ONTARIO SOUTH ASSEMBLY
November 6-8, 2026
Holiday Inn Burlington Hotel & Conference Centre

Minutes

Friday, November 6

Opening, Welcome - Deb F.
Traditions, Concepts & Warranties
Introductions
Host Committee Announcements - Diana S.
Housekeeping & Other Announcements - Deb F.

Workshop: GR 101 - Jenn T.
The Links of Service and More

Saturday, November 7

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Vote to Establish Procedures
Oral Motion by XX (DXX) to accept the voting procedures as explained. Seconded by XX (DXX). – Motion carried

Principles of Making an Informed Group Decision
Timekeeper – volunteer – Matt (D6)
Ask-It-Basket and Items for Consideration Forms
Ask-It-Basket Committee – 4 volunteers – Cory (D31), Ann (D8), Terri D6), Sheila (D26)
Volunteers to distribute ballots this afternoon for executive elections – Linda (D26 - LDC Manager), Susan B (D5), Fran M (D4), Judy B (D10), Angela C (D14)

Approval of 2025 Assembly Minutes – no errors or omissions

Moved by XX (DXX) to accept minutes as submitted, seconded by XX (DXX) – motion carried

Delegate's Report – will be uploaded to the Ont. South website - Jason W.

- AFG Connects and Al-Anon.org Online store have both been down for several days. Update rec'd from the WSO reads "in response to a risk detected by our monitoring systems, the World Service Office took the Al-Anon online store and AFG Connects systems offline last week, while we applied security patches. Given the nature of Al-Anon customizations in our soon-to-be-replaced system, installation of these patches is complex and requires significant time and attention. In fact, it has taken longer than originally anticipated. Our team is actively working with our third-party software and our IT vendors to apply and test the updates. Once careful testing is complete, we will restore service. In the meantime, the WSO has our systems offline to continue to ensure that our data remains secure. We know this has been an

inconvenience for many of you, including those preparing for Assemblies, but we knew we had to err on the side of protecting our member's information." Take-away: there was no security breach, but there was a risk of a breach, so AFG Connects and the online store were taken offline while that risk could be fixed.

- The chairperson of the Board of Trustees has regularly scheduled presentations several times / year and the next one is this afternoon. Obviously, Jason cannot attend as he is at Assembly but will review later and provide any updates tomorrow.
- 91 voting members present at this year's conference, 2/3rds are Delegates, 1/3 made up of select staff members, volunteers and trustees. There are a few vacancies in the Trustees pool, if full, that number would have been larger.
- A group conscience is taken each year at the beginning on whether group photos can be taken and this year the vote was yes. Photos were shared in the report given at Assembly but those including people will be removed from the report before it is posted to the Ont. S. website.
- Finances: 2025 auditors issued a "clean" opinion
- 2025 projected deficit $170,000 USD, ended as a surplus of $132,011 USD – the key message to share **"consistent giving is key"**
- $357.97 USD = cost per group to provide all the services WSO provides – **CAD $502.31** (it is more than what was reported in the Spring due to higher exchange rate and costs) – this is not *dues* or *fees*; it is just an amount made up of math. *All* contributions are gratefully received, give what you can, when you can.
- Contributions make up the largest source of revenue, followed by literature. Other income is made up of investment income and fund transfers and currency adjustments. The smallest piece of the pie is magazines.
- Top selling books (there are 5) reported.
- $358,000 projected by end of 2026. Approx. 5% of total budget.
- Literature sales are 8% below budget projections. Contributions remain above budget projections solely because of bequests. As bequests are a one-time occurrence, this is not a sustainable source.
- Literature sales are growing, but slowly.
- **Choosing a group name discussion** – at issue is whether "identifiers" can be in the names of newly registered groups. Existing groups were not being asked to change their names, but new groups were asked not to have identifiers (for Men, Women, Adult Children, Grandparents, Parents, etc.). Jason held 4 town hall sessions to inform members and get feedback to carry to the WSC. There was no consensus out of these town halls.
- The WSC passed a motion to provide guidance to WSO staff to:
  Allow community identifiers in group names. Consistently notify the Area Delegate & Area Group Records Coordinator whenever a group submits a group registration or name change containing a community identifier, to request that these trusted servants have a conversation with the group to ensure that the group conscience is to welcome anyone affected by someone else's alcoholism in accordance with our Third Tradition and to advise the WSO of the result and the decision regarding whether to register the group. Develop a plan to increase education opportunities to share experience, strength and hope with Area trusted servants on how to be welcoming to newcomers, especially those who do not match the group's community identifier, and to have conversations with group members regarding group names and welcoming. When the WSO notifies the Delegate and Group Records Coordinator of a new group with an identifier in their name, if those Area trusted servants don't respond within 2 weeks, then the WSO will contact this group, to make sure that they will welcome everyone affected by alcoholism. If the groups says they will not welcome everyone, then the group will not be registered.
- **Single Trustee Process** – was reviewed and discussed at Assembly 2025, this feedback was taken back to WSC 2026. WSC approved: a 3-year trial plan will include an expanded process, Option #1 but with regional considerations. Begins in 2029 (as WSO will be busy due to the international conference in 2028 and the next international general services meeting).
- WSC is aware of the desire for some sort of service tool around **use of A.I.** The new service manual has a statement around use of copyright and A.I. on the inside of the first page. Feeding our material into AI tools violates copyright. "If you aren't paying for the product, you are the product." If you are not paying for it, everything you feed into it can be used, thereby becoming the product.

