

**Two Day Fall Assembly Minutes  
Oct 19-20, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 with the Serenity Prayer. Rose R read the Traditions, Lisa B read the Concepts & Patty W read the Warranties.

**CHAIRMAN** – Sandra F Welcomed everybody & reviewed our goals and etiquette. Sandy also reviewed the voting procedures. Sandy introduced each District. Then our 19 new Group Representatives were introduced. There were 18 Districts represented at this Assembly.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- Karen McK . Allison G made a motion to accept the minutes from Spring Assembly May 18, 2013. Caroline S seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT-**

Balance as of 12-31-13	\$32,034.69
Income after 12-31-13 was	\$20,240.11
Expense after 12-31-13 was	\$-20,803.13
Balance as of 9-30-14	\$31,471.67

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE** – Ginny C

The Summer issue of the AI-A-Notes was sent out in August. Two fliers were enclosed: one on the Fall Assembly and the other on District 48 Conference in Wilmot, Ohio.

The deadline for submissions to the next AI-A-Notes is November 1st. The topic for the officers and coordinators is “What principle of the program is your favorite and why?” District Representatives please tell about what is going on in your district.

Since the AWSC, I have been busy editing and distributing a script for a skit to be done this weekend. The original was done at the World Service Conference in April. I also helped Rex with the “Meet the Board Event” application. I am the contact for WSO for the event.

Today, there were 19 new GR’s who attended the orientation this morning. In the back of the room are some love gifts I brought back from the World Service Conference in April. Please take some back to your group.

**DELEGATE'S REPORT**- Rex McV

Coming to the end of three year term of service as Delegate. There has been a lot of busy time. There were two World Service Conferences in Virginia Beach. I served on Literature Committee. Ginny C served my last WSC due to back surgery.

Served on Thought Force on Abundance and Spirituality in Money Discussions. Still have some wrap up with this. We had several phone conference calls on this subject. We should be able to finish it up later this year with a final call.

Today I talked to Austin M past Chair of Ohio Assembly. He is doing well and going to therapy three times a week. Still weak. I also talked to Bob J my sponsor. He had a stroke and recovering.

We submitted application to “Meet the Board”. The request will be compiled and presented to the Board Of Trustees in October 2014. A final decision will be announced December 2014.

There have been many problems with AI-Anon groups wanting to run meetings their way. Not using Steps, Traditions or other Literature.

**REGISTRATION** – Eleanor T

Total in attendance was 70, total voting on Sat was 53 and the total voting on Sun was 37

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS**

**Official ballot results were submitted by the election ballot counting committee Chairman, Robin R For each elected position.**

Our new officers serving Panel 55 are as follows:

Chair – Buff N

Delegate – Ginny C

Alternate Delegate – Theresa M

Secretary – Phil H

Treasurer – Judy P

Alateen Coordinator – Tina L

Forum – Chris T

Group Records – Still open

Literature – Karen M

Public Outreach – Still open

Anybody interested in serving in these positions, please email Sandy F @ [sandyf44ohafg@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyf44ohafg@yahoo.com).

### **THOUGHT/TASK FORCE, WORK GROUPS**

Task Force Exploring Insurance for the Area –Theresa M

The Task Force has begun to have success in gathering information. The information will be consolidated and a full report given to the 2015 Spring AWSC.

Task Force For Developing A Criteria for not listing Groups Who Do Not Follow Al-Anon Principles – Allison G

1) Ohio Area is in the process of writing a procedure for de-listing groups who do not follow the Traditions of the Al-Anon Family Group from local schedules. This Task Force was formed at the Spring Assembly in 2014 in response to a continuing pattern of reported incidents involving groups that are not abiding by AFG Traditions, Concepts of Service, and the Guidelines outlined in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual.

2) The procedure is for all of Ohio Area, and as such the committee members were drawn from several districts regardless of whether an incident had been reported there previously. The Task Force is charged with developing the procedure only, and is not addressing the individual reports, districts, or groups.

