

**Ontario South Assembly  
Area World Service Committee Meeting  
May 23 - 25, 2025**

**MINUTES**

**Location: Durham College, Oshawa, ON. L Wing, L211  
Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm**

**7:00-7:11**

Welcome, Serenity Prayer - Deb F.  
Traditions, Concepts & Warranties  
Introductions of Executive and Coordinators  
Housekeeping  
Announcements

**7:11-8:00**

**Coordinators / OSAAC Chair Reports (5 minutes each)**

Open Lines Coordinator – Loretta – 3 times/year, April, Aug., Dec. Reports should be in the month prior. The Executive sends their reports which she finds interesting as she doesn't know what people do and as the term comes up, this is good information to have. District reports aren't always received, send them! Loretta is happy to send you a reminder if necessary.

Alateen Coordinator – Judith – Went from 63 – 89 AMIAS's, opened a downtown Toronto meeting, closed the Hamilton group, now groups starting in Windsor, Parry Sound, Guelph, East Toronto and Cobourg. If your district is interested in hosting an Alateen awareness day/session, she can come, bring an Alateen and a parent, run a workshop, or give awareness to adults about what happens in Alateen. It's exactly like Al-Anon, but more fun! Her goal is to try to facilitate the opening of as many groups as possible and educate the parents. Some P.O. is being done, have had a meeting with Toronto Board of Education, are having regular AMIAS meetings, have had a session with Children's Aid to discuss Duty to Report. There are currently 13 Alateen meetings across Ont. South and with over 30 districts we really need at least 30 meetings, so if you don't have one in your district, please contact Judith who is happy to guide one of the AMIAS's in your district to get one going.

Group Records Coordinator – Christina – Shared a PowerPoint presentation about the Al-Anon group annual update sheets. WSO gets a 30% return rate, so they're trying a new format. What's new? The Value of Annual Group Verification. Accurate information is crucial for those seeking Al-Anon. Solution, no more paper forms. In Canada, update sheets go out in January. In March 2025, the new system launched, but for us it will happen next year. It will have a short link for online forms and there will be a tutorial. These are mailed out to the CMA, bring to group who decides if anything needs to be changed and then it can be mailed but also done online. WSO will email the confirmation to the CMA, and the changes will be made on the WSO website and will also inform the group records coordinator. Currently, Christina has 3 groups in no mail status with no response to her efforts at communication, she might speak to the DRs here at AWSC.

Archives Coordinator – Valerie – It's been a quiet winter with bad weather and sickness, thankfully everyone had taken a box home to sort through to get rid of duplications, etc., so 3 boxes reduced to 2. The Executive have been consulted for direction as to what to is necessary to keep. She has been able to

disseminate information about group start dates, etc. to some groups. Won't it be nice when members are able to do this themselves, when it is digitized. Stories from long-time members would be appreciated. There is a form to complete and can be sent to the archives email. They will keep moving along but are moving slowly so that they don't eliminate anything of importance.

Literature Coordinator – Sue – It's been great, she has learned lots in the role. Has been out to visit many meetings, not too hard when so many are online. It's a great way to serve outside of your group, as a coordinator, she highly recommends it. She tries to be a conduit from the WSO. The coordinator brings every piece of literature available to districts, AWSC, Assembly. She would love to put on a workshop, or do a book study, so if you're interested, please reach out. We are all 1.5 years into this term, halfway through, and it's gone quickly. Do you have Alateen literature in your group? It is part of Al-Anon. Some of her favourite Alateen pieces of literature are the 4<sup>th</sup> Step Inventory, the Daily Checklist of Myself, Detachment, Acceptance, Serenity, Slogans – these are 4 little booklets. These were put out in the 90's by Alateens in Ontario.

Website Coordinator – Kathleen – thanked Cathy, Alt. DR, D21, who has been helping with the website redesign. Kathleen showcased the new Ontario South website design. It is in final quality assurance but will be coming soon. Various pages were shown on screen. Kathleen has envelopes for each DR to bring back to their groups so they can bring the information about the redirect (new URL) to get there. If you type in the current website address, you will get the current website, but if you use the QR code (on the flyer), it will show you the updated version of the website so you can see and compare it. Once the new website launches, the QR code will have a redirect to the new website. Kathleen is also planning on having a few zoom meetings upcoming to show how to do a JotForm, in June.

Area Alateen Process Person – Crystal – Brand new, started mid Feb., so Confused? Yes. Capable? Getting there. Approx. 80 AMIAS's when she started, approx. 46 have recertified, almost half to go, but there are 14 new ones, which will help with those that didn't recertify. She also does the group recertification and that is a process that she hasn't learned yet, but she understands that it is not hard and it's a good process. She feels like next year will be better as there won't be Police Records Checks. Thanked Sharon for her help.

Technology Coordinator – Anthony – Used the in-box on his email to keep track of what he's been doing. He's helping Deb. E. with the audio needs for Assembly 2025, he's learned that audio companies will try to rent you everything, it is looking like a disco at this point. Certain items might be better to be purchased, and the cost spread over several assemblies (such as microphones, which are reasonably easy to lug around, vs. speakers, for e.g.). Has been working with a few people on the thought force for hybrid vs. in-person assemblies. Kathleen (website coord.) has a new laptop which has just been handed off. There is still room in the budget for the software (FrameMaker) and maybe a subscription to Microsoft tools if we decide to go that way. Another task came in from Bonnie and Shannon from Trillium on how to print labels. In word and most word processing tools there are standard templates (rather than using Avery). Sue and Michelle D. discussed earlier this year to try to do a template for the OSA Policies Manual, but it isn't something that can be achieved at this time. He will connect with Sharon (Alt. Delegate) this weekend to sort out how to proceed.

Forum Coordinator – Sharon (Alt. Delegate) – These numbers encompass *all of* Ontario. 74 groups in Ontario have 79 subscriptions. Personal subscriptions = 225 for a total of 236 copies. = 299 subscriptions, 315 copies. We have over 300 groups in Ontario South. \$23/year subscription, it's a meeting in your pocket.

Public Outreach Coordinator – Diana – not present.

OSAAC – Wyatt – not present.

Question and Answer Period – Linda (LDC Manager) - for Christina – a while ago we were told was to make changes for our group records, to send to the group records coordinator and they advised the WSO, but what you were speaking about was just updating group information, which we are supposed to send to WSO and then they notify you. Is that correct? Christina confirmed that the Group Records Update sheet, sent by the WSO to the CMA should go to the group (to see if the info. Is accurate) and then send it to the WSO. If there is a change at other times of the year, you can fill in the form on the Ont. S. website. This form is available online but can also be mailed. Valerie (Archives) what is a long-time member? How many years is that? Valerie answered, 20 years, to remember how we got here, what it was like. Kathleen, the form with the QR code is just to activate the new website but the old one will still be active.

Barb (D28) – clarified the new records process – the group update record that goes annually to WSO, Christina (group records coord) will see it, and if there is a change at another time, give it to Christina and WSO will see it (as she puts it in the database). So, it goes both ways.

Cindy (D4) – Question for Anthony – did we raise enough \$ for the computer? A – as far as he is aware, the money was raised and he was given the authority to purchase it. Janet (Treasurer) confirmed.