- **Passing it On** – task force charged to create toolkits, study guides for service. WSO is looking for content developers. Application window closed Nov. 15 – an email was sent out from Jason seeking members to serve. Content developer phase expected to fun Jan 15 – June 15/27. Members w current or past service experience at any level are encouraged to apply. No travel is required.
- **Convention Reports** – Attendance was down at the 2026 Vancouver AA International conference "because of outside issues". 32,000 attended, just under 2,000 Al-Anon members.
- **Al-Anon International Conference** – Sept. 2027 Registration opens – Estimated cost solo $1,776 – with a friend $1,278 each.
- **Core Systems Overall** – Selected and licenced new system at the end of March, completion expected 2028.
- Applying Step Four to encourage Area Inventories – a Task Force that Jason chaired.

Questions and Answers:

- Debbie E. (D31) – regarding "identifiers", for example, if a man wants to attend a group identified as for women, he must be welcomed? **A**: Yes.
- Linda (D26 – LDC Manager) – reiterated that regarding the service manual and Groups at Work, both old versions need to be destroyed and the 2026 to 2029 versions of both available at this assembly.
- Carmen (D16) – wouldn't it be more accurate to say that the auditor didn't find any material or inaccuracies, rather than saying it is a "clean" audit. In AI, is there any information about the inaccuracies found and to offset our carbon footprint? **A:** the phrase "clean" is the one used by the WSO. Also, it was his impression. Question 2; it is a discussion and no research into the inaccuracies or carbon footprint implications were part of the discussion, where members share their experience, strength and hope.
- Jeanette (D8) – asked about AI – is copilot OK because it is paid for? Which AI is the "paid for" one? A: Jason is not comfortable endorsing one AI platform over another. But paid for versions is what WSO is using.
- Kathy (D31) – their group was started for women as someone was traumatized having men in their groups, so with these criteria, they have to open it up? A: as members we have to figure out a way to keep members safe, comfortable and welcomed while aligning with our Traditions. The traditions states that the only requirement for membership be a problem of alcoholism in a family or friend. It has happened in a particular district with a men's meeting when a women showed up. The conversation was to welcome this member and educate them of the specific meeting type, which then meant they got the needed meeting that night and likely found another meeting for future.
- Keena (D28) – is the financial period by calendar year? A: not sure, will have to find out.
- Katelyn D (D28) – re financial summary – projected deficit while simultaneously funding projects. Does this mean we are dipping into a reserve? A: Yes. There is an operating fund and a reserve fund. The RF has been built over time and is in case of emergencies (such as Co-Vid), which is 1 year of operating expenses. We use the funds in the RF to better the fellowship (which the various projects are for).
- Louise (D18) – wanted more information on the cost of the 2 different projects mentioned at WSO. A: the amounts were mentioned in the report from Assembly 2025, which can be checked and shared tomorrow.
- Brian (D22) – re bequests, how does the WSO communicate the concept of "transfer of wealth" to members. A: Service manual Pgs. 104 – 105 talks about this and there is also a pamphlet which covers it. Also, by passing this information along to your groups. We do not accept funds from outside sources, i.e., non-members. In terms of the mechanics of this, it is left up to the individual member.
- Mona (D33) – she takes away that the Reserve must be replenished. A: currently the reserve has more than 1-years expenses, so the projects are to use the excess. At the end of the year if there is a surplus, it is put into the reserve. There is also a transfer payment in the budget planning process. This process balances the reserve. Q 2: is there a budgeted amount recommended to groups of what to donate/year to WSO? A: Yes, the Canadian amount was included in the report for WSO. For Ontario South it is included in the financial documents provided for Assembly and will be covered in the treasurer report.
- Janet (D14) – International conference is in Minneapolis but where, what hotel? A: Al-Anon.org will have more detail, go there upon registration opening in September. Janet further shared that she went to a

meeting identified as an adult child meeting and was told by the greeter the identifier of the meeting, and as she didn't fit that group, was then offered a separate meeting at a different table, which made her felt uncomfortable.

