

CHAIRMAN: Barbara W

"At Ohio Area Assembly we do not ask our Group Representatives to make uninformed decisions. We use Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM), an Informed Group Conscience. The outcome is harmony, understanding of the decisions made and the ability to articulate and communicate the decisions to the membership..

Action Committees brainstorm. All members of assembly belong to an Action Committee. A specific idea is explored further in a Thought Force, made up of volunteer members of assembly. Their thoughts are presented to assembly. If the assembly agrees with the direction the "thought" is going, a Task Force is formed. The Task Force figures out how to carry out the thought and what steps must be taken to make the changes. The Task Force presents their findings and recommendations to the assembly. The assembly discusses the recommendation(s). If necessary, a motion is made, followed by more discussion and clarification time. A vote is then taken."

*We opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Caroline read the Traditions and Shirley M read the Concepts of Service and Warranties. We conduct knowledge based decision making here in Ohio. There is no more motion madness. An informed group conscience through the KBDM is done before motions are formed which allows for dialogue keeping personalities out!*

*Districts represented- 128 members were present representing districts:*

*1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,15,24,25,26,28,30,31,32,33,34,38,39,45,47,48,51, & 57.*

New Group Representative Welcome- Sandy F and Janice R

Darlene L / Elizabeth W/ Carol R / Marissa D / Borgany B / Robert R / Julie J/Tina L / Laura C / Kristi B / Kanae / Barbara H / Kazzi E// Anita D / Nancy S / Matthew L / Jane E / Becky H / Pat I / Lorilee L / Dave L / Patti B / Merceda M / Timothy W / Lynn W / John K/ Julie P / Kathleen S. (Phil noted that there were 33 new GRs; however, I only had the above 27.)I am sorry for any that I missed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- Merri G

First of all, I would like to give a big thanks to all of you who have consistently sent me your reports electronically. Secondly, the minutes from October's Assembly were approved by Caroline and seconded by Kathryn M.

TREASURER REPORT- Robin R

Balance as of 12-31-10	\$35,031.22
Income after 12-31-10 was	\$5207.43
Expense after 12-31-10 was	\$-7730.98
Balance as of S-11-2011 is	\$32507.67

ALTERNATE DELEGATE/NEWS LETTER: Janice R

The Spring/Summer edition of the AI-A-Notes is done and I brought them with me today for our Secretary Merri G. to mail at her convenience. Since this is an election year, I asked the Officers and Coordinators to share about the responsibilities of their service positions. Most of the officers and one coordinator sent me sharing's. Because of the importance of the District Reps and Group Reps knowing what each service position entails, I included a short synopsis, taken from our Ohio Area Assembly By-Laws and Handbook.

Twenty-seven copies of the AI-A-Notes were sent to exchange newsletter editors around the country. Twenty personal subscriptions were mail out. Remember, the newsletter is mailed to all Group Representatives and Contact people, LDC's AIS's etc. You are to take this copy to your group and share it with them. Some people like their own personal subscription. If you would like your own personal subscription, see me today or fill out the form on the last page of the AI-A-Notes and mail it to me. The cost is \$3.50 for one year or \$6.75 for two.

I brought with me copies of newsletters from other areas, please feel free to take them home, read them and pass them on.

The reservation form for the Two Day Fall Assembly, hosted by the Districts of Columbus, on October 8-9, 2011, at the Embassy Suites in Columbus has been included in the newsletter. It's in the center, so it can be easily tom out and used.

On March 18 – 20th I attended the North Central Regional Delegates Meeting at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis IN with our Delegate Sandy F and our Chairman/Past Delegate Barbara W. The trip started out with me needing four new tires. Only 3 could be replaced at the time and I headed to Columbus to spend the night with Sandy before leaving for Indianapolis. By the morning the only tire that wasn't replaced was flat. Thank goodness we were taking Sandy's van.

The primary purpose of the Regional Delegate's Meeting is to share the experience, strength, and hope of the past delegates with the new delegates before they go the conference. It is also to be more informed, more unified in spirit, more knowledgeable on policy matters and to have a better understanding and knowledge of the Concepts, Traditions, group conscience and obedience to the unenforceable. Our area pays for the Alternate Delegate to attend one NCRDM with all expenses paid (preferably the first year) and then pays \$200.00 per year to attend the other two years of his/hers panel. I feel I learned a lot about the procedures of how the World Service Conference is run. But I'm still glad Sandy was able to attend the WSC in Virginia Beach, VA. Thanks for all of your love and support

## DELEGATE'S REPORT- Sandra F-Panel 49-0hlo

The 2011 World Service Conference was a week filled with meetings, tours, and fellowship. My experience was more intense this year than in previous years.

It all started on April 9th with my flights to New York City where I caught a shuttle to Stamford, Conn. That night, I had the opportunity to meet friends from Ohio, who now live in Connecticut, for dinner and some catching up.

April 10th was one of the most exciting days I have had as your Delegate to the World Service Conference. I, along with other members of Panel 49, toured the home of one of our co-founders, Lois W., called Stepping Stones. The Stepping Stones Foundation provided tour guides who answered many questions. It was very touching for me to go into the kitchen and see the famous kitchen table, then, to go up-stairs and see the desk where Lois and Anne wrote the first 87 groups, followed by venturing outside and walking up the hill to "Whit's End", the office of Bill W. Back at the Welcome Center, we tasted Lois' coffee flavored gelatin. I will say the flavor was interesting. My time at Stepping Stones was not only spiritual but also inspiring.