Donna (D33) – still gets confused about how a group moves from a geographical to D33 – do they send to group records coordinator? Kathleen (Website) can send out the flowchart she presented as part of her report last year at AWSC as a reminder (will be sent with the minutes). The form needs to go to the WSO. Jason (Delegate) added as a point of information for groups to check their Area number to see if they are in fact in Ontario South. Before we accepted electronic groups in our Area, the WSO was registering all groups into the GEA is Area 98. Ontario South is Area 86.

Deb (D31) – wanted to know how to get the stories from long-time members form from Archives if we wish to fill it out. Val has it and can send by email.

Diana (D14) – clarified that the Hamilton meeting is not closed permanently but is just on hiatus and they are hoping to get it back.

8:00-9:00 Workshop: The Concepts of Service - Jane H.

The goal is to provide an opportunity for all of us to think how we conduct ourselves using the spiritual principles that are the underpinning of the concepts. The crux and value of the concepts only came about for Jane when she understood that without an awareness of the spiritual principles attached to them, they become like dry rules and leaves out what we value so much in Al-Anon, which is our spirituality, which makes our program unique. Page 222 Many Voices, One Journey. Quote from Lois W., when asked what the difference between good spiritual practice and good business practice is, answered, “I don’t think that there is a spiritual part of the program, I think Al-Anon is a spiritual program. Every activity can have a spiritual motive.”

## **SATURDAY, MAY 24**

8:30-9:00

Welcome, Serenity Prayer - Deb F.  
Traditions, Concepts, & Warranties  
Introductions

Roll Call - there are 40 voting members

Housekeeping

Announcements

Timekeeper – Wendy (D17)

Four Volunteers for the Ask-It Basket Committee – Diana (D14), McKayla (D2), Steve (D3), Jeanette (D8)

Explanation of Voting Procedures and Motion Process – process was read out by Deb F. (Chair).

Questions about the voting procedures, Deb F. (Chair) were requested. None were voiced.

**XX (DX moved) (verbal motion) that we accept the voting procedures as explained, seconded by XX (DXX).**

Voting: All in favour. **CARRIED** unanimously.

Principles of making an Informed Group Decision – included in package, was read out by Deb F. (Chair).

Questions?

Tina (D11) – if there is a motion in process being formatted, is it the Chairperson who decides whether it be called at the time? A – Deb F. explained the process in more detail.

Approval of 2024 AWSC Minutes:

Call for errors & omissions: None.

**Motion, by XX (DXX, seconded by XX (XX) That we “accept the minutes of the 2024 AWSC as submitted.”**

Voting: All in favour. **CARRIED** unanimously.

9:00-10:00 – Delegate’s Report Jason W. (Delegate for Ontario South, Area 86)

- Gave report of 65<sup>th</sup> World Service Conference (WSC) – this report will be available on the Ont. South website.
- Jason arrived in his hotel room at 3:00 a.m. the day after departing Toronto at noon-ish, which is why the Canadians pay for their delegates to arrive a day early.
- Finances – clean opinion on audit was issued. 62% of groups contributed in 2024.
- Cost per group \$337.53 USD / **\$471.55 CAD** (as of May 17/25) – group services make up the bulk. (This # will fluctuate based on exchange rate.) Continued giving all year to provide the continuing services is ideal (vs. at the end of the year).
- 46% of Ontario South groups donated to WSO in 2024. Tied for lowest contributing area in Canada. This is for informational purposes only. If we don’t know, we don’t know, if nothing changes, nothing changes.
- \$6,495,766 Total revenues budgeted. Literature sales 43%.
- \$6,359,795 Total Expenses budgeted. Majority of projects require labour resources.
- \$135,970 surplus predicted in 2025 preliminary budget.
- WSO Excess Funds – there are several things planned for these funds, including the 3 projects below, a new van (explained what that is used for), all arrived at with input at WSC and WSO staff.
- WSO Core System Overhaul – a multi-year project, involves group & trusted servant records, Online store & inventory availability, Meeting searchers, AFG Connects, Financial system and Association management & accounting systems.
- Professional Outreach to Young People – 2<sup>nd</sup> project.

- Passing it On ... - 3<sup>rd</sup> project. Our average member's age is early-mid 60's. Therefore, there is an urgent need to pass on the knowledge that exists in our program. How do we grow our volunteers to be the best stewards of our past and our future? There is an opportunity to bridge gaps in the fellowship in our links of servants and between trusted servants and incoming trusted servants. The goal is to create and development content to present to Areas. And this could include WSO staff, past and current WSC members. The project is preliminary so there is no content or categories set for topics of content that have been developed yet. At this point it is just a concept and an idea but the projected duration of the project is 3-4 years.
- Electronic Alateen implementation discussed, how we got here, year by year at WSC. A new term, AMIAS – E, has been developed which means AMIAS's in electronic groups. May 2025 – April 2026 Areas discuss implementation of electronic Alateen groups. Potential rollout as/of July 31, 2026. WSC EASBR (World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements) must be adopted as-is, for now. Currently, the only approved electronic Alateen groups are the ones in the AI-Anon app.
- Choosing a group name policy was discussed at WSC. WSO encourages specific group focus, i.e., Men, LGBTQ, Parents, etc. to be in the information, not in the name. 2025 WSC voted to allow group names to continue to include identifiers while keeping with Traditions Three and Five. There is no change to existing groups, this conversation is on pause for one year, groups can continue to register with identifiers in the name for that time period.
- Trustee process – being discussed, changing the process to a Single Trustee Process.
- In Ontario South, we are in the process of nominating a Regional Trustee, letter went out on May 19, please think about this and bring this information back to your groups.

**9:49-10:20 Break**

**10:20-11:00 Delegate's Report, cont'd.**

- Chosen Agenda Items – Effects of the use of electronic platforms on building cohesiveness in Area/District business meetings. – This was Jason's submission and was chosen. Q. How are we fostering unity without face-to-face fellowship? Hybrid is hard, and it is important to know this going in. It is harder to encourage service as more difficult to get to know people and do the shoulder tap to ask to serve.
- Social media – AI-Anon no longer posts on X. X now used any content posted there to help train AI.
- Social media platforms we are active on: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Profile reserved on BlueSky but not posting yet.
- 9<sup>th</sup> AI-Anon International Convention 2028 will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. July 20-22, 2028.
- AI-Anon's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. The clearinghouse was established in 1951. Celebration will be right after the 2026 World Service Conference and will include a WSO Open House and a banquet.
- WSC going back to 5 days next year, April 25, 2026, at Newport News Marriott at City Centre.
- Questions? Please keep to the material presented today. Thoughts/feelings/opinions can be shared at another time, as this is more beneficial to the ability of the Delegate to fulfill his role.
- Loretta (Open Lines) – how are the capital expenditures approved? A – Board of Trustees.