3) The Task Force has contacted other areas with Delisting Procedures already established and are using those as a model for ours. We have completed background research of the reported incidents to provide information regarding the necessary scope of the Delisting Procedure and to provide greater understanding of the impact on the Al-Anon Family Group as a whole. We have also researched thoroughly the Handbook, By-Laws, General Warranties, the Guidelines in the most recent Service Manual, and many other Conference-Approved Literature resources in order to ensure due diligence in following the Traditions of the program while developing the Delisting Procedure.

4) The procedure will include providing information, education, resources, and support to groups that have a reported incident and will also include steps for relisting groups after they have been delisted as a result of this procedure. The Delisting Procedure will not be punitive and will not cause a group to lose Al-Anon support, resources, and votes at Assemblies and Conferences. The procedure will only result in removing a group from the location schedule, and in locations with an Area Information Service office, the group will no longer be referred to newcomers or other callers.

5) The Task Force is now in the process of putting the procedure into document form. We have lined up two past delegates to read and review the procedure when it is finished and to give suggestions for improvements and to make corrections as necessary. Our goal is to have the Delisting Procedure completed and ready to present to the Area World Service Committee on March 30th. If the committee approves it, it will be presented at the Spring Assembly in 2015.

Task Force for Guidelines for Incoming Alateen Sponsors (AMIAS) – Rose R

Is there a need to implement a process for AMIAS members who no longer meet Area Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements, to be removed from the Ohio Area?

After a short discussion among the group, it was decided that a process is needed.

June 15th is the “hard” deadline to have background checks sent to the AAPP.

Steps to maybe follow were discussed as follows:

- a) Send notification letter no later than February 1st of renewal year to AMIAS applicant and call applicant as well.
- b) If no reply within 2 weeks (15th of month), contact DR / GR if available (name should be on signature page of previous year), Co-Sponsor of Alateen group if information is available or the Area Alateen Coordinator.

c) Contact a member of the sponsoring Al-Anon group to check out the Alateen meeting and see what Sponsors are there.

After all avenues have been exhausted, write a letter to Alateen Sponsor in question informing them they are decertified until they notify AAPP to recertify.

How do we educate members to support Al-Anon @ all levels?

a) GR's communicate happenings @ Assembly and District meetings to the groups at regular intervals. Business meetings monthly maybe

b) Read Traditions and Concepts / chair meetings w/the Concepts

c) Use books, "Many Voices, One Journey" and "Reaching For Personal Freedom".

d) Emphasize the "we" in our groups, explain Districts, Inter Groups, Assembly and WSO to the group.

e) Bring a group member to District, Inter Group or Assembly meetings.

### **Thought Force, Task Force Work Group Presentations**

Work Group for Changing Lettered Districts to Numbered Districts in Ohio – Phil H

Task Force for Adding Ohio Al-A-Notes to the Website – Ginny C

The task force discussed whether to place the Al-A-Notes on the Website in addition to printing it.

Currently, the Al-A-Notes is distributed three times a year, via USPS at Non-Profit mailing rates. A Task Force mailed out a survey in the Winter 2012 edition of Al-A-Notes and distributed additional surveys at the Spring 2013 AWSC meeting and the 2013 Spring Assembly. Members were asked to rank, in order, their preference for receiving Al-A-Notes. The results were that the first preference was to distribute it by mail and the second preference was to place it on the website. There are no previous motions pertaining to the topic.

As the survey shows there is some interest in the website as a source of receiving the Al-A-Notes. Some people like both the mail and the internet version. Others prefer only electronic forms. In some groups, the person who has the current mailing address (CMA) does not bring the Al-A-Notes to the meeting. If it were also available on the website, everyone would have access. The average age of an Al-Anon is 55 but we need to attract those who are younger and more computer/internet savvy.

As long as the Al-A-Notes can be formatted so as to be uploaded to the website, it should not be difficult from a technological perspective. The pros include reaching a broader audience and improving availability. Another pro is wider availability to the general public and those who are looking for some kind of help. This could be another way to spread the word about Al-Anon.

The cons include using appropriate cautions to protect anonymity such as removing any phone numbers or other personal information from the website version of the Al-A-Notes.

