

2016 FALL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The Fall Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6, 2016, at the Holiday Inn, Belden Village, 4520 Everhard Rd NW, Canton 44718. Chairman Buff N opened the meeting on November 5 at 12:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Theresa M, Alternate Delegate, read the Twelve Traditions; Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, read the Twelve Concepts Of Service; and Judy C, GR for Thursday Night AFG, read the General Warranties Of The Conference. Buff welcomed everyone and explained meeting etiquette and the voting procedures.

Sandy F introduced Mark Oeffler from Experience Columbus, who made a presentation on behalf of that city for consideration to host the 2023 AI-Anon International Convention. (NOTE: The presentation was made in Power Point format, but due to the size of the files, they may not be available in the web version or by email.)

Introduction by Districts were made and the following districts were represented: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 45, 47, 48, 51 and 56.

Delegate Ginny C and Alternate Delegate Theresa M recognized and welcomed the 13 new Group Representatives.

MINUTES: The minutes of the 2016 Spring Assembly meeting were distributed via the AFG of Ohio website. Judy C, Thursday Night AFG, moved and Allison G, Women's Choice AFG Proxy, seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: - Judy A, Treasurer, presented the report –

Beginning balance as of 1 January 2016 –	\$31,631.29
Income 1 January – 5 November 2016 –	+15,018.71
Expenses 1 January – 5 November 2016 –	<u>- 11,221.64</u>
Ending Balance as of 5 November 2016 –	\$35,428.36

Cheryl B, DR 9, moved and Mary Ellen R, GR for Hubbard Friday Night AFG, seconded to accept the report. The motion passed.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE & AL-A-NOTES EDITOR REPORT: - Theresa M, Alternate Delegate, presented the report –

I have received the information for the USNCRDM and plan to attend March 17-19, 2017 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

I will be working with our Delegate and others on the TEAM Event before next year's OAC.

I have tabulated the results of the two Surveys that I put in the AI-A-Notes. Only seven responses so far: not sure if that means groups or people don't choose to respond to surveys or that the NOTES are not being read or shared by anyone in the groups.

Of those who responded-

7/7 said their groups got the notes (no surprise there!)

7/7 said they were read – not sure if that meant were just read by the individual receiving them or by all members of the group

One group replied that they were emailed to all members of the group 3 times a year

6/7 have NOT encouraged additional subscriptions (one group's members are emailed a copy)

7/7 have not used the topics as a subject of the meeting (one "good idea")

6/7 said they would be willing to just download from the web and only pay for (printed) mailed copies

7/7 didn't see the need for postcard reminder of web edition being online

7/7 understand personal information is removed in the web version

7/7 would like an "ask-it basket" section or a "heard at a meeting" section

For what changes would members like

Information from ALL the districts (can only do if information is sent)
Important information highlighted (we don't print in color)
Sharings from other districts/areas on public outreach, how to reach out to millennials and younger members
Discussion of current topics brought to the membership by our Delegate, e.g. several possible prayer removals from CAL
2/3 said yes to using technology– electronic meetings, etc.

I goofed and didn't send out my latest requests for submission as BCC - will strive to be more careful of that in the future

If anyone here has "ask-it basket" or "heard at a meeting" suggestions they would like to have put in future editions, please email them to me at theresabm44@gmail.com or write them on a sheet that I will have on one of the display tables. I will also be including a request for these in the 40.3 edition of the AI-A-Notes and *hoping* I will hear back from more than seven members/groups next year!

DELEGATE'S REPORT: - Ginny C, Delegate, presented the report –

The finance report for WSO going into the final quarter of the year is being prepared. You have all done such a great job of spreading the message of hope to families and friends of alcoholics. In addition, you have spread the message about the need for financial support for the services provided to the fellowship by our World Service Office. If this response continues, we are poised to meet or exceed our projected contribution budget of \$1,800,000! This is very exciting news and the credit goes to you. Thank you for hearing and passing on the message from the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee. Thank you for believing in and supporting the Mission and Vision of the Board of Trustees and the work of the World Service Office. Thank you! Please continue to support the work of the World Service Office.

Two Policy Committee topics will be discussed at the WSC in 2017: Open and Closed Meetings designation and the policy on Conventions and other events. The purpose of this conversation was to determine whether newcomers or potential newcomers might read a meeting schedule and not understand that they are welcome to attend closed meetings. In fact, newcomers and professionals frequently call the World Service Office seeking clarification.

It would be easy to assume that a closed meeting does not welcome newcomers, is closed to anyone who doesn't have a personal invitation to attend, or that the meeting is "full" and cannot accept any more new members. Generally, a "closed" meeting does not sound welcoming. This appears contrary to Step Twelve and Tradition Five. Within the WSO structure, there are 8031 open groups and 8276 closed groups.

The Policy Committee invited all Delegates to share your experience and thoughts on the following questions: 1) How well do members in your Area understand the difference between an open and a closed meeting? Do group members know if their meeting is listed as *open* vs. *closed*? 2) How do students and professionals find out about AI-Anon in your Area? Are the closed meetings in your Area providing a monthly open meeting? 3) Is the original purpose of open meetings obsolete? (See attached background information). Has the Internet, numerous self-help books, active public outreach, etc. eliminated the need to designate AI-Anon meetings as "open" or "closed"?

At the 2016 WSC, we discussed some changes to the wording in the Service Manual regarding Conventions and other events. The Conference agreed that the wording needs to be clarified. Suggestions were made to the Policy Committee regarding possible wording changes. The Policy Committee was asked to address these and bring them back to the WSC in 2017 for further discussion.

At the 2016 WSC, the Literature Committee presented their KBDM regarding the Just for Today Prayer. Should the WSC give conceptual approval to remove the "Prayer for Today" from Conference Approved Literature? This will be discussed further at the 2017 World Service Conference. Nothing has been changed.

The following are excerpts from the KBDM which indicate a variety of issues to consider:

"The use of specific religious prayers such as the prayer of St. Francis is often divisive as it is part of a specific religious canon that is not shared by all AI-Anon members. AI-Anon members of other religious faiths or none are consequently excluded by use of this prayer in our Conference Approved Literature."

“One of the “Three Obstacles to Success in Al-Anon” is discussions concerning specific religious beliefs.”

“I don't believe that we become non-spiritual or religious because of a prayer.”

“Our fellowship is seeing more people who are of different ethnic backgrounds and religious experiences.”

“For many, this prayer encompasses the principles of the program and serves as a guide for changed attitudes to help develop and define the God of our understanding for spiritual growth.”

The average Al-Anon member is a white female in her late 50's. How can Al-Anon attract younger, more diverse members to maintain and increase Al-Anon's current membership? One way to attract younger members is to use technology but balancing that with maintaining anonymity. The following is the presentation by the WSC Task Force on Technology and Anonymity. These are some guidelines to help you navigate these issues.

Avoid using an e-mail address that can identify you. Work e-mails are owned by the company and may be subject to review by employers. When sending an e-mail to more than one person, send the e-mail to yourself and use the blind carbon copy (Bcc) field to enter all other e-mail addresses. Do model the principle of anonymity to the individuals who receive your e-mails. Alateen Chat Rooms are moderated by two certified Alateen Group Sponsors to provide guidance and ensure a safe environment. No personal information is exchanged. E-mail addresses are used for registration purposes only.

The fact is, Web searches on our name, address, e-mail address, or phone number may reveal additional personal information about us and our family. Password-protected Web pages on an Area site keeps the page from being found in an Internet search.

Don't use your full name on flyers, newsletters, and other documents posted on Web sites. If you have an uncommon first name, don't use it on any documents posted to the Web site. Do create position specific e-mails for all AWSC members, create a personal e-mail account that does not disclose identifying information, or create and use a group e-mail account. Don't use an e-mail address that includes last name or employer/business information on Area Web sites, flyers, newsletters, and other documents posted on Web sites. Do use your first name, first name and initial, or position title, (e.g., Jane, Jane X., Area Chair, or Jane Area Chair). Do use a pseudonym or position title.

Don't use your personal phone number or address on flyers, newsletters, and other documents posted on Web sites. Do use Area office, AIS, or LDC phone number when a phone number is necessary. Indicate callers should leave a message and call will be returned. Do use the Area office, AIS, or LDC address and arrange to pick up mail or have it forwarded to you. Do review flyers, newsletters, and other documents for information that may compromise someone's identity before posting on an Area Web site. Don't post flyers, newsletters, and other documents on the Web site without considering anonymity issues. Don't assume you are safe on a password-protected Web site. Do use these precautions when posting on a password-protected Web site. Do review flyers, newsletters, and other documents for information that may compromise someone's identity before posting on an Area Web site. Don't post flyers, newsletters, and other documents on the Web site without considering anonymity issues.