- Terri (D6) – questioned about the Passing It On task force – A: Jason is not sure of the make-up of it but would be surprised if there are no trustees on it.
- Lynn (D18) – the WSO for 2027 will be held at which hotel. A: Marriot Newport News – same as in 2026.
- Sheldon (D22) – helps out on the phone lines and took a call from an 8-year-old and had not idea how to direct them but directed them to an Alateen meeting. He feels this needs to be addressed.
- Missy (D13) – re the budget and a deficit expected last year and ended up as a surplus. Is the difference made up of bequests? A: in 2025 the difference was made up by member's contributions as it was communicated. This year we are not expecting bequests to make up the difference, we are simply sharing information. If there is a shortfall on Dec. 31, it will be pulled from the reserve fund.
- Deb (D16) Is Zoom recording option safe to use? A: is it paid or is it free? Deb – how would you know? A: it is the GTAIS zoom account, so is paid for. Jason offers the suggestion a reading in Courage to Change regarding 7th Tradition "A group that cannot fill its service positions is not fully self-supporting". Therefore, it is the easy option to have Zoom record, but are we taking away an opportunity to serve?
- Cathy (D31) could WSO announce quarterly the report of how they are doing in terms of the deficit or surplus? A: the Chairperson of the Board put out a letter a few times/per year in which the information is presented. The next one is today and Jason may have updated financial information which if so, will include in tomorrow's update. Q: how would we get this information normally, moving forward? A: Jason might send out information via the Area secretary, or if it was near to Assembly or AWSC, it could be passed along there.
- Cindy (D4) – re recording at meetings, she is also district secretary, and this was asked. To her, it feels like a violation of the people in the room but is there a policy against this. A: Jason is reluctant to tell trusted servants how to do their jobs. Secretaries of Area have traditionally recorded meetings to augment note taking. The recordings are deleted after the meeting.
- Jason also brought to our attention the notice about copyright in the service manual and read it out.
- A question from the online member Carolyn (D26): last year Ont. S. was low in the contribution levels. A: Jason refreshed our memories that this was the case last year, per %, which is given to each Delegate each year. We were tied for lowest geographic area for % of groups that contributed to WSO. This year we are not the worst, but we are still near the bottom. In the 50% range of contributions.

Workshop: Finances in Al-Anon - Janet B.
This is the same workshop that was presented at Assembly 2025 and is on the Ontario S. Website. Details are therefore not included in these minutes.

Questions:

- Karen (D19)- Inquired about GTAIS costs, but Janet didn't have that info.
- Brian (D22) – Not included on the spreadsheet was liability insurance that many groups have to pay for; looking for feedback from other groups and wondering whether there is a way to consolidate with other Groups. A: it's a good question; Janet is lucky that their group's insurance costs are low. There is no umbrella policy for Al-Anon.
- Michelle (D21) – have been talking about the same thing in their group.

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch Break

Reconvene with Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer – Deb

Roll Call - Carrie E. – 138 voting members

Treasurer's Report - Janet B. – Janet presented the financial documents and budget sent with the package in Sep.

- We are ¾ of the way through the year (YTD Income statement at 9/30/26) and have met only 45% of the budget needs. This is why regular donations are required. Don't wait until the end of the year if possible.
- $65,412 in reserve. Total funds $83,881. We are in a better financial position than at this date last year.

Discussion Topic #1: Proposed Budget 2027

- Janet presented the proposed 2027 Budget.
- There were 2 errors in the budget sent out in Sep. A corrected sheet was presented at Assembly. The errors were in the Group donations line and equalized travel.
- Estimation of group donations per year needed to make the budget = $186 per group, per year (based on 270 groups)
- YTD of each group's donations so far has been calculated and information sheets are available from Janet.

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the budget:

- Sharon (D8) – will the page where the errors were made be revised and sent? A: Janet feels it is immaterial as the numbers on the actual income statement are correct. Q 2: wants to acknowledge that we are in tough economic times, and she doesn't see this reflected in this budget. A: We do look for ways to spend money responsibly, and we are working towards this with the hybrid, which also costs money as we've had to purchase equipment to do that.
- Tina (D11) wants to address expectations when it comes to group contributions. Her concern isn't so much about spending as in expectations as to what groups are going to contribute. She then related some figures from what we expect vs. what we actually receive. This is not criticism but more a reality. She wants to suggest that we set our expectations based on the previous year. A: If we did that, we would be projecting a loss, which is also not desirable. We set the budget higher than we expect. This is why we sometimes have a surplus, as we don't spend what was budgeted.
- Mandy (D18) with regards to Assembly expenses, do we anticipate with the 2027 model, will it incur higher or lower expenses. Will it help us initially or will there be more costs up front? A: There are a lot of unknowns, such as how many people would come in person vs. virtual, that could also change our hotel needs/costs. Mandy – if we already have a trend, of online vs. in person, will that give us an indication of what is to come? A: Unknown.
- Miriam (D28) – will the electronic Alateen needs incur more expenses due to increased police checks? A: Yes.
- Katelyn (D28) – pls speak on the factors used to determine the Assembly expenses for 2027, just given the fact that the 2026 budget was so much higher. Why the reduction in the budget for 2027? A: 2026 is an election year which means a central location which is more expensive. Therefore, an election year is budgeted higher. We do the best we can with the bid, we are lucky this year that the hotel is not as expensive as other central location years.
- Fran (D4) – thank you for all your hard work. Applause. Comments about contributions for each group. $186 / year to go to Ontario South = $1 / meeting for the year. She is aware that we budget wisely. She has never had as much support as she has gotten from Al-Anon.
- Lynne (D18) – curious why the AMIAS police checks have to be verified by a lawyer? A: Jason – part of the requirements that the WSC set out in the Alateen Safety and Behavioral requirements are that the requirements be reviewed by a local legal counsel. This is not something that can be changed.
- Gale (D12) – we haven't gotten as much as we want for donations (A: 50% of the budget), is wondering whether this represents a drop as are there less groups giving. A: only half of the groups are represented at Assembly today. Generally speaking, the half that are not represented also do not contribute as the information does not get passed along.
- Linda (D16) – thank you for presenting a balanced budget. If we look at the 2026 budget compared to 2027. In some lines, budget amounts are less than in 2026. Since prices haven't come down, clearly, we are making an effort to decrease costs.

