

AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Area World Service Committee meeting was held on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at the North Congregational United Church Of Christ, 2040 Henderson Road, Columbus 43220. Chairman Buff N opened the meeting at 12:37 PM with the Serenity Prayer, and welcomed 7 new attendees to the meeting. Sandy C, ISR for Serenity & Beyond read the Twelve Traditions; Karen M, Literature Coordinator read the Twelve Concepts of Service and Donna K, Budget Committee Chair read the General Warranties Of The Conference.

All present introduced themselves and a total of 32 people were present.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Fall 2014 AWSC meeting were previously electronically distributed to all the Committee. Sandy F, Bylaws & Handbook Chair moved and Jo S, DR 51, seconded to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Theresa M (2014) –	Ending balance as of 31 December 2013 –	\$ 32,034.69
	Income 1 January – 31 December 2014 –	+ 24,764.04
	Expenses 1 January – 31 December 2014 –	- <u>25,604.41</u>
	Ending Balance as of 31 December 2014 –	\$ 31,194.32
Judy A (2015) –	Beginning balance as of 1 January 2015 –	\$31,194.32
	Income 1 January – 21 March 2015 –	+3,053.90
	Expenses 1 January – 21 March 2015 –	- <u>2,413.68</u>
	Ending Balance as of 21 March 2015 –	\$31,834.54

Malinda M, Alt DR 5 moved, and Karen S, Registration Committee, seconded, to accept the reports and send them to the Spring Assembly. The motion passed.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE & AL-A-NOTES REPORT: - Theresa M. –

The Spring Al-A-Notes was sent out in an envelope, due to new postal regulations, regarding the weight of paper used and how they had been previously folded. She noted that the mail out version does have the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of the Officers, Coordinators and Committee Chairs, and this information does need to be guarded. The web version had this page removed. There was a question regarding Al-A-Notes and the two addresses in them – all donations (group, plea letter, individual, etc.) are to be sent to PO Box 524, Columbiana, Ohio 44408-0524. This is the post office box for the Treasurer. Subscription information is to be sent to PO Box 54, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0054. This is the post office box for the Secretary and AFG of Ohio in general. She said the next issue will be sent around July, and she plans to email the DR’s asking for input for that issue.

She attended the Regional Delegates’ Meeting and came back with many suggestions. As in Ginny C’s case last year, where she had to attend the World Service Conference because our Delegate Rex M was unable to attend, Theresa said it was a lot of good information.

DELEGATE’S REPORT: - Ginny C. –

Ginny sent out emails to the DR’s, regarding proposed changes to Concepts 8 and 11 that will be discussed at the upcoming World Service Conference (WSC). She said the changes are just updating the Concepts to reflect what is actually being done. She also sent out an email asking for input on a “Universal Understanding of “Family Recovery”, which would be a definition of what it actually is. Again, there have been some

suggestions made and it's an agenda item at the upcoming WSC. She participated in a Conference Call with the Area Alateen Process Persons in January. The main subject of discussion was the proper handling of Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service (AMIAS) documents at the Area level and how they should be submitted to the WSO. She passed all of this information along to our new AAPP Coordinator, Karen P. She also attended the U.S. North Central Regional Delegates' Meeting in Iowa and discussed several ideas & suggestions for the upcoming WSC. The theme for the 2015 WSC is "Living Our Spiritual Principles, Expanding Our Vision". She outlined some of the things that will be happening at the WSC and will bring back a complete report for the Spring Assembly.

TASK FORCE & THOUGHT FORCE REPORTS –

TASK FORCE – Guidelines for Incoming Alateen Sponsors:

Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, gave the report on behalf of Rose R, Task Force chairman. The Task Force, from the recent Alateen Sponsor workshop, is putting a list of ideas together. They are open to any and all suggestions.

THOUGHT FORCE – Investigate Insurance Needs for Ohio Area AFG:

Theresa M, Alternate Delegate, presented the report.

Summary of information received on Bonding/Insurance

What I have learned so far:

1. Not all areas are incorporated
2. Audit and review committees have different forms, but in general go over the books several times during the year.
3. Bank accounts
 - Treasurers not always bonded (Fidelity Bond)
 - Sometimes anyone who handles money bonded
 - Person responsible for deposits not the same as check writer (?!)
 - Theft insurance added to liability policies
 - Some with two signatures on any checks written
4. Insurance
 - Directors Liability insurance that covers all of the Officers and the Convention Coordinator & Treasurer
 - Insurance for any Area events
 - Directors and Officers Liability insurance
 - Pennsylvania is incorporated. We pay \$1720/year for Insurance Bond/D&O Insurance
 - general liability for events; rider to cover an event after showing it is an Area Al-Anon event
 - CAS is incorporated. We do have liability insurance. It is a slip and fall type of insurance and covers the Area at AWSC meetings and Assemblies. We recently (this year) purchased insurance for the entire Southern California Board (officers and coordinators). We had a threat of a lawsuit because of an AMIAS situation and the officers believed it was time to consider purchasing insurance against a lawsuit. After careful evaluation it was determined that the insurance company that carries our slip and fall insurance was the most reasonable. I believe it was an additional \$600 per year for all officers and coordinators.
5. What I have not learned and information still needed:
 - Pricing