Some issues arise when posting photos online. Don't reveal photographs of full-face images of anyone identified as a member of Al-Anon, Alateen, or A.A. in any publication form, including Internet social media sites. Don't identify a person as an Al-Anon, Alateen, or A.A. member in photographs. Do look at the backgrounds in photographs and confirm that other members or the location are not identifiable.

Social media could present challenges with anonymity. Simply “Liking” or “Following” any of Al-Anon's or Alateen's social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter doesn't imply affiliation. It simply means you support the message. Don't identify yourself as an Al-Anon member, or the identity of other Al-Anon or A.A. members when posting on any social media site. Remember Tradition Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all A.A. members. “Liking” or “Following” Al-Anon's social media can have a ripple effect. When you “Like” or “Follow” a page or post without identifying yourself as a member, you share that information with your social media friends. This helps broaden Al-Anon's message of hope to others.

How can Al-Anon attract more diverse members to maintain and increase Al-Anon's current membership? The following is a presentation by the WSC Task Force on Acceptance of Communities, Cultures and Beliefs. **What is bias?** And what

does it have to do with welcoming various communities, cultures, and beliefs in AI-Anon? **Bias is:** Partiality, Prejudice, and Unfair preference for or dislike of something.

"I see myself as welcoming and open-minded, but... I only ask someone I know to lead the meeting. I only talk to my friends before and after the meeting. I wouldn't want to meet in a jail or a mental facility. I wouldn't meet in a mosque or synagogue. I insist that we close with the Lord's Prayer. I insist that we do not close with a prayer. I don't like poor grammar when someone shares. I insist on saying how long I have been in AI-Anon. I don't want to sit by a homeless person. I don't like sitting by someone who has not cleaned up. I don't like the passive/aggressive sharings of some members. I cross my arms to keep people at a distance."

"Everyone is welcome, but... We meet in a church. We have steep stairs to navigate. This is a men's only, or women's only, or an LGBT only meeting. We don't allow small children; they are too disruptive. Teenagers are difficult to deal with. Members of other Twelve Step programs are not welcome. We ask, "Are you looking for an A.A. meeting?" We are a Step meeting; we do not talk about the Traditions or Concepts!"

To reach those in need, there are times when meetings need to be "non-traditional" to meet the needs of individual members or the group. The WSC TASK FORCE on Meeting Types produced a list of a variety of such meetings. The following is a list of more flexible meetings: Technology-assisted meetings (phone or video connection); Brown bag meetings; Bring a group meeting to a home, nursing home or hospital; Roving meetings (location posted online); Transient meetings on college campuses; Special language needs meetings; Family-friendly meetings; Summer meetings in parks/RV parks, evening campfires or beaches.

What is **TEAM**? Together Empowering AI-Anon Members. We are planning an Ohio TEAM even the summer of 2017 in conjunction with Ohio Area Convention in Akron. What is a TEAM EVENT? A partnership with the AREA and World Service Office (WSO). An opportunity to learn more about service and the AI-Anon program. The Area and the WSO TASK FORCE work together. The WSO Task Force and Host Committee plan the agenda of workshops and presentations. TEAM events are sponsored by the AREA and WSO.

The WSO TEAM members make three presentations: Their personal stories, a Financial Presentation (Giving—Our Spiritual Link to Gratitude: AI-Anon world services in action, or Abundance and our Twelfth Step in action), and Trustee Search. The OHIO TEAM EVENT Workshops are Service as a Part of Recovery; Attracting Members to Service; Principles vs. Procedures; Concepts; and Conflict Resolution.

Where will you be in 1 year 8 months and 5 days? **AI-Anon's 6th International Convention is July 6-8, 2018 in Baltimore, MD.** Start saving your money now!

This month we can submit a bid for the AI-Anon's 7th International Convention in 2023. Will it be Cleveland or Columbus, Ohio?

Subscribe to AFG Announcements for news from your World Service Office (WSO).

It's easy to be informed! To receive a free subscription to **AFG Announcements**—all we need is your email address (you can easily unsubscribe at any time). Sign up today on the Members' website. "[Be informed!](#)". This communication system for individual members will deliver announcements from the World Service Office (WSO) right to your inbox. Some examples of announcements include: new literature, surveys, and WSO employment opportunities to name a few. Members in service who currently receive information through the "Announcements" community on AFG Connects will continue to receive announcements in that manner so there is no need for them to subscribe.

The 2017 World Service Conference is April 24-28, 2017 in Virginia Beach, VA. The theme is Our Members: Our Hope for the Future. Please help yourself to love gifts from the 2016 WSC and think about making some for next year. Your gifts were very much appreciated.

A question was asked about "AI-Anon blogs" – specifically how can it be determined if they are safe? Ginny replied that blogs that are accessed through the Members Web Site, <http://al-anon.org/members>, are created and monitored by the WSO and are "the real thing".

Another question was asked about Districts or AIS's developing their own app and/or social media page. District 48 has developed their own Facebook/Twitter page which has upcoming events, meeting schedule and an anonymous email

contact address. It was also pointed out that a Service Arm may use the Al-Anon name for its Public Outreach (social media), but individuals may not.

WEBSITE: Mike K, Webmaster, presented his report. He noted that we have had about a 20% decline in our web traffic, overall. He also reported that he is working on a new web site that will be more "user friendly" for a new webmaster (on down the road). It is attached at the end of the minutes.

Several of the "Not Quite Ready for Prime-Time Actors", also known as "volunteers", presented a skit entitled "Meeting Before The Meeting".

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Karen S, Committee Chair, reported 66 GRs registered for Saturday and Sunday, 10 GRs registered for Saturday only and 18 non-voting members registered for a total of 94 people in attendance.

Ginny C introduced Angie Disanto from Destination Cleveland, who made a presentation on behalf of that city for consideration to host the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention. (NOTE: The presentation was made in Power Point format, but due to the size of the files, they may not be available in the web version or by email.)

THOUGHT FORCE / TASK FORCE REPORTS:

TASK FORCE – Guidelines for Incoming Alateen Sponsors: Tina L, Alateen Coordinator was absent and did not submit a report

TASK FORCE – Implementing Changes for the Ohio Area Convention: Lee R, Two Day Fall & OAC Advisor, was absent. Donna K, Budget Committee Chair, submitted the report from Lee and Jan S, 2016 Convention Chairman –

Although we have found some areas in the Handbook that need to be clarified, we are waiting for more input from other areas of the state. The biggest help would be to get together several recent past Chairpersons to work up a concise guide of procedures to help future Chairpersons to use their time more efficiently.

All the information is in most of the reports but it is like a game of hide and seek.

Things like how soon to book the hotel, how many break-out rooms, how many guest rooms and what kind, how soon to get the speakers, how much AA and Alateen participation, ADVERTISING where it works and where it doesn't, and maybe most important is to call it the "Ohio Area Convention with this year's theme being _____ .

The yearly theme change seems to throw people off and many people think this is a business meeting. Many others cannot "afford" to travel around the state until they experience the joy, growth and fellowship first hand in their own backyard. Then, suddenly, some of them can afford to travel to attend.

We need some other ideas as to how to get the word out and enjoy some time with each other. Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, Toledo, Cleveland, Akron, and Youngstown, we need a representative from each one of you to work this process out and continue to grow "OUR" Ohio Area Convention.

1) There's no "average" OAC

Looking back at the last 6 OACs from 2010 to 2016, attendance has ranged from a low of 43 to a high of 206, with the banquet count low of 58 to high of 114. This makes planning very difficult! Our attendance numbers have stabilized somewhat in the last 3 years, but not the banquet count:

2014 Toledo - attendance 160

2015 Cincinnati - attendance 206
2016 Cleveland – attendance 203

2014 Toledo - banquet 69
2015 Cincinnati - banquet 114
2016 Cleveland - banquet 84

2) We don't know our attendance and banquet count numbers until our pre-registration cutoff date, and then it is too late to make adjustments.

We signed our first hotel contract for the 2016 OAC in August 2014 and based our planning heavily on Toledo's numbers. We were fortunate that after 2015 in Cincinnati the Holiday Inn Mentor voluntarily increased our meeting space without additional charge because they were the same hotel brand. We didn't know our pre-registration count until the end of May 2016. The always unpredictable factor is walk-ins, which we managed to hold to 20%, and we ultimately hit our attendance goal of 200. MANY OTHER CONVENTIONS REDUCE THE UNCERTAINTY BY NOT ALLOWING WALK-INS AND HAVING A REGISTRATION DEADLINE 30-45 DAYS IN ADVANCE. We had walk-ins who were unhappy that we couldn't get them banquet tickets, but we had to give the hotel a count 3 days in advance.

3) Our membership will attend the OAC if it's in their backyard

About 80% of the attendees at the 2016 OAC were from Lake County and eastern Cuyahoga County. In the Metro Cleveland area, we couldn't even get the west siders to "cross the river" or the Southsiders to attend despite extensive advertising. I attended the 2014 and 2015 OACs, and without access to their registration data, it seemed to me that their attendance was also predominantly local. We registered only 30+ Ohio attendees from outside the Cleveland metro area, including all the Assembly officers who had been asked to help with the convention workshops, a panel, or skit.

