

Ontario South Assembly Newsletter

Quick Links for Ontario South

[Group Records Change Form](#)

[Donation Form](#) or **E-transfers** can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer. Please note **your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer.**

[Form C for AMIAS](#)

[Literature Order Forms](#) (Printable and Fillable)

[Area Policy Manual](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

Option: copy and paste the following to your browser:

<https://al-anon.alateen.on.ca/ontario-south-forms/>

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.*

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:

Free for personal email subscription.

If you wish to receive a paper copy in the mail, subscription rates for copies mailed in Canada are \$15.00 for 1 year.

Please send a request for NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS / RENEWALS to:

openlinesosa@gmail.com

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[Ontario South Website](#) (Al-anon.alateen.on.ca)

Districts in Ontario South

- District 1** – Muskoka (Angus, Barrie, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Innisfil, Midland, Orillia, Parry Sound, Sprucedale, Wasaga Beach)
- District 2** – Georgian Bay (Collingwood, Dundalk, Owen Sound, Lion's Head, Thornbury)
- District 3** – Bruce County (Hanover, Kincardine, Mount Forest, Port Elgin, Southampton)
- District 4** – Waterloo Region (Cambridge, Elmira, Fergus, Guelph, Kitchener, New Hamburg, Rockwood, Waterloo, Kitchener/Waterloo)
- District 5** – Huron Perth (Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Listowel, St. Marys, Stratford)
- District 6** – London Region (London, Strathroy)
- District 7** – Sarnia region (Bright's Grove, Forest, Petrolia, Sarnia)
- District 8** – Windsor, Essex (Amherstburg, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville, LaSalle, Leamington, Windsor)
- District 9** – Chatham region (Chatham, Ridgetown, Wallaceburg, Tilbury)
- District 10** – Elgin region (Ingersoll, Port Stanley, Port Rowan, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg, Woodstock)
- District 11** – Brantford, Caledonia (Brantford, Simcoe)
- District 12** – Niagara region (Dunnville, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, Ridgeway, Welland)
- District 13** – St. Catharines (Grimsby, St. Catharines)
- District 14** – Hamilton West {Amalgamated with District 15} (Hamilton, Burlington, Stoney Creek, Waterdown)
- District 16** – Mississauga (Mississauga, Oakville, Port Credit)
- District 17** – Peel, Halton (Acton, Bolton, Bramalea, Brampton, Erin, Georgetown, Milton, Woodbridge)
- District 18** – GTA North (Aurora, Beaverton, Bradford, Keswick, King City, Newmarket, Orangeville, Stouffville, Sutton West, Tottenham)
- District 19** – Toronto North (Don Mills, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Toronto, Willowdale)
- District 20** – Toronto West (Etobicoke, Toronto, Weston)
- District 21** – Toronto Central (Toronto)
- District 22** – Scarborough (Agincourt, Markham, Scarborough, Toronto, Unionville)
- District 23** – Lakeshore (Ajax, Bowmanville, Orono, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry, Whitby)
- District 24** – Kawartha (Bancroft, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Haliburton, Lindsay, Maynooth, Minden, Oakwood, Omemee)
- District 25** – Quinte (Belleville, Campbellford, Cobourg, Foxboro, Picton, Port Hope, Stirling, Trenton)
- District 26** – St. Lawrence (Brockville, Carleton Place, Gananoque, Kemptonville, Perth, Smiths Falls)
- District 27** – Seaway Valley (Cornwall, Lancaster, Morrisburg, Winchester)
- District 28/29** – Ottawa (Ottawa, Arnprior)
- District 30** – Ottawa Valley (Barry's Bay, Cobden, Pembroke, Renfrew, St. Joseph, Quebec)
- District 31** – Kingston region (Kingston, Napanee)
- District 32** – Kawartha South (Ennismore, Norwood, Peterborough)
- District 33** – Overlay

From the Ontario South Delegate

Hello fellow Ontario South members,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to send a card to me at the World Service Conference! Your kindness and generosity helped carry me through a very busy week in Virginia Beach.

At Conference, a Task Force unveiled the new workshop it developed on Sponsorship. This is now available for you to use in your groups, Districts, or events! The workshop comes in 30-minute, half-day and day-long formats. Feel free to use the one that best suits your needs!

You can obtain the workshop by e-mailing me or, if you're reading Open Lines on your computer, [by clicking here](#):

I've moved! Your District Representative should have received my new contact information, and it's also on the back page of this newsletter. My e-mail address is ontariosouthdelegate@hotmail.com and works best for me as I work odd hours and it's harder to lose track of than a phone call.

Thank you for giving me the gift of this service role! I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Yours in Service,
Jason W. Delegate, Ontario South

From the Ontario South Alternate Delegate/Forum Coordinator

As I write this report I will be attending my first executive meeting in this position in a couple of weeks. The agenda looks interesting, and I believe we will have a very busy weekend. As Jason noted on his announcement I have sat at the executive table before and am looking forward to being brought up to date on what's happening in our area.

Currently, I do not have anything to share with you but, hopefully I will get up to speed quickly. I look forward to working with the coordinators and exploring my role as Forum coordinator. I hope to be given access to the Forum coordinator on AFG Connects very soon.

Please reach out if I can be of any service to you. Looking forward to this part of my service journey.

In Service
Sharon R., Interim Alternate Delegate & Forum Coordinator

From the Ontario South Area Chairperson

Hello Members of Ontario South,

I can't believe that as I'm typing this report, we're already past the middle of July! The past several months have been busy and productive.