- Donna (D33) – Was really glad to see the initiative about passing it along, is curious about who does the work of how to implement? A – the actual how would likely be done by staff but is not sure.
- Sue (D5) – Will this report be online, as part of this meeting? A – yes, it will be avail. on the Ontario. S. website, but it will be sanitized so the photo of Debbie and him will be removed and any other identifying personal information to preserve anonymity.
- Deb (GTAIS) – in the part about Chosen agenda items Jason mentioned that he wants district meeting minutes? A – yes, because it is useful in helping him to stay plugged in and in touch with the concerns in the districts, as well as good things that can be shared with others.
- Sue (Advisor) – do we know when the Alateen podcasts will be available? A – no. Will look into it.
- Kathleen (Website) – in relation to the Alateen WSC EASBR (World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements), do we know when they will be available so we can make a decision as to when to adopt them? A – no. Q.2 – literature piece on finances – any update on how that is going? A – Yes, there are 2 pieces in dev. Looking for sharings. More information from literature coord.
- Linda (LDC) – if we want to know more about what happened at WSC, how can we find it? A – the WSC puts out a WSC Summary about 100 pages, a detailed look, is available for free online (on the WSO website), usually in the summer. Hard copies will be available probably in the fall.
- Tina (D11) – a note that their district collects donations for WSO from the groups and sends from there. Does this then get counted as coming from groups? A – Jason was not sure about that will have to look into it. Q – sending district meeting minutes – wanted to know how that helped their groups remain autonomous. A – the minutes is to help keep him informed; he is not providing direction.
- Donna (D33) – when her home group sends \$ to WSO it is not included in the donation figures listed today? A – yes it is. He is not clear on when it gets funneled through the district.

Contact info.

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### **10:52-11:06**

Literature Office Committee (LOC) Report – Gwen D.

- The Literature Distribution Centre (LDC) is our literature store. The Literature Office Committee (LOC) is the committee that meets twice a year. On the committee is the Delegate, Sue G. (past Delegate), Sue M. (literature coordinator), Janet B (Treasurer), Diana S. (LOC DR), Linda P (LDC Manager), and Gwen D (Advisor and also past Delegate). Linda is an employee at Ont. S.

- **July 24 to Aug. 25 are the dates of the LDC office closure this year.**

Literature Distribution Centre (LDC) Report - Linda P.

- Just to reiterate, Kathleen has agreed to do 2 JotForm workshops on June 11, June 21.
- It is not necessary to use the JotForm to do an order. It can be done via email.
- If you do use the JotForm, do not attach payment as it doesn't know the inventory.
- There are still 4 World Service Conference summaries from 2024.
- The information about the Holiday Bundle will be communicated via your area secretary. Once they are gone, they are gone.
- The pre-order date for Assembly will be communicated as soon as it is determined. Once that date has passed, it's missed.

Trillium Chair Report - Shannon K. – not present

- Announcement was read by Deb F., as sent by Shannon. Please register for Trillium, which is still open, discount code has been extended to June 5. Flyers available at the sharing table.

### Questions for these reports:

- Tina (D11) – a new member from a new group in Port Dover ordered books from the U.S. for approx. half price and Tina didn't know what to tell her. What can she say? A – several points – in 2016 when the previous LDC manager retired, we considered closing the LDC. At that time, the Assembly voted in to keep the LDC and raise prices to keep the office operating in the black. 2. The WSO wants groups to order from an LDC as they don't have the manpower. Also, when you order from the WSO it will take approx. 4-6 weeks to receive. From the LDC will take 2-3 bus. days. Ordering from the WSO will also be in U.S. \$. Bottom line, Ont. South voted, in 2016 to support the LDC.
- Wendy (D17) – wanted to know about the Canada Post strike. A – they have done a lot of thinking but have made no decisions yet as they don't know. What they know is couriers cost approx. 4 times postage. As soon as a decision is made, it will be communicated via the area secretary.
- Loretta (Open Lines) – the LDC was previously in the red, and now they don't have fistfuls of money, do we get those financials? A – yes, this is in the package that is sent out via the secretary. It was agreed by the LOC that we would get the previous year's financials and first ¼ at AWSC, which we got.

### 11:06-12:00

Financial Update for 2026 - Janet B.

Thanked everyone for the response to the appeal for donations and the computer.

Please note that when you send donations, Janet needs to know the specific geographical location you are sending from, i.e. group or district, particularly for e-transfers. Put this information in the message box. If it is not there, it can't be accounted for correctly. **Needs group name and number, or group name and district number.**

(These documents were included in the AWSC package and will not be recreated in these minutes.)

Income statement Dec. 31, 2024, year-end, comparing to the 2024 and 2023 budget.

Total Income \$54,286.60

Total Expenses \$46,959.50 / Net Ordinary Income \$7,867.10 Plus Trillium \$634.76

Net Income \$8,501.86 all of this includes the computer donations

Balance sheet – Total liabilities & equity \$78,329.02

Reserve Fund – deficiency (\$6,090.47)

Year to date at end of April statement shown onscreen (not in package):

Revenue \$3,738, Group Donations \$13,682.99 (a little less than 1/3 of budget at 1/3 through the year), fundraising \$1,448 (still getting \$ for computer, any extra will go into the donations line), other donations \$465 – total income as at end of April \$19,345. Last year we were at \$15,411. Assembly expenses – hasn't occurred, AWSC insurance paid but nothing else yet, conferences WSC \$3,443 + \$600 = \$4,043. Coordinators expenses, none yet, Delegate and executive meetings – none yet. OSA Operational costs \$196 so far. Other expenses, Alateen \$1,469 (this is a recertification year, more budgeted for lawyer for PRC), website URL \$759 = total expenses \$7,533.

**= Net Ordinary Income \$11,811.72**

Balance sheet at end of April statement shown onscreen (not in package) – Total liabilities & equity \$89,752.34

### Questions:

- Cindy (D4) – banking fees are almost double, is there anything the groups can do to help reduce this?  
A – yes, it would save on those transactions. The services charges are usually for AWSC charges, equalization amounts, Assembly, when there are more transactions than usual. Janet has investigated with the bank to see if changing the type of account might help, and there is also the option of taking some of the \$ from the current account into a higher interest account, which might save on bank charges. This discussion is ongoing. To be clear, there is nothing specific that groups can do other than e-transfers which are better as they are quicker to go in.
- Wendy (D17) – balance sheet as of Dec. 31/24 – in the total bank account, is the OSAAC \$ included?  
A – yes, it is part of the balance. Q – there are also retained earnings of \$64,292.27 – where is that reflected? A – they are on the balance sheet. Total Assets are \$78,329 and liabilities which includes the OSAAC, so in accounting you take your retained earnings and deduct your liabilities. Our worth is our assets minus our liabilities. This was discussed and explained a bit. The OSAAC \$ is part of the Assets but not part of the retained earnings.
- Jeanette (D8) – is there a breakdown as to how much the laptop cost yet? A – Janet has not received the invoice, but the total cost for the laptop was approximately \$1,500 plus there will be \$400 - \$500 for the FrameMaker software. What will happen with the excess funds? It will go into the donations line.
- Tina (D11) – how was it decided to put the excess funds received for the computer into the general funds and could we add a line for depreciation for the computer as that was decided that it was needed. A – it will be set up as an asset once it has been paid and there will also be 30% depreciation line which will be part of the operating budget. It has not been put into the income yet, the amount received. If it is decided that we want to use it for something else, that is yet to be decided. Deb F. (Chair) clarified that this was discussed and decided and was communicated on the flyer that was sent out soliciting donations for the computer. The Executive decided that. Kathleen (Website) also wanted to provide more information on the depreciation of the laptop and their hope is that the laptop will last a minimum of 6-7 years, this was contemplated in the investigation, with the technology coordinator, in the process of obtaining the computer. Q2 – her group members are afraid of a deficit and wondered if it has ever happened that we have run out of money to cover expenses. A – no – we have enough for almost a year of expenses. But the budget is based on zero balance, and is based on what is projected to be needed to break even. Having said that, it is hard to know what we are going to spend as costs go up and down. If we have a profit, it goes into the bank, if we have a loss, it comes out. Warranty 1 states to maintain operating funds that don't exceed more than a year's expenses. If we got into that position, we would have that discussion. Right now, we are breaking even. Tina wanted to know if we are going to be given this info. A – yes, it will be in the budget, presented this aft.
- Anthony (technology) – the total cost for the laptop was over \$2,000 but he got a discount of \$700