- What all these various terms (Directors, Fidelity) mean and how they relate to Ohio Insurance Laws.
- How to extract this information.
- How to fill out the forms that I received to get a quote. (received last year and sent to Officer's for suggestions – received no replies)

Yours in service,
Theresa M, Insurance Thought Force

Theresa explained that volunteers need to step forward to pick up this and decide if it needs to be in a Task Force. She welcomed any comments or suggestions – please email those to Theresa, who will forward them along. Monica C, DR 25, said she would take the folder that Theresa had all of the information in, and try to have some suggestions at the Spring Assembly. Monica is asking for volunteers to help out. Judy A, Treasurer, said she would serve on the Thought/Task Force Committee as well.

TASK FORCE – Not Listing Groups that do not follow Traditions:

Kay J, from Mansfield, presented the report on behalf of Allison, the Task Force chairman. Other members of the Task Force are Joanne, from Columbus and Brian, from Mansfield.

Topic: The Do Not List Task Force has developed a Do Not List Policy for removing or not listing group meetings on local meeting lists based on non-adherence to AI-Anon Traditions, Principles, Concepts, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual.

Our Charge:

- to establish criteria for responding to reported incidents with consistency across the Area and in keeping with AI-Anon's Traditions and policies;
- to develop a procedure that encourages equal participation and cooperation among the group members and the policy facilitators throughout the process;
- to develop a procedure in which the ideal goal is to include all AI-Anon groups in the AI-Anon fellowship through group support and education in the Traditions and AI-Anon Principles;
- to establish steps a group can take to be reinstated on local and Area meeting lists if it has been removed as a result of this policy.

Background Information/Historical Perspective: we examined the history of the various World Service Conference discussions and actions related to this topic in order to understand the progression of the issues and to inform our policy development decisions.

[References: Conference Summaries 1992, 2007-present]

- 1992 - Open discussion topics included issues related to program dilution confusing newcomers, use of treatment center or other outside terminology and practices in group meetings, and cross-talk or breaking confidences and/or anonymity in or out of a meeting
- 2007 – Chosen Agenda Item #3: “How do we deal with members who are overwhelmingly controlling, dominating, and threatening to members of the group to do things their way.” p35-36 WSC Summary 2007
- 2007 – Panel 46 discussion came out of concerns regarding “Pyramid Sponsorship”. The bookmark (M-78) “Sponsorship – Working Together to Recover” was created as a result of this discussion. pg. 43 WSC Summary 2009
- 2008 – Chosen Agenda Item #1: “Creating and maintaining healthy groups focused on our spiritual principles and free from program dilution” p27 WSC Summary 2008
- 2009 – Chosen Agenda Item #2: “How can Areas, districts, and groups look at unhealthy groups in a positive way?” This discussion led to a request by Conference members to form a Thought Force to come up with ideas to address this issue. pg. 41 WSC Summary 2009.

- 2009-2010 – Topic of “unhealthy meetings” discussed in the July 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting. In these meetings the word “unhealthy” was deemed judgmental, and the charge of the Thought Force was changed to: “Thought Force to Support Areas in Dealing with Groups Whose Activities Fail to Consider Al-Anon or Alateen as a Whole”. The Thought Force was asked to report at the World Service Conference in 2011. pg. 52 WSC Summary 2011
- 2011 – The Thought Force presentation “How Do We Support Areas in Dealing with Groups Whose Activities Fail to Consider Al-Anon or Alateen as a Whole” focused on one of the ten identified areas of concern: “Outside literature used in meetings” to facilitate the discussion and to provide a format for Area discussions of this topic. pg. 52 WSC Summary 2011
- 2011 – In the discussion that followed the Thought Force presentation, several Areas asked for support from the WSO regarding referrals to meetings that were found to be in violation of Al-Anon Traditions, Principles, and Concepts. This discussion resulted in the formation of another Thought Force to explore how the WSO could handle this situation, and was designated as “Do Not Refer”. pg. 89 WSC Summary 2011
- 2011-2012 – In Group Service Action Committee meetings from 2011-2012, the GSAC discussed specific incidents that had occurred in Ohio Area 44 and acted as the Thought Force on the “Do Not Refer” topic. The GSAC created this Thought Force in response to a request by the Policy Committee Chairperson at the 2012 World Service Conference to identify Area practices and to evaluate the need for a principle-based Area policy to be developed. pgs. 48-50 WSC Summary 2012
- 2012 – WSC Task Force developed a workshop on the exclusive use of Conference-Approved Literature (CAL) in meetings as a result of the 2011 Thought Force presentation on “Outside literature used in meetings”.
- 2013 – Following a discussion at the Ohio Area Spring Assembly regarding several reported incidents that had occurred in the Ohio Area, a Task Force was formed charged with establishing criteria and developing a procedure for not listing groups operating outside of the Legacies. The Task Force was designated as “Do Not Refer” and was asked to identify problems; to research historical precedent on this topic; to examine Al-Anon Traditions, Principles, and Concepts of Service related to this topic; and to develop an Area-wide policy for not referring newcomers to groups who do not abide by Al-Anon Traditions and policies. However, this Task Force did not come to fruition.
- 2014 – The concerns and complaints from members continued. At the Spring AWSC meeting the decision was made to bring the topic back to Assembly but renamed as “Do Not List Groups who are not following Al-anon Traditions. At the 2014 Spring Assembly the new Task Force was formed and given the charge. The Task Force Chairperson presented an update to the Ohio Area at the Fall Assembly based on work that had been completed to that date on the Do Not List Policy for Ohio Area. No discussion followed the presentation.