Areas of focus have included:

Executive Meetings: The Executive Committee has met virtually three times since the in-person handover meeting in January. Our July meeting this past weekend was in-person and started Friday evening and continued all day Saturday and into the evening again, finishing just past 9 pm! The big focus of the meeting was reviewing and planning the agenda for Assembly 2024 and the bid for Assembly 2025. Other topics of discussion included the Executive and Coordinator reports, suggested revisions to the OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual, and questions, concerns and suggestions from

members. Between old and new business, we covered 36 agenda items, and an additional 11 Items for Consideration. That is a lot of discussion! By our dinner break, I was very tired and excused myself, missing diner, to reinvigorate with a hot shower – and I was encouraged to take that time for self-care.

AWSC 2024: AWSC was held May 24-26 at Durham College. A lot of time and effort, by all members of the Executive Committee, went into creating the information package and building the agenda. It was both a nerve-wracking and exciting experience to chair the first AWSC of this term of service! Evaluation Forms have been compiled and members' feedback has been reviewed and considered for future AWSC meetings.

Items for Consideration: Thank you to those members who have put forward Items for Consideration. Members will receive a response following the Executive meeting at which the Item was discussed. Several were on the agenda for the July Executive meeting. Responses, where possible, will be published in the next edition of the Open Lines Newsletter.

Assembly 2024: Assembly is planned for October 18-20, at the Four Points Sheraton in the village of Point Edward (near Sarnia). Planning is well under way. I am participating with the Assembly Host Committee and meeting monthly. The Assembly information package and agenda will be finalized for distribution in mid-August. Assembly 2024 will include an election for Alternate Delegate. Resumes for the position of Alternate Delegate should be forwarded to me by 01August to be included in the Assembly information package. If you're interested, but have missed the deadline, please reach out me! There is still time. I'm learning so much at our Executive meetings about some of the intangibles of the fellowship – there is growth outside of the comfort zone, the benefits of asking for help, the power of the Serenity Prayer and the moment of silence preceding it, the acceptance found in sharing my real self with others; and that participating in principle-based discussions using our Legacies (whether at the Executive table, AWSC or Assembly) leads to decisions that feel right for Al-Anon. And despite the fatigue, I can find the joy in service. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Area 86.

HopeUnityGratitudeService
Deborah F., Chairperson, Ontario South Assembly

From the Ontario South Treasurer

I can't believe it is July already. Where does the time go?

As of the end of June, OSA has received \$16,070 in contributions from groups, 36% of the total budgeted. 90 groups out of 259 (35%) have contributed something this year so far.

Donations to the area can be made either by e-transfer or by cheque.

E-transfers can be sent to osatreasurer3@gmail.com. There is no need for a security question and answer. **Please note your district #, group # and group name in the memo section of the transfer.**

Or, if you prefer, make your cheque payable to “**Ontario South Assembly**” and mail to P.O. Box 1151, Station Main, Guelph, ON N1H 6N3. For proper accounting please use the donation form found in the area manual. [Click here to go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca, for members, donations.](https://anon.alateen.on.ca)

The budgeted amount suggested from each group for 2024 is \$169.95 (2023 – \$150.62).

Thank you for putting your trust in me. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Janet B Treasurer osatreasurer3@gmail.com

From the Ontario South Secretary

Hello Ontario South. This is my first report as your incoming secretary. We have been hard at work in Ontario South in this first half of 2024. I mean *everyone* in service: the executive, coordinators, DRs, GRs, Trillium committee members, AIS members and others who help those endeavours. It seems like a lot has happened in this short period of time and it sure doesn't feel like only 6 months.

I have attended 2 scheduled executive meetings, one in January, which is the handover meeting from the outgoing executive and coordinators to the incoming, and the next in March, which was electronic. In addition, we have held 3 additional ad-hoc meetings to discuss items which we felt could not wait until the next scheduled meeting. I have done minutes for all of them.

We're preparing for the next executive meeting, to be held July 19-21 in person. There is a lot on the agenda for that meeting, not the least of which is to prepare the Assembly 2024 package.

I continue to respond to emails, forwarding information as requested.

I maintain the contact list and send it out approximately monthly. There are always changes more often, but I don't want to flood people's in-boxes.

I also maintain the Gmail contact list, updating as necessary, including lists/groups, which I now know how to do!

I attended my first AWSC as secretary, helped with registration, took minutes, and sent out the same. There are a few other administrative tasks involved with AWSC 2024 yet to be done, including the evaluation forms organized into a summary. Thanks to everyone who completed one.

I sent a redacted copy of AWSC minutes to the website coordinator for posting on the website.

Also, a copy of the redacted Assembly 2023 minutes has been sent to the website coordinator and should be up soon on the website.

All in all, it's a steady stream of duties and must fit into my full-time work schedule, but weirdly, I love it! I'm organized, and getting more so, as I learn and do this role, and I love the contact with people that I haven't yet met and being of service.

See some of you at Assembly!

Love in service

Carrie E., Secretary

From the Area Advisor, Literature Office Committee Chairperson

- The Literature Office Committee(LOC) meets on Zoom prior to each AWSC and Assembly.
- We also meet via Zoom to review any special items for discussion that may arise between AWSC & Assembly.
- The role of the LOC members is to determine prices for CAL We do this by reviewing the current fiscal situation of the Literature Distribution Centre (LDC), by using the information that is available from past history and by talking about what is in the best interest of OSA members.
- It is important to note that postage plays a role in determining the pricing for all literature orders filled by the LDC.
- We discuss closure dates for the summer and winter seasons. We arrive at the dates chosen based on past-history of sales activity during the proposed dates.
- Another item we discuss, is the cut-off dates for ordering literature to be brought to AWSC and Assembly to save the groups postage.

- It is important to remember that if you are ordering for an electronic group there needs to be a physical address & a postal code in the OSA Area.
- Thank you to the members of OSA for ordering your Conference Approved Literature from your LDC. We rely on your orders and your continued support to keep our LDC financially secure.