- because he bought it at exactly the right time.
- Diana (D16) – wanted to know if Janet still receives a lot of direct mail? A – Yes. But the bank still counts every transaction and charges accordingly.
  - Louise (D18) – connected to previous budgets and the group records computer, money was set aside to purchase a new computer for the group records computer, was that done? A – we replaced the group records computer a few years ago and a line item was set up, but not all groups contribute so there has never been an excess for this. Louise wondered then why the excess donations for the website coordinator computer can't go to the group records computer as they are going to need one.
  - Sue (D5) – Last year we sent out a special appeal, has there been any discussion on itemizing that on the budget to show the amount received as a result of that appeal as opposed to the amount received from regular donations? A – this is hard to determine, as although Janet did look at the donations that were received after the appeal went out, she would have no way of knowing what donations were as a result of the appeal. We don't want to do an appeal every year, the groups should be self-supporting.
  - Andrea (D10) – if an individual wants to make a donation is there a way to get a charitable receipt? A – in Ontario South, no, as we are not a registered charity but if you donate to WSO on the special Canadian site, you can apparently.
  - Donna (D33) – a workshop on interpreting the financial statements would be great. For instance, she wondered about the difference between total assets, total liabilities, total equity, and why the numbers are the same. A – Janet explained that this is accounting practice and how it is documented and shown through double-entry accounting. For every positive, there is a negative somewhere so that it balances, which is why it is called a Balance Sheet.

#### **12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:06 p.m.** Opening: Serenity Prayer - Deb F.

Announcement from Linda (LDC) pre orders for Assembly must be received by Sept. 11, 1:00 p.m. No later. Linda will notify you of inventory and amount due, payment must be in by Sept. 18, 1:00 p.m.

1:08-3:00

Discussion Topic #1

Proposed Budget for 2026

Janet B.

#### **Budget 2026 Highlights:**

<b>Assembly Revenues</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>AWSC Revenues</b>	<b>7,318</b>
<b>Misc. Income</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Group Donations</b>	<b>53,365 (to break even = \$/196.19) *</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>69,783</b>
<b>Assembly Expenses</b>	<b>26,565</b>
<b>AWSC Expenses</b>	<b>17,735</b>
<b>Conferences</b>	<b>5,520</b>
<b>Coordinator Expenses</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Delegate Expenses</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Executive Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>8,050</b>
<b>Handover Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>OSA Operational Costs</b>	<b>1,900</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>5,513</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>69,783</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**\*Number of groups is 272 (January 2025), so estimated donation by group to cover 2026 - \$196.19.**  
This is total donations of \$53,465/272.

**Discussion and questions:**

- Barb (D28) - \$53,465 in group donations is the hope, to make our budget. In 2024 we had \$37K+, a difference of approx. \$16k, so we’re assuming we’re hoping to get a whole lot more. A – 2026 is an election year, which means Assembly will be in the Central/Toronto area, which will cost more. But the answer is yes, to break even, this is what we will need. So, Barb reiterates that the DRs need to make this clear to the groups via the links of service.
- Susan (D5) – has a comment from her district. The GRs voted down the 2025 budget at Assembly and perceive that there is a trend toward deficit budgeting. They realize that groups donate what they can, but their concern is the groups that give nothing, so the groups that are donating are left to pick up the pieces. Therefore, the question is are we enabling the Area to continue operating this way? This is the feedback from her district. Janet reiterated what Lois said, we cannot enforce the unenforceable.
- Gwen D (D6) – something she hears is that “our groups don’t have enough people; we barely make rent”. Her response is “we are fully self-supporting”. This means that we will support the budget. If your group only has 4 people, her wonder is, Is that a healthy group? If your group cannot afford to be fully self-supporting, perhaps it isn’t a healthy group. Year after year, there are groups that pay

more, her group being one, because they are a larger group. To the comment, *are we enabling the Area to continue operating this way*, her question is are those groups that pay extra enabling those groups that cannot? Deb F., Chair, invited one of the other advisors to comment on that if they want.

- Tina (D11) – the groups in her district were concerned and she now has more information to share. Their concern was that we are running at a deficit and that is not the way our groups operate. She feels that if she took the comment back about whether Ont. S. is enabling our groups to not give, they would be offended and be less inclined to give as there appears to be a bit of dynamic tension – she feels like she is in the middle and is trying to understand her groups and represent them as we a bottom-up organization. Therefore, she will not be taking the comment about enabling back as it would not be helpful.
- Chrissy (D16) – a group in her district voted unanimously No to forwarding the budget. They felt a thought-force should be formed made up of various members to look at how to cut costs. For instance, the executive meeting costs of \$5,000 could be cut by having them on zoom. We are not being self-sufficient by constantly passing a deficit budget. A – Janet tends to be on the high side of expenses as we don't always spend as much, so one tends to offset the other. Donations are voluntary. In her group, which was 40+ members weekly, she encouraged her group to double their donation amounts to all the service arms as they could do so. Ontario South can be self-supporting and are trying to do so.
- Anthony (Technology) – for a group, when budgeting, to be fully self-supporting, is it rent + literature, plus donations to district, AIS, Area, plus WSO. Is that what fully self-supporting means?
- Jason (Delegate) – noticed the areas in the budget where we were under-budget. One of the things he tries to do is be judicious with the Area's money. One of the ways he does this is ask if various members asking him to attend local events have a budget for travel? Executive meetings occur in Feb. electronically; the other 2 meetings are in-person. Feb. meeting preps for AWSC, the July meeting prepares for Assembly, the Nov. meeting deals with any directives arising from Assembly and how they will be implemented. Yes, in-person meetings cost money. We meet on Friday at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, on Saturday from 8:00 am – 7 or 8:00 pm, and he feels more drained after doing those online. The alternative is to break it up into chunks but we are already asking members to give up 3 weekends/year, so there is a balance, and this is important information to be shared with the groups to note that we are judicious with the Area's money.
- Andrea (D10) – there isn't anything superfluous in this budget and we are not a profit organization. Her question is if you are questioning about this, what are you doing to volunteer to lower costs. Would you be willing to give up 3 weekends of your time. The area exists to assist the members. We need to go back to the members and explain that. Where is the trust in our leadership?
- Donna (D33) – this conversation comes up almost every year; she doesn't have an accounting background but is involved in other organizations which budget the same way, this is a very common practice. The executive is quite fiscal, and we aren't into a deficit situation. If by chance, we can't cover all our expenses, we do have a reserve.

DECISION POINT: Should the proposed budget for 2026 be forwarded to Assembly 2025 for approval?

XX (DX) moved, seconded by XX (XX), "The 2026 budget be forwarded to Assembly 2025 as presented."

Discussion to motion:

- Sharon R. (Alt. Del., D12) – feels it is self-explanatory, Janet presented the budget for 2026 and just moves that we forward it to Assembly 2025.
- Diana (D14) would be hesitant to forward the budget as presented based on the information about computer costs, so suggests that we make an amendment to account for costs that are going to

come up btw now and assembly. Deb F. (chair) clarified that if there is an amendment or revised budget, it will be presented prior to assembly, and we can then vote on that revised budget. Janet clarified that this has happened and was done at the Assembly we had during Co-Vid. It is possible to make a change, if that is what we choose. Budgeting is a constantly changing effort in any case. Remember any changes will also increase the monthly donation needs.