Ever too soon our tour ended and we headed to LaGuardia International Airport. We rushed there, so some would not miss their flights to Norfolk. However, 23 of us were booked on a later flight, so we had some time to spare. Did we ever have time to spare! Our flight was delayed a few time and we ended up being at the airport from 1 pm till 10:30pm when we finally departed. I will admit I was grateful for this extra time with my friends. We were able to catch up and get to know each other better. We practiced our skit and had a meeting right there in the middle of the food court in Terminal C. Patience was the topic. About that time I needed to be reminded about patience.

We finally got to the hotel at 1am April 11th. Morning came all too soon. I met my Conference mentee before her orientation just to chat and give her a hug. The afternoon was filled with meetings.

My Conference Assignment for this year is the Literature Committee. The committee discussed possible motions to be presented to the 2011 Conference.

Following the afternoon meetings, Shared Area Highlights was held. Shared Area Highlights is when all 67 Areas in our Conference Structure give a one minute summary of celebrations and concerns they have. I heard some ideas that are possible for Ohio; but, also learned we are very similar to other Areas.

Monday Evening was the 2011 World Service Conference's Opening Banquet where I had the pleasure of giving the Conference pin to my Conference Mentee, Linda R who is from Saskatchewan.

The 2011 World Service Conference was held April 12th -15th. Each day began with breakfast at 7am, lunch about 12:30pm, and dinner about 6:30pm. The Official pictures for each Panel were taken the first morning during breakfast. The remainder of the days we usually sat with different conference members so we could chat with as many members as possible. Lunch and dinner likewise, the exception was if we had a meeting scheduled during the meal. I did have meetings during meal time. Following dinner, Business resumed. Being a third year Delegate my Panel (group of delegates) practiced our skit each night when we adjourned for the evening. {As you can tell there was not very much free time.}

Wednesday afternoon we toured our World Service Office. During the tour I met the staff members I talk with when I call the office and send e-mails to. I like walking around the building and grounds. I get emotional when I visit the office. If you would like to visit the World Service Office tours are held weekdays at 2:00pm

On Thursday, I gave my three minute talk. Each year, third year Delegates give what is called Sharing Ourselves, it is a talk relating your recovery or service journey to the conference theme. This year's conference theme was Expanding our community of hope by embracing: Yesterday's Foundation, Today's Successes, Tomorrow's Possibilities. I chose to relate mine to my service journey. Surprisingly, I found it to an emotional time.

Friday evenings was the closing dinner. My honey was able to join me for this dinner and was there when I received my scroll. How neat it was to have him there. Following dinner and the spiritual speakers, my Panel did a skit featuring all the Panel 49 Delegates with a little singing and lots of drama. I had fun doing it, but it was a lot of work.

Saturday was a big day. The Annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held which current conference members can attend. In the afternoon the 60th Anniversary Celebration's open house was held at AFG Headquarters, Inc. A special ceremony was held to bum the mortgage which was paid off in March, 2010. In the evening the banquet was held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Over 525 attended this event. We heard a brief history from a past WSO Executive Director and then a long time member shared her story. For me, a highlight of the evening was being able to share this evening with members from Ohio who came to the celebration.

Sunday came and we had to say our goodbyes. It is always difficult to depart and go our separate ways. Always keeping in mind we are Al-Anon members who are connected through the links of service to the worldwide fellowship and to each other. There are few agenda items from the 2011 World Service Conference I would like to tell you about... Goals were set at the beginning of the meeting. These goals were:

- The Spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct as its members presume goodwill.
- Conference members will understand the purpose of the Conference and the relationships within the structure.
- Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Conference members will be able to support and communicate Conference decisions.

The goals were often referred to and reviewed as a check to see how we were doing.

Reports given were: 2010 Annual Report, the Audit Report, and the Finance Committee Report. Following discussion on each

of these topics approval was given.

Throughout the week the Finance Committee did a skit called the Generosity of Spirit. The skit reminded me how our contributions are used. Each scene of the skit depicted a way our contributions are used both financial and giving of myself. Some of these were: helping someone find recovery, Alateen chat rooms, helping developing structures in other countries, sending sharings for *The Forum*, help someone find a meeting, and write a sharing for Al-anon Faces Alcoholism (the booklet that touches those who suffer), giving AFA to professional to give to clients, or through doing service. I learned my gifts help in many ways and when I give, I receive more than I give. (Sing chorus here) A question for you, what spiritual gifts do you receive when you give of your resources?

Going along with finances is the contribution list for groups in Ohio. Check my list to see if your group's monetary contributions to WSO for 2010 are correct.

I learned it costs about \$240 a year per group to provide the groups with services from WSO. WSO provides services to groups whether they send contributions during the year or not. Our contributions are needed. Contributions received are used for Public Outreach.

There is a new blog called Thinking Abundantly In ... The blog is available on the members website. Just click on Blogs. The podcast that accompanies the blog encourages us to share about what we have and how what we have changes our way of thinking.