Gwen D, Area Advisor, Literature Office Committee Chairperson

From the Area Advisor

Open Lines Report from Your Advisor

- I have been working with two other Executive members on a Task Force regarding Explanation and Approval of Voting Procedures
- I have been helping develop a procedure/document for KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making)
- I attended the Executive meetings on March 8 and the ones held virtually March 26 and May 16.
- I attended AWSC in May
- I attended the Trillium organization meetings as the Ontario South Executive Liaison
- I attended Trillium in June and facilitated a workshop on Sponsorship.
- I volunteered at the Pri-Med convention in Toronto.
- I plan to attend the Alateen Training Session in July
- Read and respond to the emails and phone calls relating to Ontario South.
- I am in contact with my sponsor and my service sponsor

A reminder that I am an Advisor for all of Ontario South. Don't hesitate to call, email, or write to me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sue G, Area Advisor

From the Area Literature Coordinator

Hi Ontario South,

Thanks to all of the Districts who have hosted me at your district's meeting over the last few months. I look forward to visiting more district meetings in the fall

1. 2022-2025 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual Updated



Check out the **updated electronic versions of the Service Manual** available in:

English <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/service-manual/>

Spanish <https://al-anon.org/es/para-los-miembros/recursos-para-los-miembros/manuales-y-guias/manual-de-servicio/> and

French <https://al-anon.org/fr/pour-les-membres/ressources-pour-les-membres/manuels-et-directives/manuel-de-service/>.

For those with a printed version, you can access replacement pages here: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/>

"The changes include a housekeeping edit to the "Channel for Arriving at Policies" to reflect the accurate composition of the Policy Committee; updating the Announcing Events Policy text per a 2023 Conference motion; a housekeeping change to "Electronic Communication Outside of Al-Anon" to replace "social networking sites" with "social media posts"; and a housekeeping edit to the Concept Eight descriptive text to reflect a 2021 Bylaws change."

2. Help Create Conference Approved Literature

Help contribute to Conference Approved Literature by sending in personal shares to the World Service Office about **Sponsorship and Service Sponsorship**. Here are the *Sponsorship Writing Guides* to share with your groups:

<https://al-anon.org/pdf/Sponsorship-Writing-Guide.pdf> (English);

<https://al-anon.org/pdf/Guias-de-redaccion-para-padrinazgo.pdf> (Spanish) and

<https://al-anon.org/pdf/lignes-directrices-ecriture-pour-parrainage.pdf> (French).

Send your personal shares to: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/literature-resources/send-your-sharing/>

3. New Literature in the Fall

An updated introduction to *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage* (B-4) will be available to help members better understand the book's historical perspective.

A new 48-page booklet called *Healing within Our Alcoholic Relationships-A Collection of Insights from Our Shared Journey* (P-95), will be available in English, French and Spanish in the fall. It will provide information for the newcomer, as well as provide all of us with reminders of the basics of this amazing program.

4. Check out the free downloadable literature to support Public Outreach here:

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/downloadable-items/>

Sue M. Literature Coordinator Ontario South osalitcoord86@gmail.com

From the Alateen Coordinator

Hello Ontario South,

I am pleased to announce that we had lots of activities happening in Alateen since March. Both ORC 2024 and Trillium 2024 held successful Alateen programs. We had 19 teens attend ORC 2024 and 12 teens attend Trillium 2024. Both conferences were a success thanks to two special AMIAs who worked very hard: Louise O and Martha S respectively.

Positions for Alateen Coordinator and Alateen Advisor for ORC 2025 have been filled. We are still looking for volunteers to fill the Alateen Coordinator and Alateen Advisor for ORC 2026; these positions start now as they will be shadowing ORC 2025 Committee members. If you are interested, please reach out to me.

As you may have noticed, we are sending out an announcement looking for Al-Anon members to register as AMIAS (Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service) to help grow Alateen. We currently have 13 Alateen meetings amongst 30 districts across Area 86. We need a minimum of 2 AMIASs per meeting. Ideally, if we can find 8 AMIASs per District, that will be a once-a-month commitment per AMIAS. It is essential to have groups the teens can access. We need support from our community to let the hand of Alateen always be there. Anybody who is interested or wants more information about becoming an AMIAS, please reach out to me. Training sessions will be available.

Wishing everybody a great summer

In Service,

Judith W, Ont. S. Alateen Coordinator

From the Group Records Coordinator

Since starting my new position as Group Records Coordinator I have been challenged in many ways and I am still learning about the position. I receive on average 10-20 emails each week. It is really important that all groups in our Area keep their information up to date. Every group needs a CMA (Current mailing address), so that WSO can send important messages such as the quarterly appeal.

I attended the AWSC meeting in May, 2024 and handed out reports to all DR's who were present. I mailed 9 reports shortly after.

Just as a reminder that here is the link to change any information for your groups, GR, meeting details, change of meeting address and more. [Click here to access the change form](#)

Any questions can be emailed to me at: grprec@hotmail.com

Hugs in service

Christina L, Group Records Coordinator grprec@hotmail.com

From the Open Lines Coordinator

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me this opportunity to serve. I am so very excited to share this edition of Open Lines with you! As you read these amazing reports may you be as inspired as I am by the Service being done to carry the message of Hope to those affected by the family disease of Alcoholism.

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. Thank you to all of the Executive, Coordinators and DR's who submit to each issue of Open Lines.

The deadline (*mark your calendars*) for submissions to Open Lines each year are:
March 11 (April 1 issue) July 11 (August 1 issue); **November 11** (December 1 issue)

I invite all members to submit to me your feedback throughout the year. I will try to incorporate your suggestions as much as is practical to do so. You might find that thinking of your feedback in the form of stop/start/continue might help to provide respectful, honest and meaningful communication that will enhance the value of the Newsletter to benefit our Area.

