

ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
October 24-26, 2025
DoubleTree/Home2 Suites by Hilton, Kingston

Minutes

Friday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Opening, Welcome - Deb F.
 Traditions, Concepts, Warranties,
 Introductions of Executive and Coordinators – Deb F.
 Host Committee Announcements – Debbie E.

7:15 - 8:15 Workshop: DR/GR Challenges and Successes – Barb B.
 Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope – Notes on workshop as attachment

Saturday, October 25, 8:30 a.m.

Opening, Welcome - Deb F.
 Traditions, Concepts, Warranties,
 Introductions of Executive and Coordinators – Deb F.
 Host Committee Announcements – Debbie E.

Housekeeping & Other Announcements - Deb F.

Vote to Establish Procedures - (included in package) was read out, questions were invited. No questions.

Moved by XX (DX), seconded by XX (DX) to accept the voting procedures as Deb F. presented. Carried.

Principles of Making an Informed Group Decision (included in package) was read, questions as read were invited.

Timekeeper – volunteer called for – Susan B. (D5) will be our timekeeper.

Ask-It-Basket and Items for Consideration Forms were explained. A link to the Item for Consideration form was included in the Assembly package, it can be completed online at any time. There are also paper copies available.

Ask-It-Basket volunteers: Sue H (D10), Sharon M. (D8), Nancy D. (D14), Katie L. (D4)

Approval of 2024 Assembly Minutes

Amendments:

- Pg. 6, final line of Delegate's report recorded his address incorrectly, amended to: OntarioSouthDelegate@hotmail.com
- Pg. 21, Delegate's Update: Ontario Northwest amended Manitoba Northwest Ontario.

XX (X) motioned to accept the 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by XX (DX). Carried.

Delegate's Report - Jason W. – Note that the report will be on the Ont. South website shortly after Assembly.

- 2025 was the 65th World Service Conference (WSC), (which does not occur at the World Service Office (WSO))
- 100% of groups use WSO services, 62% contributed in 2024
- **\$471.48 CAD group, (as of Oct 3/25) is the cost of those services** – this is not a due, fee, or obligation. We have no dues or fees in Al-Anon, this number is just math = the cost of the services / number of groups. Any amount is a good amount.
- Group services make up the largest chunk of the pie.
- Continued giving all year, to provide continuing services, is best (rather than at the end of the year).

- 46% of Ontario groups donated to WSO in 2024. Tied for lowest contributing area in Canada, 3-way tie for lowest contributing geographic area in the WSO structure.
- Projected deficit \$170,800 USD (= approx. 2% of the total expenses).
- 3 key messages: 2025 revised Operating budget has a deficit, consistent steady giving throughout the year is the message and strong support for literature is needed.
- Contributions were budgeted to be consistent with the year prior.
- WSO excess funds: purchases made w these funds so far: Inventory scanner; Other office equipment; a new van.
- 3 special projects identified with the excess funds this year: WSO Core service overhaul; Professional Outreach – Young People; Passing It On.
- Costs and estimates: \$124,000 from the reserve fund spent so far.
- Core systems overhaul expected to cost \$200k
- Outreach to young people \$100k
- Passing it on \$200k – these are all USD
- Electronic Alateen implementation – this has been in the works since 2020 – each year there was another step in the process to get to implementation – 2024 WSC reviewed WSC – EASBR (WSC – electronic Alateen Safety and Behaviour Requirements
- The earliest date for rollout of electronic meetings would be July 2026 – Jason hopes we can start talking about it in Ont. S. after he returns from WSC 2026
- There are options – we can opt in or not. If we opt in, there can be no changes from the WSC – EASBR as we must comply with the law.
- Not having electronic Alateen meetings would *not* jeopardize in-person Alateen meetings.
- Currently, the only approved electronic Alateen groups are the ones in the AI-Anon app.
- Another topic at WSC 2025 – Choosing a group name policy – 2025 WSC voted to allow group names to continue to include identifiers while keeping with Traditions Three and Five, for a one-year period. It will be discussed at WSC 2026 – Jason will be hosting 4 zoom sessions to discuss and he can then bring feedback for discussion at the WSC 2026.

9:50 - 10:20 Break

10:20 Reconvene with Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer – Deb. F.

Delegate's Report on WSC (cont'd)

- New literature in the pipeline: Personal/Service Sponsorship and Finances in Recovery – your submissions are welcome, you can go to AI-Anon.org for information or just speak with Jason.
- Chosen Agenda Item submitted by Jason and accepted: Effects of the use of electronic platforms on building cohesiveness in Area district business meetings – will be discussed at WSC 2026.
- Interesting to note: the two members of the WSO Intn'l services mgr. Tracey S., and director of programs Sarah S. visited South Korea, India, Mongolia and (virtually) China, and learned that all those areas are having the same issues as all other areas of AI-Anon.
- AI-Anon's 75 anniversary celebration, following WSC 2026, WSO invites you to a special open house on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET, followed by a special in-person banquet from 6:00–10:00 pm ET, at the Newport News Marriott at City Center, in Newport News, Virginia. Tickets will be available soon on AI-Anon.org – still in planning stages.

Questions and Answers

- Barb (D28) – how does the WSO know when a donation comes in which area it is from?
- A: Because we give the information, i.e., group ID #, you may also include area / district. Not just the group name.
- Sue (D6 & area advisor) – wanted to clarify about the group ID # - if you send your literature order in to the Ont. S. website, your statement includes the group # and it is also listed on the AI-Anon.org website, Linda P. (LDC Manager) confirmed. Also added that if you want a WSC summary, please let her know so she can order them as stock is not always available.
- Sue (D6 & area advisor) – what can be done when we are aware of electronic Alateen meetings occurring (outside of the mobile app)?
- A: the board of trustees is the decider of these things, and we need to follow the law – he has shared his E.S.H. and presumed goodwill.
- Kathleen (website coord) – do we know which law we are citing to know that electronic Alateen meetings are not allowed?