4) There is no loyal following for the OAC

Unlike other conferences within Ohio such as Rainbows 'N Recovery (in Perrysburg outside of Toledo) or the OAR (popularly referred to as "Salt Fork"), there is no large core group who attend most years. When we asked first timers to stand up Saturday morning at the 2016 OAC, it looked like more than half of the room. Is this due to a lack of identity with the name changing each year (2016 *Time to Grow*, 2015 *Made a Decision*, 2014 *Highways to Serenity*)? I don't know.

5) AI-Anon members don't want the expense of a hotel

In 2016 with 203 attendees, we used only 24 hotel rooms – including 7 by OAC committee members so that we could do our best job more easily. Even a group of Pennsylvania members who came to support the Friday night speakers were in and out the same night. The hotels track "room nights," that is, a total of the number of rooms Friday + rooms Saturday:

2014 Toledo – 37 room nights
2015 Cincinnati – 74 room nights
2016 Cleveland – 47 room nights

6) It is important that the OAC continues to rotate around the state of Ohio!

(see items 3, 4, and 5) Many of the first timers come when the convention is in their backyard because they can commute, paying only the registration cost, and save the cost of a hotel room.

7) Feedback on the 2016 OAC was overwhelmingly positive

We included a feedback sheet with every registration packet, and a deposit box on the table in the main meeting room. Although we received only 14 sheets, the comments were very favorable, such as "I loved it all." Many local members also approached us in the weeks afterward to say thank you. This suggests to me that the OAC doesn't need a major overhaul. (DO see items 8 and 9)

8) Advertising difficulties

The committee and friends hand carried Save-the-Date and registration flyers to the 2015 OAC, several assemblies, and every conference within Ohio that we were aware of. We also had flyers at the KY state convention, a workshop in PA near the home area of our speaker couples, and a multi-state conference in NY. Despite this, one comments sheet said that we should have advertised more outside of our immediate area! A major obstacle was getting flyers on all the metro websites. When we e-mailed them, several sites didn't respond, or posted the flyer and then removed it. After repeated attempts, we used our GR/DR contacts to ask for help, and finally – in APRIL 2016 – the registration flyer was on all Ohio

websites and info on the WSO calendar. Although we made an effort to post the 2014 and 2015 OAC flyers on our Cleveland website and spread the word about their conventions, we didn't feel that this effort was reciprocated all around the state by other GRs.

9) Suggestions for the 2017 OAC

The feedback sheets from received at the 2016 OAC contained the following comments:

Keep focus on Al-Anon, too much focus on AA attendance -- 2 contributors; BUT three contributors commented favorably on the dual member panels and hearing all the speakers that work both programs

- A variety of speakers, rather than both couples; so many members are single, maybe adult children
- More reading/sharing meetings
- Workshop on service structure, service manual
- Theme programs to the weekend (better coordinate sessions to the convention theme)
- Shake up the raffle bags before drawing
- Sponsorship, the Steps, have Alateen participation
- Have a real bingo game fun, fun, fun with Al-Anon phrases
- Round robins, slogans
- Round robin was great, but more time for each session (3 contributors)
- Would have liked to attend all sections rather than having to choose. It was all too good to miss.
- How different home groups operate
- Like to see leads balanced with small group and more break-out session options
- More Al-Anon programs instead of art, movies, music & skits; the skits were too short; I did not see how they matched up to the title
- There are many people in attendance who walk w/assistance. When selecting a venue please consider. Meeting room should be in close proximity to the entrance. Restrooms should be across from the doors to the meeting room. Hospitality room was not anywhere near the meeting rooms. (*response from 2016 OAC Chair: we had only 1 hotel quote us affordable meeting space.*)

The feedback sheets are available for review.

CONCLUSION

On the feedback sheet one attendee wrote,

"I used to come to this conference in the 90's, held at Denison and Dayton. There was so much good solid Al-anon. There were 500 people in attendance. The conference ran smoothly. What happened?"

I don't see the OAC returning to the years of 500 attendance. While I don't have figures for other Ohio conferences, I think our 200 attendance in 2015 and 2016 is about in line with the competition we are facing. Al-Anons have even more choices than before since the "Fall into Serenity" conference was added to Rainbows 'N Recovery, Salt Fork, Oberlin, Sharing and Caring, etc. The last three OAC conferences made a profit.

Although it is stated in the Assembly handbook guidelines that the OAC is NOT a fundraiser, the 2016 OAC made a rather large unintentional profit by prudent planning, the generosity of the 2016 committee and friends in handling many expenses out of pocket, the donations of the members and groups who supplied 35 outstanding items for the raffle, and a well-stocked "Ala-boutique" (Ways and Means). We had a conservative budget based on expenses for 200 people, but registration income from 150 – and then we drew our 200 target number, exceeded projections at the raffle and Ala-boutique, and had the totally unforeseen banquet refund.

Although we used Assembly handbook OAC Guidelines plus the WSO G-3 and G-20 sheets, it would be helpful to have a more "nuts and bolts" book for the Chair. I benefitted greatly from the detailed 2010 Columbus/ 2011 Dayton /2014 Toledo reports. Although 2015 Cincinnati did not publish a report, the Chair gave me detailed financial data and pointers which were also most valuable. What I really needed at the start was a "Chairing for Dummies" version – this is what you do first, what to look for (or avoid) in the hotel contract, registration statistics, how to set up a budget, also best practices, and contact info for each convention. An Action Committee comprised of former OAC Chairs/committee members could work on this as a next step to give the OAC Chair an improved set of tools.

TASK FORCE for Developing a new flyer for the GR Orientation Folder: Mike K, Task Force Chair and Webmaster presented the report –

I believe I have received everything that is needed to create the flyer, so the ball is in my court and I need to get a draft prepared and sent to Theresa M for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Appoint an interim Review Committee Chair – Donna K gave a brief synopsis of the duties of the Review Committee itself. Laura B, GR for Willoughby 4th Step Saturday AFG, volunteered to accept the position for this year. Kathleen Sallah, DR 6, had already indicated she would accept the position beginning January 1, 2017. They will work together to work out the details.

Appoint a Task Force for Mailing and Printing Concerns – Melanie B, GR for Mid Day Mid Week AFG volunteered to chair the Task Force. An additional eight persons also signed up to be on the Task Force and the list was forwarded to Melanie.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

ALATEEN: Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, was absent and did not submit a report.

ARCHIVES: Judy C, Archives Coordinator, presented the report –

Work continues on the archives.

Previously, the minutes and then the Treasurers' reports were "batch collated" – that is removed from various notebooks, then sorted by years into file folders. After that, an initial sorting of our hardback books that have been donated, as well as audio tapes of our Conventions, were organized.

The next project, which is ongoing, is the Area Conventions and they will be done in much the same manner.

Once that has been done, the remaining files will be gone through and sorted. There is such a wealth of wonderful information about AFG of Ohio!

GR's – please remember to pass along to your groups to inform your Districts and AIS's of upcoming events with flyers. Districts can pass that information along to their respective AIS and I'm asking the AIS's to please forward a copy of those flyers to the Archives Coordinator.

Also, there are several empty notebooks from previous reports that were sent into Archives. If an Officer, Coordinator, Committee Chair or Task Force Chair needs one, please let me know

Ginny asked for suggestions for the name for the TEAM event next July. She asked that those suggestions be emailed to her.

NEW BUSINESS:

A preference vote was taken, based on the presentations by the cities of Columbus and Cleveland to submit a bid for the 2023 International AI-Anon Convention. The results will be announced during the Sunday session.

The Saturday meeting was adjourned 5:15 PM, and the Assembly will reconvene on Sunday at 9:00 AM.

Buff called the Assembly meeting back to order on Sunday, November 6, at 9:00 AM.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Karen S, Registration Committee Chair, presented an updated report of 70 Group Representatives registered for Saturday and Sunday; 7 Group Representatives registered for Saturday only, 18 non-voting members; and 1 guest for a total of 96 people present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phil H, Secretary presented the following KBDM –

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING: **Aligning our legal name to conform to WSO policies and directives.**

Background information – What we know

Historical perspective:

- 1 – This organization was incorporated in the state of Ohio on April 6, 1990, as “AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, INC.” This statement is made in the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Ohio Secretary of State at that time.
- 2- Subsequently, this corporation was granted exemption from the payment of federal income taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code in 1991. Informally, our corporation was “tax exempt”.
3. Page 36 of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) states, “to protect the CMA’s anonymity, all Al-Anon groups are registered with the letters AFG (for Al-Anon Family Group).
4. On January 22, 2009, Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. applied and was granted the trade name “AFG of Ohio, Inc”. The cost for this filing was \$50.00 and the use of the trade name was granted for a 5-year period, expiring on January 22, 2014.
5. The trade name was subsequently renewed April 7, 2015, at a cost of \$50.00.
6. A review of minutes of the Area Assembly meetings for 2008 and May, 2009 fail to show where this action was ever brought for a vote to the Assembly.
7. No action has ever been taken to change (amend) our Articles of Incorporation, the legal document that establishes our corporation in the state of Ohio or the By-Laws of the Ohio Area Assembly for Al-Anon Family Groups.
8. No formal request has ever been made to the Internal Revenue Service to change our corporate name, as it was originally registered.