If you do not currently receive your own email copy, please email me at openlinesosa@gmail.com to receive your very own free email subscription. The next issue is December 1, 2024.

Yours in Joyful service,
Loretta V, Open Lines Coordinator openlinesosa@gmail.com

From the Technology Coordinator

Regarding updates to the Area's Policy Manual (APM):

It would be best if a member could update the individual APM sections, the Word documents, on the Area's SharePoint drive, and then notify me and Kathleen.

Once updates are made to the various sections of the APM, I will use a Python script to convert the Word files to .pdf files. I will then use another Python script to merge the separate .pdf files into one complete APM .pdf file. Finally, I will upload the updated .pdf files to Dropbox and notify Kathleen, the Website coordinator, to post on the Ontario South website.

This is the proposed workflow for the APM updates.

I will be able to transfer the Python scripts to the next Technology Coordinator.

Regarding Assembly 2024 in Sarnia:

It was mentioned to me that the Assembly Organizing Committee no longer has a Technology person, and that they would need my help. I plan on connecting with the committee, and possibly the hotel as well, to confirm what equipment they are providing and what we might have to rent.

Regarding the Area's Zoom Account:

Just a reminder, if Zoom asks you for a Passcode to access the Zoom account, you can email me and please identify yourself, name, position, and your favourite AI-Anon slogan.

The email address to access the Zoom account is os.tc.a86@gmail.com.

Regarding this past AWSC

This was my first ASWC in 20 years! The last time I attended I was the AIS chair for Ottawa. Durham College campus is very different than I remembered. In fact, I didn't remember anything at all.

Lessons learned. Next time I'm going to an AI-Anon event and getting there by myself, I need to ask questions about the location, the building, and where things are. This is helpful to manage my anxiety and to save time walking around campus. It's hard for me to ask for help since I don't want to impose but also because I don't want you to know that I don't know. Yeah, I belong :)

Suggestions for the next Technology Coordinator, bring an HDMI extension cable, so that you don't have to sit right at the front of the room. Also, bring about a dozen good quality or rechargeable AA batteries for the Wireless microphone(s). The batteries provided did not last very long.

The equipment provided by Durham college is great. The overhead projector is bright and sharp, the conference equipment at the podium is reasonably intuitive, the speakers and audio amplifier worked well, and there are dimmer controls for the lights. This was a good choice of venue to host AWSC.

There is considerable turn-over of staff at Durham college, so not everyone is aware of where to find things. Security staff were helpful in helping to navigate around campus.

At Durham College there is a water fountain. On one of your breaks, it's worth the walk to see it and have lunch nearby.

Yours in service,
Anthony S., Technology Coordinator os.tc.a86@gmail.com

From the Website Coordinator

To Ontario South,

Another reporting period has come and gone. In the last 30 days (ending July 2) the website had 13,202 page views with the top pages being Meetings and Events - however in the month of June the top page was Trillium.

I have submitted 3 Items of Consideration to the Executive and I hope that you will all take a moment to read them. They should be in this edition of Open Lines. I am happy to discuss them more or answer any questions about them.

I would like to take a moment to introduce Cathy B who has been assisting me with the website. Cathy's service to the website started with a few questions at AWSC and here we are! Our work together has been invaluable and it is benefitting the website immensely.

I have also had the opportunity over the last several weeks to begin meeting with Districts that have their own websites and have plans to meet with more in the fall. It has been a great opportunity to learn about why other Districts have their website, what benefits they see to their websites, and how we can collaborate and work together to support each other.

SAVE THE DATE! A website survey is coming! I would like the Area's feedback about the website to help give me insight about future content and improvements. The survey will run from September 1-30, 2024 and results will be available for Assembly 2024. More details will be sent in August.

Please continue to use the [Ontario South Group Records Change Form](#) for group records changes and the [Ontario South Events Form](#) for event uploads.

It has now been 1 year since I began learning about the website and it has been an extremely rewarding form of service. I am looking forward to what comes next.

In service,
Kathleen S., Website Coordinator Ontario South os.website.a86@gmail.com

From the Trillium Chair



Hello Ontario South!

Looking back on the past year as Trillium Chair, I am in absolute awe of this program and the people in it, but most of all of a Power greater than us all who was in loving command and guidance throughout the whole journey.

I couldn't have imagined a committee as dedicated as the one I was privileged to work with through the process of bringing you a fantastic weekend of recovery, fun and fellowship.

Cate C., Amanda F., Greg M., Rob F, Martha S., Loretta V., Angela V., Coleen T., Caterina L., Shannon K., Louise McF., Jenny M., Jo-Anne G., Jason w., Sandy O., Sue G.

My heart is so full with love, joy and gratitude watching the fellowships of Al-Anon, A.A. and Alateen come together. The speakers, the workshops, the volunteers and every single one of YOU who showed up and participated were an absolute pleasure to behold and all contributed to this wonderful weekend.

Thank YOU for putting "Love into Action" together.

It is now time to pass the baton to the very capable hands of Shannon K., the Chair of Trillium 2025.

I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Honoured to be of service,

Monique R., 2024 Trillium Chair

Hello members of Ontario South!

The baton has been passed and I am honoured and excited to be holding it as Chairperson of the Trillium Convention 2025. My name is Shannon K and I am a member of District 6.

I had the pleasure of holding the Shadow Chairperson position on the Trillium Convention 2024 committee, where I met many new Al-Anon members in service and watched them create yet another amazing Trillium Convention. Thank you so much to that committee and thanks to all of you who attended the convention, provided feedback and volunteered for next year!

The 2025 committee is nearly fully formed and ideas are already percolating. Personally, I am looking forward to this service position as a year of growth, fellowship and getting to know my Higher Power a little better--maybe a lot better.

Stay tuned for updates during the months ahead and I hope to see you at Trillium Convention 2025!