- Melinda (D8) – 2025 actuals were $38k, budget was $53k, so we came in $15k under. We are still budgeting more than our actuals were for 2025 and 2024. Although we want to be aspirational about getting groups to contribute but we're budgeting quite a bit higher than our actuals received. A: we budget on the side of caution, so expenses may be higher than expected. Q: it looks like we are budgeting based on crossing our fingers and praying that we are going to make $12k more than last year. A: Exactly.

DECISION POINT:
Should the proposed budget for 2027 be adopted by Ontario South Assembly in 2026?

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the decision point.

- Cindy P (D4) – has spent a lot of her career working in finance and knows how difficult it is to create a budget. This one seems fair and accountable for all the expenses we will incur in 2027.
- Louise (D18) – It is her understanding that it is inappropriate for groups in service positions such as AIS and Areas to make donations to groups above them without prior approval of the group. It seems that the Area acted on their own in this fashion, which should have been a request from Assembly. She is not comfortable voting for this budget. Deb: tried to clarify what contribution Louise is referring to as the executive are not aware of any contribution of this nature having been made but thanked Louise for her comment.

Moved by XX (DXX) seconded by XX (DXX) that the proposed budget for 2027 be adopted by the Ontario South Assembly 2026. Carried.

Discussion Topic #2: Electronic Alateen in Ontario South - Jason W. & Katy – See Background Information which was sent with the assembly package.
Additional points made by Jason and note: AMIAS – Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service – E = Electronic

Teens can't just show up unannounced at an Alateen meeting, either alone, or with a friend; they need to be interviewed beforehand by an AMIAS-E in each meeting they want to attend. This is because the AMIAS-Es in that meeting need to know the teen who is attending. This process includes showing photo identification and providing emergency contact information for a custodial parent or legal guardian. Each electronic Alateen group needs to maintain its own list of vetted teenagers. They cannot share their lists of vetted teens between groups because the AMIAS-Es in that group need to know the teen who is attending. Much of the feedback Jason has been hearing this year is around the requirement for teens to show photo ID. Verifying the age of members attending ensures that we, as a fellowship, are in compliance the laws that govern online interactions w young people. There are laws that impose strict conditions for online interactions involving children under the age of 13. While laws can be seen as outside issues we are not above them and we have to comply with the law. Another question received is about not being able to change the World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. The teens attending electronic Alateen meetings could come from any anywhere within the World Service Conference structure. This document has one set of minimum requirements for electronic alateen across the entire World Service Conference structure. It needs to meet the most stringent requirements of any jurisdiction within that geography. This simplifies and already complex task but it also ensures that teenagers living anywhere in the WSC structure can attend any electronic Alateen meeting in the area that is part of the WSC. Tradition Four tells us that our groups are autonomous, but not when we are doing something that could affect Alateen, Al-Anon or AA as a whole. And Alateen and the internet are bigger than Ontario South. In person Alateen meetings with an electronic component are often referred to by our members as hybrid meetings. The electronic Alateen motions that were passed by the World Service Conference this year included an 18-month grace period for areas to decide whether to opt in and to make any necessary arrangements. Hybrid meetings are included in the World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Those requirements need hybrid meetings to have an AMIAS in the physical room and at least two AMIAS-Es online. In Areas that decide not to opt in to electronic meetings, those meetings (which are hybrid) need to switch to in-person only by September 2027. There is a slight difference for an AMIAS who wants to certify as an AMIAS-E. AMIAS-Es would be required to obtain a police

records check and a vulnerable sector screening every 2 years. Current AMIAS requirements in Ont. S. include obtaining those police checks every 3 years. The difference is because the World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements need to meet the most stringent legal requirements of any jurisdiction in the World Service Conference Structure.

Electronic Thought Force findings – Katy (D4) – AMIAS – in May the AWSC heard a presentation on electronic Alateen and decided to forward the idea to this assembly for your consideration today. A second motion was approved at AWSC to brainstorm ideas and develop strategies for the establishment of the World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements in Ont. South. This thought force met several times btw Spring and Fall, considered the document, thought about the facets that are within area autonomy and what implementation could look like in Ontario S. if Assembly decides to opt in to electronic Alateen. The thought force included participation from the Area Alateen coordinator, AAPP, Alateen members, AMIASs and the Area Delegate as the Chair and liaison to the Area Executive. The thought force made one of its meetings focused on the requirement for Alateen members to show ID. Here are some of the questions that came up for consideration:

- Some teens may have their legal name on id like a birth certificate, vs. their preferred name on photo id like a high school id card.
- Not every teen is allowed to hold their own id and obtaining it from a parent may be an obstacle.