Existing motions that pertain to this topic

None

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

- 1 – We need to comply with the laws of the state of Ohio regarding corporations.
- 2 – We need to comply with the Internal Revenue Service Code, or risk losing our tax exempt status.
- 3 – We need a simple way to “fix” this – and it available at a lesser cost than continually renewing our trade name.

What do we know about our capacity (resources)?

The process is straight forward:

- 1 – We need to amend our Articles of Incorporation. However, in order to do that we need to
- 2 – Amend our By-Laws first. Once that is done, a resolution is submitted to the Ohio Secretary of State, withdrawing our trade name, in favor of amending our original name.
- 3 – With those documents in hand, we notify the Internal Revenue Service of the changes. They, in turn, will issue an updated letter verifying our tax exempt status as “AFG of Ohio, Inc”
- 4 – It does NOT require the resources of a lawyer to do this.

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

- 1 – The filing of a Certificate of Amendment to our Articles of Incorporation is a one-time fee of \$50.00

What we wish we knew, but don't:

At this time, it is unclear whether or not there is a fee required to “unfile” the trade name, AFG of Ohio, Inc. It is presumed there would be a fee and a telephone call to the Ohio Secretary of State's office would answer that question.

Need for motion? Two motions must be presented: The first motion will amend our By-Laws. Once that motion is passed, a second motion will be required to adopt the Resolution to amend our Articles of Incorporation.

MOTION 2016 / 11 – 01: To amend the Corporate name on Page 2 of 11 in the Bylaws, as follows:

As is currently written: The name of the Corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, INC. With the principal office in Columbus, Franklin County,

By changing the word “the” to “this” in the first line; And by adding the following, after INC on the second line,

however, in keeping with Tradition 11 of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., this name shall be abbreviated as AFG of Ohio, Inc and d by removing bold face type in the second line;

And the third line in its entirety,

So that the amended section reads, as follows:

The name of this Corporation shall be Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., however, in keeping with Tradition 11 of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., this name shall be abbreviated as AFG of Ohio, Inc

Phil H, Secretary, moved and Judy C, Thursday Night AFG GR, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require substantial unanimity, as it is a Bylaws change. The vote was 66 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions; and 4 absent. The motion passed.

Motion – To adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution

Whereas Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., was incorporated as a domestic corporation in the state of Ohio on April 6, 1990, and

Whereas Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., observes and abides by the Traditions, Concepts and Policies of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., and

Whereas Tradition Eleven of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., states, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction, rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.", and

Whereas Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., has developed a policy to abbreviate "Al-Anon Family Groups" as "AFG" on all public correspondence, and

Whereas Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., needs to adopt this same policy of anonymity on all of its public correspondence;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., meeting in its regular session, has amended its Articles of Incorporation, as follows:

The First Section, which currently reads:

"FIRST: The name of said Corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, Inc.

is hereby deleted in its entirety, and replaced with the following:

"FIRST: The name of said Corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, Inc., however, in keeping with Tradition 11 of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., this name shall be abbreviated as AFG of Ohio, Inc."

Phil H, Secretary, moved and Judy C, Archives Coordinator, seconded to adopt the Resolution. Buff announced that this would require substantial unanimity. The vote was 69 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions; and 1 absent. The Resolution was adopted and will be forwarded to the Ohio Secretary of State for filing. Once that is completed, it will be forwarded to the IRS to allow us to use "AFG of Ohio Inc" instead of "Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio Inc".

Judy A, Treasurer, presented the following KBDM –

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING: To amend the Treasurer's responsibilities and clarify the Compliance responsibilities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION-WHAT WE KNOW:

The Federal Government requires a 990 form to be filed yearly and the end of our fiscal year. The Ohio Secretary of state requires a Statement of Continued Existence of Nonprofit Corporation every five years. The Ohio Attorney General's Office requires a financial filing yearly which has never been done in recent years.

As the new treasurer I have learned the following:

- The IRS requires us to document, in writing, our fiscal year which is January 1 to December 31. They require a return to be filed annually (currently this is a 990-N electronic notice (e-postcard) to be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the fiscal year. This process for the postcard is for Tax exempt organizations who's Gross Receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.
- The Ohio Secretary of State requires a Statement of Continued Existence of Nonprofit Corporation every five years. Going forward this will need to be renewed March 2017.
- The Ohio Attorney General requires charitable organizations located in Ohio, to file annual financial reports with their office. These filings are public and contribute to accountability and transparency within

the charitable sector. The filing reveals to the public the name of the organization, an address, the (EIN) number, previous year income, expenses, and the total assets. This filing needs to be done by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the end of our fiscal year.

- The Special Standing Committee of the Compliance Liaison is no longer current.

WHAT ARE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CHOICES?

These duties will be moved from the compliance Liaison position to the treasurer's and Secretary's positions with the Compliance Liaison's oversight. When we do NOT follow these laws we lose our tax exempt and non-profit status.

WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW, BUT DON'T:

What other laws exist in which we are uninformed

IS THERE A NEED FOR A MOTION? Yes – three motions are required.

MOTION 2016 / 11 - 02: To amend the Treasurer's duties on Page 12 of the Handbook

As currently reads:

1. Handles all Assembly collections, funds, and expenses by having at all Area World Service Committee Meetings and Ohio Area Assembly Meetings, The Receipt Book in compliance with Item (3) below and the State Checkbook for immediate and emergency bills only, incurred by a State function in compliance with Item #4 below. (5/02 – motion #1)
2. Twice a year prepares a special appeal letter to be sent to all groups asking them to contribute to the Area treasury to cover Assembly expenses, including the contributions to the Delegate's fund.
3. Issues receipts to Group Representatives for any cash contributions they make on behalf of their groups for the Assembly so their respective Group Treasurers can reimburse them.
4. Pays all bills for expenditures authorized by the By-Laws, approved by the Ohio Area Assembly, or, if necessary by the Area World Service Committee, or the Officers of the Assembly.
5. Forwards to the World Service Office, before January 1st, the equalized sum for the Delegate's Fund.
6. Provide written financial reports to the Area World Service committee and Assembly each time they meet.
7. Is a member of the Budget Committee and consults with that Committee on presentation of the financial reports and budget information.
8. Becomes familiarized with all recommendations of the Budget Committee, which have been approved by the Assembly.
9. A newly elected Area Treasurer shall not accept the books from the outgoing Area Treasurer until after a reviewing committee has approved the books.
10. The Area Treasurer's report as defined in the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual shall include an accounting for all items listed in Article VI-Expenses (By-Laws of AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc
11. Payments to the treasurer are to be initialed by an authorized officer other than the treasurer. (10/93 – motion #1)

12. Any expenses, which exceed the budgeted amount authorized by the Assembly, be approved first by the Budget Chairman. (05/00 – motion #1)

By adding:

13. Prepares and files the annual 990 report with the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with IRS regulations. Provides a copy of the acknowledgment to the Compliance Committee.

14. Prepares and files the annual report(s) with the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Ohio in accordance with current regulations. Provides a copy of the acknowledgment(s) to the Compliance Committee.

15. Prepares the remittance and mailing to ensure that the required filing with the Ohio Secretary of State's office for Statement of Continued Existence of Nonprofit Corporation is made in a timely manner – currently every 5 years. Provides a copy of the acknowledgment to the Compliance Committee.

16. Prepares the remittance and mailing to ensure that the required filing with the Ohio Secretary of State's office for Change of Statutory Agent is made in a timely manner. Provides a copy of the acknowledgment to the Compliance Committee.

17. Prepares and maintains the Inventory of Physical Assets by keeping a separate record of all asset purchases by the Corporation.

Judy A, Treasurer, moved and Laura B, GR for Willoughby 4th Step Saturday AFG, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require a simple majority and the vote was 69 for; 1 against; 0 abstentions and the motion passed.

MOTION 2016 / 11 – 03: To amend the Bylaws, Page 3 of 11, Article II, Section C Financing, as follows:

As currently reads:

C. Financing

1. Financing of the Ohio Area Assembly shall be accomplished by the voluntary contributions of the Al-Anon and Alateen Groups in the State of Ohio to the Ohio Area Assembly Expense Fund.

2. The Budget Committee will determine annually what the total budget will be. (10/00 – motion #7)

3. Checks shall be made payable to the Ohio Area Assembly, not the Treasurer. The words “Al-Anon” or “Alateen” should be deleted from all addresses pertaining to Assembly and Al-Anon/Alateen personnel. Anonymity shall remain the keynote in all our correspondence.