There are two new books. Our newest CAL titled *Many Voices; One Journey (B-31)* was introduced. It tells how previous generations pursued their spiritual growth as our service structure developed through the years as the fellowship grew. This book costs \$16.00 plus shipping and handling. The other book is a soft cover version of *How Al-anon Works (B-32)*. This version of the book is intended for groups to give new comers as well as professionals who talk to people about their lives.

Property ownership was discussed. There was a time for any unanswered questions to be asked and answers given. Background information was reviewed; the discussion of property ownership began 30 years ago. The Trial ownership period began 15 years ago. Charts with costs of leasing vs. ownership were explained. As well as costs of varying locations were shown. The time line of events was reviewed. Last year a motion to end the trial was tabled. Tabling the motion gave members enough time to ask question and thoroughly review all information. The role of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management was stated and reports reviewed stating there was no evidence owning property affected the fellowship in any way were reviewed. Following the discussion, a motion was presented to end the trial period and authorize the ownership of the property. The motion passed by an overwhelming majority. As the Chairman of the Board of Trustees said, "Al-Anon now has a home." I refer you to the 2011 World Service Conference Summary for the exact motion and the discussion held. The Conference Summary will be available in the fall.

The Thought Force to Identify Information for a Guideline on Memorial Contributions gave a presentation. Their charge was to identify ways non Al-Anon members could honor their deceased family or friends who were Al-Anon members. Different situations were dramatized. While no guidelines were proposed or adopted, suggestions I heard include: non-members could honor the member by having a moment of silence or moment of gratitude at the local level, send Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to the member's Area for Public Outreach, purchase conference Approved Literature for a local library, and write letters to "Dear Abby" for example to confirm Al-Anon's benefits to family relationships. A question for you to think about, in what ways can Al-Anon Family Groups support a non-member's request to honor a deceased member of Al-Anon?

Another Thought Force was on How to Include Dual members in Al-Anon Service while maintaining our policies. Definitions were given for both Al-Anon and AA members. In 1967, the guidelines for group separation between AA and Al-Anon were approved by the Al-Anon World Service Conference. We are separate entities with separate purposes. Dual members do not serve in Al-Anon policy-making positions otherwise this would give the appearance of not being separate. Suggestions I heard on what service dual members could do, depending on Area and local policies, include serving on event committees, assisting with public outreach, support fellowship communication with help on websites or newsletters, assist with technology needs, be an e-mail buddy, become AMIAS (Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service), contribute to WSO publishing (i.e. the Forum, blogs, sharing written for new literature), serve on Thought or Tasks Forces, or be the liaison for AA conventions or Intergroup Service. Several possibilities were given as to how dual members could be involved with Al-Anon Service and yet stays within the policy. A discussion followed the presentation. This topic was also discussed during the open Policy Committee meeting and will continue. A question for you, how can dual members be of service in your local group and follow Al-Anon Policies? I encourage your group to discuss possibilities.

A topic brought to the Conference by the Policy Committee was titled "Policy Discussion -Do Not Refer". This is what I understand from that session. Several Districts, AISs, or Areas have made a decision to discontinue listing a group that has been determined as not reflecting Al-Anon principles, policies, and procedures. A group fitting this description as determined by their district, AIS (aka Intergroup), or Area are not being included on printed or electronic schedules, but still participated in the links of service with voice and vote. The criteria for a group not being included on printed or electronic schedules were determined by the District, AIS, or Area. This topic was referred to the Policy Committee for discussion. Following their discussions, the Policy Committee decided to bring the topic to the Conference for Delegates to share about what their Area has done and what philosophy behind such decisions might be.

Three questions were asked.

"Question 1. If your area has a delisting criteria and procedure, please share that with us. Specifically what principles were discussed when making the decision to delist? Who makes the decision not to list or refer members to a group? How does your area feel about this decision/process? For everyone present, please share your feelings about deciding not to refer to a group?"

Delegates shared about situations in their area and how groups either changed and began using the principles or broke away completely. A few stated delisting criteria was currently being worked on.

"Question 2. If your area has a criteria and procedure for relisting a group that has been delisted, please share that. How are the

principles applied? Who makes the decision? Have you worked through this process? What was the result? What are your Area's thoughts about this decision/process? Then everyone please share your thoughts about a process to relist a group that has been delisted?"

Delegates again shared thoughts and described situations in their areas.

"Question 3. What if anything, might the World Service Office do to support Area in reference to referring members, newcomers, and professionals to groups that an Area has determined do not follow Al-Anon's principles?"

Again sharings from Delegates were given. I heard two things: there is a need for all to study Warrantee Four; and, Areas would like support, but no suggestions as to what was desired in the way of support were given.

To me this topic was a "Hot Topic". What I gleaned from the discussion was it is up to Districts, AIS's, and Areas to come up with guidelines for their location which have clearly defined criteria for both not beings included and also bow to be added back to the schedules.

So, what is next? I highly recommend Districts, AIS Counsels around Ohio, and the Area develop guidelines for which groups would receive Do Not Refer status while maintaining the links of service with voice and vote. That these guidelines would include the criteria for how groups would be returned to local printed and electronic meeting schedules.

Can you picture yourself in Vancouver? We are two year away from the next International Convention. It will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, July 5-7, 2013. Theme for the event is *Celebrating Worldwide Unity*. There is the possibility a day of service will be held before the convention on July 4th. Registration and housing information will be available in the fall of 2012.