- Tina (D11) – she is here to represent the district vote. One of the questions was that if the OSA was willing to do a zoom meeting. Deb. F. clarified that of the 3 executive meetings, 1 of them is on Zoom. Tina was referring to AWSC and Assembly. Deb. F. clarified that a thought force was put into place because of this discussion at Assembly last year, and a report will be issued to the executive for the July meeting and will be discussed. So that is in the works.

No further discussion or questions.

Voting: **CARRIED**

Discussion Topic #2 Ontario South Area Inventory – Timed Discussion - Sue G. and Gwen D.

- The questions were presented on a slide on-screen.
- The original thought was to give the questions to the DRs, with the message to pass it to the groups. But what was meant was to gather the information from them. So various members were responding and if there was confusion, apologies.
- In total there were 37 responses. There were many responses, and therefore they chose a few answers for each question to present at AWSC. Be assured that all of the responses will be reviewed at a future executive meeting and hopefully published in a future Open Lines.
- Broke up into 6 groups, each group was to read through the questions to see if they can consolidate and condense them as best as can be. Also, if there are any suggestions, please provide them. We are looking for feedback and positive solutions. Notes and responses are on a separate document, will be sent after the minutes as such, and will also include all of the questions.

**3:00-3:30 Break**

**3:30-5:00**

Discussion Topic # 3 Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy – Timed Discussion - Deb F.  
How? Let's talk about in-reach.

- Deb asked for 8 volunteers to come up to assist her with the background information. Each volunteer took one of the phrases in the background information (included in your package) and read it out. The list of questions (also in the background information w the package) which followed, were put up on the screen and then read out. Discussion followed. Note that the answers embedded in the responses relate to the questions, which were not specifically numbered.
- Carrie (D23) – read out the answers to the questions provided by a member, as follows:
  1. Chair a meeting topic in service; encourage those we sponsor to dip their toes into service. Do a service roadshow where those involved in service explain their role and responsibilities.
  2. DR attend the groups meeting to explain the links of service and encourage someone to step up to join us at the district table.

- 4. Sponsors invite sponsees into service with them, maybe as a shadow
- 6. My sponsor encouraged me to step into service outside the group by inviting me to join her on a committee. Also, ask a member face to face to join you in service rather than just saying, if anyone would like to join me, let me know. Face to face gets a better response.
- 8. Our groups rotate service positions every 3 years. Long timers encourage us to step into service by modelling, talking about it and asking us to join them.
- 9. Stay after a meeting to talk one on one; offer a newcomers meeting; encourage them to attend other meetings; greeter at the door; give a phone number to contact a member; temporary sponsors offer to sponsor them for their first few weeks or months
- 11. Those in service can talk about how service has helped them feel that they belong and to develop skills and talents they already had.

- Sue (Literature) – has had the privilege of moving recently so is in a new group. Attended Assembly last year with other members and had the benefit of getting to know those newer-to-her members. An Al-Anon Day was held recently wherein each of the district's group was responsible for a different part of the day, i.e., registration, kitchen, etc., and this was a really good way to get everyone in the district involved.
- Jeanette (D8) – do not use the expression or indeed doing “voluntold”, nobody likes being told what to do. But we all have that negative voice which discourages us from serving. Reminding people that without service, no Al-Anon. Her district host 2 potlucks/year at district meetings. It attracts a lot of people. Encourage your sponsees. Having members in service do a little blurb describing what they do in their role.
- Colleen (D6) – 7. Ask questions, don't be afraid to ask for help. 8. Consistency in attendance in groups. Long-timers can state facts. They try to do change every 3 years. Leave positions open if nobody in it, members will then step up. 9. Have greeters at the door. Give out phone numbers and literature. Go to a newcomer specific meeting – they have one in their district. 10. Providing the roles of the group. Try to be inclusive, guard against dominance.
- Barb (D28) – What in your district is doing well? One thing is that the GRs are participating in the district meetings. Often getting almost the full slate of GRs. What have you tried? Visiting the groups. In-reach, stepping in, stepping into the group. This seems to strengthen the connection, either in-person or online. I'm just a member (JAM). Things that don't work – sending out a general request, especially by email. Rarely gets a response, but follow-ups sometimes work. But visiting, is more effective.
- Jason (Delegate) – shared a moment of gratitude he had after WSC – he learned that a lot of the other areas have vacant positions. Q.10 – as a recent former young person, he tries to approach younger members and men specifically. His home group has members who bring baked goods. Q.4 – he was approached personally to serve as Delegate, or he would not be doing it.
- Carolyn (D26) – Q.1 – put ourselves out there, be there for people and whenever the opportunity arises, put a word in for service. She tries to visit groups, especially ones who don't have GRs or attend district. Q.3 – she feels like we are cheerleaders for Al-Anon, be that member that shows that recovery and service can be fun. Q.4 – ask them personally, it gives people a lift to be asked and encouraged as if they are capable, which they are!
- McKayla (D2) – doesn't always get good participation at district but recently sent a group text message as a reminder and it is inclusive of everybody, so any replies also go to everybody. Communication is key to the links of service. Making that communication known is helpful.

- Wendy (D17) – the DR sends all the information she receives and it's great. What hasn't worked, encouraging Al-Anon members to bring their children to Alateen, hasn't worked for some reason. What are you going to bring back? Encourage other people to participate.
- Loretta (Open Lines) – for her service was an important part of her recovery. Her sponsor told her that that was how she did it. As they were going through the steps, she kept telling her how much they were helping her and her sponsor told her that Loretta was helping her more than she knew, and she would understand that when she did it with someone else. She got into service in a big way with that sponsor. Recovery through the steps and share it.
- Linda (LDC) – something we may not be doing well is rotation of leadership doesn't mean that the positions rotate through the same 2 people! It doesn't help our newer members get involved and serve. When it is your turn to step down, you could ask someone specifically and volunteer to help them and provide direction for any questions that may arise.
- Janet (Treasurer) – spoke about her service journey. Her first role was treasurer of her group. The GR attending district meetings, who was also the district treasurer, realized that the area would require a treasurer in the next term and gave her a nudge by saying and I thought of you. This put the buzz in Janet's head to find out about that, so she attended some district meeting and learned what it was about. This happened again with the GR turnover and there was no district meeting in January because that DR stepped down. Janet took that back to her group (angrily) and was told if she could find someone to take over the DR treasurer role, she could then step into the role of DR, so she did. And so on.
- Sue (Advisor, D6) – 3 levels of this service idea. When she was new, she was asked to be the GR as needed, and she agreed as she wanted what the program offered and was helped. Moved up, got to the district level and an alternate DR was needed, and another member and her agreed to do 6 months each. Eventually she became the DR. Recently a new member joined, and announcements were made each meeting about the need for a GR, and finally this new member agreed with the caveat that she needed help. Sue offered, they attended a district meeting together, they did this 3 times and now she is comfortable going on her own.
- Chris (D25) – there is a problem with people showing up for district meetings, but their DR sends minutes to someone in the group (even if not the GR). She goes to do the literature table for all the district AA roundups. She was told she could do the GR role, and she found it really helped her and has met so many people and the connections are deep. Don is the chairperson for the 2026 Trillium – positions available, Al-Anon coordinator, Alateen Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Gratitude coordinator.
- Deb (GTAIS) – we don't HAVE to, we GET to. The culture and mindset of service is to be *excited*. Our culture is conveyed through our meeting format, more than our meeting content. Fostering leadership and not thinking of it as a division of labour. But more like a unity. More service positions, shorter terms, more accountability. How important the leadership can be to encourage participation.
- Donna (D33) – attends a virtual meeting on Saturday mornings and they decided to gather in person at a coffee shop and recently got together for breakfast prior to the meeting to foster the one-on-one connection. This is really helping the culture in that group. Note that this is an electronic group within the Ont. South geographical area.