Task Force Recommending Changes to Budgeted items in the Handbook – Budget Committee

Task Force for Recommendation for Reserve Fund – Budget Committee

These were all Power Point Presentations .

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

**ALATEEN-** Rose R

I'd like to begin by saying thank you for having the faith and trust in me to carry out this service position for 3 years. It's been a teaching and learning experience. I feel that I've grown tremendously and it's done so much for my

recovery that I can't begin to express my feelings. Just know that I am grateful that I took the step and that I actually did survive!

That being said, KOMIAC this year was extremely emotional, spiritual and amazing all in one! All of the Ohio Alateens were awesome and made the weekend one of the best KOMIAC's I've attended. We had a total of 219 which includes Sponsors and Alateens. I'm not sure of the exact figures and I apologize. I seem to have misplaced the sheets that KY sent and the registration chair is out of town this weekend so he couldn't re-send them to me. I will try and get them to our secretary before the printed copies of Assembly are sent. If it's one thing I've learned from being an Alateen Sponsor, its flexibility!

I've taken about 10 calls from WSO since Spring Assembly for Alateen information. Most of those calls are from professionals looking for Alateen meetings in their area. I've passed off those I could to people in those particular areas. Thanks to all who helped out. Some unfortunately, we couldn't help because they're too far out or the areas have interested parties but those interested are in the other 12 step program and not members of AI-Anon.

If you haven't been already, take a trip to the members web site and check out the Alateen Service E-Manual. It's set up in a way that is even easy for me to navigate! There is an enormous amount of information about being a Sponsor and what Alateen Service is all about.

Also, don't forget to have your AMIAS paperwork filled out for 2015. They should be filled out and signed and to our AAPP by December 31st 2014.

### **ARCHIVES**- Caroline S

I graciously accepted the position of Ohio Area Archives Coordinator in the fall of 2011 and had no idea the wealth of memorabilia and treasures I would find among the drab and mundane of the Archive boxes and binders. Soon after taking my new service roll I was given access to the Archivist sites on the AI-Anon web site and looked at the experience, strength and hope shared among several other Archive enthusiasts in our fellowship and learned wise ways to store and identify our treasures.

We still have some media that will become obsolete (audible tapes and perhaps in the future CD's or DVD's) and may need to be converted to some other digital form. These are stored in a fire proof and waterproof box that I brought to assembly today for those who may be curious. Our Ohio AI-Anon Archives do not have electronic records scanned of our paper documents either and this may be a consideration for undertaking going forward to someone so inclined and with the time and interest which I have not had over these last 3 years. To date our tangible materials are still safe and stored in my home as they were for the prior Archive Coordinators that went before me. There is a cost savings in leaving our history to the best protection of a personal home, and I have also reminded myself that I appreciate that these gems are not locked away in some storage site and then difficult to access for our members. The losses however, endured by other states archives to fire and flood have made me upgrade some of our storage to more sturdy plastic and watertight containers since I took this service position.

I have added several new bins to our growing materials and new containers for collecting the Forum magazines, a project I started during my term of service. I also began collecting current and some past Conference summaries from the Akron Area Information Service office. I understand that the Forum magazine and the Conference Summaries are not strictly Ohio Archival literature but we do have many prolific Ohio Forum writers that are often featured and every Conf. summary has an Ohio Delegate and Ohio Alt. Delegate message included representing our state and reflecting on the theme of the Conference, and while each archivist can decide what needs to stay or purge from our Ohio Area Archives, I have decided during my term that these are gems we ought to also keep for our Ohio History. I have been pleased that my Forum collection has also helped an Ohio member find a favorite article when she lost her own copy of the Forum and turned to me, her Ohio Archivist, for just that sort of help. I have also, with Phil. H's help in Group Records, tracked down, as close as possible, a Parma AFG official start date for preparing for their anniversary and updated the WSO group lists for the WSO 60th Anniversary project in 2013 of getting a better idea of the start date of many of the groups around the country that have had no such data in their database.