Have you started your plans for attending the convention yet? I have. Hope you can attend. I think it will be an exciting time. Speaking of international conventions, bids for the Sixth International Convention in 2018 are now being accepted. If you are interested in perusing this idea, contact me for a bid form application.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent Ohio at the 2011 World Service Conference. It most certainly was an informative and amazing week of *Expanding our community of hope by embracing: Yesterday's Foundations, Today's Successes, and Tomorrow's Possibilities*. As always, it is One Day at a Time, Love, Sandra F

#### REGISTRATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN- Phil.H

We had 128 members present at this assembly. 111 of them were voting GRs.

#### COORDINATOR AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONVENTIONS

ALATEEN- Yvonne R

Ohio Alateens are hosting the 2012 KOMIAC so therefore we are having a walk through tomorrow at Baldwin Wallace College in Cleveland. That is where Ohio hosted KOMIAC four years ago and they really welcomed us with open arms and a great time was had by all. We hope to have the same in 2012.

We had the Spring Rally April 16th. It was well attended and we picked our 2012 KOMIAC board which I will have more information on that at the two day fall assembly.

KOMIAC this year is July 29, 30, and 31st in Michigan at Adrian College and we are looking to take at least two chartered buses and possibly two 15 passenger vans. We really appreciate the assembly for helping us get to KOMIAC safe each year. Since next year is our turn to host KOMIAC, we will not be providing transportation. We only use transportation when it is in the other three states.

The Fall Rally will be in Akron or Cleveland, to be determined at a later date. The sponsor workshop was held on March 19th in Columbus. There were about 38 sponsors at the workshop. It was well attended, which I was glad to see. We discussed numerous subjects and with our Higher Power it was a great day.

The annual conference call from WSO was held the same day as the sponsor workshop so I wasn't able to participate, but Rex did. He may be able to give you some more information about that.

Rex and I are still receiving AMIAS certification forms. Rex is going to talk more about AMIAS forms and certification. I know there has been some confusion when the forms are to be in.

I will have more information at the two day fall assembly.

ARCHIVES- Sharon B-No Report

FORUM- Shirley M

The Executive Committee recently approved a recommendation by the Forum Editorial Advisory Committee to change the Forum's

tagline from "A Meeting in My Pocket" to "Sharing Recovery, Unity, and Service". The new tag line was on the cover of the April 2011 issue, along with an article on page 25 about the change. The Forum is not a meeting and is not a substitute for an actual meeting, but it does provide topics for discussion and sharing at Al-Anon Meetings.

The Forum always includes a step, recovery stories, a tradition, and a concept. The "Inside Al-Anon" section keeps the membership informed on what is happening in the fellowship. It all adds up to sharing Recovery, Unity, and Service.

During the 2009 World Service Conference it was reported that Forum subscriptions was at an all-time low. The Fellowship rallied and the Forum enjoyed a 26 percent increase over the next year. For the past few months, however, subscriptions are declining at the approximate rate of 150 to 200 copies each month.

Help the Forum to be an important part of your recovery. Submit a sharing; give a newcomer a copy with their information packets. Use the Forum as a starting point for a lively discussion at a meeting. Encourage people who have not read the Forum in a while to take another look at it.

As a G.R. encourage your district or intergroup to sponsor a writing workshop to share their stories. This is what the Forum format is based on, people sharing their experience, strength and hope through their sharing's.

Take a break from the daily readers at meetings and use the Forum articles as a topic at a meeting, or as a study on the steps, traditions, or concepts of service.

#### GROUP RECORDS- Judy A

I would like to say welcome to all the new GRs. There are a number of you! Please check the group manuals and update your group's information. DRs are welcome to take home your district pages. If groups have changes, please fill out a change form. You can also make changes on a page. Just pull the page out of the note book, make the change and put it in my box or Email or mail me the change. If anyone needs the area World Service Committee members' sheet, let me know. I can either Email via Excel or can mail via the Post Office.

#### LITERATURE- Ginny C

Two power point presentations regarding CAL are available for presentations. Also two skits on CAL are also available. Please contact me and I can send them to you via email.

The WSO website has two blogs regarding the legacies: one for the Traditions and one for the Concepts. The sharing's on the blogs will be used to construct a Legacy workbook. Look for the word "Blogs" to find them.

The World Service Conference approved a motion for a piece of literature on intimacy, including sexual intimacy, in alcoholic relationships to be written. This will be instead of reprinting the previous literature.

Two new books have been released. *Many Voices, One Journey* is a recovery book from a historical perspective. It is in paperback and costs \$16 (B-21). It is a great book to use for a meeting or for personal reflection because each section has a question or two at the end to get you thinking. From what I have read, I have also learned a lot about aspects of Al-Anon that I took for granted.

The other book is *How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics* in paperback for only \$5.00 (B-32). This should make it easier for groups to keep it in stock and to encourage newcomers to use it.

#### PUBLIC OUTREACH- Sandy F

Public Outreach has been active on the national level. In recent weeks an episode of General Hospital included the family disease of alcoholism following the episode two of the actors told viewers how to contact Al-Anon Family Groups via the internet and O magazine featured an article about Ashley Judd. In the article Ashley Judd was asked which ten books had influenced her life. One of the books mentioned is How Al-Anon Works. Did you see either of these? (Pause) Members are encouraged to write a thank you note to editors, producers, and celebrities who recommend Al-anon and Alateen. These can lead to further opportunities for families and friends of alcoholics to find hope and help.