Existing Motions That Pertain to This Topic: none

What Do We Know About Our Membership’s Needs, Wants, & Preferences? We know that:

- Newcomers could be misled or confused about Al-Anon’s Primary Purpose at meetings in which outside literature is displayed, read, recommended, or at meetings with outside affiliations.
- Dilution of the Al-Anon program can occur through member references to religious or political beliefs or practices, common use of treatment-center language (such as “qualifier” and “co-dependent”), and/or references to outside therapy or therapeutic tools (such as a “feelings wheel” and “guided meditation”) because these practices inadvertently spread to other meetings through members’ misunderstanding of Al-Anon Traditions, Principles, and Concepts.
- Members could leave meetings and even the Al-Anon fellowship when the Traditions, Principles, Concepts of Service, and policies are not followed as outlined in the Service Manual.
- Members could be hurt (emotionally or otherwise) by meetings that allow members to: dominate, violate anonymity, intimidate or coerce others into sponsor relationships, or give advice instead of sharing their personal experience. Members could be hurt by bearing witness to or being a victim of gossip.

What Do We Know About Our Capacity (Resources)?

Our charge included anticipating costs associated with any Do Not List Procedure that we bring to this Assembly. We have determined the need for resources in three (3) categories:

1. Personnel – trusted servants to facilitate procedure, people to update meeting lists, person to update Handbook/Bylaws
2. Tangible Materials – printed resource materials provided to groups, envelopes, postage, updated meeting lists, updates to Handbook/Bylaws
3. Travel – to cover any expenses for procedure facilitators serving where a local trusted servant could not be found*

*We examined the Area World Service Committee list and determined that trusted servants are located proximate to groups throughout the Area in order to address and hopefully eliminate the need for travel expenses.

What Are The Implications of Our Choices? Pros and Cons:

- PRO – By responding directly to member concerns with a principle-based policy and by providing support, we put AI-Anon's Declaration into action, aid membership retention, and promote harmony within the group and among AI-Anon as a whole.
- PRO – Providing information, resources, and support to groups fosters unity among members and groups, acquaints members with CAL, and encourages sponsorship by ensuring a greater atmosphere of trust.
- CON – Local meeting lists may require more frequent updates, requiring the time of trusted servants and incurring printing costs.
- CON – Groups may decide to unaffiliate with AI-Anon if they perceive the Do Not List Procedure to be punitive, and existence of fewer groups implies fewer opportunities to help people in need.

What We Wish We Knew But Don't:

- If records (such as the DR documented report from attended meetings, Group Inventory responses, incident reports, etc.) shall be maintained, where would they be stored, for what period of time, and who would have access to these records?
- How do we inform our fellowship members about this procedure (i.e. if an incident occurs that it must be reported to the appropriate body) and that there is help available?
- Recognizing that DRs have a large number of meetings in their district, is the proposed procedure reasonable and in line with current responsibilities?
- If the DR was known personally by group members, would they behave differently when the DR attends the meeting? If so, would the DR be able to effectively facilitate the Do Not List Procedure?

Kay then presented the proposed policy -

Definition of Do Not List: when a district, AIS, or Area decides to remove or not list a meeting from their local meeting schedules. The Area has autonomy to set criteria for listing groups and not listing groups on meeting lists. Not listing a group or removing a group from local meeting lists does not inactivate the group, nor will the group be denied services, support, or representation at District or Area meetings of AI-Anon Family Groups, and the group will receive services from the World Service Office of The AI-Anon Family Groups, Inc.

Goal: to provide criteria for responding to reported incidents with consistency across the Area and in keeping with AI-Anon's Traditions and policies; to encourage participation and cooperation with groups throughout the process; to ensure inclusion of all AI-Anon groups in the AI-Anon fellowship through group support and education on the Traditions and AI-Anon Principles; to provide information on steps the group can take to be reinstated on the list if it has been removed as a result of this policy.

Policy Facilitators: to include the District Representative (if the district has a current representative), the Area Chair, the Alternate Delegate, the Delegate, or trusted servant as assigned by the Area Chairman.

Responsibilities of Facilitators: to respond to incident reports quickly; to maintain an open line of communication between the member who reported the incident (incident reporter) and the policy facilitators; to communicate with the affected group and its members openly and consistently; to participate in the policy as written, ensuring all groups are treated equally and with respect; to provide support and education to the affected group so that members may make an informed decision about how the group meetings shall be conducted; to report the outcome of the process to the group and its members, emphasizing the non-punitive nature of the outcome and actions the group can take to be reinstated on the local meeting list.