- A: We are in the ET zone, which would include other states. Conceivably, we could therefore get teens from neighboring time zones in various U.S. states. This was part of the reason why we need the most stringent requirements, because different states have different laws. This came through WSO legal staff. The exact law is not known to Jason.
- Wendy (D18) – If WSO says \$471/group – how many registered groups does this consist of?
- A: Jason took this question to get the answer and will supply that in Sunday a.m. update. There are a certain number of groups in our service structure, but other service structures are also supported, more info to follow.
- Q 2 – confirm that we can send donations to the Ottawa address in CAD funds and get a tax receipt. **AFG Canada Inc.** is the name to use if making in CAD funds.
- A: It is a virtual office in Ottawa to which donations can be sent and a CAD tax receipt for charitable donation can be received. (Address is on the Ont. S. website)
- Donna (D33) – confirmed some #s: total # of groups in the world 9,199, CAD 1,016, US 11,430 – this includes electronic and in-person.
- Sue (D16) – curious about Ont. S. being one of the lowest contributors to WSC – was there any discussion about this?
- A: No discussion at the Executive table; sharing that information from WSC with Assembly is because when we know something, we can then do something about it, if we wish.
- Cathy (D6) – what does EASBR stand for? Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral requirements.
- Angela (D16) – what is the quarterly appeal letter for and what is to be done with it?
- A: It is for a personal donation and what is done at his meeting is that it is part of the regular business meeting discussions.
- Judy (D2) – why, if there is a deficit, can WSO not use the excess instead of making special projects?
- A: During a typical year, a transfer from the reserve fund is made to help balance the budget. The issue is that if we keep transferring from the reserve, the reserve will be depleted. Also, our 7th tradition states we need to be self-supporting. So, if the donations are not arriving, can this be said to be true?
- Patty (D4) – the naming of a group policy – why is this even an issue? Can we get more information on this? It seems like identifiers would be potentially helpful rather than exclusive.
- A: This is one school of thought, the other is that you may feel a specific identifier would exclude you if you are not part of that particular, identified group. Or you might feel like you *couldn't* go, for the same reason. It is being discussed as a potential issue at WSC and Jason would love to have feedback about it to bring there, so attend one of the scheduled sessions on it! (Flyer was sent out Oct. 13)
- Jason's email: OntarioSouthDelegate@hotmail.com Address: 58 Windsor Road, Georgetown, ON L7G 1T3 613-884-4491

11:04 – 12:00 p.m. Workshop: Finances in Al-Anon - Janet B. – Note, Workshop will be posted on the Ont. S. website, copy of the budget template will be sent to you upon request from the Treasurer (address on the Ont. S. website)

- Beginner Accounting: Five types of accounts: Assets, liabilities, income, expenses, equity
- Assets – liabilities = net worth
- 2 financial statements: Balance sheet and Income statement
- In Ont. S. currently, a double entry bookkeeping system is used. Every entry involves at least 2 accounts, with accounts being debited and credited.

Questions:

- Jennifer (D8) – clarified a bill of Jason's (delegate), paid in January but the dollar amount was unknown when doing the budget, was the amount from the previous year used in order to have a dollar amount in there?
- A: Jason's expense report was received in January and she had not completed her year-end so made a journal entry was made to add it to the financial statement; it didn't get paid until Jan., but Janet knew the actual expense as she emailed and got it from Jason.
- Louise (D18) procedural question – who makes the decision for Ont. S. to donate to WSO?
- A: At this point, it is the members through GRs. If we have an excess at the end of the year, we will hopefully bring it to the membership and ask. There hasn't been a surplus since Co-Vid.
- Natalie (D28) we encountered that issue during the pandemic; she is just wondering if we have an excess at the area would we apply the concept that Ont. S. is trusting the executive to be good, trusted servants to the WSO.
- A: Janet referenced the issue a few years ago where the executive decided to send \$ to the WSO without first taking it to the membership, and received so much negative feedback, that they learned from that and would not repeat that action.
- Louise (D22) will this workshop be posted on the Ont. S. website? A: yes
- Cory (D31) How is the literature handled at the group level when needed?
- A: It is handled at a business meeting. It is not added as a reserve item as literature pays for itself. As it is sold, there is money there to pay for more.

- Sue (D6 – Area Advisor) can a district send money to a group to help send a GR to assembly? If a district has extra finances, it is sent either to Area or WSO, it does not come back down to the group, is that correct?
- A: something in the service manual that specifies that districts have autonomy to help. Put it in the Ask-It Basket. Sue clarified that it could be done and will look it up.
- Sue (D31) is the treasurer for her district. In the budget, they have a reserve fund and also funds for A Day of Al-Anon. She feels she cannot record a profit, even though they have a surplus every year, as they don't know what will happen in the future year.
- A: When Janet was district treasurer, she accrued a lot in her budget, because she wanted it to be on the side of caution, so she would not want to budget a profit. If you have a profit, that is a bonus.
- Susan (D5) carrying on from previous budget, they encourage groups to find funds to send GRs to assembly but if that can't be done, they can help.
- Loretta (D26, Area Open Lines) How did Janet come up with the figure of \$500 for a prudent reserve on her example. She remembers that there is a calculation for it, or is it just random? In her group, they do a certain amount of months' worth of expenses.
- A: It was just a random number, as a base, as all the other numbers are basically accruals. Rent, WSO, all those donations are being accrued separately. To her, she has accrued all those expenses. It's just a cushion.
- Deb F (D23) a comment to the last question, she is also a treasurer and has used G41 which states that groups can hold a reserve of 1-4 months. Her group was holding 3 months but found that it was impacting what could be disbursed to other service arms. Therefore, a group conscience was taken to lower the reserve to 2 months.
- Paul (D26) what he really liked was how it was broken down by month, even by what can be sent to WSO. This is valuable information to be brought back to groups as to what is needed per group/per person/per month.
- Cassandra (D20) wanted to review the questions to ask slide – reminder this is going to be on the website. Also, some of these questions are in the G41 guideline.
- Sharon (Area Alt. Delegate) when she was DR, they took a group conscience as to whether they wanted to assist GRs attending assembly.
- Donna (D33) wanted to thank Janet for the effort as she was one of the requesters of this information.
- Leslie (D1) what is guideline 41?
- A: It is one of the guidelines on the WSO website – in the members section / resources / guidelines.
- Barb (D28) just a funding item that her district does and some groups, if a group and district is able, talk about saving the money to not only send your GR but also send your AGR. Her district was able to fund their ADR to come to AWSC and Assembly.
- Linda (D26 / LDC manager) there is a pamphlet called 7th Tradition also, some groups are starting to chair a meeting on a piece of CAL once a month. Maybe if finances are a struggle, members could take this information from Janet, coupled with guidelines that WSO has and buying a few of those pamphlets might help people to figure out how it all works.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch Break

1:30 – Reconvene with Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer – Deb. F.

Roll Call - Carrie E. – there are 106 voting members at Assembly this afternoon.

1:45 – 5:30 Discussion Topics

Treasurer's Report - Janet B.

- Janet presented the financial documents sent with the package and in Sep. which included the budget.
- Estimation of group donation amounts required to meet the budget = **\$196.19** based on 272 groups in Ont. S. as of Jan. 25.