WSO has received a notice from the staff of syndicated columnist, "Dear Abby", that the column on Monday May 23rd will direct readers to call Al-anon or visit the Al-anon Public Outreach Web site for information about local meetings. It is possible that some newspapers will not carry the Al-Anon item for various reasons. However it will appear on the internet May 23rd at <http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby/>.

New podcasts are now available on the Public Outreach website. The podcasts were made by members who responded to the Abundant Recourses Survey Janice R. told you about in 2009. The new podcasts can be downloaded for you to listen to. The website is [www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org). The PO website has been recently redesigned and launched during this year's WSC. On the newly redesigned website, all segments of our population will be able to explore the site and learn more about Al-Anon and Alateen. There is a link to the member's website on this page. I encourage all members to check it out.

Recently a news release for newspapers was sent to all Area World Service Members. The news release is to be downloaded and copied for all groups to have to send to newspapers in their locations. The news release is about the new podcasts and how they can be obtained. Ask your District Representative for a copy of the news release to take to your local newspaper.

A new video is available for all groups to purchase either from their local Literature Distribution Center or from the World Service Office directly. It is titled

*Al-Anon and Alateen Role in the Family Recovery*. The video is for groups to use for Public Outreach to Professionals in their location also for use by groups. The cost is \$5.00 plus shipping and handling fees.

Orders for Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012 are due July 6, 2011 to the World Service Office by 5:00 pm Orders can be made on

line or via the USPS. Order blanks can be downloaded for the members' website at [www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members) the pass word is the name of your home group followed by afg. I encourage every group to order copies of AFA to use locally for public outreach. Has your group ordered this publication in the past? Sharing's are now being accepted for Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2013 from members as well as professionals.

Have you heard any of the public service announcements on your local TV or radio stations? The announcements called PSA's have aired in Ohio throughout the past year. Whenever you hear one of the PSA's please call or write the station thanking them for playing the announcement. Yes, you can still protect your anonymity when doing so.

The new PSA has been sent to TV and radio stations across the US including Ohio.

Again this year AFG of Ohio will participate in the Addiction Studies Institute held at the Convention Center in downtown Columbus August 17-19th. This event is three days of information for professional who work with people who have addiction problems. We have an information booth which has Al-anon Family Groups Public Outreach information available for distribution. Volunteers staff the booth each of the three days.

A budget has been prepared for the event this year of \$1,200. The 2010 budget was just under \$800 for the three days. The increase from 2010 is for additional signage for the booth and additional public outreach literature to give to professional who visit the booth. Recently I was asked about the notices sent with information about upcoming Public Outreach. Some expressed a concern in regards to attraction vs. promotion. I refer you to page 108 of the 2010-2013 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual. It states, "Whenever national publicity on Al-Anon/Alateen may be of interest to local groups, they are, if possible, notified in advance by WSO." When information is received and it applies to Ohio, it is forwarded to Area World Service Members for them to forward on to the groups.

#### BUDGET- Steve F

The budget committee met at Sandra F, our delegate's home, at 6:00 PM on 3-4-2011 to discuss the upcoming budget.

Members of the committee are: Steve F, budget chair: Sandra F, delegate: Barbara W, Ohio chair: Robin R, Ohio Treasurer: Kathryn M, Ohio DR. Big thanks to Sandra F. for opening up your home. We added the budget balance to excess funds per bylaws in the amount of \$2297.07. We computed the amount available for 2011 budget operation: \$11618.63. We added to Assembly funds where it is necessary to maintain balances: Action Committee, \$500: OAC Fund- \$100.00- Total \$600. Subtract \$600 from total income \$11618.63 gives us a total of \$1018.63 which is available for 2011 budget. We distributed this amount between the budget items for 2011. With the new registration committee inclusion to the budget, the budget process may need to be revised. Please submit your expenses officers, coordinators and chairpersons in a timely fashion. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

#### BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK- Barbara M- No Report, Absent REVIEW AND AUDIT- Donna K- No Report

#### OHIO WEBSITE- MIKE K

Last Fall, the OHIOAL-ANON.ORG was seeing a 12% increase in Web traffic since the same time the year before. This Spring, we are now seeing over 20% increase in traffic.

##### Web Traffic Report Highlights:

- The highest hit days of the week are now Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- The average peak traffic of the day has shifted later in the afternoon between 3pm and 5pm
- Most viewed pages in order of ranking:
  - State index page of meeting lists
  - Link to Cleveland meeting list
  - Remote area meetings
  - Link to Cincinnati meeting list
  - Link to Akron meeting list
  - Link to Columbus meeting list
  - Calendar- the calendar on the state website is for state events only.
  - 12steps.htrn
- Most of our visitors are coming in from the Al-anon/Alateen WSO Web site.

NOTE: For full statistics report, point your browser to this Web address: <http://169.90.236.54:8585/awstats/awstats.pl?config=ohioal-anon.org>

##### Other News:

For the first time, we're seeing mobile handheld devices like Smart Phones visiting our site. It's not many – about 23 visits, or .1%. But this is being watched closely. If mobile traffic on our site increases substantially, new Web page design considerations will need to be made to accommodate the new browsing devices.

