

**Area World Service Committee Meeting  
March 29, 2014**

**CHAIRMAN:** Sandy F began the meeting at 12:30 with the Serenity Prayer and welcomed all. Traditions were read by Geanie B, Concepts of Service were read by Donna K and the Warranties were read by Wendy B. We then continued with introductions. There were 28 present.

**SECRETARY-Karen McK:** Sandy asked if there were any additions or correction to the minutes from the August 2013 AWSC meeting. There were none. Phil H moved to accept the minutes as presented. Buffy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT-** Robin R (interim treasurer)

Balance as of 12-31-13	\$32,034.69
Income after 12-31-13	\$ 8,630.55
Expense after 12-31-13	\$-8,258.51
Balance as of 03-19-14	\$32,406.73

Theresa M explained that while in the process of getting back on her feet, she found checks from 2012 that had not been deposited. They will be returned to the groups.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE/NEWS LETTER:** Ginny C

Two issues of the AI-A-Notes have been published since the last Assembly. One in late November, 2013 and one this week. Starting with the fall issue, I upgraded the software to Microsoft Publisher for a more professional look. I am still working out some of the kinks. Thanks to the Kent Friendly AFG and Austintown Monday Night Serenity AFG, folding and labeling has become much easier.

As registration chair for the North Central Regional Delegates Meeting, I spent much of February updating addresses and making name tags and folder tags. Not having done registration before, I learned what to do and not do next time. This North Central Regional Delegates Meeting was my third and many of the faces and names have become familiar. I am so glad I paid close attention the previous years because I will have to attend World Service Conference in Rex's place due to his health problems. This year at the meeting I paid even closer attention and feel prepared. Tips from other past and present delegates should be helpful. Also I found out what I did not know and what information I was still missing.

As of today, I am getting up to speed, reading the Annual report, financial report and other documents to be informed. In addition to attending the Newcomer's Orientation, I should soon be assigned a mentor.

The Board of Trustees has an Audit Committee that is seeking applications for at-large members. Applications and resumes must be submitted by April 26, 2013. Qualifications include being active AI-Anon members with financial expertise as it pertains to auditing. Positions are for one year and are renewable up to six years. For more details and an application, see me.

**DELEGATE'S REPORT-** Rex M.

In Rex's absence this report was combined with the above report given by Ginny C.

**Thought and Task Forces Presentation:** Phil H

Thought Force to assign numbers to lettered Districts in Ohio Area

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING FORM**

**Topic:** To change the current lettered Districts In Ohio Area back to numbered Districts.

**Background information – What we know**

Historical perspective – Approximately 2000, several numbered districts that were listed with "Remote Meetings", were changed from numbers to letters, in hopes of attracting group and district representation at the Area Assemblies. While there

are still meetings in these lettered districts, very few have sent Group Representatives and no District Representatives have been elected.

**Existing motions that pertain to this topic** - None

**What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences?**

It would be much simpler to have all numbered districts.

**What do we know about our capacity (resources)?**

There are currently 7 lettered districts. There are currently 18 numbered districts that are not assigned to any Ohio counties. These could be utilized for the lettered districts.

**What are the implications of our choices? (pros and cons)**

Pros: If we “Keep It Simple”, changing the lettered districts back to numbered districts would simplify our record keeping.

Cons: Changing back to numbered districts would require changing the current Ohio Area 44 Districts Maps, although it would not be a huge project.

**What we wish we knew, but don't:**

Will changing the Districts back to numbers from letters attract more interest from groups in these Districts to elect Group Representatives and District Representatives?

**Questions and Clarification** – no timing or microphone limitations

**Need for motion?** If so, use motion form provided by Chair

**Presented by:** Phil Hoffman, Group Records Coordinator

Motion made by Donna K District 45 to send this to Assembly. Chris M District 58 seconded it. Motion carried.

**Task Force to Explore Possible Changes to Ohio Area Convention:** Buff N

**Background Information – What we Know**

Attendance at the convention has decreased over the last several years. The attendance at the 2012 Convention was 42 participants plus walk-ins. Attendance in the past five years has been:

2008 – International Convention in Pittsburgh OAC not held

2009 – 121

2010- 121

2011 – 162

2012 – 80?