Yours in service,

Shannon K, 2025 Trillium Chair

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

DATE	NAME	ITEM	RESPONSE
19May24	Donna P - D33	<p>Given that the OS did a fantastic job establishing District 33 and communicating options for groups to align within Ontario South and the Global Electronic Area, and as there has been very little to no communication or gathering to try and establish District 33 and vote in a District rep, and knowing that there are advantages to having electronic groups communicating and carrying the message of AI-Anon through an Ontario South District, therefore, it is suggested that Ontario South facilitate the establishment and formation of District 33 through implementation of a task group.</p>	<p>Implementation of electronic groups in Ontario South was discussed at Assembly 2023, and the document by the same name was adopted as the guideline. The recommendations from the Task Force process were accepted as the means to accept electronic groups in Ontario South.</p> <p>From the guideline document, electronic groups choosing to join the Overlay District, District 33, will need to abide by the registration guidelines and the existing policies and procedures of Ontario South. Electronic groups will need to cooperate within the Overlay District to form a District committee and elect a District Representative. This is within district autonomy.</p> <p>A newly registering electronic group's first contact is the Area Group Records Coordinator (AGRC). The AGRC may be able to assist in identifying other groups in D33 and who the GRs might be.</p> <p>The groups within the D33 are encouraged to 'talk to each other and reason things out.'</p> <p>The Delegate has responded to the member in District 33 and told her he needs to reach out to the temporary electronic groups with information he received from the World Service level and that her doing so would drift into double-headed management. Group Records has been asked to provide the member with contact info for all District 33 groups.</p>
20May24	Diana B - D16	<p>After Assembly 2023 I sent in an Item for Consideration asking if all motions made at Assembly/AWSC, that aren't presented to the members by the chair(or aren't discussed), could be included in the minutes for transparency and to ensure a complete record of the meeting(printed in Dec 2023 Open Lines).</p> <p>The Executives response at the time was that a task force was to be created to review the voting procedures and motions and they would make recommendations.</p> <p>I was on the Task Group who was asked to review the voting procedures in Ontario South and this question was not part of the mandate</p>	<p>The Executive response to your Item for Consideration (IFC) in December'23 was that a Thought Force of interested members from across our Area would be set up and that the current Delegate would invite a member to act as Chairperson and form the committee. A Review Committee was formed, and the mandate was to review the document <i>Explanation and Approval of Voting Procedures</i> with a view of providing understanding and transparency of how we vote in Ontario South and to provide suggestions that will bring change where it is needed. The Review Committee reviewed and discussed both the voting procedures and the</p>

		<p>we were given to discuss. Since the Area Executive decided to make the changes themselves to the voting procedures, based on the Task groups recommendations, and didn't create a Task Force, this question has still gone unanswered. If for some reason these motions can't be recorded in the minutes, could they at least be printed as 'unread motions' in Open Lines? Thank you.</p>	<p>handling of motions. In addition to your IFC in December, as a member sitting on the Review Committee, your concern around all motions being recorded and/or communicated to the membership was voiced. The Review Committee adopted this recommendation and it was included in its report to the Executive. The Review Committee Chairperson provided the Committee's recommendations to the Executive at a meeting in February. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive, the recommendations of the Review Committee were reviewed, discussed and accepted. How and when all the changes may occur is in process, with your question around motions already implemented at AWSC 2024.</p>
26May24	Judi B – D10	<p>With the additional funds required for the AIS accommodation package for AWSC, do we need to re-visit the proposed budget before it is presented to Assembly 2024?</p>	<p>Yes, the budget will be revised based on the motion at AWSC. Updated numbers will be reflected in the proposed 2025 budget which will be presented at Assembly 2024.</p>
24May24	Debbie D – D16	<p>Please amend the budget to purchase a computer for the website coordinator. Suggest budget of \$2,000. Why isn't the purchase of a computer for the website coordinator an administrative decision?</p>	<p>The purchase of a computer would not come out of the budget because it is a capital expense, not an operating expense. When the Group Records computer was purchased, it came out of the operating fund and it shows on the balance sheet.</p> <p>The <i>2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual</i>, page 163, explains that 'a budget is developed by the members of the AWSC for the approval of the Assembly. The anticipated expense will be shared by each group and District in the Area as they each recognize their individual and collective responsibility. The GRs attending the Assembly should come prepared to discuss and vote on the Area budget.' Such a purchase is therefore not an administrative decision but rather an Assembly discussion and collective decision.</p>
24Jun24	Kathleen S – Website Coordinator	<p>The website has been determined by Area 86 to be a valuable asset and worth maintaining. There has not been a Website Coordinator in the last 2 terms who has been able to complete a term in part due to the workload of the service position.</p> <p>As Website Coordinator, I am requesting that a Committee be formed to support the Website Coordinator. This Committee should be formed of interested members of Area 86 who are interested in completing service to the website.</p>	<p>As an Area Coordinator and trusted servant, you are accountable for the role. If assistance is required to fulfil your obligations, you have the autonomy to invite other members to assist you. Duties of such a committee do not have to be written and added to the OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual. Because the Alternate Delegate is your liaison to the Executive Committee, it would be recommended that the Alternate Delegate be invited and/or apprised of your activities and any issues. As it relates to autonomy, and as per the OSA Policies and Guidelines Manual,</p>