Several new items have also been donated to Archives since my service began: The Addiction Studies Conference memorabilia where members attended for outreach to professionals back in 2013. A lovely canvas 12 steps and 12 traditions banner bought from our WSO when it was located in NY from one of our Ohio Members Beverly, C who kept it in her cedar chest since the 1980's were also donated to me during my 3 year term. I have much of this with me to share with you all and thank you for the opportunity to be of service to our membership over these 3 years and also look forward to passing on this service position to another member who like myself may not feel so qualified as

they do called and just eager to have these treasures near and dear and safe in their care with perhaps similar pack rat skills and care that I have had.

**FORUM**- Sharon B  
No report submitted

**GROUP RECORDS**- Phil H

By now, all groups have received the 2014 Annual Update Sheet from the World Service Office. This is a printout of the current group information on file at the WSO, and it is the ONE opportunity that groups have to update their information at the WSO. The individual group is responsible for keeping its information current.

Keeping group information up-to-date is vital to assure that the most accurate meeting information is provided to persons seeking help in the AI-Anon and Alateen fellowship. Accurate records also keep communication flowing between the group and the WSO, and the group and local service arms. It is essential that groups promptly report changes in their meeting, location, meeting day, time, CMA (Current Mailing Address), Group Representative (GR), or phone contacts to their Area Group Records Coordinator or the WSO in writing. Group members can contact their District Representative (DR) to inquire about their Area process to submit group changes. The Area Group Records Coordinator can provide group reports to verify that the information on file is current.

This comes right out of the AI-Anon Alateen Service Manual, on page 51.

On the Annual Update Sheet, confirm that the information is correct. If it is all correct, the ONLY thing that needs to be done is to check the box at the top and mail the form back to the WSO in the envelope provided. Don't have the envelope? The address is on the bottom of the form.

If the information is NOT correct, make the changes on the back of the Update Sheet. Make sure to PRINT PLAINLY to avoid any mistakes when the information is entered into the computer system. Groups should also send a copy of the corrected form to their AI-Anon Information Service (AIS) and furnish a copy to their District Representative (DR). Everyone needs to be kept in the loop – that's how groups receive current information. Through last night, 41 groups have already returned their Update Sheet. WAY TO GO!

Speaking of receiving current information, how many of you have seen the "Group e-news"? This is sent to the group's Current Mailing Address who have furnished an email address to the WSO (it will also be listed on the Annual Update sheet). It's timely news from the WSO to keep groups up on current happenings – for example "AI-Anon male contacts needed for the Inmate Correspondence Service (ICS)". Myself – this is something new for me! It's another source of information for the groups. Please be sure you're getting this at your meetings.

As of last night, there are 434 active groups holding a total of 491 meetings. That is down from 443 active groups reported at the Spring Assembly. 145 groups are listed as "inactive", up from 129 inactive groups at the Spring Assembly. There are still 6 groups in "no mail" status. The active group total is the lowest in 3 years and the inactive group total is the highest in 3 years. Hopefully, this isn't a trend!

Of those 434 active groups, 274 have Group Representatives listed – that's 63%. This percentage has held relatively steady over the last 3 years. Still, there are groups that have GR's listed that were reported as far back as 2003! Here again, this information is only as current as the group reports. It can be done on the Annual Update Sheet as I just mentioned, or on the Registration/Group Records Change Form, GR-1. This form can either be sent to the WSO or the Area Group Records Coordinator.

The GR-1 Forms, along with the Instruction Sheets, are in the back. If you fill them out here, just place the corrections in the box.

**LITERATURE**- Shirley M

Sharings from parents and grandparents are still needed for the new pamphlet about challenges faced by parents and grandparents of young problem drinkers.

"How AI-Anon Works" e-book (eB22) is now widely available from all the same vendors as the "Having Had a Spiritual Awakening" (eB25) and is now priced at \$9.99.

The Literature Committee has completed guidelines to encourage members to write for the new daily reader approved by the 2014 World Service Conference. Areas have been asked to initiate discussions on new ways to peek sharings from members that would encourage sharings that voice various perspectives of our fellowship, how to encourage members to reveal where appropriate, their differences as well as what we have in common. It is my understanding that this daily reader could take several years in order to get enough sharings to publish this book.