That dovetails into the next point raised; not every Alateen or potential alateen member has a parent who is supportive of them pursuing recovery in our program. The thought force also discussed the training of AMIAS-Es. The current Alateen coordinator will not be able to provide the training required. We don't know how many Al-Anon members would be interested in serving electronic Alateen and as such, don't know the potential demand for training in Ont. S. One potential solution discussed was having the training conducted by experienced AMIAS-Es. Another potential solution is adding the AMIAS-E training to the responsibilities of the AAPP. The World Service Conference Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements state that teens must be interviewed before they attend an electronic Alateen meeting, but areas can decide what that process looks like and how it is conducted.

Some additional points from the thought force:

- Need to know what the interest level is before we can decide.
- Interview – conducted by one or two AMIAS-Es (split on this point) but should include an Alateen member in it.
- To be conducted by video conference seems most logical but can be in person.
- Should not be a rigid one-way process, asking the teen questions but be less formal, and more conversational.
- Should it be called something other than "interview", such as registration or orientation info session and getting to know you.
- Logistics and roles – within Area autonomy. One AMIAS-E could welcome Alateens in the meeting room where their ID can be checked against the list of approved teens before admitting them to a breakout room where the meeting takes place. This would preserve Alateen's privacy by not asking them to show ID in front of the whole group.
- AMIAS-Es who sponsor in-person Alateen meetings already receive training but the thought force discussed potential emergencies that could arise, unique to an electronic Alateen meeting. These include a destructive teen in the meeting, an teen who has not been pre- interviewed arriving in the meeting, an unknown adult in the physical room with an Alateen, an unknown teen friend in the physical room with an approved Alateen. The thought force felt most of these situations could be solved with the welcome room idea. Destructive teens can be handled in many ways, with removing the teen from the meeting kept as an absolute last resort.
- AMIAS-Es as well as electronic Alateen meeting formats used by the meeting chairperson can communicate what is and is not appropriate in an electronic Alateen meeting.
- Group sponsors need to maintain a list of information on Alateens interviewed and approved for meetings to that specific electronic group. Things like how that information is stored or which cloud service are used, etc., are again, matters of area autonomy.

- The thought force agreed that the AMIAS-Es sponsoring that electronic Alateen group needs access to the Alateen members info. It was suggested that AMIAS-Es ask teens regularly whether this information has changed.
- There has been no guidance from WSO staff that the thought force found on how long an Alateen's information should be kept, but it was agreed that we should delete information gathered once the Alateen ages out. Reasonable t keep information for one year after the Alateen has stopped attending the meeting. This minimizes the amount of personal information being stored in the unlikely event of a data breach. However, maintaining a list solely of names and birth years like in our regular meetings, could be kept in case an Alateen returns after 1 year (to avoid having to undergo the full interview process again, could be asked to updated information at that time).

Jason W.

- What if we say Yes? – Ont. S. would need to develop its own internal procedures.
- Delegate signs opt-in form each year. Meeting same deadline for AMIAS-E recertification.
- Delegate signing this form means that Alateen Hybrid meetings could continue in Ont. S.
- What if we say No? – Ontario S. could not open any electronic Alateen meeting.
- Hybrid Alateen meetings would need to shout down their electronic components by September 2027.
- Ont. South AMIAS could not serve electronic Alateen in other Areas of the World Service Conference structure.
- Alateen members living in Ontario S. could attend electronic Alateen meetings in other Areas.
- We could revisit this topic at a later date.
- In-person Alateen meetings continue unaffected.
- If yes, the Area trusted servants would develop processes to support WSC EASBR.
- Training would begin for these AMIAS-Es.

DECISION POINT:
Does the Ontario South Assembly want to opt in to accept Electronic Alateen Groups?

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the decision point.

- Sharon (D8) – if they have a person coming to their in-person meeting on a regular basis, are they allowed to call in on face time or messenger, is that considered Hybrid? A: Jason – sounds like an in-person with an electronic component and therefore we would have to opt in to have that happen.
- Margaret (D1) – how would it be funded if we opt in? A: Good question. Group expenses for meetings are a matter of group autonomy. This applies to both Alateen and Al-Anon. There is a potential extra cost to the Area for getting AMIAS-E police checks more frequently.
- Diana (D14) – her home group are very apprehensive to opting in as they understand that although these are safety guidelines, it doesn't feel very safe for teens. Would a teenager have to go through the same stringent guidelines if they wanted to attend an electronic Al-Anon meeting (vs. an Alateen meeting) and would they be turned away and redirected to an electronic Alateen where the young person might be apprehensive to attend based upon the guidelines to participate? A: the reason why the WSC EASBR is the way it is, is to align with legal requirements for online interactions btw adults and minors. He doesn't know the answer to that question, but as a member, he would have concerns about allowing Alateens into an electronic Al-Anon meeting, not out of concern about the Al-Anon members, but as it could not be assured that the legal requirements would be met. Governments who pass these laws are not thinking about Twelve Step programs, or Alateen, but requirements are requirements.
- Miriam (D28) – emotional concerns. What if a teenager can't find a safe place in their home to attend these meetings?
- Wyatt (D4) – believes that we should have electronic Alateen meetings but finds the current requirements go against the traditions. The age gap of 13 – 18 is hard for a lot of people b/c 13 – 15-year olds usually do not have ID that they have full access to. Also, most 16-year olds do not get their driver's licenses right away. It seems like there are many barriers to getting online meetings. The people who need online

meetings are people who are struggling, so it is unfair to put up more barriers that will stop them from coming to meetings that they need to recover. It can feel overwhelming if there are so many rules and barriers, which might prevent Alateens from attending.