4. In Case the Ohio Area Assembly be defunct, all money should be sent to the World Service Office.

By adding:

5. The fiscal year for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., shall be January 1 to December 31, inclusive.

Judy A, Treasurer, moved and Laura B, GR for Willoughby 4th Step Saturday AFG, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require substantial unanimity and the vote was 69 for; 1 against; 0 abstentions and the motion passed.

Karen P, Compliance & AAPP, presented the following motion –

MOTION 2016 / 11 – 04: To amend the Compliance Liaison duties on Page 14 of the Handbook

As currently reads:

5 – Compliance Liaison

Establish a position for smooth continuation of the legal requirements of Ohio Area Assembly, i.e. (Non-profit status (501-C-3)(2) Annual Form 8734 Support Schedule (3) Postal Bulk Mail Permit (4) Annual inventory of physical assets, (5) filing and transferal of these materials as legally required, and for the accumulation of the support material necessary to prepare those required reports, i.e. record (updated) copy of By-Laws and Handbook; accepted annual Budget and Treasurer's reports: Plea Letters and Auditor Reports. (10/01 – motion #7) To establish a Special Standing Committee for a "Compliance Liaison" as passed in Oct 2001. (5/03 – motion #3)

By deleting this in its entirety,

~~5 – Compliance Liaison~~

~~Establish a position for smooth continuation of the legal requirements of Ohio Area Assembly, i.e. (Non-profit status (501-C-3)(2) Annual Form 8734 Support Schedule (3) Postal Bulk Mail Permit (4) Annual inventory of physical assets, (5) filing and transferal of these materials as legally required, and for the accumulation of the support material necessary to prepare those required reports, i.e. record (updated) copy of By-Laws and Handbook; accepted annual Budget and Treasurer's reports: Plea Letters and Auditor Reports. (10/01 – motion #7) To establish a Special Standing Committee for a "Compliance Liaison" as passed in Oct 2001. (5/03 – motion #3)~~

And by substituting:

5 – Compliance Liaison

Establish a Compliance Liaison for the purpose of ensuring the legal requirements of federal, state and local laws, as they apply to the Corporation, are met, to include:

1. Ensure that the annual IRS 990 report is filed in a timely manner by the Treasurer, who will furnish a copy of the acknowledgment to the Committee.
2. Ensure that the annual Ohio Attorney General's report(s) is/are filed in a timely manner by the Treasurer, who will furnish a copy of the acknowledgment to the Committee.
3. Prepares the Change of Statutory Agent of Nonprofit Corporation to be filed with the Secretary of State's Office. The form shall name the Committee Chair as the Statutory Agent and shall be completed within 90 days of taking office. The form shall be mailed to the Treasurer, who will prepare the remittance and mail the form.
4. Prepares the Statement of Continued Existence of Nonprofit Corporation to be filed with the Secretary of State's office in a timely manner - currently every 5 years. The form shall be mailed to the Treasurer, who will prepare the remittance and mail the form.
5. Ensures a copy of all correspondence is given to the Archives Coordinator for filing as a permanent record.

Karen P, Compliance Liaison & AAPP, moved and Mary Ellen R, GR for Hubbard Friday Night AFG, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require a simple majority and the vote was 69 for; 1 against; 0 abstentions and the motion passed.

Phil H, Secretary, presented the following KBDM –

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING: Revising Secretary's written duties to match current duties

Background information – What we know

Historical perspective

- The position of Secretary is as old as Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio (long before the "Inc" was added).
- Duties listed at that time reflected current practices and available resources, i.e. minutes could be recorded in a book to be passed along, as they were done on a mimeograph machine.
- Everything was done via the U.S. Postal Service at that time as well.
- Twenty-first century technology now allows us to do, electronically, what we used to do manually.

- Storage options have also changed – we now have a 40 year history of Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, necessitating a good archives storage and retrieval system.
- Incorporation and tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) statuses also require certain forms to be retained by various trusted servants.

Existing motions that pertain to this topic

None

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

- We need to “Keep It Simple” and establish reasonable duties for the Secretary today.
- We need to provide the Secretary with the “tools of the program” to perform those duties and avoid double-headed management.

What do we know about our capacity (resources)?

While we do not have an unlimited budget, we can better arrange the Secretary’s duties commensurate with the requirements of AFG of Ohio, Inc. (the corporation) and Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio (our spiritual program).

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

Pro

- Revising the Secretary’s duties clarifies what the requirements are for the position.
- Members will be more willing to volunteer for service positions when the duties are clearly explained.

Con

- Maintaining the “status quo” will place an unnecessary burden on the Secretary
- Maintaining the “status quo” will make it more difficult to attract members to service

What we wish we knew, but don't:

Have we “covered all the bases” with this revision? Perhaps not, but it IS “Progress, not Perfection”.

Need for motion – Yes, to amend the Secretary’s duties in the Handbook.

MOTION 2016 / 11 – 05: To amend the Secretary duties on Page 11 of the Handbook

As is currently written:

Responsibilities:

1. The Area Secretary sends out all notices of Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings.
2. Attends to all regular secretarial work and takes minutes of meetings. These should be sent to the area Committee members and Group Representatives soon after the meeting and be recorded in a permanent minute book to be passed along to their successor.
3. Before Fall Assembly, sends each District Representative a current list of Group Representatives in their district, according to the current records as furnished by the Group Records Coordinator, to be returned with changes or corrections. Secretary will make corrections and return to Group-Records Coordinator.
4. Maintain an accurate, continuing attendance file of all Assembly members, past and present, for the purpose of establishing eligibility for office, according to our by-laws.
5. To add to the secretary’s duties that a copy of the assembly minutes be given to Archives. (10/00 – motion #3)

By deleting this in its entirety,

1. ~~_____ The Area Secretary sends out all notices of Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings.~~

- ~~2. Attends to all regular secretarial work and takes minutes of meetings. These should be sent to the area Committee members and Group Representatives soon after the meeting and be recorded in a permanent minute book to be passed along to their successor.~~
- ~~3. Before Fall Assembly, sends each District Representative a current list of Group Representatives in their district, according to the current records as furnished by the Group Records Coordinator, to be returned with changes or corrections. Secretary will make corrections and return to Group Records Coordinator.~~
- ~~4. Maintain an accurate, continuing attendance file of all Assembly members, past and present, for the purpose of establishing eligibility for office, according to our by-laws.~~
- ~~5. To add to the secretary's duties that a copy of the assembly minutes be given to Archives. (10/00 – motion #3)~~

and replacing it with the following:

Responsibilities:

1. Takes the minutes of all Area Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings, and sees they are distributed to Groups and the AWSC members.
2. Sends out all notices of Area Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings.
3. Keeps a record of attendance at all Area and Area World Service Committee meetings. The record shall be given to the Secretary by the Registration Committee Chair at the end of each meeting.
4. Maintains a post office box for the receipt of all mail addressed to the Area, forwarding it to the appropriate Officer, Coordinator or Committee Chair.
5. Obtains and maintains the bulk mailing permit, in the name of the Area, at the post office in the location where the Secretary resides. Maintains a copy of all required documents in a book to be passed along to the successor.
6. Maintains the original minutes of meetings for a period of two years, after which time they are passed along to the Archives Coordinator for permanent retention.

Phil H, Secretary, moved and Judy C, Archives Coordinator, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require a simple majority and the vote was 70 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions; and the motion passed.

Phil H, Secretary, presented the following motion –

MOTION 2016 / 11 – 06: I move to amend the Handbook, Section “Expenses & Other Motions” “Website” on Page 18 of 28, by adding Item 3, as follows:

3. Additionally, establish a domain name of “www.ohioalanon.org” to be linked to the current website, www.ohioal-anon.org. The cost for the additional domain name is \$12.00 per year, at the time this motion is made.

Mike K, Webmaster, moved and Phil H, Secretary, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require a simple majority and the vote was 70 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions; and the motion passed.

Phil H, Secretary, presented the following motion –

MOTION: I move to change the web site listing for “Remote Meetings” to utilize the WSO’s “Find An AI-Anon Meeting” feature instead of the current list prepared by the Area Group Records Coordinator.

Mike K, Webmaster, moved and Phil H, Secretary, seconded the motion. Buff announced this motion would require a simple majority and the vote was 62 for; 5 against; 3 abstentions; and the motion passed.

COORDINATOR, STANDING COMMITTEE AND CONVENTION & ASSEMBLY REPORTS:

COMPLIANCE / AAPP: Karen P, Compliance & AAPP, gave the report –

The Certification of Sponsors was completed and letters were sent to all that did not complete the process to inform them of their non-AMIAS status. The letter reminded them that non-AMIAS are not to participate in Alateen meetings and events.

I have offered to help anyone who may want to become recertified with the process.