Revised Literature: The latest printing of "Why Anonymity in Al-Anon?" (P-33) is a major revision of the pamphlet that covers many aspects of this topic, including anonymity on the Internet and as an important spiritual principle that we place above personalities. It remains eight pages long and sells for 35 cents (US).

Did you know that Why Conference Approved Literature?" (P-35) is also available as a free download on the Al-Anon Online Store and the members' site? Pass this link on to those who ask "Why CAL?": <http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/P35.pdf>. (See me if you need this link)

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**- Merri G

I want to express my gratitude for allowing me to serve as your interim Public Outreach Coordinator from June through October. It has been a pleasure serving you in this capacity.

In June, I received word that the WSO was sponsoring a Public Outreach conference call Saturday June 28th at 3:00 but due to a lack of participation it was cancelled.

In August, I received an email from a lady in Cleveland, Ohio who is a member of the New Covenant Christian Church. She was requesting Al-Anon literature to hand out to the participants in a new outreach program they were starting. I was able to connect her with our Cleveland Public Outreach coordinator who sent her literature and information on the Al-Anon program.

Lastly, Sandy F sent me a post card that she received from Case Western concerning a Recovery conference that was going to be held at the Cleveland Airport Marriot in October. I emailed the coordinator at Case Western and they offered us a table for free for both days. With school starting, I was not sure how I was going to coordinate this project, but many volunteers stepped up to the plate here in Cleveland, Ohio enabling us to send a team to man the tables October 14th and 15th. We have two sets of volunteers for both days which was a blessing. I cannot thank Donna S who volunteered to pick up the literature from Sandy to bring back to Cleveland in my absence.

I really regret not being there this weekend but on top of working 50 hours a week, I am taking Corporate Finance and Cost Accounting in school which is both equally hard for me. Just ask Phil, my Algebra tutor, and he will vouch that math is difficult for me, but it does not help being in my 50's either. In addition, it is the first semester where I have had to take night classes which are not a good fit for me after working all day.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of working in this position. I am sure that the application will be filled this weekend, but this is an area that I have enjoyed for the last several months. It is not a hard position but it is an exciting one. My only suggestion is to ask for help which is one of my weaknesses. It brings tears to my eyes when I think of all the people in Cleveland who did not hesitate to help me out with the Evidence-Based Practice Conference at the Cleveland, Marriot. Whoever chooses to volunteer for this position can email me at [merrig.iamfree@gmail.com](mailto:merrig.iamfree@gmail.com). I have the notebook that I can mail to you.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Ohio Area Assembly in this capacity.

### **BUDGET**- Robin R

Budget & reserve expenses are in line with expectations and this time last year except for the Delegate Equalized expense and travel. The higher cost of the delegate to attend the 2015 WSC is due to the additional trip to Stepping Stones that is done every third year. The higher travel expense is unexplained at this time.

On the positive side, group donations and plea letter donations are about \$1,400 more than this time last year and the 2014 OAC returned the \$2000 float amount and an additional \$462.

A comparison of total income and expenses shows a deficit of about \$560. While at this time last year, we were still operating "in the black", by year end, expenses exceeded income by about \$1700. As Theresa pointed out during her report, I too anticipate we will have somewhat of a deficit again this year.

It's been an honor to serve as your Budget Chairperson these last three years. Thanks to all for your help and cooperation and special thanks to Budget Committee members Rex M., Sandy F., Theresa M., Amy H-C. and Eric J. A couple of suggestions to help the new budget chair get off to a good start are:

For the incoming coordinators, let the new budget chair know of any ideas you have for next year so it can be considered while developing the 2015 budget. And for all the current coordinators, officers and committee chairs, please be sure to get your expenses turned in to Theresa by December 1st so they can be included in 2014 expenses. This will help in developing the 2015 budget.

**BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK** – Barbara W.

25 copies of the Handbook & By-Laws were provided to the new Group Representatives attending the GR Orientation. There have not been any changes to these since October, 2013.