Discussion Topic #1: Proposed Budget 2026 - Janet B.

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the budget:

- Di (D16) on behalf of the GTAIS committee, read out the email sent to all groups on Sep 8/26 by the Area Secretary.
- Janet spoke to Di's point – the \$452 was mentioned in her report – it is a plus & minus. The question is who is going to pay for that cost, but the budget is a zero based one, so this does not affect the budget that is being voted on. Further, it is being discussed further by the executive, as has been requested. We are aware that not all groups contribute to GTAIS, this is the same as Ontario South where only 50% of groups contribute. We continue to support all the groups, not just those who donate. Some ideas on how savings could be incurred were suggested.

- Deb (D20 GTAIS Chair) as a follow-up to the question, respects the job being done by the executive. This proposed budget requires AIS to pay into the AWSC equalized travel fund twice. AIS groups pay \$13 for their district, and then an additional \$5.25 for their AIS. This is inequitable as no other groups are required to pay into the fund twice. The equalized travel cost, line 4185 of the budget, for AIS chairs, is calculated at \$452. GTAIS is paying \$378 of those \$, and Ottawa AIS is paying \$74. This is also not fair and doesn't support the purpose of equalized travel, to even out costs and distances travelled.
- Janet responded that the way equalized travel is calculated for the DRs is to even out the costs for groups who have to travel further. The Ottawa AIS chair has a lot further to drive than the Oakville AIS chair. Ottawa only has 1 district that they serve, whereas GTAIS currently has 8 districts that they serve. In any case, there will be more discussion at the executive level and AWSC likely in May.
- Deb (Area Chair) reiterated that this question was raised as an Item for Consideration and published in Open Lines, the executive is aware and has plans to discuss this at the next meeting and likely at AWSC in May.
- Natalie (D28) This budget shows \$27k in contributions, and then it's missing another \$27k to make the budget balance at \$54k, and we are three quarters of the way through the year. The same thing happened last year and an appeal was put forward and we were able to meet the budget. We have been very proactive in the message that it is important to make donations all year, so how do we find ourselves in the same situation again this year? This is a question for the collective (she was not expecting an answer here, from the executive).
- Janet noted that we only have 106 voting members (out of the 272 groups), therefore, it seems that the people we are trying to educate are not here and she isn't sure how to address that.
- Sue (D6, Area Advisor) clarified that the AIS used to pay for their own meals and accommodation and this is no longer the case as the Area now pays that. So, there is \$ that AIS used to pay that they no longer do, and money that they didn't used to pay but now are asked to.
- Louise (D18) wants to answer the previous question – her group is very small and they don't know if they will have any \$ left after assembly costs, which are the most important. They usually wait until Dec. to decide on their disbursements as it can't happen until after Assembly costs are paid.
- Judy (D23) at the end of '24 we had \$10k in investments but we don't appear to anymore, is that correct?
- Janet clarified that those were term GICs which term ended and they went back into the general account. She will be suggesting at the next executive meeting purchasing a new GIC but wanted to confirm that the money is still there, just not as a GIC. Banking is difficult as they require the 3 members of the executive, Treasurer, Delegate and Chair to even talk to her.
- Gwen (D6 Area Advisor) has a question for the membership – we have gone thru the budget as we do every year here and at AWSC. How many people/groups have a budget? Lots. How often do we talk about them? Monthly (mostly). Her understanding is that when we, as representatives of our groups and members, approve the budget, we are saying we will support it. There are ways to do that, fundraisers, etc.
- Cassandra (D20) as a point of information, when would the treasurer start working on the 2027 budget? As her group doesn't have one.

DECISION POINT:

Should the proposed budget for 2026 be adopted by Ontario South Assembly 2025?

Moved by XX (DX) seconded by XX (DX) that the 2026 budget be approved as presented. Carried

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the decision point:

- Maryanne (D4) the budget is close to the previous year, there is nothing extraordinary that stands out, it looks great, let's pass it.

Discussion Topic #2: Thought Force Report - In-Person Assembly with an Electronic Component - Carolyn S. / Deb F.

- Carolyn S. thanked the other members of the Thought Force: Susan B. (D5), Donna P. (D33), Deb. F (Ont. S. Chair), Anthony S. (Technology Coord.). Carolyn gave an overview of the Thought Force process and their findings. (Reference the background information included in the Assembly package and the 32-page report submitted.)

DECISION POINT:

What would the members of Ontario South Assembly like to do with the findings of the Thought Force on In-Person Assembly with an Electronic Component?

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the decision point:

- Loretta (D26 Area Open Lines coordinator) thank you, Sep 28 reading from A Little Time for Myself speaks to this topic. “Because this is the way I’ve always done it”, can no longer be my reason for resisting change.
- Liz (D10) with hybrid, you can vote but would one be able to ask questions and participate in the same way?
- A: Participation will be the same as at an in-person meeting, you would be able to see one another (if desired, but not if not), the voting would be the same and you could come to the virtual mic.
- Cindy (D4) we have some issues that the average age is in the 60’s and as somebody a little lower than that, she finds it hard to attend in-person assembly due to work and potentially sacrificing a pay cheque. She therefore finds an online option quite attractive. In-person benefits a lot of people, but for those that cannot make it, it would be fantastic. The investment of \$370 to purchase equipment would be a good one.
- Sharon (D8) Was the security aspect researched, i.e., when there are volunteers in a hybrid version at a district level, at some zoom meetings she’s attended, there are people saying inappropriate things. Would that be managed by outside resources? Or would the volunteers be responsible for controlling that? Secondly, what level of confidentiality is required for items such as the budget, i.e., being online?
- A: the other areas consulted use the registration zoom process – one cannot get in without registering which requires information that would only be known by that member and it is verified. Therefore, security and confidentiality are both addressed. Outside resources cannot be hired as they don’t understand how AI-Anon works and this adds safety.
- Di (D16) in the trial period would it be possible to not purchase an expensive computer to use only 2/year – would we be able to use the website coordinator computer and could we make it a 1-year rather than 3-year period.
- A: anything is possible – the information was the thought force’s role.
- Kathleen (website coordinator) wanted a summary of the other areas using this in case others didn’t read the 32-page report.
- A: each member of the committee took 1 area to investigate – each area experienced the same challenges. They all experienced fear at first and have now all gone to hybrid or virtual since, in the past 4 years. Some of the areas do not have central or closer to each other areas, so hybrid or virtual works better for them. One of the areas doesn’t notice a difference, after 4 years, in attendance btw in-person and hybrid.
- Colleen (D23) is there a way to borrow or rent the equipment to try it?
- A: That is the next question, for a taskforce, if we do that, to answer. We need the equipment for an in-person assembly anyway.
- Joanne (D14) there is a lot of planning for assembly – how would this be affected by a hybrid meeting? How would one budget for this? How would you know who was coming in-person vs. virtual?
- A: That is the next question, for a taskforce, if we do that, to answer.
- Cassandra (D20) if we go hybrid, we will not use as many room nights so meeting room costs would increase. Could we try a smaller venue for the in-person and a shorter-term period which would possibly cost less because it would be less of a commitment financially.
- A: The three-year term was to align with the three-year term period of the area positions.
- Deb F (Chair) read a little more of the background information in the package to clarify the difference between thought force vs taskforce.
- Annie (D28) a few points, today we are missing over 100 groups. Also, we are continually in a deficit. She thought a hybrid meant one year in-person, one year virtual. It was clarified that it meant an in-person with an electronic component. So, she agrees that it would be very hard to budget for this, not knowing how many of each would be in attendance. She suggests that it be one-year in-person, one year virtual.
- Gale (D12) do we know how many groups do this?
- A: There is no way to know. On AFG Connects there were several groups discussing it and a few were contacted, which is how the 4 areas spoken of were chosen. The committee could only ask so many questions without knowing where we were going.
- Ed (D6) was taught to keep things simple. Hasn’t heard the human cost of recovery. He experienced living in Kelowna, when doing a hybrid meeting, that the group wanted to split in half. We promote unity.
- Patty (D4) How large were the areas spoken to?
- A: They were comparable, which was one of the advantages.
- Amy (D16) 272 groups, 105 are here. There are 167 missing from the voice and vote. She believes that a hybrid model will likely mean more participation. We need more diversity, not less. She is in favour of moving forward w a 3-year trial.
- Sue (D25, Literature coordinator) if we are going to be hybrid and using zoom, she has concerns about what data zoom collects and how they use it and has no desire to have her image broadcast on the WWW so was glad to hear it is an option to not have your image broadcast.
- George (D12) one thing he notices is how respectful the conversation is, there are a lot of viewpoints across the spectrum. Many newer or smaller groups are faced with high costs which can make in-person attendance out of reach. Offering an electronic option may allow these groups to attend, vote, have their voice heard and participate in something larger than

them. Saving money may allow for those funds to contribute more to other service arms. The hybrid model allows the best for both worlds.

- Deb F. (Chair) stated that the cost of hotels is one of the reasons why Ont. S. solicits bids for Assembly many months prior to assembly, as having multiple bids gives us the opportunity to research and potentially reduce costs so we all play a role in that so districts are invited to participate for 2027.
- Jason (Delegate) Appreciated the context of why the other specific areas studied were chosen. Knows of at least one other area that does hybrid – Sask., which is smaller than us. He has learned (as Delegate) that not all assemblies and AWSC meetings are the same. Geographically, we are one of the largest areas, which is why we do 1 larger assembly 1 time/year. Other areas do shorter and more times/year as it is geographically more feasible. His experience of a virtual setting is that it is very different doing a shorter meeting vs. a full day. When he was chairperson, during the pandemic (when we had to do virtual assemblies), that was a very different experience than the virtual town hall meetings scheduled in Nov. It is also worth considering the talent and skill pool of our membership and whether we would constantly depend on a small group of members to perform the necessary service of facilitating a hybrid meeting and the risk of service burnout.
- A: this was one of the biggest concerns was whether Ont. S. would have the talent pool to do a hybrid assembly, we don't want to put on a shabby show. She attended a virtual assembly in S. Carolina last year and although it was not the same as an in-person, there was a hurricane the day before which allowed the treasurer to present her report virtually.
- Jenny (D28) did the virtual assembly increase the time taken? What if there was no video at all?
- John (D9) charitable organizations depend on the members to fund them. If they don't adapt, they disappear. We must be willing to change. Concerns about costs have been raised. We have less than 50% of group's attendance here. If we got 20 more, that = \$1,000. He doesn't think \$ is the issue. He is quite familiar with online security; you can turn your camera off.
- Debbie (D31) only couple of concerns are hotel costs, i.e., less bodies in beds = hotel availability. Concern 2 is the personnel to run a taskforce and run the meetings involved in that.
- Kathleen (website coord) clarified that zoom does not use any of your audio, video, chat, screen sharing, attachments or other communications like customer content such as poll results, whiteboard or reactions, to train zoom or its' third-party AI models. This link will be sent to the secretary and included in minutes to have as a reference.
- Karen (D23) her group is a yes – her concern is for those groups not attending, as has been shared that some of them don't have GRs, so the ones who are not here are not being educated. Would they even have the funds for a laptop to attend virtually.
- Justin (D2) Whether the zoom works or not depends on technical resources. With the right ones, it will be pretty seamless. On the issue of room nights, he can't predict the future, but he personally would rather cut his arm off than be on zoom for an entire assembly. He feels love in the room while here, so feels like we wouldn't lose too much in room nights.
- Shannon (D6) thank you for stating the focus was not to increase attendance but to increase inclusivity. The report demonstrates that attendance was not in fact increased. Her group was interested in getting more of the Unknown information via a taskforce or Area surveys or something to further the collection of information.
- Grace (D30) has a feeling that whenever something is new, it will be better. Convenience seems like a temptation. She can therefore imagine people not coming for that convenience. We do not have to adapt; we have a choice. When it comes to progress, resistance is seen as regression.
- Joan (D1) a few members could join to attend a hybrid assembly and have some in-person fellowship at the same time.

3:30 – 3:45

Break – 15 Minute Stretch

Moved by XX (DX), seconded by XX (DX), that Ontario South establish a 3-year trial period for hybrid meetings and a hybrid AWSC test to guide decision-making for use in future years, and then establish a taskforce to implement these meetings.

Defeated

Discussion to motion:

- Amy (D16) the reason for the motion is for inclusion and she would like to see the hybrid meetings go forward immediately with the taskforce being established after the meetings should they wish to proceed.
- Justin (D2) as he understands the motion and the way task-forces work, it seems to him it should be the other way around. Establish a taskforce to establish a trial period.
- Dierdra (D4) and Di (D16) same thing.
- John (D9) the idea is stating that we want to go ahead and if so, how do we implement it, then implement a task-force. There is a little bit of pressure to do it.
- Donna (D33) you could say this is semantics, but her and another member put another motion that reverses this. She agrees that we need to establish a task-force that establishes all of this and evaluates it. This current motion doesn't give the executive enough direction in how to proceed.
- Nancy (D14) with 170 not represented, they need to be involved and asked whether they are interested.