Criteria for Listing Meetings – The Group:

- is registered with the World Service Office and the Area
- abides by Al-Anon Traditions, Principles, Concepts, and Policies
- uses only Conference-Approved Literature in group meetings
- has fewer than three reported incidents

Do Not List Action Plan:

1. The process is initiated by a reported incident to any: AIS Office, WSO, Area Officer by phone, email, letter, conversation, or website. An incident may be reported by a member or by a trusted servant on behalf of the member.
2. The Office or Officer who receives the incident report notifies the appropriate District Representative (DR). The DR notifies the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, and the Area Chair that an incident has been reported and that the Do Not List Action Plan has been initiated.
3. The DR communicates with the incident reporter to gather information in order to determine if the incident requires further facilitation of the Do Not List Action Plan according to the Criteria for Listing Group Meetings. If the group is not abiding by any of the stated criteria, the DR will take the next required action in the plan. However, if the group is abiding by the stated criteria, the DR will notify the incident reporter, the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, and the Area Chair that the group is not in violation of the Do Not List Policy. If there is any concern of group adherence to the criteria, the DR shall continue with the Action Plan.
4. If there is a concern, the DR attends a regular meeting of the affected group and participates as a member. The DR does not notify the group's members and/or trusted servants that s/he will be attending on this first visit. If at this initial visit a question remains:
 - a) The DR broaches the topic, addressing the incident in general terms (use of non-CAL, not following Traditions, dominance, pyramid sponsorship, or other practices not in line with the Criteria for Listing Group Meetings) and requests a Group Conscience.
 - b) The DR provides support and information to the group through resources such as: Group Conscience Handouts (G-8a, G-8b), P-35, P-31, P-17, P-57, P-33, G-3 as well as Conference-Approved Literature recommendations and information available online: <http://www.ohioal-anon.org/index.html>
 - c) The DR observes and documents all impressions and experiences from the meeting in order to maintain a record of the Action Plan in process.
5. The DR follows-up with the incident reporter and updates the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Area Chair regarding the observations recorded at the meeting s/he attended and the date of the scheduled Group Conscience.
6. The DR attends the scheduled Group Conscience and speaks on the topic s/he brought to the group based on the reported incident.
 - a) The DR provides resources to aid in the Group Inventory process: G-8a, G-8b
 - b) The DR asks group members to complete the Group Inventory and return it to the address provided within 30 days of the Group Conscience date.

7. The DR reviews the Group Inventory responses received from group members (if applicable).
8. The DR updates the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and Area Chair on the outcome of the Group Conscience and the Group Inventory responses.
9. The DR attends regular group meeting to report the outcome of the Group Inventory.
10. The DR reports the outcome of the Do Not List Action Plan to the incident reporter, the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, and the Area Chair.

Potential Action Plan Outcomes:

- If the Group Inventory Review (or communication from the group members) reveals that group members were unaware of the Traditions, Guidelines, and/or CAL and would like to receive continued support, information, and resources from the Area, the DR stays in touch with the group members to provide local support. If change is demonstrated and no further incidents are reported, then THE GROUP MEETING REMAINS ON THE MEETING LIST.
- If a separate incident is reported by a different individual from the same group meeting, the DR notifies the group members, the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate, and the Area Chair. The DR visits group meeting again, explains the to the group members what “Do Not List” means, and if change is demonstrated, then THE GROUP MEETING REMAINS ON THE MEETING LIST.
- If the Group Inventory Review (or communication from the group members) reveals that the group members do not choose to change – THE GROUP MEETING IS REMOVED FROM THE MEETING LIST. The DR explains to the group members what “Do Not List” means, the non-punitive nature of the outcome, and provides information regarding actions the group can take to be reinstated on local meeting lists.
- If the group meeting has three or more separate incidents reported by different individuals, THE GROUP MEETING IS IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE MEETING LIST. The DR explains to the group members what “Do Not List” means, the non-punitive nature of the outcome, and provides information regarding actions the group can take to be reinstated on local meeting lists. The DR shall continue to assist the group in taking necessary steps to be reinstated on local meeting lists until the group has implemented changes or has declined further assistance.

i - “Do Not List” refers to the removal of the group meeting from all meeting schedules and lists, published or online. Do Not List shall not be punitive and will not revoke a group’s AI-Anon group registration, nor will the group be denied services, support, or representation at the District or Area meetings of AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio and will receive services from the World Service Office of The AI-Anon Family Groups, Inc.

ii - In locations that do not have an Area Information Service Office, the incident may be reported to AI-Anon Family Groups World Service Office or an Area Officer of AFG of Ohio.

iii - In locations that do not have a DR, the AIS location, WSO, or Area Officer notifies the Delegate directly, and the Delegate asks a trusted servant within close proximity to the group meeting with the reported incident to help facilitate the Action Plan.

Monica C, DR 25 moved, and Carol R, DR 48, seconded, to forward the KBDM report to the Spring Assembly. The motion carried.