The WSO has rolled out a new site design. We will be rolling out a new site design upgrade of our own that will look more consistent with theirs. Expect to see that happening in the next few months.

##### DAILY TREND BROWSERS 68% MS Internet Explorer

15% Firefox      15% Safari      2% Other

Mike K. (Email: [webmaster@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:webmaster@ohioal-anon.org))

## COMPLIANCE LIASON AND AAPP- Rex M

The Compliance Liaison & Area Alateen Process Person. We have several Ohio State Forms that need renewed before 1-26-2012 and another by 1-22-2014. Amias forms are not being signed off on by DRs. This may put us out of Compliance. I have had other DRs Sign off on forms, or I have covered it which is not a good practice.

Recertification of AMIAS forms is completed when AAPP sends in WSO list of Amias on record. Area must recertify. Personal and Confidential information must be kept protected but it is okay to communicate with others as needed. There are possible times an AMIAS person could be determined unfit to serve as an Alateen sponsor and could be banned for life. This would be up to Assembly and WSO to take action. Current Alateen re-certification for this year has to be sent in by July 1.<sup>51</sup>

## ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS-CAROLINE

AFG Spring Assembly - May 14, 2011 - Fellowship Communication Action Committee Possible topics

1. The use of media tools to connect with AFG as a whole.
2. How to empower members to speak up when a member's sharing is non AI-anon.
3. Educating our fellowship about the KBDM process - Knowledge based decision making {through a thought-force committee).

Discuss it there and then come back to main group with results of the discussion

The question was asked: What do we do here in this committee? Someone has a measure they want passed. Then they go through the Knowledge Based Decision Making process (history, pros, and cons). It used to be 'motion madness'. (Throw a motion out there and everyone argue about it, and then another motion put out there, more arguing, etc.) Now it's an informed group-conscience. Talk about it, think about it, have dialog on it. A thought force has 5 questions that they use. Then voters have all the information so they can make an informed decision. This promotes harmony and good-will. Everyone is looking out for AI-non. The motion is then voted on.

If approved, then there's a task force, and then a work force to carry out the procedure. These five questions can be used in your groups too. It helps determine if it even leads to an issue that needs to be addressed.

Today's question is: Should we promote this KBDM process more to our groups throughout the state and how should we communicate that?

Suggestions were:

- What about a pamphlet or card of what KBDM is. If submit it, then it will get distributed to the email community very quickly in addition to a printed form. This will then hopefully get to groups that don't have a representative here.
- An article in the Forum.
- It was mentioned that there is a paper on KBDM and the question sheet that were given to the new GR meeting, but no one else had seen it. Barb mentioned that this has been out for years and that it was on the Ohio AI-anon web site. If these sheets are out there and people aren't aware of it, then how do we get even this out to the groups?
- Suggest we have a pod-cast off the web-site, so people can see how it is used. Use a topic like what prayer to say at the end of a meeting, so people can see this acted out. Maybe do a skit where you show how it goes without using the process and then show how it goes when use the process and makes things more harmonious. People can then even download these skits.
- Suggest a blog on the topic

Using KBDM for this committee question.

Historical:

- Getting back to our root and how things were done in AI-anon in the past.

Existing motions that pertain to this topic:

- Ignorance - people haven't heard of it. Coming to assembly will see it in action.
- It appears we need basic information. Let's introduce this to more people.

On getting the two sheets (what is KBDM and the questions used) and getting these two documents out more.

- Laminate them and distribute them to all the groups for them to put in their group folders (with the welcome, steps, etc.)
- Bookmarks

Suggested a task force to bring back to fall assembly. - Can spend up to \$300 to implement our idea without approval, or should we just agree to at least distribute the sheets in laminated form? Others suggested we get more information before deciding on the laminating idea. Another person suggested going ahead and getting a skit together to show at fall assembly to show whole fellowship our idea and pass out the laminated cards.

Come up with a project and distribute that will teach about KBDM. i.e. Distribute to just assembly members or across the state to each group to implement in the fall. The following people agreed to meet and try and get a skit or other ideas together to be presented at the Fall Assembly: Shirley, Eleanor, Debbie, Caroline, Becky, Susan and Ginny. Ginny will email these people. It was suggested that she put AFG in the subject line, so people know to open it.

### 2. GROUP SERVICES

On the question of how we can educate members on the need to support AI-Anon at all levels? The first is through having service workshops, the second is through having an Alateen Sponsor training manual, and thirdly by improving communication via home

groups.

A. Service Workshops- Sharon, a Toledo area DR described service workshops as a "Road Show". This takes information to the groups and only takes up 5 minutes of the meeting time. The area "Road Show", first explains area committees especially to the newcomers as opposed to saying, "read the service manual." Secondly, links of the service pamphlet can be shared, and thirdly, the members website can be shared which has current information on being a DR and Gr. Lastly, this is a good way to educate members about the benefits we get from intergroup, area and world service and helps the unity that comes in rotating service. Additionally, one can get the idea across that service is fun.

B. Alateen Sponsor Training Manual- Providing a full day of actual training with a power point presentation. This training would provide members with tools on how to handle recurring issues such as with preteen (7-11 years old). Yvonne wants to connect with other states regarding their training practices.