- This was a note from another Alateen member, brought by Wyatt (and not named) which was read by Coleen (D1) - overall I believe that young people in Alateen deserve to have a meaningful say in the future of our program and I strongly support making online meetings available. Yes, there are regulations, safety concerns and challenges that need to be taken seriously but those challenges can encourage us to find solutions rather than take away an important source of support. At the end of the day, Alateen exists for us, and its purpose is to make sure no young person has to feel alone in dealing with someone else's drinking. If offering the meetings through Zoom meetings, reaching teens who otherwise would not have an opportunity to attend, connect and receive the support they need, then that is something worth working toward. We should let barriers to accessibility prevent young people from getting help. We deserve to be heard. We deserve to be included, and we deserve a voice in decisions about a program that exists for us.
- Sheldon (D2) – is one of the requirements of the teens to be on screen? If a 15-year-old, the same rule applies, we have to admit them. A: Jason didn't recall whether the document specified whether they must be on screen but would think so. Q 2: In person, Alateens are welcome to attend in-person Al-Anon meetings, electronic Alateen meetings are a different thing.
- Emmaley (D4) – wanted to express how much Alateen has helped her and why she thinks it is so important to have electronic Alateen, as without alateen, she believes she would not be here today. It helped a lot during her years of struggle, family issues at home with the addict, and I honestly feel that with it being accessible online, whether you have to show your ID or not, it's really important for Alateens to be able to reach out even if they can't make it to the meeting itself, online, because Alateen has truly helped me, more than anything else does.
- Stephanie (D17) – wants more information about the extra costs. A: The area does have a zoom account so he can't see any additional costs from that to develop the processes and procedures. The WSO does not need to see our processes.
- Ruth (D1) – wanted statistics of worldwide electronic Alateen meetings, their successes and/or failures. A: No stats, but the only online Alateen meetings currently are the ones available on the mobile app.
- Wendy (D17) – FYI – Ontario has suspended the vulnerable sector checks so now it will be the full meal deal for checks.
- Diane (D20) – how do you go about getting the ID of the emergency contact for the legal guardian if they are the qualifier of the Alateen member? How secure are the platforms? A: The teen would have to provide that during the interview process. Cannot answer the question about how secure the platform/apps are as that would depend on what the platform /app is.

- Liz (D10) – we're underestimating our teens as they know so much more about technology and if something felt unsafe online they would be providing that information in the chat to the AMIAS-E. There are definitely some issues but these can be overcome. It the teens want it; we can provide guidance to a safe platform.
- Louise (D22) her daughter left home while an Alateen member and younger. If teens don't have parental guardians that they can give information on, they are at a disadvantage as they may not have it or be able to provide it.
- Mary (D13) – AMIAS-E training is not the same as AMIAS training – who will fund this? A: You get trained as an AMIAS first and then if you are interested, you get trained as an AMIAS-E. Q2: the districts could cover the expenses would be the hope. If they do not have the funds, they could approach the Area.
- Sue (Advisor, D6) – World service office has done a lot of research on this and she believes it is inevitable.
- Fran (D4) – who are we hurting if we don't do this?
- Judy (D13) emergency contact information – this is not permission from the parent/guardian, it is contact info. only.
- Robyn (D4) could an Alateen use a trusted family member or teacher, other than say their alcoholic guardian, who might be an inappropriate choice? A: The EASBR states the contact information should be

a custodial parent or guardian. Jason doesn't have any further information on this.

- Cassandra (D20) – even if we do opt out today, when can this be revisited? A: that would depend on a few factors. Generally, he has not seen us revisit a topic that has been refused the next year, but he doesn't know. The executive is pretty plugged in to Area concerns.
- Judith (Alateen coordinator) – this actually does not affect Ont. S. immediately, all of the Alateen meetings are in person. She is not happy with the requirements but wants the option. We need to have the ability to do so.

Moved by XX (DXX), seconded by XX (DXX) that Ontario South Assembly opt in to accept electronic Alateen groups. Carried.

Questions, discussion on the floor regarding the motion:

- Emmaley (D4) – the reason why I feel this is important for all Alateen is because I know a lot of people out there, grown ups, who didn't have the help they needed, but they found Al-Anon. Alateens should have the same opportunity as Al-Anons and I think I speak for all of us when I say, please be the reason why we can speak today.
- Robyn (D4) to clarify, if we opt in, it doesn't mean we have to start immediately, with the procedures. Will we have a task force that will go into coordinating everything? A: Jason, at the risk of stepping outside his role, what he has seen is that after motions are passed at Assembly, generally the membership tells us what to do. If it is not specified how it is to be done the Executive figures out a plan. This would be a topic I suspect at the November executive meeting in 2 weeks how we are going to implement this. If this is passed today, you are telling us to opt in, and then it is the Executive's responsibility to figure out how that is carried out. So no, we would not be able to start an electronic Alateen meeting Monday morning, we will need to develop processes and procedures first, we don't know how long that will take. There would be work that would need to be done before we were ready to start and electronic Alateen meeting if we want one.
- Judith (Alateen coordinator) does not have anyone interested in starting an electronic Alateen now but if we vote to opt in we will have that option.