Sandy F, for the Task Force moved, and Sandy F, Past Delegate, seconded to present the motion at the Spring Assembly. During discussion on the proposed motion, it was noted that there might be “un-alanon” language, i.e. “Facilitator” and it was suggested that the motion be returned to the Task Force for revision and presentation at the Spring Assembly. Sandy F, speaking for the Task Force, withdrew the motion.

Once the motion has been revised, both the KBDM and the Motion will be posted on the Area web site, prior to the Spring Assembly.

Chairman Buff N distributed pre-addressed envelopes to Ginny C, our Delegate, at the WSC. She asked that we send notes of encouragement to Ginny while she's at the WSC.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Buff then called for the Budget Committee presentation. Donna K, Budget Committee Chair, presented the proposed budget for 2015. Due to the decrease in donations, some of the budget categories were slightly decreased. Donna also asked officers, coordinators & committee chairs to ask for "discounts" that might be available when they travel, to ensure they were getting the best rate possible. Mary Ellen, DR 9 moved and Jo S, DR 51 seconded, to send the proposed budget to the Spring Assembly. The motion carried.

Buff then asked for Coordinator and Standing Committee Reports, only if they were time sensitive.

COORDINATOR REPORTS –

ALATEEN: Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, presented the following report –
On October 25, 2014 the Alateen Fall Rally was held at Clague Cabin in Westlake, OH. There was a toilet damaged during the event. We were charged \$350.58 for the damages.

After beginning my term as Alateen Coordinator in January 2015, and using a list of sponsors from 2012 thru 2014 with 112 sponsors listed, I sent out introduction letters with calendar of events for 2015, 17 by snail mail and the rest thru emails.

On March 14, 2015, we held the sponsor workshop at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus we had 22 sponsors in attendance with 5 being new sponsors starting in 2015. During the sponsor workshop sponsors took a 13 question true and false quiz with discussion of each question. We also discussed: AMIAS forms. Form A & B: Information and Permission Form & Medical Form, one major concern with this form is that on the medical form under medical insurance information it request employee social security number and since many insurance companies no longer use social security numbers, we discussed how to get this changed. We were informed that this is a WSO form and at state level we can add information but we would have to go through WSO to have it changed, I emailed our state delegate about taking this change to WSO. It was brought up that our Alateen state representative is having problems filling his obligations and at the spring rally the Alateens will either have the alt state rep step up as state rep and/or elect a new state or alt rep., I request sponsors who are willing to be a local contact for their district to let me know so that when I get request from WSO, and they request a local contact I have one to give them, a discussion of possible state guidelines for new sponsors and training workshop for sponsors to be held throughout the state was discussed. The possibility of opening a state Alateen account was discussed and tabled till additional information could be gathered.

I typed up notes from the sponsor workshop and sent 14 by snail mail and emailed the remaining sponsors from the 2012-2014, list to keep them updated on what was discussed at the workshop.

Upcoming Alateen Events are Spring Rally, April 25, 2015 to be held at Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus and KOMIAC, July 24 – 26 at Adrian College, Michigan. Transportation for KOMIAC is being researched.

In 2016 KOMIAC will be hosted and held in Ohio. Possible locations are already being researched and the Alateen will be electing a board at the spring rally.

Respectfully Submitted: Tina Leverknight, Alateen Coordinator

ARCHIVES: Barbara W had no report.

FORUM: Christine T had no report.

GROUP RECORDS: Phil H – a written report for the minutes is submitted.

GRC Report – Spring 2015 AWSC

All groups, by now, should have returned their Group's Annual Update – either to the WSO or the Ohio Group Records Coordinator. This is the ONE place where a group can quickly check and update its information. So far, a total of 193 groups have returned their report for this year (they were mailed out on October 1, 2014). That's 45% of the groups.

I'm hoping all of the DR's have now been able to access the Online Database for groups. You will only have a "Read Access", meaning you can't make any changes, but you'll be able to see all of the Al-Anon Groups, Alateen Groups and AMIAS members from your district. You are also able to download various reports and print them out as well. If you haven't received a welcome letter from the WSO, please see Ginny.

A total of 22 groups (and their group numbers) were deleted from the WSO database this year. Those were groups that had been on inactive status for an extended period of time. Those group numbers are gone forever now.

As of March 27, 2015, there were a total of 432 active groups, holding a total of 487 meetings. Last October, there were 434 groups, holding a total of 491 meetings.

There are still 4 groups listed in a "No Mail" status. I haven't had much success in trying to track those groups down and I'm asking the DR's, and the AIS's, to help on that matter.

There are 131 groups listed as "Inactive". Those are groups that either no longer meet and notified the WSO of that fact, or groups that have been in a "No Mail" status for a period of two years.

Again, the Group Lists are in the notebooks in the back as well as the Group Update Report Form, GR-1 and the instructions. Please put any changes in the update box in the back.