- Cindy (D4) – she found it intimidating to be brought into the group level service, i.e., GR. The 3-year term and not having a good idea of what was involved scared her off. In her group, they have a book for signing up to chair. This engenders participation. She keeps hearing that people don't have time to serve beyond the group level and wonders how does one combat this?
- Brenda (D18) – consider holding a brief information session after a meeting to inform about service. Newcomer support – check with WSO to see if we are listed as having newcomer support. If newcomers attend, they are open to adjusting the topic to support their needs.
- Debbie (D31) – help people take baby steps. Her district doesn't have as many meetings as they used to. Some groups have 4 or 6 people and they are doing their best to keep on. The current GR recently told her that Debbie had come and sat beside her at her first meeting and that made a big difference. They give newcomers books, and they don't care if they don't come back, they are walking out with that book. They had a person attend the district meeting b/c her child was coming to an Alateen meeting at the same time and now her child doesn't attend Alateen anymore but she still does. We need to help people take baby steps and be OK with that.
- Deb F. (chair) put in the note about our need to a host committee for Assembly 2026 and invited members who had previously put in a bid to host or been on the committee to come up and share.
- Cindy (D4) – was in Al-Anon for maybe 6 months when they put in the bid for the last assembly. It was really interesting, they had meetings, visited hotels and wasn't a huge time consumer. It was great for her to meet other members from other groups. You didn't have to be outgoing or socially knowledgeable about what hotels were out there. They were walked through the process of filling out the 10F form.
- Sue (Advisor, D6) – volunteered to be the chairperson for assembly (can't remember how that happened but it did). What she did was took each of the responsibilities for assembly and created a file folder and on top clipped a piece of paper saying I'm interested and inside there was information on what that role encompassed. You didn't have to say you would do it, you just expressed an interest. As the chairperson, you just need to ensure that those roles are being performed.
- Andrea (D10) – was on the committee for the 2019 Assembly in Woodstock – started planning meetings in Feb. or March. You get to know people, and your Al-Anon world expands.
- Conny (AIS Ottawa) – was on the committee for the first in-person assembly after Co-Vid. She was dealing with the hotel. It got cancelled for Co-Vid and then they held it the following year, so essentially did it for 2 years.
- Barb (D28) got to be part of that Ottawa crew, and it happened that one member stepped forward and asked the district if they would support it. From there, they got the other members for the committee. Barb oversaw hospitality and was in the suite for the bulk of the weekend. Al-Anon is the same everywhere.
- Loretta (Open Lines) – Kingston (D31) is organization assembly this year (2025) and Deb (D31) invited the adjoining districts to be part of the committee. Loretta is part of D26, and her district doesn't have a place big enough to hold it and she thinks it's great because she has never been a part of this and wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise.
- Deb (D31) – we are hosting your next assembly. The reason is because there are only 2 cities in the East right now, Kingston and Ottawa, and she thought it wasn't fair for Ottawa as they have done it

twice recently. It was difficult at first as the only hotel was being renovated and it was hard to get in touch with them, but once that happened it all unfolded so well and other members are now stepping up and it's going to be fun!

To clarify, the districts from which bids for 2026 Assembly can come are Central, which are 14 – 23.

#### **4:30 – 5:00**

Discussion Topic #2 Ontario South Area Inventory – Timed Discussion - Sue G. and Gwen D. Cont'd.

- Sue went over the questions in the package that she neglected to hand out. Sue forgot to give out one of the packages in the initial inventory discussion so tried to consolidate those answers herself.
- Q.7 – Do the trusted servants in Ontario South support you? Yes – 84%, No – 16%. Positives, they attend district meetings and groups, they have workshops, they pay all their bills, they book hotels, they use emails and correspondence to get information out, they have things like JotForm to get information out and they use the links of service.
- Q.2 – How do we best exhibit respect for other's time or opinion? Indicate that if someone has already mentioned your comment, concern, suggestion, listen to what is said and do not repeat the same point. Simply indicate if you agree. Listen without judgement or interruption can foster respect. Each of us has the right and responsibility to participate without judgement. Participation is the key to harmony. Refrain from having private chats while members are speaking at the mic.
- Q.8 – Do all members have an opportunity to participate in service? People can choose and one of the concerns brought forward was financial barriers. This was certainly an issue for her. This is something she learned early, is that nobody should be out of pocket for service. Equalized payments make it fairer. If the groups take the time to teach the links of service, it then becomes easier to be drawn into service. Volunteer for ask-it-basket. All members have the opportunity, but not all members can afford it. It only takes one fundraiser, and you can pay for all the GRs in a district to attend assembly. We just need the willingness.
- How can we improve service communication in our area? The executive update is very important. It should be short, sweet and informative. Ask executive members to attend your district events.
- Q.13 – what are your goals when attending AWSC/Assembly? Listen and learn. Participation. Respect for others. Service. Represent your district. AWSC can be used to help develop the agenda for Assembly.
- How can I support the trusted servants in Ontario South? Five simple words, gratitude, participation, trust, appreciation and communication.
- How can we improve the links of service in our area? Visual representation. The assembly where they passed the football. Pamphlet S-28 Links of service. It's kind of like a family tree, group member is the child,
- How would you go about being of service at area level? Learn, participate, and be willing.
- How are executive and coordinators important to members involved in service in our area? First answer – I don't have a clue. They model other ways to serve and give guidance when asked.
- Q.16 – is an explanation given to the groups at assembly on their financial contribution to the groups, how can we help groups understand? 92% said yes, 8% was no. Summarized, please give better summaries of financial reports, e.g. the delegate's report which used charts. What are we not

doing due to budgetary restraints. Explain at group meetings what the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition really supports. Suggestion: pie charts.

- Q.5 – in what way are reports useful or not? Written reports are great; verbal should only include changes or updates. Keep it concise. Have them in advance, read them prior to arriving. In earlier years, the package was picked up at Assembly and members didn't have any idea what was being discussed prior.
- General Q.1 – are there ways in which our area is not fully self-supporting? 62% said are there ways in which our area is not fully self-supporting, 38% said no, there are not ways. The area could be more supportive of Pri-Med, the tables at conferences. It's hard to find people for service, in that area we are not self-supporting. Answer, read the service manual and guidelines. Education is key. Go on the WSO website, read the Loop.
- Q.9 – how to workshops enhance my recovery? Allows us to reflect on ourselves, gives us knowledge on how to work the program, gives us understanding of the program, shows us how to use CAL.