- Jenny (D28) wanted to mention that it is not specific enough, it should say hybrid assembly not meetings.
- Robin (D4) if she is understanding this correctly the motion is to accept hybrid meetings, and if that is accepted, then create the taskforce. Correct?
- Amy (D16) sort of. The intention is to immediately start having hybrid meetings and then establish the taskforce after it is determined that we want to have hybrid meetings. The don't want to delay the start the meetings. They want to make a commitment to a 3-year trial period and if we do that then establish a task-force.
- Justin (D2) feels like people might be confusing thought force and taskforce and reiterated the difference.
- Diana (D14) her concern of jumping right into a trial period without establishing the logistics is as next year's assembly host committee chairperson – we need all the information in order to move forward.
- Marianne (D4) there are too many questions and variables, more finances specified in the report, i.e., 2 additional coordinators, all of this adds a lot of costs. Too much more information is required to jump directly to doing this.
- Janet (Area treasurer) 2026 AWSC and Assembly is already booked, it's going to take some time for the taskforce to get going. It sounds like from the motion and comments, we want this, but it won't happen next year b/c those are already booked, so we're looking at 2027 earliest, which gives time for a taskforce to be put together and get the information re financing into the budget for 2027 which hasn't been started yet.
- GW (D8) read out of the manual the definition of taskforce, so this seems like the next logical step.
- Gale (D12) believes the taskforce should come first, too many things to be looked into and steps to be taken.
- Sandy C (D5) referred back to the report by the thought force, which has made some very clear suggestions. Then the taskforce becomes the assembly planning group.

Deb F. called the vote on Motion (of this discussion item): **defeated**

Moved by XX (DX), seconded by XX (DX), a taskforce be established to implement a hybrid AWSC in 2026 or 2027 with the intention to offer a hybrid assembly with a full evaluation taking place throughout a three-year trial period. Carried

Discussion to motion:

- Donna (D33) 4:51 – there is not a lot more to say, the thought force presented a good report, we should follow their recommendation.
- John (D9) this is not a competition; this is a group of people who have been through hell on earth because they loved an alcoholic. This is unique in this world. This is Al-Anon, not a competition.
- Dave (D13) Is GR for a group that does have a hybrid meeting, with 2 members who are responsible for it and in his absence, there are other members who can take care of. They had some tech difficulties at the beginning but they got through it and the further they go the better they get, designing new ideas for the meeting and table set-up. A learning experience can be a good experience.
- Sandy (D23) it's very important that we have a taskforce to establish the guidelines b/c this will help make things a success. Anonymity, confidentiality, these are all issues that need to be established.
- Katie (D4) in order to find out, we need to try. We had a thought force working on it, we learn about Trust in a higher power and to let go and let God and we need to trust our taskforce to put just as much work into it and appreciate our trusted servants.

Discussion Topic #3: Single Trustee Process - A Timed Discussion - Jason W. – opened with info from the background document included with the assembly package and some further details information, not in this background doc:

What is a Regional Trustee? Regional Trustees come from the Areas within their Region. Their application is approved in accordance with their area's process, and each Area has the autonomy to decide that process. In Ontario South, Regional Trustees applications come before the Assembly where group representatives decide on approval. Approved applications are then submitted and scored by a regional committee on Trustees. Jason got to serve as one of the out-of-region delegates for a U.S. region in scoring the candidates that they received for their regional trustee. A regional trustee comes *from* an Area, but they are not *for* an Area. This means that once a trustee takes their seat on the board there is no differentiation between a Trustee at Large and a Regional Trustee. Regional Trustees bring their region's perspective, but all trustees are responsible for considering Worldwide Al-Anon in their discussions and decisions. The deadline for regional trustee application is August 15 however our Assembly is in October. This is why, in order to make the Aug. 15 deadline, we have to submit the candidate resume almost 1 year in advance.

What a trustee at large was in the background doc. Jason is part of Panel 64, as his first WSC was the 64th.

The WSC, (delegates, trustees and selected WSC staff) consider the application and decide whether to provide traditional approval before the candidate is elected by the board. It is a long, but very thoughtful and spiritual process.

The 2024 WSC heard the results of a thought force on eliminating regional trustees and had a conversation. The 2025 WSC heard a report from a Taskforce, charged with identifying options for creating a single process to select Trustees, modeled after the Trustee at Large selection process. At both conferences, Jason shared, at the mic, his learning from our Areas' conversation a few years ago. We were discussing whether to move the approval of regional trustee candidates from the Assembly, to the AWSC, in order to shorten the length of time a candidate's applications were in process. Jason had heard, very clearly, at that assembly, that the group's wanted to be included in the regional trustee candidate process. This is what he shared at the WSC in '24 and '25. He also expressed his concerns about the potential for no Canadian representation or the potential for the only Canadian representation to come from the same one or two areas, over and over.

The Taskforce has proposed three options. – outlined in the background doc.

Common differences – these differences from our current process are common across all 3 options: we would have one process for selecting all trustees, also the area delegate can express objection about any trustee applicant from their area.

Common improvements – Once regional trustees and trustees at large are elected, there is no difference in their roles at the board, they are all just trustees. One process aligns with the one role; this would also eliminate the longer timeline for becoming a regional trustee that results from the area nominating process before their application goes to the regional committee on trustees. This also provide more opportunity to have all the trustee positions filled.

Common drawbacks – under all 3 options the assembly or AWSC (because some areas do it at their AWSC), would no longer approve potential applicants for regional trustee. An areas' objections would be expressed only through their delegate. There is a concern or perception that the regional voice at the board level would be less well represented, and all 3 options create the potential for regional imbalance on the board.

Unique differences each option has from our current process: under option 1, the conference committee on trustees would incorporate regional perspective. Under option 3, there would be no regional committees on trustees formed. Regional input would be requested once candidates were put forward for an interview by the board.

Each option offered some similar improvements when compared to the other options. Options 1 & 2 would offer regions the opportunity to express approvals or objections to candidates in a similar way, and at the same time, for all candidates in each region, rather than just regional trustee applicants. Options 1 & 3 would eliminate the staff need to facilitate, and some years for delegates to participate in, 2 sets of nominating delegate committees, the regional committee on trustees and the conference committee on trustees. They would also eliminate the need to form regional committees on trustees and efforts to schedule training, which have proven difficult historically.