Elections for 2027-2029 Service Term – Deb F.
Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer

Results of elections:

Delegate:	Sharon R. (D12)
Alternate Delegate:	Sue M. (D25)
Chairperson:	Janet B. (D14)
Secretary:	McKayla S. (D2)
Treasurer:	John R. (D9)

Reports: **Highlights of Joys and Growth** (reports occur while ballots are being counted) (not included in minutes with the exception of a messages from Technology Coordinator regarding experience required for hybrid AWSC/Assembly meetings in future and a note from the LDC Manager)

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 2027 Chairperson	Cheryl T.
Website Coordinator	Kathleen S.
Literature Office Committee Report	Gwen D.
Literature Distribution Centre Report	Linda P.

Technology Coordinator notes re Hybrid AWSC & Assembly meetings – starting in 2027 Ontario South with be trialing hybrid AWSC and Assembly meetings. This is as a result of motions carried in 2024 and 2025. This is for future districts when you put forward bids to host assemblies – something to keep in mind is that facilities have overhead projectors, projection screens and audio amplifiers and speakers. It makes is a lot easier. Some Areas in N. America do invest in purchasing screens and other equipment, but it's a lot of equipment to haul around and Ont. S. is a large geographic area and he believes he filled the cars they had with just what they brought today. For accounting to the groups, in terms of accountability and transparency, for this event he did get quotes to rent wired and wired microphones and it would be about $1,200 for wired and $2,200 for wired, vs what they purchased which is conservatively around $1,400 (as per the Treasurer's approach to being conservative with the numbers). He believes that if we had rented the equipment that we bought for this assembly, we're no further behind. He has done his best to save $ by buying from Value Village and Kijiji and negotiating when buying equipment – he starts by asking for 50% up front, which is always declined. A mutual friend will no longer go shopping with him as a result. This equipment can cost a lot, typical price for a webcam for instance can be $1k - $2k, this one cost less than $200 but comes with its compromises. Please take this message back to your groups: to facilitate the AWSC and Assembly going forward and if it goes beyond the 3-year trial period and this is the way it continues, we will require members to step forward to take on the positions. There will probably be a committee that will be struck as well as Zoom hosts, and numerous co-hosts as it is a long day to sit through and when you're a co-host renaming people coming in and out you're on the job. If you have any experience with technology, i.e., synthesizers, guitars, amplifiers, if you hooked up a game station to your TV or BluRay or DVD, these are the essential basics. Skills with some sort of video or audio software would be a bonus. The more people that share the tasks, lessens the burden for everyone. Closed with the need to be cautious when entering passwords and user names on an open wifi.

LDC report – suggestion to use your group # followed by lower case afg as your literature e-transfer password, and in this way, the password transfers with the change in group literature officer. Winter closure 1:00 pm Dec. 17, reopen 10:00 am Jan. 11. Please use the literature office email for correspondence, not Linda's personal email/phone for literature office business.

Questions & Answers on coordinator reports.

- Donna (D33) – Online participant – how much sleep did you get last night? A: Crystal got 5 hours
- Judy (D10) – for Open Lines – can it be mailed? A: Subscription price hasn't changed for a mailed version, it is $15/year = 3 editions. It is possible but is expensive. Asked the executive and it was approved to continue to be available. Having said that, you are missing the electronic links which are included in the digital copy in the physical, printed version.

Sunday, November 8

Opening, Welcome - Deb F.
Traditions, Concepts & Warranties
Host Committee Announcements - Diana S.
Other Announcements

- Linda, LDC Manager, announced to pass along to the members who want e-books, to go through Al-Anon.org to purchase as this supports Al-Anon's service structure.

- Louise (D18) – offered an apology for her comment about the budget; she misunderstood what she thought she heard about the budget.

Ask it Basket: Answers Committee members: Sue G. (D6, Area Advisor), Gwen D. (D6, Area Advisor), Cory (D31), Ann (D8), Terri D6), Sheila (D26)