### **5:00-7:00 Food & Fellowship**

#### **7:00-7:45**

##### District Reports

1 - Sue B. – they have 16 groups, the newest Wasaga Beach recently reopened. 14 in person, 2 electronic. Have a new Alateen group and 7 AMIAs. 2 groups have added a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting day; Parry Sound added a second evening meeting. Their 5 yearly district meetings are well attended; all service positions are filled. Their first Al-Anon day in many years is June 7 and is now sold out. Tel. answering service has several volunteers, who rotate weekly. Their literature people have been invited to AA roundups and have been well received at all. Their groups are fully self-supporting. They have allotted \$400 to P.O. and continue to support all service levels.

2 – McKayla – they are a small district w 5 meetings. Newest one is on Monday mornings and is growing. Their Al-Anon day in Collingwood is Sept. 13. Their Collingwood group is going to be 57 years old, their Owen Sound is 38 and Wednesday Thornbury group is also in the 30's. They are small but mighty.

3 – Steve B. – covers a large geographical area. One faced an insurance issue challenge and was almost asked to leave the premises, but it got sorted out. All groups express the same concern, attracting and holding new members. One meeting had an unexpected guest, a former husband of one of the members. They handled it well and carried on with the meeting and although it was quite uncomfortable it was dealt with. The anonymity part was concerning in a small town where everyone knows each other. It has resulted in the district having discussions on how to handle these kinds of challenges. 3 of the 5 groups have done inventories to ensure they remain within the traditions and concepts in their structures. There is one group that is not part of the district, but he has gotten some good ideas on how to approach this. June 5, the Penetangore group will celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

4 – Cindy (secretary D4) – their district consists of Guelph, ... Fergus. Currently have 17 meetings that seem to be doing well. There are a few with low attendance. They have 2 Alateen meetings. They are planning an Al-Anon day for in the fall. There is a group in Guelph celebrating their 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 14. There are also a few in-person with electronic component meetings.

5 - Susan B. – covers Huron and Perth counties. Have 10 groups with 12 meetings, 3 online. In that

bunch there are 6 GRs and 4 CMAs. They have an active P.O. committee. When her term started she was encouraged by the resilience and growth of the district post Co-Vid and carrying on from her predecessor's work was able to secure a group contact at their Listowel meeting which was just about to be delisted. Last year, trying to develop some relationships, the district implemented mail thank you cards wherein they personally write a thank you card to the groups to acknowledge when they've sent a donation to the district. She tries to attend member 1 year birthday celebrations or significant milestones. They recently had a 50-year birthday. It provides an opportunity to bring greetings from district, see some faces, and they can see the faces of their district colleagues. They implemented a speaker series called Guess Who's Coming to District? and it's been successful. So far, they have welcomed Sue, Area Literature Coordinator, Jason W., Delegate, Debbie P., Trustee and Kathleen, Website Coordinator. The speakers are well received, the sessions are insightful, and you really can't underestimate the value of being able to put a face to a name. After attending the Alateen workshop last year about increasing AMIASs the district followed up with a mini survey to their groups about how realistic it might be to get an Alateen group going. The survey results were less than ideal, so they decided to table Alateen for now. However, there was some interest from a couple of members about becoming AMIASs so they felt the seed had been planted. They tried to develop their Al-Anon committee from various groups, but due to low interest they decided to table that until next year. They closed out 2024 without an ADR who had resigned earlier to join the GEA. This year, they are continuing their speaker series. And realize the importance of starting a discussion now on the next year's elections and service opportunities. They are coming up with ideas about how can they mentor, shadow, internships, apprenticeships, try it out for a while, get your feet wet. 2 of their members recently became AMIASs and join a nearby district's online Alateen meeting. They have included Alateen and an Assembly group assistance fund in their 2025 budget, breaking it down by group/week at \$3. They will be participating in 2 AA roundups this year.

#### **AIS Reports:**

Toronto – Deb B. – they are the supporters of Pri-Med, an international medical conference which was held in Mississauga on May 9. It is believed that this was another successful year. They will be discussing on whether to fund a booth next year, or every 2 years, or how to manage the expense, approx. \$5,500. The prescription pads, used as a fundraiser, sold out quickly and they have another 220 on order. They are hoping that they will be able to come to GTAIS and see if they are able to fund an additional amount. The page on the new Ont. South website will be updated. There will be a revolving carousel of events. It looks great, thanks Kathleen. The Ontario Regional Conference (ORC) Al-Anon and Alateen job descriptions are hopefully coming out this weekend. This conference is held in Toronto in March. The GTAIS is responsible for appointing the Al-Anon Chair, the Alateen Chair and the AMIAS Alateen support who organize the Al-Anon and Alateen programs. Resumes for the Al-Anon Shadow Chair for 2026, the Chair for 2027, and names for possible Alateen Chairs, are due on July 28. You may apply by emailing to Deb at [gtais.chair@gmail.com](mailto:gtais.chair@gmail.com) Once a resume is received, the member will be invited to the Aug. 5 GTAIS meeting to share their interest and experience and answer any questions. GTAIS meets the first Tuesday of every month, all are welcome and the zoom link is on the GTAIS page. There is a brand new Alateen group at Yonge & Bloor. Judith (Alateen Coordinator) has attended the GTAIS meetings and spreading the word.

Ottawa – Conny M. – they have a solid group in AIS Ottawa, although there are only 4 of them. Alt. D.R.s are invited and continue to be invited. Highlights of 24/25 – maintain a 7 day / week answering service. They are working with the website coordinator to do an Ottawa AIS page on the Ont. South website. The plan is to sunset the Ottawa AIS website. Every 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday there is an open speaker meeting in Ottawa. The groups in the district support that, they chair and bring a speaker, 2 – 3 times in the year. There is currently only 1 district covered by Ottawa AIS but they've been working with adjoining districts to collaborate. Outreach projects so far Al-Anon Day, 80 outreach packages were distributed containing a

bookmark and a poster and something else). Over 70 information packages were distributed last year for something else. 60 community centres have contacted to see if they would post the lady in the bottle poster. That's ongoing.

### **7:26-8:30**

Workshop: Where Do I Find It? - Sue G./Sharon R.

- Any member may submit questions on an Ask-It-Basket form. Four volunteers will volunteer from willing members to work with the advisors to find the answers to the questions.
- Responses are provided on Sunday and published in Open Lines.
- 3 main pieces of Al-Anon Reference Material – the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, The Area Policies and Guidelines manual and Al-Anon Guidelines (on the WSO website). There are approximately 40 different guidelines. There is a fourth reference and that is others such as pamphlets, delegates, executives.
- Broke into 8 groups. The secretary joined one of the groups and did not record the workshop so it will not be part of the minutes.

## **SUNDAY, MAY 25**

### **8:30-8:45**

Welcome, Serenity Prayer,  
Traditions, Concepts, & Warranties  
Confirm Timekeeper & Announcements

### **8:45 – 9:15**

District Reports, cont'd

6 – Colleen – covers Dutton, London and Strathroy, 18 meetings, 10 in person, include a newcomer meeting (a different format), also 5 in-person w an electronic component, 1 in-person Alateen, 1 electronic meeting that stayed in D6, and one 9:50. Sufficient AMIASs, teens come and go. Invited to a recovery event at Western U., it was a great opportunity for P.O. Their Al-Anon Day was great, was organized in only 6 weeks. Several of their members are involved in Trillium, being held at Fanshawe. They have had some conflict, and she is very grateful for the support received from Area. They used the conflict resolution kit, and the tool is great.