**REVIEW AND AUDIT**- Louise W.

Materials we were given since the 2013 Fall Assembly were reviewed to the extent possible. Unfortunately, parts could not be reconciled because the time periods did not match. (E.G., check register covered through April 9, 2014 but vouchers and bank statements covered through July 31, 2014.) We extrapolated wherever possible and believe we arrived at a fair and accurate report. We concur that the books are in order and reports reflect a complete and accurate picture of the financial status of The Ohio Area Assembly AFG.

We found a complete report of the North Central Regional Delegates' Meeting (Feb. 2014) but did not find anything that appeared to be a report for the 2013 Fall Assembly or 2014 Ohio Area Convention. If this committee receives those reports in a timely manner, they may be reviewed by December 31, 2014.

For future reference, the committee would like to suggest that all photocopies of payments be complete—all bills in a cash donation and the entire front of every check. We had difficulties when the copier cut off parts or the bills were stacked with the denominations covered. Another step which is time consuming but could make future reviews easier is to note the date of deposit and group/purpose of each payment on the photocopies.

We would like to give a big cheer to both treasurers, Theresa M. and Robin R. for their valiant efforts to keep things together during the period of this review. Both faced serious challenges and met them with—what else?—serenity.

**OHIO WEB** – Mike K

After our move to Corecomm, spammer traffic from overseas has greatly reduced, Our stats have returned to normal. We're seeing an interesting increase in remote meeting information requests this year. The webmaster email address has also received a number of emails from the public asking about remote meeting information. In the middle of September, the web stats service went down. Our hosting company is repairing it. That is why Sept and Oct are not included in this report. Here are the top 5 meeting redirect pages our visitors are clicking on:

- 1.Remote
- 2.Cleveland
- 3.Toledo
- 4.Akron
- 5.Cincinnati

**COMPLAINT LIAISON AND AAPP**- Janice R

As a reminder of what the different initials used in this report:

- ] AAPP = Area Al-Anon Process Person
- AMIAS = Alateen Members Involved in Alateen Service
- AGS = Alateen Group Sponsor

The certification process for all AMIAS and AGS has been completed for this year. Now it is time to start the process all over again for next year. Deadline is December 31, 2014.

I have AMIAS paperwork with me if you would like one today. These forms (Form One and Form Two can be found on the Ohio website.

I have 30 Alateen groups listed with WSO. I will check that list with Phil H., Group Records, this weekend.

There are 117 AMIAS certified with WSO from Ohio. Some are both "AGS (which makes them an AMIAS automatically and some are just AMIAS people.  
When filling out AMAIS forms put "2015" in top right corner.

### **TWO DAY FALL/OHIO AREA CONVENTION LIAISON** – Donna K

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your 2-Day Fall and OAC Liaison. It has been a good learning experience for me.

I needed to decide on how much I needed to "control" and how much do I "trust" my Higher Power (God) to do. Sometimes I struggled with trust and allowing others to do things as they wanted even when I disagreed with their course of action. God was in charge.

The 2015 OAC is moving along after a few minor set-backs. Sue C will be giving her report later. PLEASE take one of their flyers for the Cincinnati 2015 Ohio Area Convention on June 5th thru the 7th. See you there.

The 2016 OAC is moving along. Jan S. has been elected as the chairperson for the Cleveland convention. She will be speaking later.

### **ACTION COMMITTEES**

Public Outreach – Estelle B  
Report not submitted.

Fellowship – Karen V

Write a KBDM presentation for the new GR pamphlet for Spring assembly 2015.

We reviewed the pamphlet information and found it informative. A KBDM was not completed at this time.

We discussed electronic communication as a medium that will interact well with folks younger than 30 years of age.

1. Al-Anon has a presence on Facebook and Twitter
2. Groups meet online.
3. E-readers are in place for the Forum and Having Had A Spiritual Awakening.
4. Al-A-Notes is now going to be available online.
5. E-communities are established for coordinators with message boards.
6. There may exist overlapping concerns with outreach in some of the above ideas.

Group Services – Sue H

Is there a need to implement a process for AMIAS members who no longer meet Area Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements, to be removed from the Ohio Area?