Option 3 was the only one to offer a unique improvement. It expands opportunity for regional feedback to all candidates from each region.

The options were relatively similar, with only 1 presenting a unique drawback. Running both a committee on conference trustees and regional committee on trustees at the same time under option 2 would create a perceived redundancy where both are scoring trustee applicants.

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding timed discussion: as a reminder, we are not looking for a motion, we are not voting, Jason is looking to understand. The question is,

- Do any of these options seem viable to you?
- If you agree a single process could be a good thing, are there any of these options you might prefer?
- If you agree a single process could be a good thing but don't like the options, do you have another suggestion?
- Marthanne (D28) is very much in favour of streamlining processes and not duplicating, which seems to be very cumbersome, but equally, believes it is important that we have a say as we move up the arms of service. We don't get a say in any of these processes. One of the questions we might ask is how to create a better process to choose trustees to make it a less lengthy process and encourage other members to step up to this position.
- Colleen (D23) what is the actual reason for having Regional Trustees and Trustees at large? A: When Al-Anon first started, it operated out of Stepping Stones, and when they incorporated, a board of Trustees was legally required. All the trustees

were out of New York city as that was close to where they were located. As time passed, the thought occurred that having a regional perspective and not having all the trustees coming from NY would be valuable as we grew and became a worldwide fellowship, growing across N. America. As for why we have Trustees at Large, he doesn't know but will try to find out.

- Kathleen (Website coord.) Can understand the intention behind moving from the regional trustees to trustees at large is coming from a desire to ease the workload and strengthen the conference but she doesn't feel that that will address the real problem. Here in Ontario South, we're seeing firsthand that many positions remain unfilled, some meetings are at risk of closure as a result, so we know that the delegate and officers are being asked to carry out extra duties and yes, that creates pressure. But that is a symptom of the declining participation, not the conference structure. Changing titles or regions won't necessarily reduce the workload, it will just spread it amongst other people. What is really needed is building engagement, helping members see service as a part of recovery, not as a burden, mentorship, sharing experience and supporting one another will do far more to lighten the load than removing regional connections ever could. Regional representation ensures that Ontario's voice and our unique realities of distance, diversity and bilingualism remain a part of the conversation. That connection strengthens unity. If we move to Trustees at Large, we risk losing that vital link between members and the board. Our focus should be renewal, not restructuring, reviving participation, supporting our groups and carrying the message to families who still need it.
- Di (D16) Concept 4 and Concept 1 – the area assembly should retain the right to vote in our regional trustees but maybe change the deadline from Aug. 1 to Dec. 1 which would give 4 months to choose someone prior to AWSC. Taking a vote per group member rather than just one DR at AWSC. If none of that is possible, they strongly feel that regional representation be maintained.
- Jason has asked about the possibility of changing the deadline and was told No, there is an interview process after the application is received, a supplementary question to be submitted and evaluated, which then goes to the next step, all to say in order to get to the WSC for the next year, the deadline of Aug is required.
- Loretta (D26 Area Open Lines) Concept 4, 42% of groups contribute to area, less than half of the groups are represented here. Use it or lose it. We need the participation at the grass roots.
- Patty (D4) agrees with many talking about Regional representation is important, so how do we make that process more user friendly, so we can continue to have it?
- Sue (D25 Literature coord) agrees that Regional representation is important but as a long-timer, she and many of her fellow members don't know enough about what a trustee is or what they do, so more education about that would be good.
- Joan (D1) is not getting the clarity – if we go to one process which eliminates the regional and/or trustees at large, will we still be represented? Were we advised that this is the year to elect a regional trustee?
- A: Yes, a notice went out at the beginning of the year and Jason did not get one expression of interest. He has no answer on whether trustees would be assigned regions and/or would we be represented.
- Sue (D6 Area Advisor) our current Regional trustee made it clear to her that she is responsible for Al-Anon, not Ont. South specifically. She brings that “flavour” to the table as a member of Ont. South but represents Al-Anon as a whole.
- Tina (D5) her group feels we should change it and Option 1 would be best as it would leave some regional input. Al-Anon is struggling to get people to serve and it's a bit of a conundrum as in many ways her time is being spent trying to acquire servants vs. helping friends and families of alcoholics.
- Karen (D23) if the trustees are doing the business portion of Al-Anon, do we have the experience to be trustees, i.e., do we need special expertise? If so, let's say there is only 1 of us with that expertise, we might not have the person with that expertise, never mind having a member willing to stand.
- A: The requirements to be a Trustee is to be an Al-Anon member in good standing for 10 years but is not aware of any other specific expertise. At some point in the selection process, those skills may play into one candidate getting chosen over another, he isn't sure. A lot of trustees have been delegates, but it is not a requirement. Pg. 173 of the manual outlines the requirements to be a Trustee. If interested, speak to your delegate who can provide you with an application form. In terms of special education, he thinks none.
- George (D12) read concepts 7 & 8. If we want to expand Al-Anon it is through a wide range of regional trustees, to ensure the diversity of beliefs and attitudes.
- Paul (D26) was approached 10 years ago to be a regional trustee while living in Montreal. At the time, he was too busy, but he can confirm that it isn't about having a special talent; it is about enough time in the program and loving it. He brought this up in his group, thinking nobody would be interested, but they all thought we should not give up our right to be part of the process. If we lose it, the idea of ever getting it back is likely none.
- Natalie (D28) is a kinesthetic and doesn't understand what a trustee does for us.
- A: They are the legal officers of the corporation. The building and the staff are Al-Anon, the organization. And then we have Al-Anon, the corporation. See p. 196 of the service manual. The legalities are dealt with throughout the year as they arise, while matters are dealt with at the WSC once per year and are more about Al-Anon, the organization.

DECISION POINT:

Because this is a timed discussion to provide the Delegate with Area input for the next World Service Conference, there is no decision to be made by the Assembly.

7:00 – 8:30

Verbal Reports: Coordinators and Others, not included in the minutes.

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)	Crystal P.
Alateen Coordinator	Judith W.
OSAAC Chairperson	Wyatt C.
Archives Coordinator	Valerie P.
Group Records Coordinator	Christina L.
Forum Coordinator	Sharon R.
Literature Coordinator	Sue M.
Open Lines Coordinator	Loretta V.
Public Outreach Coordinator	Vacant
Technology Coordinator	Anthony S.
Trillium 2026 Chairperson	Don V.
Website Coordinator	Kathleen S.
Literature Office Committee Report	Gwen D.
Literature Distribution Centre Report	Linda P.

The following two reports were not provided prior to Assembly so the verbal has been included in the minutes.