Ohio currently has: 72 certified AMIAS
 23 Active Alateen Meetings

There are 5 **new Alateen meetings in Ohio** this year.
 Greater Cleveland area -District 7 – Berea
 Cincinnati area – District 16 - Waynesville
 Akron area – District 51 - Hudson
 Miami Valley area – District 41- Lima
 Toledo area – District 10 – Sylvania

There are 15 new AMIAS in Ohio.

All have participated in training sessions and sat in on an established meeting to observe for a period of time before being a sponsor at their own meeting. Many have shared that they feel as though this has given them the opportunity to be better equipped for success.

FORUM: Christine T, Forum Coordinator, gave the report –

Forum Coordinator’s Report – 2016 Fall Assembly

These numbers, I believe, take into consideration that we are all buying our own subscriptions for our groups, as opposed to before when WSO was furnishing them. We still need to encourage individual subscriptions. The November Forum

Report Date:		FINAL:	10/11/16
	JUNE 2016	SEPT 2016	Gain/loss:
Total number subscriptions mailed:	21,836	22,694	858
Total number of Al-Anon/Alateen Groups:	13,949	13,803	(146)
Subscriptions per group:	1.5654	1.644135333	0.0787

has two articles from members in Ohio and the Serenity Conference in September held a writing workshop for the Forum.

	JUNE 2016		
STATE/PROVINCE	# of groups	# of subs	sub/group
AE/AP		3	
NE	153	208	1
NY	733	836	1
OH	456	844	2

	SEPT 2016			
STATE/PROVINCE	# of groups	# of subs	sub/group	GAIN/LOSS
AE/AP	17	2		-1
NE	152	211	1.4	3
NY	728	882	1.2	46
OH	460	912	2.0	68

From that workshop, 5 submissions were made to the Forum. I'm also forming an email committee for the Forum for Ohio, so if you are interested in sharing ideas and implement some of those in the Area as well, please let me know. Remember, also, that you can subscribe to the Forum electronically and receive it on your I-pad or Nook and you can subscribe by the issue or by the year.

2016 OHIO AA CONVENTION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION: Merri G, DR 7, presented the report –

I want to Thank Ginny for asking me to chair the Al-Anon portion of the 60th Ohio State AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation. The theme of the conference was "Working With Others Through Sponsorship". Three of us stayed overnight at the Double Tree by Hilton on Friday, and on Saturday my room-mates willingly agreed to bunk out at my home since I had to be at the hotel early on Sunday to help Jill, the AA Hospitality chair clean up.

The two AA's chairs, Calvin and Jamie were gracious and made sure that our meeting room met our needs. We thought that the hospitality room was going to have a bathtub where we could keep the pop and water cold and a sink where we could wash dishes, but instead we had to use a plan B by using a garbage can to keep the beverages cold, and a bathroom sink with a tiny faucet, several doors down the hall, to wash our pots, pans, and dishes. I will never take for granted my kitchen sink after this experience.

We had a spectacular group of Al-Anon's that said YES when I asked them to speak and willingly paid the \$25 to register.

Jan S, Malinda M, and Angela M opened the conference on Friday sharing their experience with either having a sponsor or being a sponsor. On Saturday, Kathy, Rae, Bill, Jan, Malinda, and Angela did an awesome job with the skit on Sponsorship. Following the skit, we had a thought provoking workshop on sponsorship led by Ginny. Earlier in the afternoon, Sharon G, Karen, and Jim were kind enough to share their experience, strength, and hope on the topic of parents/grandparents of Alcoholics. At 3:00, the AA's and Al-Anon's came together to listen to Barb E, who was our main Al-Anon speaker who represented our program well. Our final panel was on Adult Children of Alcoholics led by Jim M, Rae M, and Debbie C who all did an excellent job.

The total expenses were \$211.20 which included \$200 for the hospitality room and \$11.20 for the fliers at the May Assembly.

The 61st Ohio State AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation will be July 21 – 23, 2017 at the Double Tree Inn by Hilton in Worthington

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the planning for an awesome conference.

LITERATURE COORDINATOR: Karen M, Literature Coordinator submitted the report and it was presented by Colleen F, GR, Hope and Happiness AFG –

We keep hearing over and over again only to use CAL or Conference Approved Literature in our meetings. While there are many other philosophies out there and many good ones, we are Al-Anon. CAL helps us in our personal recovery as well as our groups' recovery. Many of us start or day by reading from one of Al-Anon's daily readers. Reading CAL reminds and helps us to maintain positive attitudes and to take actions based upon a Higher Power's will for us, and to utilize the principles of our program.

When we are feeling "stuck," complacent, in a crisis, or unsure about an action to take, reading CAL supports us in between or at meetings. We are never alone. The collective wisdom of the Al-Anon fellowship supports us with their written words in CAL. Many members find a new understanding of our Legacies by reading and rereading CAL. When CAL is used at meetings, groups have found that it keeps their meetings on track. It helps to avoid weakening or modifying the Al-Anon program with the philosophy and purpose of other organizations. This includes Alcoholics Anonymous publications. CAL keeps us focused on ourselves and the Al-Anon program at meetings.

We have many dual membership people in our meetings and they love their program and what they have learned. We welcome them in our meetings and are happy to have them. However, this is Al-Anon and the Big Book is not a part of it. The use of A.A. literature including the "Big Book" is not an accepted practice:

- Not written from the perspective of family members
- Different recovery issues
- Use of A.A. literature would impact Al-Anon unity
- Can be confusing as to what Al-Anon's message is, particularly to the newcomer

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism is Al-Anon's annual public outreach magazine for members to place in lobbies, waiting rooms and wherever families of alcoholics might look for reading material. Visit the members' website to read The Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism writing guidelines.

<http://al-anon.org/members/pdf/AFAwritingGuide0215.pdf>

Perhaps you'll be inspired to submit a sharing- an article or even just a few sentences that may resonate with someone still suffering from the effects of someone else's alcoholism.

Let them know that we understand and let's share hope. Carrying the message-Twelve Step- is an opportunity for spiritual growth in Al-Anon.

You can also go to the members' website at www.al-anon.org/members. Click on "individuals," "Featured Publications," "Send Your sharing," and "Al-anon faces Alcoholism."

Sharings Needed for "CAL Corner": We always need more sharings about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. We could especially use articles about ...In All Our Affairs (B-15), Many Voices, One Journey (B-31), What Do You Do about the Alcoholic's Drinking? (P-19), and Alcoholism, the Family Disease (P-4). A

Electronic Al-anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature

Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics e-book (eB-3, e-FB-3, e-SB-3)

Our first Alateen e-book is now available as an e-book through your electronic book provider at \$9.99 (U.S.). 190 pages. The e-book is available in English, French, and Spanish. 120 pages.

Courage to Change e-book (eB-16, eFB-16, eSB-16)

This e-book version of Al-Anon's most popular daily reader is now available in English, Spanish, and French from your electronic media provider: On Apple iBooks, it is priced at \$13.99 (U.S.). On Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Kobo, it is available in two parts, each for \$6.99 (U.S.).

How Al-Anon Works e-book (eB-22, eFB-22, eSB-22)

This e-book version of Al-Anon's basic book is available through your electronic book providers at \$9.99 (U.S.). 416 pages. It is available in English, French, and Spanish.

Having Had a Spiritual Awakening . . . e-book (eB-25)

This beautiful book, reflecting the diversity of Al-Anon members' spiritual experiences, is now available exclusively as an e-book through your electronic book provider at \$9.99 (U.S.). 190 pages.

The Forum electronic version

Individual copies of The Forum are now available on Amazon and Kobo for \$1.49 (U.S.) and Apple iTunes for \$1.99 (U.S.). An annual electronic subscription is available from Barnes & Noble for \$11 (U.S.), with individual copies for \$1.49 (U.S.).

Al-Anon/Alateen audiobooks

One Day at a Time in Al-Anon audiobook (eA-6)

This audio version of Al-Anon's first daily reader is available through your electronic media provider as a downloadable MP3 file at \$19.99 (U.S.). It is 7 hours and 48 minutes long, narrated by anonymous Al-Anon members whose willingness to participate in this service project made the audio book possible.

Courage to Change audiobook (eA-16)

The audiobook of Al-Anon's second daily reader is nine hours and 15 minutes long. It retails for \$17.95 and is available through your electronic media provider.

How Al-Anon Works audiobook (eA-22)

This audio version of Al-Anon's basic book is available through your electronic media provider as a downloadable MP3 file at \$24.99 (U.S.). It is 16 hours and 19 minutes long, narrated by anonymous Al-Anon members whose willingness to participate in this service project made the audio book possible.