LITERATURE: Karen M had no report.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Merri G submitted the following written report -

Public Outreach Coordinator Report

03-28-2015

On January 1st, of this year, I had the privilege of sharing my experience, strength, and hope at the women's pre-release prison in Cleveland, Ohio. I was told that I was the first speaker that has ever received two standing ovations, so I guess I did Al-Anon proud. I walked out of that prison with a burden followed by a vision. Currently, this prison only has an AA meeting that meets weekly, but the PR director in the prison would like to have an Al-Anon meeting as well. I was not able to commit to this opportunity at this time due to school but once I am finished, my heart will be leading me to those ladies loving arms.

In October, Beth, the secretary of communications, at the WSO contacted me to see if I could lead her to someone in our area that would be willing to be part of a Podcast. This Podcast wanted to attract members who had participated in *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* magazine outreach activities or had either asked local TV/radio stations to play Al-Anon PSAs or have thanked stations for playing our PSAs. Connie H in the Cleveland area willingly volunteered. Beth emailed me to tell me what a wonderful job Connie did on the Podcast.

This week, I received an email from Pat Quiggle, Associate Director of Public Outreach at the AI-Anon World Service Office asking me to contact a lady in our area who is requesting that we send an experienced AI-anon member to speak at their meeting on Monday evening on April 20th. This organization is looking for someone to share a presentation that would be appropriate for both adults and children. Pat suggested some material that could be used for the presentation some of which are the AI-Anon DVD, AI-Anon and Alateens Role in Family Recovery, and copies of AI-Anon faces Alcoholism 2015. I will be making calls to see who in our area would be willing to carry out this outreach opportunity. I will share the results in my report in May.

As the DR for district seven and the treasurer of our Cleveland Meeting of Districts, I am looking for some direction in helping several local groups establish nonprofit checking accounts. Currently, many have had to close their accounts due to fees. Banks have told the members of these groups that they need to establish a 501C status. Some have asked if the Cleveland Meeting of Districts could share their Federal Id number with the treasurers of groups in Cleveland so that they can open free nonprofit business checking accounts. These are questions that I am asking for your wisdom in answering.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve assembly in this area.

Respectfully, Merri

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS –

BYLAWS & HANDBOOK: Sandy had no report

COMPLIANCE / AAPP LIAISON: Karen P agreed to accept the position in late January. She reported that the WSO has now computerized most of the Alateen group reporting and AMIAS reporting processes. A few things will still have to be mailed. She reminded everyone that the AMIAS Form One and Form Two have to be signed by the appropriate people, and asked that, if you're signing those forms, be sure you know the person you're signing for. She also reminded everyone that the annual AMIAS certifications need to be sent to her by June 1st, so they can be submitted to the WSO.

OHIO AREA CONVENTION / TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY LIAISON: Lee R had no report.

OHIO WEBSITE: Mike W was absent, but emailed a report and that report is attached as a separate page at the end of the minutes.

REGISTRATION: Karen S reported that a total of 32 people registered for the meeting.

REVIEW & AUDIT: Louise W submitted the following written report –

Review & Audit Committee Report 1 August – 31 December 2014

The records are complete and accurate insofar as can be ascertained from material provided. Thanks to Theresa M for providing the check register (2 copies!!) and keeping the records in meticulous order. Both made the Committee's job flow quickly. One question arose – are tips, i.e. restaurant, hotel housekeeper, allowable expenses? Some meal vouchers included them and some did not. We did not see any for maids. Louise W, Review & Audit Committee Chair

SPRING ASSEMBLY: No report presented.

OHIO AREA CONVENTION: 2016 – the following report was submitted by Donna K -

Status Report on the 2016 Ohio Area Convention
for the 3/28/15 Area World Service Conference

The first organizational/planning meeting of the committees will take place on March 21, 2015. The Officers and the various Committees are all in place

Our theme for the event is "Time to Grow!" Many great ideas have been put forth so far, with more to come.

The contract with the Holiday Inn – Mentor, Ohio, was signed on October 1, 2014 and a \$500.00 deposit was given to the hotel. Forty rooms have been reserved, with the room rate of \$105.00 per night, with the possibility of 4 people sharing a room. The Convention will be the last weekend in June – June 24 – 26, 2016.

The chairperson for the 2015 OAC agreed to have our 2016 OAC "Save the Date" flyers stuffed in their registration packets for people to pick up at their convention. After the 2015 spring Assembly meeting, the Treasurer and Chair will then discuss and decide what the registration fee will be for the 2016 OAC.

Sheila C, Secretary for 2016 Ohio Area Convention

FALL ASSEMBLY: No report given.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

THOUGHT FORCE / TASK FORCE ON PROCESS TO REMOVE AMIAS WHO NO LONGER MEET AMIAS GUIDELINES: Buff asked if there was still a need for this. Sandy F, Bylaws & Handbook moved, and Karen P, Compliance/AAPP seconded, to table the matter until the Fall AWSC. The motion passed.