- Sue G. (D6, Area Advisor) – the various committee members were in different rooms to start and finally ended up together, an auspicious start!
- Cory (D31) – Q: As a DR, what do I do when a group in my district has now decided to use a business mailing address and work phone number for their Al-Anon member GR? This group has not attended district meetings nor participated in 7th tradition. Please help. A: It could be seen as affiliating with an outside entity. There is information in the service manual pg. 28, Naming a Group, and on pg. 31, group contact information, and Current Mailing Address (CMA).
- Sheila (D26) – Q1: Regarding meeting lists: Is there ever an appropriate time to remove inactive members from meeting/mailing lists, or are members expecting to be contacted for the life of the group, once contact information is given in group membership? A: this is a group conscience decision and up to group autonomy.
- Q2: Most members in my district are women and most people here at assembly are women. Why does the manual use male pronouns when talking about roles like GR. Can a request be made to WSC to use neutral or she/he pronouns in CAL? A: Pg 3 of our service manual – Al-Anon/Alateen members may initiate revisions to the manual at any time by making suggestions to their district representative (DR), Area Delegate or World Service Office.
- Terri (D6) – Q: If we are changing location for only 1 meeting for December gratitude, should we change it online, or leave note on the door at current location? A: Let the district know of the change for 1 meeting. Leave a note on the door and have a person stay behind with directions. Provide notice at least one month before. Website is not necessary for change.
- Ann (D8) – Q1: Has the area, or have the districts, looked into paying for a Zoom business account that can be shared between groups? There could be cost savings if a district paid $300/year, rather than each group paying $260/year. A: suggest as an item for consideration for our Executive and then bring to Assembly.
- Q2: There is a group in our district that doesn't attend district meetings and has no communication with the other groups, and has not given any funds to Ontario South. Please advise. A: Ontario South Assembly (Area 86) Policies and Guidelines Manual, section 2C, 3 of 5, states: "8. The DR keeps in touch with the GRs of the District to learn the views of the groups and their problems, which in turn he/she may report to the AWSC or the Delegate.". The Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual, pg. 64, page 145 – duties of the DR. Also Guidelines G15 and G37.
- Sue G (D6, Area Advisor) – Some groups in our district choose to include crosstalk in their meeting opening format based on their group conscience decision. Is crosstalk referenced in conference approved literature? If so, where? Should it be used if it is not Al-Anon approved? A: There is no reference to crosstalk in either the Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual or the Ontario South Assembly (Area 86) Policies and Guidelines Manual.

Delegate's Update - Jason W. – this update was provided at AWSC and is currently on the Ont. S. website.

- Regarding the handout he gave out yesterday, there are usually leftovers, so he printed less and saved the area a whole $20! However, there were not enough, so if you did not get one, please email him at the area delegate address at
- Financial updates, WSO is still on track for the projected deficit this year, within the projected budget numbers provided yesterday. No significant change re literature sales (remain below expectations), bequests continue to be above projections.
- The Board of Trustees and the WSO Finance Committee are also continuing to monitor expenses and try to reduce them wherever possible. The Board of Trustees get to choose an agenda item for discussion at the WSC. The 2027 WSC will include a board chosen agenda item to discuss the benefits and relevance of services currently being provided by your WSO on behalf of the fellowship. The Board determined that

this conversation would aid the Trustees in their responsibilities to evaluate priorities, sustainability and future allocation of WSO resources. As mentioned yesterday, the Board of Trustees are Al-Anon members and the Board is the legal entity responsible for the oversight of Al-Anon's funds and services. So it's safe to say that at all levels of service, we are aware of our financial situation and are looking for ways to find the things we can change, as the Serenity prayer suggests.

- Service is putting love and gratitude into action. He looks forward to seeing how you do this in the upcoming term. This might be in service as an Ontario South coordinator. If not you, perhaps your sponsor, or your service sponsor would make a great coordinator. Coordinators are the members who help our Area succeed in things like Public Outreach, Alateen, and Technology. They do things like edit and distribute our Area newsletter, preserve our history, and maintain our website. Section 2B of the Ontario South Assembly (Area 86) Policies and Guidelines Manual, which can be found on the Ontario South website, details the tasks that each coordinator is responsible for. But speaking with current and past coordinators is a great way to learn more about their job. Our next batch of coordinators will be invited to serve by the incoming Delegate, but she has to know if you're interested; she's not psychic. If you are interested in this level of service, please email the incoming Area Delegate directly to express this interest, Jason's email and he will pass along your expression of interest.
- Attended and supported Trillium convention where he also made him self available to provide some information about electronic Alateen meetings at the OSAAC meeting.
- District meeting minutes are a great way for the Delegate to stay informed about your district concerns. Please send them.
- 2026 trip to Waffle House was much safer than in previous year, as it was done with other delegates, in a car.
- Please do not order literature directly from the WSO. It will take much longer to receive, and the WSO has asked us to support our local Literature Distribution Centers (LDC), which is in Smith's Falls.

Open Mic – Personal Sharing and Reflections – not minuted, but they were great!

Closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and Serenity Prayer.

Assembly Highlights:

Motions passed:

Oral Motion by XX (DXX) to accept the voting procedures as explained. Seconded by XX (DXX). – Motion carried

Moved by XX (DXX) to accept minutes as submitted, seconded by XX (DXX) – motion carried

Moved by XX (DXX) seconded by XX (DXX) that the proposed budget for 2027 be adopted by the Ontario South Assembly 2026. Carried.

Moved by XX (DXX), seconded by XX (DXX) that Ontario South Assembly opt in to accept electronic Alateen groups. Carried.

Financial information for your groups:

$357.97 USD = cost per group to provide all the services WSO provides – **CAD $502.31**

Estimation of group donations per year needed to make the Ontario South budget = **$186** per group, per year (based on 270 groups)