		<p>These members may be Website Coordinators for their own District or AIS, have some, little or no background in website or graphics work. There must simply be an interest in being of service to the Area.</p> <p>The Committee would meet monthly or as needed by Zoom using the Area 86 Zoom Account. The Technology Coordinator would also be asked to be available for these meetings as appropriate.</p> <p>The work of the Committee would be to support the Website Coordinator with issues and projects as directed. The main responsibilities of the website would remain with the Website Coordinator (group record changes, event uploads, maintenance, security, reports, etc.).</p> <p>The Committee would also provide solid contingency planning for when the Website Coordinator needs to be away from the position for an extended period of time (e.g., vacation).</p> <p>Duties of the Committee would be written and submitted to the Area Policy and Guideline Manual.</p>	<p>Section 2B, item 13.9, provided skills exist: in adding areas of information, design/redesign of the website to better serve the OSA, as directed by the Executive; and to recommend to the Executive such changes in design.</p> <p>The current Executive table agrees that any such changes in design are first discussed prior to implementation.</p>
24Jun24	Kathleen S – Website Coordinator	<p>A few weeks ago, on a Saturday morning I went to join a Google Meets call for work. At AWSC I mentioned that I was part of Union at work (outside issue I know, but it is important for this story). When I joined the call, my co-worker asked who Ontario South Website Coordinator was. I had to quickly unmute and identify that it was me. See, our union protocol is to ensure that our employer isn't joining in on our calls. When I joined the call, Google defaulted to the website account because that is who I am logged into on my laptop 99% of the time. I wasn't able to rename myself or change my name for the duration of the meeting. There I was - my anonymity at risk (AI-Anon symbol and all) for the next hour.</p> <p>When I stand at AWSC and talk about protecting your personal information on my computer - this is the other side. By having the website content, database, email account, etc. on my computer, I put my own anonymity</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing your concerns and your needs to the attention of the Executive Committee. Your request will become a Discussion Topic on the agenda for Assembly 2024.</p>

		<p>at risk. This incident thankfully was minor, but there may be another incident where I am not so fortunate.</p> <p>Was buying a computer brought to the Executive's attention in the two Executive reports I wrote prior to AWSC? Yes. Will buying a computer and the needed software cost money? Yes. Is the expectations of Coordinators to provide their own equipment? Yes. Is this wrong? Yes.</p> <p>Tradition seven states that we ought to be fully self-supporting. The Area should not be relying on me to provide my own computer, with software from our last Coordinator in order for our website to function. We can be better. This is not something that can be solved with an external hard drive. This is 2024. Times move fast. I hear that things move slow in AI-Anon. I think this is an excuse. We can move fast in AI-Anon when we need to.</p> <p>I have not yet been asked to assist in costing out the needed computer or software since AWSC.</p> <p>Here is what is needed: Macbook Air 13" 256GB \$1299.00 AppleCare 3yrs \$299.00 Taxes \$198.64 (\$207.74) Total \$1726.64 (\$1805.74) File Maker* \$792 Total with taxes \$894.96</p> <p>*I am currently in contact with Claris (the maker of FileMaker) to see if they have a non-profit price for a FileMaker licence.</p>	
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District Representative Updates



District 2 (Georgan Bay) Update

District 2 Georgan Bay has had lots of celebrations the first half of this year. Thornbury Love & Service celebrated 50 Years and Collingwood AFG celebrated 56 Years. Our district is small with four meetings but mighty with number of years in AI-Anon. Our AI-Anon Day "A Little Time for Myself" will be held on Saturday, September 21st, hosted by District 2 Thornbury LAS group. Please come out and enjoy speakers, potluck food and amazing fellowship!!! District 2 is also working on growing the amount of AMIAS' in the area along Georgan Bay from Owen Sound to Collingwood and along the Bruce Peninsula. Hoping one day to open an Alateen Meeting with just as much experience, strength and hope that our AI-Anon fellowship has locally. Look forward to seeing everyone soon! Loving, learning and growing in my first year of District Representative for District 2.

McKayla, District 2 Representative

District 5 (Huron Perth) Update

Six months in and on behalf of District, we can report we've avoided delisting of our Listowel Group, as we now have a new Contact. Visits have been made in an effort to reconnect and Public Outreach (PO) will shortly be in touch to help with outreach. Our PO colleagues participated at a recent AA Round-UP and a new Recreation Fair on Mental Health.

Our District Secretary joined us this spring and will be chairing the AI-Anon portion of a second AA-Round Up in our area. Our ADR holds various service positions in Global Electronic Area Groups, and with a refocus on those commitments and a desire to grow the GEA side of AI-Anon, has resigned his position. Our loss, their gain...it's still AI-Anon service!

Our thanks to Sue M., Literature Coordinator, who was the initial guest speaker at our recent District Meeting. The written notes provided will be included with the Minutes to inform all our Groups. Moving forward, District members have expressed an interest in invitations to other AWSC members to speak at our meetings.

Five of us attended the excellent Alateen Workshop, hosted by Judith W. As a District we have decided to focus our energies on the potential for this project, in lieu of an AI-Anon Day, which has been tabled at this time.

In Service

Susan B, District 5 Representative

District 25 (Quinte) Update

- 1) Trenton Hope and Serenity will be hosting its Anniversary Night on September 12, 2024 at the Ebenezer Christian Reform Church, 18 Fourth Ave. in Trenton Ontario. Time is 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Guest Speakers from Al-Anon and AA.
- 2) The Trenton Hope and Serenity Group that meets at the Ebenezer Christian Reform Church at 18 Fourth Ave. in Trenton Ontario has made a change to the start time of the meeting. We will be meeting from 7:30pm to 8:30pm which is 30 minutes earlier than our original start time.
- 3) Katheleen, OSA Website Coordinator, will be visiting our District meeting on September 15, 2024. She is coming to discuss our new website and we are looking forward to the visit.
- 4) Our website is now up and running and it can be viewed by going to al-anon.quinte.ca
- 5) I have been visiting the groups in District 25 and handing out an information package for group use. It contains information on: making donations to District, OSA and WSO; Sponsorship; Service Work; a list of groups in our District; Forum shares and how to submit them to the Forum; and contact information of OSA executives. I also discuss Public Outreach, and remind everyone that District Meetings are open meetings, and any member is welcome to join in.

