and want to "chat"? Email me and we will set up a call.

I can share with you that we have not shared posters from District 6 because we are still waiting for approval from WSO. I promise to keep you posted. Please let me know how you are doing with your poster submissions.

I have been invited to speak at Al-Anon days and I have been invited to attend public outreach meetings and I am always humbled and excited to get out and go to a meeting. I love road trips especially now that the weather is getting better.

I hope to see everyone at Trillium in May. I am excited to attend and to celebrate Al-Anon.

Gwen D.

Literature Coordinator Report

Greetings! On April 16th, 2016 I will be attending the 18th Annual Al-Anon Day in District 25 where I will be putting on a writing workshop/Writing for Recovery. More information on this event can be found on our Area's website <http://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/>

--AND--

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>

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

Alateen Coordinator's Report

I want to personally thank all the SAMs for their service. Alateen would not be possible without Supportive Al-Anon Members.

The Alateen program was amazing at ORC (Ontario Regional Conference). I want to say a special thank you to Joanne J. (ORC SAM) and Nicole C. (Alateen Chair for ORC). They both did a great job at organizing and planning the Alateen program. Nick and Veronica stepped up to be the ORC Alateen chair for 2017 & 2017. The will work with Margery (2017 ORC SAM). There is still a need for a SAM to shadow Margery so that there will be a 2018 ORC SAM. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I will pass on the info.

At ORC there was an Alateen Advisory Committee meeting and the turn out was great. Amy M. stepped up to be the OSAAC chair. This is great news!!!! There will be another OSAAC meeting at Trillium.

I will be asking the Trillium Chair if there can be time set aside for a SAMs meeting. This would be a great opportunity for SAMs to get together and share our experience, strength, and hope. Trillium 2016 will be held May 6,7, & 8.

Trillium will be a great opportunity for the Alateens to get together and hear Alateen speakers. This is a great way for teens who are not a part of Alateen to see what Alateen is about. The speaker meetings are open to everyone including AA & Al-Anon please encourage members to bring their teens.

If you would like an Alateen speaker at an Al-Anon event please ask your local Alateen group if someone would like to speak. If you don't have a local Alateen group please ask your district if there is anyone who attended Alateen and is now if Al-Anon to share their Alateen story. I am available to share my Alateen story as well as speaking as the Alateen Coordinator. 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

Open Lines Coordinator Report

Hi Everyone;
Hopefully you will enjoy this format for Open Lines of including various posters and notices of upcoming events. The only limit is a size limit on the document when sending the email. And yes, I will remember this time around to make it a pdf file so it opens for everyone! Sorry for any confusion that created for the December issue.
Stay tuned for a little surprise this spring from Open Lines.

Yours in service, Brian S Open Lines Coordinator

22nd Trillium Convention 2016

Fantastic Convention with Fun, Recovery and Fellowship.

May 6th - 8th

Ontario South Al-Anon/Alateen

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



We need Volunteers to assist us make this the best Convention ever. Openings are in the Hospitality and Greeter positions. What a great experience. Volunteers session is 1 hour . Depending on the numbers of volunteers, you may ask to volunteer for more than one session.

Participation is an important part of your recovery.

Join the Team

1. **NAME :** _____
2. **E-MAIL/PHONE:** _____
3. **GREETER :** _____
4. **HOSPITALITY:** _____
4. **DAYS AVAILABLE:** Friday __ Saturday __ Sunday __

Thank You.

Please text your response to cell phone: 647-377-1725; or

Call and leave a voice message at 416-619-9306; or

Mail it to 3-4868 Dundas Street West Toronto Ontario, M9A 1B5