After a short discussion among the group, it was decided that a process is needed.

June 15th is the "hard" deadline to have background checks sent to the AAPP.

Steps to maybe follow were discussed as follows:

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- b) Read Traditions and Concepts / chair meetings w/the Concepts
- c) Use books, "Many Voices, One Journey" and "Reaching For Personal Freedom".
- d) Emphasize the "we" in our groups, explain Districts, Inter Groups, Assembly and WSO to the group.
- e) Bring a group member to District, Inter Group or Assembly meetings.

Membership Outreach- Laura K

Points discussed

1. How does being part of a home group help my service?



2. What is a home group?
3. How to encourage importance of home group.
4. What action can this committee take?
5. What are new comer meetings/ how to reach the new comer.

#### ADDICTION STUDIES INSTITUTE – Sandy F

The Addiction Studies Institute was held August 6th-8th, 2014 at the Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. This three day event was for practicing professionals and pre-service professionals in the addiction fields. Again this year, the emphasis was on family recovery. Each day began at 8 am and concluded at 5 pm.

My committee and I talked to many professionals, around 200. Many who had visited our booth in the past and returned and asked for meeting schedules for their location. Not only did we talk to professionals from Ohio, but we also were able to give local contact information to professionals from Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Indiana, and Florida. The pamphlet Getting in Touch With Al-Anon/Alateen (S-23) has this information.

Literature distributed included the Packet for Professionals (K-30), Fact Sheets for Professionals (S-37), Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2014, and the PO Bookmarks (M-76). Also available was the series of pamphlet Al-Anon is for... as well as other Public Outreach materials.

While chatting with a professional we would ask if they referred clients to Al-Anon meetings. When they said yes we gave them a referral pad (M-77). We, also, inquired if there was a bulletin board in the waiting room where one of our posters could be displayed. If the professional had a bulletin board we gave them the Al-Anon Poster (M-79).

We distributed a total of 350 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2014. Professional who refer clients to Al-Anon meetings were given a few additional copies to give to clients.

Meeting schedules for the metropolitan locations and free standing Districts in Ohio were the highest requested information at this event. Only a few copies were left at the end of the event. Schedules for the Cleveland were requested, but none were available from the District of Cleveland. Al-Anon Information Service locations (Intergroups) and Districts will be asked again next year to provide meeting schedules for this event.

The other frequent request was for meetings both Al-Anon and Alateen in what we refer to as remote locations. A question I have for all in attendance today. Does your group ever talk about going to a small town near your location to start a meeting or starting an Alateen meeting in your location?

This year, our booth was located on the second floor in the far right corner of the exhibitor's space. Well out of the flow, which may be a reason we did not have as great a number of professionals visit as in the past. The amount time professionals had to visit booths was more restricted. We talked to professionals before the day began, at lunch time, and during breaks. In past years, institute attendees were able to visit between sessions because the schedule was not as tight. Professionals did not visit booths during any of the sessions as in the past. This year this was not allowed.

The other volunteers and I a lot of wait time and were able to visit the other booths. We had fun chatting and I will admit we did giggle some too.

The 2015 Addiction Studies Institute will be held August 12th- 14th at the Convention Center. This will be the third year of a three year trial at which time you will be asked if we continue or no

#### Ohio Recovery Rally - Sandy F

The Ohio Recovery Rally was held September 16th on the West State House lawn in Downtown Columbus. This event is held annually during National Recovery Month, which is September. Attendees at this event were there celebrating their own personal recovery. I estimate there were over 3000 people in attendance. A few Ohio Assemblymen attended and spoke giving words of encouragement.

The emphasis was on family recovery. The information table had a fee of \$20. Information distributed for this event was similar to information available for Addiction Studies Institute. I only talked to a few professional who

were given the Fact Sheet for Professionals Kit (k-30). Since the emphasis was on personal recovery, the pamphlet “Are you affected by Someone Else’s Drinking” and “Did you grow up with a Problem Drinker” were the most popular. The bookmarks were popular also.