C. Improve communication via home groups- First by using the Forum and CAL approved literature. Secondly, by GRs taking the time to update groups after assembly. Thirdly, by explaining levels of service when we get plea letters and lastly by trying to get GRs and DRs to communicate via the Email.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

On the questions: 1. How do we attract the minority population in our communities? 2. What are the pros and cons on holding an Ohio Area Convention in 2012? 3. How can we meet the need of meetings in remote locations?

How do we attract the minority population in our communities? Many members in Cleveland shared that their groups have an equal mix of minorities. Some members in Cincinnati shared that a good way to reach Hispanics would be to print off Spanish literature and drop it off at the local churches. Although some churches may not support Al-Anon, members decided to drop off literature so at least these churches would know about Al-Anon and what it offers. Toledo members shared that they have a diverse community and that they welcome everyone. Even though we are all one some members may feel comfortable integrating while other members due to cultural aspects may feel more comfortable in a different setting but the message of welcome is still the same. Also, some suggested taking pamphlets to the police and fire departments. One member, a retired teacher, named Jane described how she implemented our daily readers into her classroom exposing her class to the Al-Anon principles. Without mentioning God, this teacher by using the slogans, thoughts for the day, the daily readers and the Serenity prayer was able to talk about Al-Anon giving home to many of her students. It was also suggested that we as a whole could do more to distribute literature to school counselors and teachers and principals. This same person gives pamphlets to her beautician to hand out. Terry suggested leaving old Forums in teacher's lounges and Dr. Offices. Patty B talked about a program called "Kin and kids" (support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren). This would be a great opportunity to hand out beginner packets or Al-Anon literature. Tim from Sandusky shared how they laminated a sign advertising their group by putting it up at the local YMCA. One Cleveland meeting has made a basket of Forums for a local Laundromat.

What are the pros and cons of holding the Ohio Area Convention in 2012- There are 100 people registered for the 2011 convention. Some feel that June is a tough time to have a convention especially with it being one week after Founder's Day. Some though Father's Day weekend would be better. However, some felt that a one day convention in the same place every year for a low price including a nice dinner would be more affordable, and may attract more people. Additionally, some felt this would be better since they would not miss out on spending time with family. It was also suggested that we look at Dennison, OSU or Baldwin Wallace College for possible convention locations.

How can we meet the need of meetings in remote locations? Some suggested using technology to reach those in remote areas through the use of the internet. Perhaps having online meetings would work. Also, getting the Al-Anon message through the use of the ER and the police, and sending information to all the municipal buildings in the remote areas would help get the message out since some may not have access to a computer. Robert R and Ed H talked about what their areas were doing to attract those in rural areas. Through the use of a DVD, Al-Anon is mentioned which is helping to educate those about the Al-Anon program This DVD is being shown at local schools, police and fire departments through a program called New Beginnings which is helping to get the message of Al-Anon to the community.

### 4. Public Outreach

How do we as members get the radio stations to play our DVD more often? Some suggested writing letters to radio and TV stations sharing our experience, strength, and hope which may inspire them to play the DVD more often. Hopefully through the addiction studies group, many more professionals will be aware of the benefits of the Al-Anon program. They also discussed how "General Hospital" and "Dear Abby" have had recent mentions about Al-Anon.

The 2010-2013 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual on page 108 states: "Whenever national publicity on Al-Anon/Alateen may be of interest to local groups, they are, if possible, notified in advance by the WSO." Please relay the following information to the groups in your Area.

New Information After Assembly:

The World Service Office has received notice from the staff of the syndicated newspaper columnist, "Dear Abby," that the column for Sunday, June 5, 2011, will direct readers to call Al-Anon for information about local Al-Anon meetings. This item is in addition to the one previously announced that will appear in the Dear Abby column on Monday, May 23.

It is possible that individual newspapers might not carry the Al-Anon items for various reasons. The "Dear Abby" columns in their entirety, however, will appear on the Internet June 5 and May 23. Go to <http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby/> to access the Al-Anon

Family Group information,

In communities where editors choose to publish the Al-Anon information as part of the "Dear Abby" column, it would be appropriate and helpful for members to send thank-you notes to the newspapers. Such thoughtfulness might help editors choose to run more Al-Anon/Alateen items in the future. Thank-you notes sent to "Dear Abby" might appear in print, so please ask to remain anonymous.

#### CONVENTIONS AND TWO-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY'S

2011-2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY- Districts of Columbus-Sandy F

The committee has met and plans for the 2011 Two Day Fall Assembly are progressing. Assembly is October 8-9; 2011. The hotel is the Embassy Suites on the north side of Columbus near the Cleveland Road and I-270 exit. Room rate is \$99.00 per night for 1-6 people. Breakfast is included. When calling the hotel, make sure you tell them you are with Ohio Area Assembly to get the assembly rate.

Banquet choices are as follows:

Vegetarian Lasagna, Stuffed Chicken Breast, or Grilled Salmon - For those who need a gluten free choice, choose the grilled salmon.

The banquet is \$30.00 per person. Banquet reservations are to be mailed to the COAFG's office.

Registration forms are available today and will also be included the next edition of Al-A-Notes, and also on the Ohio Area's website.

2010- 2-DAY FALL AND CONVENTION/CONFERENCE LIASON- Karen M

The 2010 report was turned in concerning the 2010 2 Day Fall Assembly that was held in Cincinnati.

2011- OHIO AREA AL-ANON/ALATEEN CONVENTION June 3-5-Districts of Dayton - Ed W.