7 – Maryanne – there are 5 groups in D7, 3 in the city, 1 in Brightsgrove, 1 in Petrolia, 1 is in-person w electronic component. Each group works in a Step, Tradition and Concept of the month. Their Spring roundup had an attendance of 90 people which was a better turnout than in past years. They found that early communication worked well. They have an annual campout in August 13:00 Are trying to get Alateen up and running again – it used to be on Wednesday evening concurrent with an \_\_\_ meeting. 4 potential AMIASs going through their police checks. 2 groups do not have GRs, and no Alt. DR. Service positions are hard to fill, but functions attract volunteers. They are in the process of getting updated stamps with the Ont. S. website and AIS information on it so they can stamp their pamphlets.

8 – Jeannette – Windsor, Essex, covers Tecumseh, Lasalle, Leamington and Wesburg. Very spread out. Their district has been quite busy. Currently 14 active meetings and 1 which has been inactive and is going to be reactivated. Are working with Kathleen with the Ont. S. website to move their website to be sub-divided to that website and save \$. Getting people to serve has been difficult, currently there is no

Alt. D.R. or P.O. Like other districts, the rotation of service sees the same people rotating, so they are hoping for new members to serve. They had Sue M. visit and are hoping to have her do a writing workshop at their Spring Al-Anon day. They are hoping to reactivate Alateen. They have 5 interested members and are working with Judith on that. Their outreach is lacking but there is interest from first responders to have those little cards.

9 – Not present, no report

10 – Not present, no report

9:15 - 10:00

Delegate's Update – Jason W.

- Answers to a few questions rec'd this weekend. Why can't a group have more than 1 location? A: WSO's group records software does not allow for more than one location. Corollary questions would be, how does meeting in different locations help newcomers find our program, and that meeting? Are we preventing opportunities for Service? Courage to Change pg. 251
- On which podcasts has Al-Anon's PSA aired and when? A. "None yet. We will be launching in the next month or so." Scot P., Director of Communications, WSO.
- CDN Delegate's meeting – there are 10, and they meet 3 times/year virtually, and 1 in-person. Jason was elected the chair of the CDN Delegates group.
- Is also chairing a WSC Task Force. Charge (in part): create a presentation encouraging and inspiring Areas to conduct regular Area Inventories (which we did yesterday at AWSC – good job Ont. South!)
- Please ask your district's secretary to send the minutes to Jason – it helps him to keep in touch. [OntarioSouthDelegate@hotmail.com](mailto:OntarioSouthDelegate@hotmail.com)
- Shared the Joy of Service – please give this some thought and share the joy, it's important!
- Jason got to visit Stepping Stones this year and shared about that visit. You can too, contact at [steppingstones.org](http://steppingstones.org) or 1-914-232-4822
- Thank you to everyone who sent cards while he was at WSC, they made a difference!

9:30 - 9:33

Ask-It Basket committee answers - Sue G., Gwen D., & volunteers- 1:00

- Jeanette – a total of 4 questions were received. How many years can a member serve at the district level? We have a member who is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> term, currently the district secretary. A: nothing specific but reference to Traditions 2, 4, 12. Group autonomy and your district principles. Rotation of leadership is one of our principles. Maybe a constructive, helpful, loving suggestion would help.
- Steve: Q: can a member of one district be a GR at another district? Yes, Service Manual pg. 86. No member may however be GR of more than one group at the same time.
- Who? What should a district do or their option be if there is no DR? How would the information get to the groups? A: an alternate DR or G37 and service manual p 147, p153, p156 top bullet.
- Diana D14 – Can an Al-Anon member donate in their will directly to their group or directly to WSO? No, if you want to donate to your group, do it while you're alive. P 103,104 of service manual tells you how you can donate up to 1% to your group, of your group's revenue. Area Policy manual section \_\_ outlines bequests – can be made to either the area or to WSO and memoriums can be

made to WSO but if yourself a member wants to leave donations to your group, we suggest you do it before you pass.

10:30 - 11:00

Open Mic

- Barb (D28) shared about the meeting that was shared on Saturday night which had a good collection of sharings about each DR's service journey. They had a really good exchange of what's happening in their districts and their own experience, with happy's and sad's (a la Alateen). They are thinking about putting in an Item for Consideration that the DRs would like to meet at AWSC and Assembly and another time during the year using the zoom account if possible.
- Louise McF (D22) wants to thank the executive for this weekend, it's been the best AWSC she has attended, working together yesterday in groups was great!
- Kathleen (website) wants to make a suggestion about the prescription pads for the next printing. She notes that she was a bit disappointed that the World Service contact information was on them rather than the Ontario South contact information. She understands that this was a decision made in conjunction with the executive and more explanation of how the contact information works via plug-ins, WSO doesn't use it, they use a different kind. A draft letter by the area in 2022. She recommends that it would be nice to see the Ont. S. contact information on those pads which would make it easier for newcomers to find us. 1:08 she went on and on.
- Linda (LDC) thank you to everyone for such a great weekend and thanks to everyone who are there by email and phone when she calls you looking for contacts for newcomers in their specific geographical areas. She heard about members having a hard time getting people to step up for service and also heard a lot about people not knowing what service roles entail. She will send an email via the area secretary for anyone who might be interested in having a zoom meeting to have an information session about what service roles entail. No idea what that would look like, have a coordinator or service person there to share, but we'll figure it out.
- Cindy (D4) is still fairly new to AI-Anon and has a question. She thought we were only allowed to use CAL, and was told that the prescription pads are not CAL. She's confused. She didn't order them through the LDC. Jason (Delegate) explained that each Area is allowed to produce one and only one P.O. publication at a time. Typically, it is approved through the P.O. coordinator. They were indisposed so the Delegate (with consultation with the executive), approved it for a one-year period. So yes, technically it is not CAL but it is a P.O. piece. Linda (LDC) also confirmed that it wasn't a new wheel that was invented, it used to be CAL, which she did check on.
- Wendy (D17) reciprocity is a big thing in AI-Anon. She notes that Ont. S. does not have a phone number. The AIS's do. She has had contact from WSO as this is the only Area she knows of that doesn't have one. They are simple and cheap. The AIS # is \$27.30/month. You do it from home on a 3-hour basis. The Delegate's contact is the only one currently on the website. This will be an Item for Consideration.
- Jeanette (D8) everyone who works hard year after year, kudos to you. She would like to complain but also looks forward to it and wants to thank Jason for the message of Share the Joy.

**9:48 am.** Deb (Chair) led us in saying the AI-Anon Declaration, followed by the Serenity Prayer, to close the meeting.

#### **AWSC Meeting Highlights:**

XX (DX moved) (verbal motion) that we accept the voting procedures as explained, seconded by XX (DXX).

Voting: All in favour. **CARRIED** unanimously.

Motion, by XX (DXX, seconded by XX (XX) That we “accept the minutes of the 2024 AWSC as submitted.”

Voting: All in favour. **CARRIED** unanimously.

XX (DX) moved, seconded by XX (XX), “The 2026 budget be forwarded to Assembly 2025 as presented.”

Voting: **CARRIED**.

**\*Number of groups in Ont. S. is 272 (January 2025), so estimated donation by group to cover 2026 - \$196.19.** This is total donations of \$53,465/272.

WSO - Cost per group \$337.53 USD / **\$471.55 CAD** (as of May 17/25) – group services make up the bulk. (This # will fluctuate based on exchange rate.) Continued giving all year to provide the continuing services is ideal (vs. at the end of the year).