I talked to over 200 people from around Ohio, distributing over 100 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2014 and other literature. Meeting schedules were given out for metropolitan location in Ohio when asked. Those requesting meeting information for remote locations were referred to AFG of Ohio’s website.

This day was a lot of fun. Everyone wanted to share their story; many asked questions about Al-Anon and asked if members of other 12 step programs could attend meetings. Maybe this is an idea for each group to look into for their location.

AFG of Ohio has been asked to participate in this event again in 2015.

#### **Old Business –**

Task Force for remote locations-

By the consensus of the Assembly this will be carried over to panel 55.

Task Force for changes to Ohio Are Convention  
Will no longer proceed.

Task Force for exploring insurance for the Area  
The Task Force has begun to have success in gathering information. The information will be consolidated and a full report given to the 2015 Spring AWSC.

#### **New Business**

Fliers cannot be uploaded to Al-A-Notes or Website unless they are in connection with a District, Intergroup, or Assembly.

#### **Motions:**

2014-001

Move to change the . Lettered Districts in Ohio Area (44) to Numbered Districts as follows:

District A – Change to District 17	District B – Change to District 18
District C – Change to District 19	District D – Change to District 20
District F – Change to District 3	District G – Change to District 13
District H – Change to District 11	

**MOTION CARRIES**

#### **2014-002**

**To add *Ohio Al-A-Notes* to the Ohio Area website with all personal contact information removed.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

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

2013 Two Day Fall ( Districts of Youngstown) Judy A – In folder for Spring 2014 Assembly. Not available for minutes.

2014 AA State Service Convention with Al-Anon Participation – Steve F

July 25-27, 2014. The convention was attended by over 600 people, only 19 were Al-anon only. Preparations for the convention started in October 2013 with monthly program meetings. Glen W of Toledo was my co-chair.

The theme of the convention was Service; Alcoholics in action...from the coffee pot to World Service. We decided to base the Al-Anon program on our book *Many Voices, One Journey*. We formed 3 panels with 3 members per panel. All 9 members had terrific perspectives to share. Each panel was followed by audience sharings. The 9AM

Saturday panel had 12 in attendance. The 3PM Saturday panel had 18 in attendance. The 9AM Sunday panel had 23 in attendance.

Barbara W – past Delegate- was the Al-Anon 2PM Saturday lead. She had an awesome message. Thank you Barbara. Well over 100 people were in attendance.

Betty T- Districts of Toledo Archivist- had Toledo's archive display set up. She also had CAL literature for distribution.

Al-Anon had our own hospitality room. We supplied fruits and juices and sweets.

The complete weekend was filled with friendship and sharing of experience, strength and hope with members of AA and Al-Anon. Thank you Sandra for the privilege of being the liaison for this AA convention. Thanks also to all members who helped in any way at the convention.

**2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY**- October 18-19, 2014, will be at Columbus Airport Marriott. Hosted by Districts of Columbus

**OHIO AREA CONVENTION** –Nancy O

The 2014 OHIO Area Convention was held in Toledo Jun 20-22, 2014 at the Ramada Inn. There was a variety of speakers and workshops. Attendance was 161 people with 67 people attending the buffet banquet. The hospitality room was well stocked. The leftover food was donated to various organizations and to the hotel workers lunchroom. The \$2000. Deposit money from the state was returned with a profit of \$524.13. Thanks you for the opportunity to serve as co-chair for the OAC.

Drawing for active Assembly members to attend an Ohio Convention were won by Brian J and Merri G

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

AWSC – March 28, 2015 – 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, 43220

Spring Assembly – May 16, 2015 – 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, 43220

AWSC – August 15, 2015 – 2040 W, Henderson Road, Columbus, 43220

Ohio Area Convention - TBA

Two Day Fall Assembly – Oct 17- 18, 2015 Ramada Inn

Mary Ellen asked for a motion to adjourn our meeting. Nancy O seconded it. All in attendance voted to adjourn.

We closed with the Al-Anon Declaration: **Let it begin with me, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hands of Al-Anon/Alateen always be there and let it begin with me.**

Respectfully submitted. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your secretary for panel 54.

Karen McK