- Kathleen (website coordinator) pointed out where you can find the Canadian address to the WSO on the Ont. South website – contact page, along with a lot of other information. The new website is working well. Has had contact with other website coordinators across the country to share experience and she can report that ours is one of the most advanced.
- Gwen (D6 Area advisor, Literature Office Committee (LOC) chairperson), LOC committee meets prior to AWSC and Assembly. Other committee members were introduced. Dates: remainder vacation days to be used up: LDC will be closed Dec 18 at 1:00 p.m. Will reopen Jan. 12 at 10:00 a.m. For AWSC (May 29, 30, 31 in Oshawa) cut-off for orders to be picked up at AWSC is April 20, payment to be made by April 27. Assembly 2026 (Nov. 7-9) there will be literature available there but no cut-off dates for pre-orders yet. Literature office has moved along well and they feel like they are filling the mandate of Ont. South which is to keep it open and running. Encourage your fellow members to order, perhaps have draws for books, book sales are down. As of Nov. 10, there will be some minimal changes to prices of some literature.
- LDC: consignment orders for events can be arranged, contact the office to find out more. Allow 6 weeks prior in case it has to be ordered. Also please ensure you know exactly what you want. It is not necessary to use the jot form to order. You can do it by phone or email. The donation envelope you receive with your orders can be readdressed with the Canadian address and send it there. The holiday bundle is going to be released – email will go out next week. Included this year is Many Voices One Journey, the Al-Anon Family Groups Classic edition and the pamphlet Alcoholism, the Family Disease.

Sunday, October 26, 8:30 a.m.

Opening, Welcome - Deb F.

Traditions, Concepts, Warranties,

Introductions of Executive and Coordinators – Deb F.

Host Committee Announcements – Debbie E. – 160 paid participants at this year's assembly

Ask it Basket: Answers: Committee members: Sue G. (D6, Area Advisor), Gwen D. (D6, Area Advisor), Sue H. (D10), Sharon M. (D8), Nancy D. (D14), Katie L. (D4)

- Sue H (D10), found the learning was so valuable to bring back to the group as to where to find things.
Q1: Regarding the single nomination process for regional trustee, would like to know how much power the members will lose? A: Al-Anon members don't lose any power as Tradition 2 says our leader are trusted servants. Studying the requirements for becoming a trustee, it's very rigorous and they trustees represent Al-Anon as a whole, not a group or an area, and have to have at least 10 years of continuous service.
Q2: The delegate said there will be no new literature in the new year. When can we expect the "2026 Groups at Work" to be available? A: They usually come out every 3 years, so their expectation is 2026-2029, they are done as needed/required to

update things. There are updates online. It takes a while for the WSO executive to make the changes after the 2025 version ends, so best guess w/b some time in 2026.

Q3: What is and where/how do I find the Area Policy & Guidelines Manual? A: Online, at Al-Anon.alateen.on.ca in the For members tab / Area Policy & Guideline Manual. On some devices (like a phone) you may search in the menu at the top right-hand corner (shown by three lines), in For Members tab. Part 2: What is it? Look in section 1, General, topic 2, states the purpose of the manual.

- Nancy (D14) found the experience a real privilege and they really used the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. Q1: Do most groups have a treasurer's report on a regular basis? Is there a guideline on this? Same question for meeting minutes. A: Yes, it is common. A: pg. 57-58 in the current service manual contains the information on this.
- Q2: what contributions have been made by current Alateen members regarding electronic Alateen meetings? Do their AMIAs speak on their behalf? Are they members of Al-Anon in regards to having their voices heard through the links of service? How can I "hear" their opinions as this is important discussion continues to take place? A: Judith W., is the Alateen coordinator at the following contact for a conversation about Alateen os.alateen.coordinator@gmail.com 647-215-3048 tel/texting. AMIAs do not speak for Alateen members. Yes, Alateens are members of Al-Anon. How one might "hear" what Alateens have to say, attend an event when Alateens are present at panels, such as the one happening in Kitchener next weekend where Alateen will be on a panel. It's important to give members an opportunity to attend events where Alateens are present to be able to hear them. One can also purchase recordings.
- Katie (D4) wanted to thank all of us for not having too many questions, they were up late! Q1: How many global groups are there? A: Contact WSO who are happy to receive calls and talk to members about these kinds of questions. Also refer to the 2022-2025 service manual where there is information on the History of Al-Anon, with the number of groups listed up to 2022. Part 2: How many groups are represented at WSC? A: All groups are represented by their Area Delegate. If you want to dig deeper, we suggest contacting WSO to start. Q2: Can a group make a "directed donation" to a special/specific project to WSO? For example, can our group send a donation to directly support the Professional Outreach Young People project? A: Refer to the 2022-2025 service manual, pg. 103, Contributions to the WSO was read out. Q3: Regarding using pronouns in our Steps/Traditions/Concepts of Service. Is the WSO working on updating the use of pronouns to reflect the diversity of our membership? We refer to God as "he". Is this practice being updated? A: We suggest the WSO, they have an easy tel. #, 1-888-AlAnon, and their literature references in the closing to "take what you like and leave the rest".

Delegate's Update - Jason W.

- Answers to questions posed yesterday: How many groups? WSC structure, Canada, U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Bermuda. As of April 2025. Does not know how many groups are in Bermuda but fyi, Bermuda and the state of N. Carolina are one area, so concludes not that many groups as Bermuda's population is less than 64k people, so smaller than Peterborough.
- Number of geographic groups in Canada, 979 Al-Anon groups, 28 Alateen groups, in the U.S., 0,796 geographic groups, 498 Alateen groups.
- Total # groups 12,300 approx. 40 general service offices including the UK and Ireland share one, Australia and Mexico have their own. We have 6 evolving service structures including Iran and Lithuania. We have 13 international Al-Anon Information Services, including Turkey and Hungary and there are collections of groups in places like China and Zimbabwe. China has 100's of meetings but he doesn't have an exact # and communicating with groups there can be challenging. When Al-Anon starts up in a country, it might begin as a collection of groups and then grow large enough to form an Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), evolving a service structure to the point it becomes a general service office is handled by the WSO's International Coordination Committee. That committee decides whether to pass the request to establish a general service office onto the board of trustees who decides whether to approve the request.
- Why did we keep Trustees at Large? A proposal to add Regional Trustees was voted on by the 1968 WSC. Details on pg. 139 in Many Voices, One Journey. A Regional Trustee Trial Plan in the early 2000's is mentioned on pg. 333.
- Taskforce: Area Inventories – Jason is chairing, charge (in part) to create a presentation encouraging and inspiring areas to conduct regular area inventories. They will give this presentation at next year's WSC to encourage the delegates to get excited about area inventories and then take that energy and inspiration back home. You may recall that Ont. South recently went through this process and the findings were shared on what we were doing well and what could be done better, at this past spring's AWSC.
- District minutes – please ask your district secretary to send Jason the district meeting minutes – it helps him keep in touch with our area. Send to his address OntarioSouthDelegate@hotmail.com
- 2 requests after this weekend: think about the joy in service and share with other members the joy you find and 2, ask another member to join you in service. Jason would not be serving as the current delegate if somebody had not asked him.
- Stepping Stones visit was described.