Co-chair Bill G reported that there are already 100 people registered for the Convention and 60 for the banquet. The pre- registration deadline is extended to May 21<sup>st</sup> to allow a bit more time to get the registrations sent in and there are still hotel rooms available. Bill also handed out a tentative program schedule for the Convention and told everyone it should really be a lot of fun. They added an ice-cream social. The Convention is being hosted by the Districts of Miami Valley (Dayton).

2012-Two-Day Fall Assembly-Districts of Dayton

DR, Theresa gave Phil the information on the 2010 2 Day- Fall Assembly to pass along to Dayton, who will be hosting the 2 Day Fall in 2012

2012 Ohio Area Convention-Districts of Youngstown- no report

2011 AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation-Districts of Cincinnati-no report

#### THOUGHT FORCES:

Reserve Fund- Ceceila S

The Reserve Fund Task Force was formed to follow up on the Reserve Fund Thought Force. Unfortunately, nothing has happened since then. This is because I was consumed during the fall and spring with my husband's struggle with cancer (he is fine now). I plan to call a meeting this summer and provide a report at the Two Day Fall Assembly. I would ask that Committee Members respond to my emails regarding scheduling availability. If any other members have an interest in this area, please see me. My husband is cancer free and I have learned to put "First Things First" and that saying "I did not do it" is not the end of the world. Please contact Cecelia with any questions at 419-690-9503.

Web or Postal for meeting minutes/ or Al-A-Notes-Group - Mike K- No Report

The members of the Thought Force were introduced and can be identified by different name tags. Please see any of these members to offer any ideas and/or suggestions.

Adult Member Involved in Alateen Service Certification Task Force-Sharon B-(Motion 2011-01)

The AMIAS Task Force chairperson, Sharon B presented a detailed report of the Committee's findings. The State of Ohio is not in compliance with state law regarding volunteers who work with kids unsupervised. A legal opinion was obtained, stating that all volunteers who work with kids should have a fingerprint background check. Noting that this is a complicated issue, the Task Force presented a motion to require all AMIAS to submit a set of fingerprinting impressions for the purpose of securing a criminal background check to be cleared to work with Alateen.

Before the vote was taken, everyone that wanted had a chance to either give a 2 minute comment or ask a question at the mic. This was accomplished in 20 minutes.

Some members felt that the AFG of Ohio had no right to require background checks due to our policy on anonymity and that it would be an invasion of privacy. One commented that we could have a 3rd party simply state whether a sponsor is pass or fail. This may help to ensure that a member's anonymity is not broken. Others urged assembly to re-evaluate to make sure the information we got is accurate with the Ohio Law before passing the motion as it stands. It was voiced that if this motion passes that some current Alateen sponsors would have to discontinue their service. However, it was pointed out that there are many other areas of service those members could serve in. One teen present urged the adults to think of the kids' safety and not the adults before voting. There were several who asked what the boundaries were going to be in deciding what criminal offenses would be considered when accepting or rejecting an Al-Anon to be an Alateen Sponsor. Some wanted the assembly to only include sex offenses as the criteria for allowing an

individual not to sponsor. One of the members stated that there are some people who have not been convicted, who have sexually abused kids. Because this was procedure related, and has not been decided yet, our chairman directed the group back to the motion at hand.

The motion passed with 90 votes, 9 votes against and 3 abstentions.

#### Motions

2011-01- Add to the current By-Laws. Section B. Minimum Safety Requirements: All Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen service will provide a set of fingerprinting impressions for the purpose of securing a criminal record.-Passed

Ohio assembly passed the motion (with ease) requiring background checks for Alateen sponsor certification. We had a dignified discussion, with the minority opinion heard and because of the KBDM process; the assembly was ready to vote after only 20 minutes of comments at the microphone.

NOTE- A work force is being formed and "the procedure will be presented at a future meeting" concerning the newly passed Minimum Safety Requirements for Al-Anon's involved in Alateen service.

2011-02- On page 13. under the heading "Special Standing Committees". add the following:

7. Registration Committee-Consists of two people to take responsibility for registration at assemblies. The Committee will prepare an accurate report of all in attendance and forward it to the Area Secretary after the close of the Assembly. The Committee will collect all Registration Fees and turn them over to the Area Treasurer. Once the Registration Table has closed, the Committee will prepare the eligible names for the drawing to be held at the 2-Day Fall Assembly as discussed under "Ohio Area Convention/International Convention". item #2 on page 16 of the Handbook-Passed Unanimously

2011-03-The Committee members will have lodging and meal expenses paid on Friday night of both assemblies.-Passed with 69 votes, 24 against and 9 abstentions.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A work force is being formed and "the procedure will be presented at a future meeting" concerning the newly passed Minimum Safety Requirements for Al-Anon's involved in Alateen service.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

Fall AWSC - August 13, 2011 - 12:30 P.M. 2040 Henderson Rd. Columbus, Ohio (North Congregational Church of Christ)  
Fall Assembly - October 8-9, 2011

Thank you for your participation (physically, or in spirit!) at our meeting on Saturday.  
Barbara asked for a motion to adjourn our meeting at 5:05 pm. It was unanimous to adjourn.  
We closed with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration:

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

Respectfully submitted, Merri G. -Your Ohio Al-Anon Secretary