2013 – International Convention in Vancouver OAC not held

Advertising has been poor.

The site of the Ohio Area Convention has followed the rotation according to the schedule listed for the planning committee in the Ohio Handbook.

Attendance was 400-500 when held at college campus near Columbus.

Cost has increased because college campuses are not being used. A college campus and a central location were used in year when attendance was 400-500 in attendance.

Expenses for travel increase when held in a central location are less for many members. Travel time and expenses when held in a central location can still be prohibitive for some to attend because of travel cost and distance.

The planning committee changes every convention according to Ohio Convention Guidelines. The current guidelines can create a lack of continuity and consistency. This creates a committee with little experience planning the convention.

There are many events available for both in Al-Anon and outside recovery for Al-Anon members to attend. This happens especially in June. The demographics for our fellowship have changed in the last 20 years. Does this lead to not being able to commit to a 2 ½ day convention?

Our speakers are chosen from Ohio or adjoining states.

Change to remove limiting the speaker form Ohio or adjoining states could help encourage members to come hear a speaker they have never heard.

At some conventions the workshop choices were limited. The workshop chairpersons lead the workshop with little participation from those attending. The choice of workshops was limited and structured instead of spontaneous with group participation.

Several conventions were structured to encourage participation by attendees.

### **Existing motions that pertain to this topic**

Refer to pages 16-17 of 28 OAC

Refer to page 17 of 28 International Convention

Refer to the Ohio Convention Guidelines pages 21-24 in the Ohio Area Handbook

### **What we know about our membership's needs wants, and preferences?**

Al-Anon members need an affordable convention, easy to get to and centrally located.

We need frequent reminders that a convention is being held. Advertising needs to begin at the convention being held the previous year. Advertising should be sent to every group, AIS, and previous years attendees.

The location should be easily accessible.

### **What do we know about our capacity (Resources)?**     Undetermined

AFG of Ohio budgets yearly \$2000.00 for seed money to assist the host committee with pre-event expenses. OAC is not a fund raiser, but profit from OAC have been given to AFG of Ohio following the event.

### **What Are the implication of our Choices? Pros/Cons**

A more central location would be more convenient for most. It could equalize expenses and driving time.

Using the same weekend every year (ie: 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in June) would make planning for members easier.

This could be difficult to arrange because of availability of venue. It would help in advance planning for future conventions. The earlier convention can be booked a venue the better rates are sometimes available. Repeating at the same venue could also reduce rates.

Holding the convention in June conflict with a busy month for many families ie: graduation, weddings, etc.

West Virginia has inquired about combining our Convention with their Convention. This would require a change to our Ohio convention Guidelines.

**What we wish we knew but don't?**

Would changes improve attendance at Ohio Convention?

Does the featured speaker influence the attendance at the convention?

The demographics for our fellowship have changed in the last 20 years. Does this lead to not being able to commit to a 2 ½ day convention?

**Recommendations**

Changing guidelines to have current co-chair be chair for following year.

Develop guidelines for consistency in record keeping.

Develop a master guideline instruction document to have all basic information available for new committee/chairperson.

Change to remove limiting the speaker from Ohio or adjoining states could help encourage members to come hear a speaker they have never heard.

The location (Districts) planning the conventions can hold conventions anywhere in the Ohio Area.

The planning committee does not have to consist of committee members from that location/ Districts.

Having committee meetings could be a challenge. Committee meetings could be before or after the Assembly meeting or AWSC meetings.

A change in the length of the convention could reduce the cost. Options would include holding the Convention from Friday to Sunday, or Saturday to Sunday, or to a Saturday only. This would reduce the cost for some. Not everyone would benefit because travel time and lodging would still be necessary for some.

Advertising needs to begin at the convention being held the previous year. Advertising should be sent to every group, AIS, and previous years attendees.

**Questions and clarification**

**Need for Motion?** If so, Use the motion form provided by the Chairman.

**Presented by:** Task Force for Possible Changes to Ohio Area Convention

Motion made by Nancy O District 6 to send to assembly Rose R Alateen Coordinator seconded it. Motion carried.