In Service

Don V, District 25 Representative

District 26 (St. Lawrence) Update

District 26 is located between Kingston and Ottawa, and is very large geographically. Although not densely populated, we do have 8 active groups with 7 meeting in-person and 1 electronic meeting.

The groups seem to be doing well, with most groups attending District meetings and participating in District endeavours. The electronic group is fitting right in and has been an active part of the District, both financially and at the District table.

The District again participated in the local area AA Round-up. We presented a panel, which was well received. Our District has a great relationship with our local AA groups and it is very easy to co-operate on joint projects.

We hosted our first in-person Al-Anon Day in five years in April. The enthusiasm and level of participation from all our groups was absolutely amazing! It was a great success!

Our Public Outreach efforts have involved placing CAL (books) in local public libraries. Each group is also distributing *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* booklets wherever they can. We are in the process of distributing the business cards that we had printed. They are suitable for professionals, newcomers, ...literally anyone. One of our members will be contacting the local police services to explore the possibility of making a presentation to front line officers, with the hope that they will be able to distribute them on relevant calls. We will also approach the paramedic services. The possibilities for placement/distribution seem unlimited.

Ending on a happy note – one of our groups, Share and Care AFG in Smiths Falls, will be celebrating their 60th anniversary next May. This is our electronic group. In gratitude for this, the group will be taking the lead in hosting the in-person District Al-Anon Day on May 3, 2025, in conjunction with their anniversary celebration. My example that Electronic Groups really do belong, and contribute meaningfully, to Ontario South.

In loving service,

Carolyn S, District 26 Representative

AI-Anon Information Services(AIS) Ottawa (District 28) reports the following for the year 2023/24

- Maintained a 7 day per week telephone answering service 0900 hrs-2100 hrs. daily
- Maintained the Ottawa AI-Anon website. Planning a re-fresh of website based upon feedback from District
- Launched the Sunday Speaker Open Meeting (SSOM) move to in-person. New location with concurrent AA meeting. Every 2nd Sunday of the month. Good 7th Tradition contributions.
- Maintained meeting lists of AI-Anon Family Groups in Ottawa and surrounding areas in printable and online formats.
- Provided outreach activities including literature at AA in person events
- Maintained the AIS email service i.e. receive and answer inquiries, distribute emails and event information as required.
- Completed a full inventory of AIS Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and supply to conferences and events as needed.
- Project a positive balance at year end primarily due to the move back to in-person for Sunday Speaker Open Meeting (SSOM).
- Connected with 2 surrounding Districts 26 and 30 to explore collaboration and support.
- Developed a Public Outreach plan and monitoring of progress with the plan.

Highlights:

Sunday Speaker Open Meeting (SSOM): In the Fall of 2023, AIS developed a proposal for District outlining the current situation regarding the SSOM. A proposal was developed by AIS and presented to District outlining the current situation and possible options for in-person versus online meetings, frequency of the meeting, venue and scheduling. A survey of GRs was also conducted to determine whether members preferred an online or in-person scenario, which frequency was preferred, and whether a concurrent AA meeting was desired. Following consultation and discussion at the District level, a decision was made to return to in-person meetings in 2024 with a frequency of two Sundays per month. A suitable venue was found and the in-person meeting was launched in January 2024. To date the meeting has been a success. Groups are now scheduled with less frequency. This has been a welcome change for the groups, from the former scenario of 4 meetings to be chaired per year.

The SSOM will be assessed in June 2024 to determine whether frequency, venue, etc. is working well. There is a concurrent AA meeting which has been beneficial for families who wish to attend both meetings at the same time. AA has been generous to share their storage area with AI-Anon for literature and meeting materials.

Mamisarvik Healing Centre

Mamisarvik Healing Centre in Ottawa requested a series of 6 AI-Anon meetings to introduce the centre's clients to the AI-Anon program; and to illustrate how a meeting operates. This was a wonderful opportunity for our AI-Anon members to participate in an AI-Anon meeting at a Inuit Healing Centre. Meetings were chaired by interested AI-Anon members and clients participated as they wished. AI-Anon members also had an opportunity to witness an Inuit welcoming ceremony.

Literature:

A full inventory of AIS literature was completed and items requiring purchase were identified. This has enabled AIS to provide an extensive selection of materials at local conferences.

2023/24 Outreach projects:

1. Eighty (80) outreach packages for Ottawa AI-Anon members to use for distribution within the city. These packages will contain the *AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism* booklet, a bookmark and poster as needed. The packages will be made available at Ottawa AI-Anon Day 2024.

2. Participation at the City of Ottawa Working on Wellness Festival (WOW) 2023.
3. Support to AMIAS- in reaching out to teens at schools and community organizations that provide services to teens through posters and also direct contact with school counselors.
4. Literature table at local Vanier Round Up.
5. WSO Public Service Announcements distribution to local radio stations.

Challenges for 2024:

The recruitment of volunteers to the committee remains problematic. Rotation of service is desired and needed and presently the committee functions with fewer committee members than is optimal.

At this time, several positions remain vacant and some committee members are performing multiple roles. Continued reports are made to District to inform GRs about the committee progress and the current positions available. Service positions are listed on the website for interested members to review as well.

The Service positions of AIS Ottawa (District 28) include:

Chairperson,

- Secretary,
- Telephone Answer Service Coordinator,
- Treasurer,
- Literature Coordinator,
- Website Coordinator,
- Website Architect,
- Meeting List Coordinator,
- Email Coordinator,
- AIS Service Handbook Updater,
- Alternate District Representative,
- Public Outreach Officer(vacant)

AIS Ottawa meets monthly (except during the summer) on the last Monday of the month. AIS is represented at the District Meetings by the AIS Chairperson or delegate.