2016 OHIO AREA CONVENTION – DISTRICTS OF CLEVELAND: Jan S, 2016 OAC Chair, presented the report –

Some Statistics

- 203 people attended, about 80% pre-registered (thank you!)
- 35 items were donated by groups and individuals in the metro-Cleveland area for the raffle! With all this abundance, especially the basket arrivals Friday at the convention, we lost track of the many donors. Please excuse our manners if you did not receive a thank you card and know that we are truly grateful for your generosity. The raffle raised \$1,147.
- \$892 was raised in sales at the Ala-Boutique
- \$45.35 was collected in the "Dream Jars" for WSO to help offset the operating deficit. This was turned over to Assembly Treas. Judy A. to remit to WSO.

Some Conclusions

The great majority of attendees were local (based on registration data) and first-timers (based on asking them to stand on Saturday morning). Despite all our advertising efforts, we were unable to attract significant numbers from the west side of Cleveland and western suburbs! Attendance from beyond the Cleveland metro area was very small.

- Al-Anon members generally will attend the OAC if it is in their own back yard
- Our members do NOT want the expense of a hotel
- It is essential that the OAC rotates around the different Ohio metro areas if it is to continue
- Feedback from those who attended was very positive based on the comment sheets and conversations afterward

Final Thoughts

The nature of the convention is that Al-Anons wait until the last minute to register, so we didn't know how well we were doing until after the convention. The 2016 OAC had a conservative budget based on expenses for 200 people, but income from 150. We reached our attendance goal, exceed expectations with the raffle and boutique, and had an unanticipated refund from the hotel due to the banquet problem. Because of frugal operating, many donations from committee members and others, we have about \$6,700 in excess income over expenses to give to Assembly. We will also be returning the \$500 seed money to The Cleveland Meeting of Districts with our sincere thanks – it gave us much needed breathing room while we were spending money on preparations and the registrations were slow coming in.

A word about the banquet refund. As many of you know, the Holiday Inn Mentor voluntarily reduced the banquet charges by \$10 per person due to an unsatisfactory experience. At the August AWSC it was decided that the banquet attendees should be offered the option of receiving the refund or donating it to Assembly. Our convention Treasurer Donna contacted banquet attendees by e-mail or phone. Of those who responded, only about 10% opted for a personal refund, and these checks have just been mailed out.

It has been a pleasure to serve as 2016 OAC Chair. I am especially pleased that we were able, with the very eager help of our wonderful dual program members, to increase the dialogue between Al-Anon and AA and help build the bridge between our two programs. Thanks everyone for your prayers and support – you were generous with your praise, sparse with criticism.

Jan emailed the following correction to her report after the meeting:

Before reading my report at Assembly, I verified with OAC 2016 Treasurer Donna K. that she was writing a check for \$6,700 to AFG of Ohio. Unfortunately I failed to ask whether the \$2,000 seed money* was included in that figure or had already been re-paid. It had NOT yet been repaid, **so our actual "profit" was \$6,700-\$2,000 = \$4,700.** I apologize that this error on my part caused incorrect information to go out.

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Donna K, Committee Chair, gave the report –

The budget committee had a very quiet 3 months. However in June, we were asked what to do with a refund from the Holiday Inn in Mentor for the 2016 Convention Banquet. The banquet was very shameful except if you were one of the first w/few tables to be served. Their food was great, I hear!!! The rest of us had beef that was tough, salmon that was dry, the string beans were tasty, but very sparse, even the veg./vegan burgers and potatoes were room temperature to cold. The desert was 1 bite of a puff pastry. To the best of my knowledge, a refund has never happened before. After some research and lots of conversation, I have been told to leave the decision open to the AWSC.

Our choices are:

- 1) To inform all 84 banquet participants of the refund by e-mail and ask them to contact me if they want their refund. Not sure what to do about the speakers since we paid for their meals. Participants can choose to receive their refund or just consider it a donation to the convention. Those opting for the refund will receive a check.
- 2) To turn over the refund to OAA without informing the participants. I do not know how many people already know about the refund.

Most of us feel that it is only fair to let the participants know of the hotel management's regrets about the poor quality of the banquet. I would prefer that option, too.

In August, the Alateen Coordinator requested funds to travel to an Alateen meeting in Terre Haute, IN. After consulting with some of the Committee members, we told her to go ahead, since there was money in the budget but also remember that the Alateen Round-Up was coming up, in October and funds needed to be available for that also.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Jane E, Public Outreach Coordinator, presented the report –

Cindy and I attended the 3 day Addiction Study in July at the Columbus Conference Center. They had a 1000 Professionals registered and we talked to about 800. I went around to all the exhibitors and introduce myself as the Public Outreach person for the State of Ohio in Al anon. I asked if they wanted literature and if they did I gave it to them. We were right next to AA. I ask in the application to be right by them. So many people stopped by to thank us for being there. Also that Al anon had saved their lives. It was a positive and up lifting experience all 3 days. Cindy and I so enjoyed meeting Professionals from all over the country (Fla., Tenn., Penn., In.). If the Professionals did not know what Al anon was we explained how the program worked. We passed out a lot of literature and schedules for all groups in Ohio. We are looking forward to it next year. I have sent info to Cleveland and Canton after they contacted me. I brought AL ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM 2017 - help yourself.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Sandy F, Committee Chair, gave the report –

Handbook, By-Laws, Service Manual, in early recovery, I used to think why do I need to read and know that stuff? I was just trying to get my life together. I'd been in recovery about six years when I became a Group Representative. At my first Assembly our Delegate, suggested we take a look at the four books, Groups At Work (P24), Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies (P25), World Service Handbook (P26), and Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts (P 27) and see if anything there could help us with our group or even with our personal recovery. Well, being a new GR I asked where I could get those and I was told the group should have a set somewhere. At my next meeting I asked about those books and sure enough there they were in the bottom of the box under lots and lots of "stuff". Back then the books were separate. In the spring of 2000, I started in service in Ohio and the four books had been put into one publication and named the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual. So, what does the Service Manual have to do with the By-Laws and Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for the Ohio Area Assembly Meeting. They are related. The Service Manual is for all Al-Anon and Alateen Groups. The By-Laws and Handbook are things specific to AFG of Ohio only. I recommend reading these documents for possible guidance with group matters or even personal recovery.

This weekend we have been asked to consider changes to the By-Laws and to the Handbook. There have been wording changes proposed, responsibility changes proposed, a resolution proposed, a website domain name change proposed, and a proposed policy for not listing groups who are not following the principles of the program.

At the writing of this report, the outcome of the proposals is not known. That outcome will be reported and included the minutes of the 2016 Fall Assembly, which is the annual meeting of AI-Anon Family Groups, of Ohio Inc.

If the proposed changes are accepted and Assembly vote in favor of the proposed changes, when can you expect these changes to be completed? In reality, I cannot say. Hopefully these changes will be completed by January 2017.

The changes are significant and will take time.

When they are completed, I will inform the Area Chairman and request the new version of the Handbook and By-Laws be up loaded to the website. My suggestion is to make a copy of the Motion Log found in the minutes when you receive them and place that motion log in your Handbook and bylaws folder and use that until the new version is available.

When they changes are complete, we can all cheer.

2016 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY: Jo S, DR 51 and Committee Chair, presented the report –

We will not have a complete report until the Spring Assembly because, obviously, we're still gathering data. The only thing I have is how many of you were here, which we got from the Registration Committee. I want to thank my Committee members who have provided so much help and support for arranging the banquet and the Hospitality Room.

2017 OHIO AREA CONVENTION: Jo S, DR 51 and Committee Chair, presented the report –

OAC 2017-- July 7-9 - Doubletree Inn in Akron Ohio
Committees are being formed, will be meeting in December. There will be a TEAM event on July 7th, there will be a separate registration. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Jo S. District 51 and Jane E. District 25.

GROUP RECORDS: Robin R, Group Records Coordinator, gave the report –

438 Active Groups holding 497 meetings
2 Groups in No Mail status
118 Inactive Groups 124 Inactive meetings
Groups Marked for Deletion removed in October.
9 Groups with "bounced e-mail" addresses

23 Active Alateen Groups
29 Inactive Alateen Groups
Alateen Groups Marked for Deletion removed in October.

Contact WSO Group Records Version 4.6

Use same login and password you use for AFG Connects

Log In

Login:

Password:

Log In

If you cannot remember your password to log in, [click here](#)

Use you AFG Connects user name and password.

Contact WSO Group Records Version 4.6

Search for Al-Anon groups in Area 44_OH

Group ID: Meeting City: Zip/Postal Code: District: Status:

Search Clear

[Show/Hide Reports](#)

2 groups in No Mail status
9 groups with bounced e-mail

Administer Alateen Groups Administer Registrations

Select District

Contact WSO Group Records. Version 4.6 [Logout](#)

Search for Al-Anon groups in Area 44_OH

Group ID Meeting City Zip/Postal Code District 0006 Status

[Show/Hide Reports](#)

Admin 0009 Administer Groups Administer Registrations

0000
0001
0002
0003 ⚠️ 2 groups in No Mail status
0004 ⚠️ 9 groups with bounced e-mail
0005
0006
0007
0008
0009
0010
0011
0012
0013
0014
0015
0016
0017
0019

Click "search" button for a Group List. Can then get individual group details.