## **COORDINATOR AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONVENTIONS**

**ALATEEN**- Rose R - No Report

**ARCHIVES**-Caroline S - No Report

**FORUM**- Sharon B- No Report

**GROUP RECORDS**- Phil H:

The number of groups being deleted by WSO has dropped to 12 this year. This compares to 21 two years ago. Hopefully, this number keeps declining. Groups are deleted after 1 year on inactive status, if there have been no financial transactions and 7 years if there were financial transactions.

The total number of active groups, as of last night, is 444, holding a total of 501 meetings. Of those 444 groups, 278 have Group Representatives listed with the WSO. That's 62.6%.

There are 7 groups in "no mail" status. I really need your help in finding out if these groups are still meeting or not.

125 groups are on "inactive status" – either because they have notified the WSO that they are no longer meeting, or they were in a "no mail" status for a period of two years.

There are still discrepancies between the WSO printouts and the AIS websites. Again, I need your help to make sure we have all the active groups listed as active – and groups that aren't meeting any more listed as inactive.

DR's – remember you can view the groups in your district online. You can't make corrections, but you can see the information that WSO has for them. Please let me know if there are groups "missing" in your district listing.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**- Marissa D- No Report

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK**-Barbara W

Changes have been made to the Handbook that were approved at 2-day Fall Assembly, 2013 and the current Handbook is posted on the Ohio website to download and print. No changes were made to the By-Laws.

**REVIEW AND AUDIT**- Louise W- No Report

**OHIO WEBSITE**- Mike K-

Our traffic report for Q1 of 2014 made it clear our site became the target of hacking activity again. The activity tainted our traffic results. Our average volume of visitors jumped from 2,000 to 15,000 a month. Most of that traffic came from Europe and .NET sources rather than from residential/commercial.

Further, our web hosting company, Parcom Web Hosting, told us they were reaching the end of the line on support for their legacy hosting plans and recommended we move to another hosting plan. Our hosting plan also happened to be due for renewal this month.

So, we made the decision to move our site to another hosting company. That move took place this past week, and we are fully operational. The new account IDs/Passwords were delivered to our Chairperson and Delegate. This move will not require a change in the Web budget.

In other news, Smartphone and Tablet usage on the Internet continues to increase. Currently they make up over 26% of web traffic. Web designers are giving greater emphasis to these devices in Web design. However, it's also found that handheld device users are feeling they are not getting all the information they need when going to mobile-friendly sites, so they are

clicking on the “Deliver desktop page” option when they are browsing, defeating the purpose of building mobile specific sites. We’ll be taking this into consideration in the new design. Webmaster@ohioal-anon.org

**COMPLAINCE LIASON AND AAPP-** Janice R- May 15, 2014 is the deadline for AMAIS. Anybody renewing after this deadline will not be renewed and cannot continue as an AMIAS.

## **2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY- CONVENTIONS**

### **REPORTS:**

Districts of Toledo Ohio Area Convention- Nancy O reported that fliers can be downloaded from our website.

**OLD BUSINESS-** The “Do not refer” list (Guidelines for not referring new members) committee chairperson has resigned. We are looking for a new chairperson. Topic will be brought up under Old Business at Spring Assembly.

The Task Force for taking possible workshops to remote locations in Ohio did not get started. This topic will be brought up under Old Business at Spring Assembly.

**NEW BUSINESS** - The minutes from Fall Assembly are on the website.

Rex M is unable to go to WSO Conference due to health concerns so Ginny C will going in his place.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **DISTRICT CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS –**

Central Ohio outreach is pumping up. Some groups are having problems, traditions are broken & people are hurt. Refer to Traditions 2,3 &4, 2&4 on Dominance & Warranty 4&5. WSO’s stand is that we are not punitive. Read pg. 54 of the Service Manual. We can go to treatment centers & inform them that these groups are not following Al-Anon guidelines. Suggested that they form their own task force.

Chris M from District 56- Check AA listing in your location to see if AFG info is correct.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Louise W moved to adjourn our meeting and Shirley M seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

We closed with the Al-Anon Declaration which is worded as follows: **“Let it begin with me When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and -- *Let it begin with me.*”**

Respectfully submitted  
By, Karen McK  
Area Secretary