NEW MAILING REGULATIONS BY USPS: Phil H presented the following report -

Printing and Mailing Issues for AFG of Ohio

The Postal Service has new regulations about "Standard Mail" (that's what we use to mail AI-A-Notes, Assembly minutes and plea letters). We can no longer simply fold and mail AI-A- Notes or Assembly minutes as we have done in the past. They must now: (1) Be printed on a minimum of 28-pound paper (somewhat like construction paper); (2) They must have the folded edge along the right side of the mailing (when you look at the address); and (3) They must have 3 sticky tabs – two on the right (one at the top & one at the bottom) and one on the left at the top. As an alternative, we may use an envelope to mail these items instead, however the thickness of the entire mailer cannot exceed 1/4 of an inch (about 4 sheets of paper, folded in half).

In checking sources around town, the self-service printing places, like Office Max, Office Depot, etc., do not stock a 28 pound paper. A couple of local printing companies do. Our options are to either go to a regular printing service, or go with a self-service printing place and use envelopes for those two mailings.

I checked at Office Max/Office Depot. They have a graduated scale, 100 – 499 copies; and 500 – 749 copies (this is what our printings generally are). The prices are, as follows: 11 x 17 paper, double sided - \$0.58 each. They have folding service also available for \$0.03 per fold. This is way above what has been budgeted, and does not even include postage. Because I am retired military, I can get a “contract price” of \$0.10, double sided, for 11 x 17; auto booklet making would be \$0.35 each; and hand folding would be \$0.06 (the alternate fold for 11 x 17). Done this way, we’d still need an envelope.

In checking with local printers, one local company can print on 28 pound paper, and get the folding and sticky tabs done – all automated. I don’t have a price back from them yet, but it will still probably be more than has been budgeted in the past.

We are supposed to be “self-supporting”. We cannot rely on an Al-Anon (or AA) member who happens to own a printing company and is doing it “at cost”, nor can we rely on someone getting a “contract price” because of an “outside affiliation” (like being retired from the military).

Doing the envelopes can be done at my home. I have purchased a separate printing cartridge (self-contained) for my printer that will only be used for Al-Anon (Secretary and Group Records). I can print them in the sequence that the post office requires. However, AFG of Ohio still has to obtain the non-profit permit fee (\$220.00, one time), as well as the annual non-profit mailing fee (\$220.00 per year). Then, we still pay the actual postage for each mailing. The printing company mentioned above also has the capability of “barcoding” the mail, which would qualify it for a lower mailing rate, as well as checking for change of addresses BEFORE the mailing goes out (eliminating more of our returned mail), and they can even mail from Columbus, which would be at a lower rate. It can all be done electronically, which would be a huge savings in time for our volunteers.

For the time being, however, we have to use what is available. The current issue of 548 Al-A-Notes cost \$367.36 for printing and assembly and \$79.15 for envelopes (which is “contract pricing), plus \$166.61 to mail (I couldn’t use non-profit rates – a separate issue) – a cost of \$1.12 each.

The Postal Service told me that AFG Of Ohio must go through the entire certification process for non-profit mailing again (the decision was made higher up, not at the local post office). We’re in process of gathering the necessary documentation for that, but the plea letters will go out at standard mail rates, instead of non-profit mail rates. As a comparison, the Al-A-Notes would have cost \$100.91 at the non-profit rate.

By the Fall AWSC, I’ll have more detailed information available for a KBDM presentation. For now, we’re caught in the middle, so to speak.

DISTRICT CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS:

Merri G, DR 7, asked about the process for groups to become non-profit. The Service Manual, on pages 58-59 discusses that and also discusses how groups can obtain a Federal EIN number to establish a group checking account. Additional suggestions were made to check other sources for deposit of group funds, such as credit unions instead of regular banks, where bank charges & fees might be waived.

Buff asked if anyone would be willing to serve on a Work Group for “Develop a Flyer to put in the New GR Orientation folder”. Ginny stated she’d gotten some information forwarded to her previously from the Thought Force / Task Force. However, no one volunteered and the matter will be brought up at the Spring Assembly.

Buff asked if anyone would be willing to serve on a Work Group for “Implementing new ideas/changes for the Ohio Area Convention”. Buff served on the previous Task Force and has that information, but discussion

showed that more research is needed. Buff then revised the assignment to a Task Force and Lee R, 2 Day Fall / OAC Liaison, volunteered, along with Kathleen S, DR 6, Donna K, Budget Chair, and Jane E, GR for Monday Night AFG, Copley, to be on the committee.

Buff also mentioned that there have been some difficulties getting officer/coordinator/committee chair information from the previous person to the new person. Our trusted servants need to get this done in a timely manner so the newly elected appointed trusted servants can get started in their new positions.