Greater Toronto Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service

Hello, my name is Di B and I'm the Alternate Chair of the Greater Toronto Al-Anon/Alateen Information Service (or GTAIS for short).

This year the GTAIS sponsored a public outreach booth at the Pri-Med Conference in Mississauga from May 8-10th. The Pri-Med Conference is an international medical conference for family doctors, nurse practitioners, and other medical professionals. Our booth was manned by 16 volunteers who came from as far away as London and Cobourg to help out during the 3 days. The volunteers again commented this year about how surprised they were that so few medical professionals knew about Al-Anon or the effects Alcoholism has on the family members. Although the cost to attend this conference may pose a barrier to attending in the future, it was clear that we still need to put more effort in to educating the medical professionals about Al-Anon. To that end we have reached out to the organizers of the Pri-Med Conference and asked if we could be one of the speakers at the conference in the future, we are still awaiting a reply.

On behalf of the GTAIS I want to thank all the committee members and volunteers who helped make this another very successful Al-Anon public outreach initiative.

The GTAIS is looking for Al-Anon members who have been in the program for at least 3 years who would be interested in being part of our telephone answering service. This service position can be done from the comfort of your own home. We would especially like to have some volunteers who can speak more than one language. If any members in your Districts are interested, please have them email the GTAIS Chair, Donna at gtais.chair@gmail.com.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask the DR's who cover Districts 16-23 for your assistance in encouraging the groups in your District to send an AIS representative to our monthly meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm on Zoom. Our Zoom link can be found under 'GTAIS' on the Ontario South website. We would really like to see more representation from the groups we support in the GTA. It is only with your support we can continue to do the Public Outreach initiatives we do.

One role the GTAIS is responsible for each year is to vote in the Al-Anon Chair and Shadow Chair for AA's Ontario Regional Conference with Al-Anon and Alateen participation that is held in March in Toronto. Jordan is currently the Chair for next year but are in need of a Shadow Chair who would shadow Jordan next year and then be the Chair in 2026. If anyone is interested, or wants more information, please contact Donna at gtais.chair@gmail.com.

Yours in service,
Di B., Alternate Chair GTAIS

Literature Distribution Center (LDC) Update

WSO has been getting stock quicker than in the past couple of years but please note not everything is available so continue to confirm your order before you pay for it.

I have been getting a lot of calls about the jot form for literature. This was set up to replace the fillable order form and it is quite user friendly. If you are ordering for a district, not a group, you won't have a group number. Please just enter zeros. But having this new form has also frightened some people who are not technically savvy. Of course, try it if you would like to see if it is for you. You don't have to submit it if it doesn't sit right. However, you can still call in orders or email what you'd like. Please remember that without a district number I cannot find your group.

As I write this the office is getting ready for summer closure and it may be completely done when this gets published. We close at 1pm on the 11th of July and we re-open on August 12 at 10 am.

The DRs were advised at AWSC, and just recently through an email announcement from the LOC chair, that if you want to **order literature to be brought to Assembly** for collection, the orders must be in by **1pm on September 4th**. I will confirm I can fill the order and the total. Payments need to be here by no later than **1pm on September 16th**. For those who wish to know why so early? If I don't have what you need but WSO has stock, I may be able to get it in with this leeway before the Assembly. But any closer and that would not be possible. If anyone has ever been to an Assembly to collect pre ordered literature or to buy some, you will know the sheer volume I have to bring, so stock disappears quickly. Of course you can submit your order before the 4th. It is appreciated if you do. This is just the cut off. This is a firm set of dates and is not negotiable.

Finally, please remember if someone other than yourself is paying for the order, I need to know their first name unless the payment shows your group name. If it is an e-Transfer I need to know the password to collect it. The office doesn't do auto deposit.

Be well. I am so grateful to serve you.
Linda LDC Office Manager os.literature.distribution@gmail.com

[Click here for Upcoming Events!!](#)

**Looking for Volunteers to
Help Grow Alateen in Ontario South (Area 86)**

Has Alanon helped you? Then why wouldn't you want to give that *gift* to your child (or to other children)?

We currently have **13** Alateen Groups
Across **30** Districts in Ontario South.

Looking for Volunteers to help!

Our goal is to have one Alateen meeting in each district: We need Al-Anon members to volunteer and register as AMIASS (Al-Anon Members In Alateen Service)

Training will be available
Alateen needs the support
Of Al-Anon to grow
Alateen

For more information,
please contact:
Judith W
os.alateen.coordinator@gmail.com
647-215-3048

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

WATERDOWN AFG
SPEAKER MEETING

august 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Speaker: Daria B.
AA's Keep It Simple Group

Monday, August 19th at 7:00pm
Grace Anglican Church
157 Mill Street North, Waterdown
(parking can be accessed from 182 Main Street North)

This is an OPEN Meeting - All are Welcome!

Thornbury Love and Service
Welcomes you celebrate District 2's Al-Anon Day

A Little Time for Myself

Saturday, September 21, 2024
Guest speakers, prizes, and more!

Registration at 8:30 am
Start time at 9:00 am
Tickets \$12 Adults
and \$2 Under 12

Grace United Church
140 Bruce Street S,
Thornbury

Potluck so bring your favourite
snack or treat

AL-ANON

A Little Time for Myself

District 31 Kingston Region
Day of Al Anon 2024
Oct 5, 2024 Registration 8:30 am
Program 9 am- 4 pm

Crossroads Church
690 Sir John A. MacDonald Blvd
Kingston, Ontario

To be environmentally friendly
please bring your own water bottle

The program will include:
Speakers (Al Anon and AA)
a Workshop, and a Skit

A Potluck Lunch will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE

OS Website Survey

PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK
ON THE OS WEBSITE

Sept 1-30

DETAILS TO COME