Motions not presented at Assembly to be read: None

Open Mic – personal sharing and reflections:

- Nancy (D14) having been in service at this table over the years she had an amazing experience on the way here as she had a blow-out on the trip but had help from a man who witnessed it, followed her to the service station she made it to. He helped her and, in that process, they shared he was an AA member and they had a great connection while they sorted it out. She had the privilege of meeting Lois W. at the conference in Montreal in the 80's.
- Natalie (D28) 2 years ago she stepped down for personal reasons and felt really horrible about that, but she saw the heart on the floor beside the mic which is confirmation. She's not going anywhere.
- Sue G (D6) higher power is so present for her today. One of the Ask-It-Basket questions was about the pronouns. She referenced the charter in the 2022-2025 Service Manual which states that "No changes are to be made in the Al-Anon or Alateen Traditions, the Steps, the Concepts of Service (except the descriptive text), or the General Warranties of the Conference Charter (item 12) without written consent of three-quarters of the Al-Anon Family Groups." Pg. 228. She received a book, ODAT, from Mary C., a previous and now deceased delegate. In that book, on Lois's birthday, is Lois's signature. She feels so humble and continues to learn, so she needs to turn it over to H.P.
- Louise McF (D22) these weekends just proves how much our HP is in charge as everything went so smoothly. Wants to thank the executive and host committee.
- Barb B (D28) current DR – this is a challenge at the end of a weekend when you're a little tired and it breaks the emotion barrier. They just had their fall conference last weekend and now it's assembly. It felt overwhelming but the familiar faces and ones not seen for a while gives the boost and the joy.
- Miranda (D28) this is not her first assembly, came her first year (17 years ago with her sponsor) and has no memory and the second time she also doesn't remember much except for the exquisite way that the business is conducted. She can take that back to her group. It's been really special to attend with other GRs from her district and get to know them better. It's not just her in her group; it's the other members in her group. The treasurer's report blew her away as financial matters are one of the ways the disease affected her.
- Cory (D31) wanted to share her experience with service; she often hears frustration in members voices at the lack of willingness, and hears judgement, shame and expectation. For her, when she hears that being presented, when people are asking for people to step up, she starts to retreat. She worries that other members might also experience this. Newcomers are still living in the trauma. When we're asking, if we could be mindful of how we're asking, this might be helpful. If you let it go, someone else might pick it up. We let our fear get in the way of letting go.
- Sue (D25 Area Literature coord) wanted to thank everyone for their participation – she learns so much and sees this program in action. It's like an alumni weekend as you get to see all of the people she has met, primarily in service, and this may be the only place she'll see you. It's so inspiring to see first-timers. There is something she gets from attending Assembly that she doesn't get anywhere else. She really appreciated the finance workshop as you didn't talk about this in an alcoholic family.
- Diana (D14) they are looking forward to hosting next year, she has an amazing group of GRs who have her back. It wasn't on her radar to host but Jason (Delegate), who attends the Delta meeting, and they got to speaking and he suggested that D14 host assembly. At the next district meeting she suggested it and a bid was put together. It took some time, and they are really excited to welcome all of us to Burlington at the Holiday Inn in November 2026.
- John (D9) he lived in 16 different locations by the time he was 15. This weekend is about someone who was lost, isolated and hopeless finding your family. The consensus reached no matter the differences in opinion, is amazing.
- Judith (Area Alateen coordinator) she feels privileged to be holding the position of Alateen coordinator this year, her 2 daughters grew up in Alateen and are now adults who have made it into Al-Anon. They don't have fear as a result. If you didn't get a chance to talk to her this weekend, please reach out, she is happy to jump on zoom. She can never repay what her family has received from Al-Anon and Alateen.
- Don (D25, Trillium Chair 2026) can relate very much to the D14 DR as he is the Trillium Chair 2026. At AWSC 2024, Monique (Trillium Chair 2024) talked to him about Trillium and invited him to sit on the committee, further telling him she thought he would be a brilliant chair. He then talked to Shannon, the then-chair of Trillium, and that's how he became shadow chair. The journey so far has been amazing.
- Bernadette (D25) this is her first assembly and is so appreciative for the opportunity to be here and the gift her group has given her to be trusted to come and represent them. The things she heard in the workshop gave her the feeling that it was OK to be here, people understand. She was encouraged all weekend long. Hugs, getting to know more people and seeing people seen elsewhere, having dinner together and the laughs and Karaoke, all of it was wonderful.
- Debbie E (D31) has been reflecting on the last year and a half, she hasn't driven across Kingston in the past year without looking for available restaurants and services. It's been on her mind for the past 1.5 years. She shared her experience of chairing the assembly committee. She loves assemblies, AWSCs and the opportunity to get together with other members in

service and shared about our mom (Debbie is my sister) and how she did service and did Alateen and ensured that she and two of her sibs attended.

10:09

Closing

Deb F.

Assembly Highlights:

Motions passed:

Moved by XX (DX), seconded by XX (DX) to accept the voting procedures as Deb F. presented. Carried.

Moved by XX (DX) seconded by XX (DX) to accept the 2024 minutes as amended. Carried.

Moved by XX (DX) seconded by XX (DX) that the 2026 budget be approved as presented. Carried

Moved by XX (DX), seconded by XX (DX), that Ontario South establish a 3-year trial period for hybrid meetings and a hybrid AWSC test to guide decision-making for use in future years, and then establish a taskforce to implement these meetings.
Defeated

Moved by XX (DX), seconded by XX (DX) a taskforce be established to implement a hybrid AWSC in 2026 or 2027 with the intention to offer a hybrid assembly with a full evaluation taking place throughout a three-year trial period. Carried

Financial information for your groups:

\$471.48 CAD group, (as of Oct 3/25) is the cost of the services provided by the WSO.

\$196.19 per group, per year from Ontario South to meet the 2026 budget, based on 272 groups as of Jan. 2025.