CLOSE: There being no further business, Donna K, Budget Chair, moved and Mary Ellen, DR 9, seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was closed at 4:40 PM with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2015

Spring Alateen Rally - April 25, 2015 at Ascension Lutheran Church in Columbus

Spring Assembly - 16 May at NCUCC, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus

Ohio Area Convention - 5-7 June at Holiday Inn, Sharonville (Cincinnati)

Fall AWSC - 15 August at NCUCC, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus

Fall Assembly - 17-18 October at Ramada Inn, Toledo

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil H.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

PHIL H.
Area Secretary

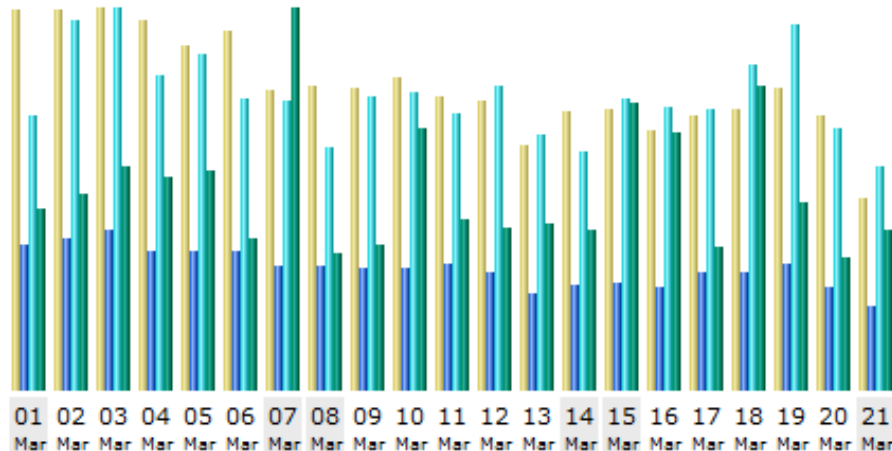
OAA Web Report – 03/28/2015

Mike K (webmaster@ohioal-anon.org)

2015 Monthly Visits

Month	Unique visitors
Jan 2015	5,901
Feb 2015	5,309
Mar 2015	3,792
Apr 2015	0
May 2015	0
Jun 2015	0
Jul 2015	0
Aug 2015	0
Sep 2015	0
Oct 2015	0
Nov 2015	0
Dec 2015	0
Total	15,002

Daily Traffic Log – March 2015



Day	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Average	274	380	918	8.12 MB
Total	7,416	10,284	24,797	219.28 MB

Top 10 Web Browsers Used While Visiting

Browsers (Top 10) - Full list/Versions - Unknown						
Browsers	Grabber	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent	
Google Chrome	No	5,070	49.2 %	9,780	39.2 %	
Firefox	No	2,279	22.1 %	3,913	15.7 %	
MS Internet Explorer	No	1,312	12.7 %	4,997	20 %	
Safari	No	618	6 %	4,469	17.9 %	
Opera	No	484	4.7 %	524	2.1 %	
? Unknown	?	247	2.4 %	256	1 %	
Mozilla	No	145	1.4 %	352	1.4 %	
Android browser (PDA/Phone browser)	No	86	0.8 %	476	1.9 %	
Netscape	No	24	0.2 %	25	0.1 %	
Samsung (PDA/Phone browser)	No	4	0 %	20	0 %	
Others		15	0.1 %	102	0.4 %	

Top Visited Pages in March

Pages-URL (Top 25) -	
Pages-URL	Viewed
23 different pages-url	
/(Welcome Page)	7,839
/12traditions.html	722
/alalist.html	578
/calendar.htm	177
/remote.htm	164
/cleveland.htm	112
/documents.htm	74
/akronredir.htm	73
/toledo.htm	66
/12steps.html	61
/columbusredir.htm	58
/contacts.htm	57
/cincyredir.htm	54
/alateen.html	52
/pro.html	51
/12concepts.html	50
/dayton.htm	46
/akron.htm	29

Top 8 Devices/Operating Systems Used While Visiting

Operating Systems (Top 10) - Full list/Versions - Unknown				
Operating Systems	Pages	Percent	Hits	Percent
Windows	8,775	85.3 %	17,044	68.4 %
iOS	473	4.5 %	3,614	14.5 %
Linux	412	4 %	2,338	9.3 %
? Unknown	314	3 %	417	1.6 %
Macintosh	227	2.2 %	1,352	5.4 %
Java	67	0.6 %	69	0.2 %
Unknown Unix system	15	0.1 %	79	0.3 %
BlackBerry	1	0 %	1	0 %

Most Frequent Downloads

Downloads (Top 10) - Full list	
Downloads: 138	Hits
/documents/Ohio_Area_Spring_Assembly_final-May_19_2012.pdf	46
/documents/2015-Convention-Flyer.pdf	35
/documents/AMIAS_Packet_Revised_Format_Octobe_2011.pdf	31
/documents/trustee_resume_1_06.pdf	27
/documents/BY-LAWS-OAA.pdf	26
/documents/2015-spring-awsc-agenda.pdf	25
/documents/2013_AWSC_Meeting_Minutes_Aug%20.pdf	25
/documents/Conference_Workshop_on_Opening_Our_Hearts.pdf	23
/documents/Medical_Permissionforms-1-time.pdf	23
/documents/Revised-GR-3-Instructions.pdf	22

COMMITTEE REPORT SUMMARY:

Unusually high volume of visits to just our welcome page. About 50% of this increased traffic is coming from Eastern Europe. We will be looking at this closely, and possibly block the traffic as it appears to be bots searching our site for spamming opportunities.

Other than that, we're seeing good use of our online documents and forms, our calendar, and our meeting list directories.