Group ID Meeting City Zip/Postal Code District 0006 Status

[Show/Hide Reports](#)

⚠️ 2 groups in No Mail status
⚠️ 9 groups with bounced e-mail

Groups matching search criteria [click on row to see group details] [click column heading to sort list]

	ID	Group Name	Status	City	Zip	District	Reg Date
Details	11152	Tuesday AFG	Active	Findlay	45840-3104	0006	
Details	30502990	Let It Begin With Me AFG	Active	Findlay	45840-1146	0006	2/21/2007
Details	30655597	Learning To Live AFG	Active	Findlay	45840-3653	0006	6/3/2015
Details	30667872	Step By Step AFG	Active	Findlay	45840-9601	0006	3/3/2016
Details	46979	Fostoria Feelings AFG	Inactive	Fostoria	44830-2201	0006	
Details	28614	Genoa Giving And Getting AFG	Active	Genoa	43430-1611	0006	
Details	24379	Oregon Thursday Nite AFG	Active	Oregon	43616-3207	0006	
Details	30484	Saturday Night Acceptance AFG	Active	Oregon	43616-4920	0006	
Details	53643	Saturday Good Morning AFG	Active	Rossford	43460-1218	0006	
Details	11399	East Side AFG	Active	Toledo	43605-1519	0006	
Details	11411	Wednesday River East AFG	Active	Toledo	43605-2613	0006	
Details	45040	Friday Morning Revelations AFG	Active	Toledo	43615-4030	0006	

1 2

Or select "show/hide reports" to get details of all groups in district.



REVIEW COMMITTEE: The position has been vacant. However, Laura B volunteered for the remainder of the year and Kathleen S will chair the Committee next year. Those reports will be made at the Spring AWSC and Spring Assembly meetings.

TWO DAY FALL / OAC ADVISOR: Lee R submitted her resignation from this position.

UPCOMING DATES:

Buff announced that the Spring AWSC would be either March 11 or March 25, 2017, and the Spring Assembly will be May 20, 2017, subject to the church calendar. The church does not do their 2017 calendar until December, so as soon as we hear from the church, the dates will be publicized. Hopefully, we'll have the dates by the time the Fall-Winter edition of Al-A-Notes comes out.

Allison G, Chair of the "Do Not List" Task Force, presented the following report –

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING: Task Force – Do Not List

Topic: The Do Not List Task Force was formed to address the topic of program preservation, in response to several reported incidents involving groups which used practices not in keeping with the Legacies.

Background Information – What We Know:

Al-Anon Family Groups' World Service Office states the following requirements for registering a group:

"The WSO will register a group with the understanding that the group will abide by the Al-Anon Traditions and not affiliate with or endorse any outside entity or practice. Joint meetings for Al-Anon and A.A. members, meetings comprised of only A.A. members, and groups which practice specific therapies, such as guided meditation, are not in keeping with Al-Anon principles and do not qualify to be registered as an Al-Anon group."

The Task Force was asked to establish specific criteria and a procedure for not listing groups on local meeting lists based on non-adherence to the Legacies.

Our Charge:

to establish criteria for responding to reported incidents with continuity and consistency across the Area
to establish criteria for evaluating group practices in relation the Legacies
to develop a policy that ensures equal participation and cooperation among group members and the Trusted Servants
to support the impacted groups with information and resources
to develop a procedure for re-listing groups that had been removed as a result of the Do Not List Policy

Several examples of reported incidents were presented.

We researched all known discussions and actions related to the Topic as found in the World Service Conference Summaries from 1992-2014.

SPECIAL NOTE: Several pieces of Conference Approved Literature were developed to assist Areas as a result of the historical discussions related to this topic. These are:

Using AI-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflict kit [K-70]:
Loving Interchange to Resolve Conflict wallet card [S-71]
Conflict Resolution Using our Twelve Traditions flip cards [S-72]
Talk to Each Other: Resolving Conflict within AI-Anon booklet [S-73]
Sponsorship, Working Together to Recover bookmark [M-78]

Existing motions that pertain to this topic:

Motion: The Task Force moved, and Allison G, GR for Women's Choice AFG, seconded to adopt the policy as proposed. Buff announced this motion would require substantial unanimity [majority]. The voting was: Yes – 43; No – 23; Abstentions – 5. Since 47 votes were needed for passage, the motion failed. * Sandy F, speaking as the advisor for the Task Force, asked for further guidance for the Task Force and Buff tabled the matter until the 2016 Spring Assembly.
What do we know about our members needs, wants or preferences:

Through work on this procedure, we have learned that members want to feel safe in meetings, hear a consistent message from meeting to meeting, and trust that the principles of the AI-Anon program are preserved. AI-Anon Family Groups has addressed these membership needs by defining specific obstacles to success in AI-Anon:

Obstacles to Success in AI-Anon

- Dominance
- Gossip
- Discussions of Religion

Given such obstacles, newcomers could be confused or misled about AI-Anon Family Groups; dilution of the AI-Anon program could occur; members could leave meetings and even the AI-Anon fellowship; and members could be hurt (emotionally or otherwise).

What do we know about our capacity (resources):

We have identified costs that may be associated with the Do Not List policy that we bring to this Assembly and have determined the need for resources in three categories:

- Travel
- Tangible Materials
- Personnel

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

Pros

- Aid in membership retention
- Acquaint members with Conference Approved Literature
- Encourage sponsorship Promote harmony and foster unity among members, groups, and the AI-Anon fellowship

Cons

- Need for more frequent updates of local meeting lists
- Groups may choose to leave Al-Anon Fellowship

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

In developing the Do Not List policy, the Task Force became aware of things we wish we knew but do not. For example:

- What will the record-keeping needs be as a result of policy documentation?
- How will information about this policy be disseminated to our members?
- What is the feasibility of Trusted Servants' involvement in the procedure?

Need for motion: Yes.

MOTION 2016 / 11 – 07: Motion: To adopt the Do Not List Policy –

Ohio Area Do Not List Policy

Definition of Do Not List: when a District, AIS, or Area decides to remove or not list a group 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 Al-Anon Family Groups, and the group will receive services from the World Service Office of The Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc.

Goal: to provide criteria for responding to reported incidents with consistency across the Area and in keeping with Al-Anon Traditions, Concepts of Service, Principles, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual; to ensure that the Criteria for Listing Meetings is related only to activities and practices at the group meetings and not to the actions or beliefs of individual members outside of meetings; to encourage participation and cooperation with groups throughout the process; to ensure inclusion of all Al-Anon groups in the Al-Anon fellowship through group support and education on Al-Anon Traditions, Concepts of Service, Principles, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual; 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 Trusted Servants: to include the District Representative (if the district has a current representative), the Area Chairman, the Alternate Delegate, the Delegate, or Trusted Servant as assigned by the Area Chairman.

Responsibilities of Trusted Servants: 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 Trusted Servants; 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, Concepts of Service, Principles, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual
- uses only Conference-Approved Literature in group meetings
- has fewer than three reported incidents
- has designated representation at the group level (GR, Alt GR, and/or ISR)

Do Not List Action Plan:

1. The process is initiated by a reported incident to any: AIS Office , WSO, Area Officer, or District Representative 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 Chairman 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 Chairman 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 concern remains:
 - a) The DR broaches the topic, addressing the incident in general terms (use of non-CAL, not following Traditions, dominance, high-pressure 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) and suggested informational items: G-3, G-4, G-37, P-17, P-31, P-33, P-35, P-53, P-57, S-9, S-24, M-78 as well as Conference-Approved Literature recommendations and information available online: <http://www.ohioal-anon.org/index.html> or www.al-anon.alateen.org/members (Password is the name of your home group followed by afg).
 - 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 Chairman 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 Chairman 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 Chairman.
- Potential Action Plan Outcomes: If the Group Inventory Review (or communication from the group members) reveals that group members were unaware of AI-Anon Traditions, Concepts of Service, Principles, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual 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 Chairman. The DR visits group meeting again, explains 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 LOCAL AND AREA MEETING LISTS. 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 and Area meeting lists until the group has implemented changes or has declined further assistance.

Re-Listing Policy

Goal: to provide opportunities for groups to be re-listed on local meeting schedules and online; to include all Al-Anon groups in the Al-Anon community; to encourage participation among members, groups, and the Area; to provide group support and education on Al-Anon Traditions, Concepts of Service, Principles, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual; to ensure that all groups are treated equally and respectfully in keeping with the Criteria for Listing Meetings (page 1); to ensure that the Re-listing Action Plan evaluates only activities and practices at the group meetings and not to the actions or beliefs of individual members outside of meetings

Policy Trusted Servants: to include the Group Representative, District Representative (if the district has a current representative), the Area Chairman, the Alternate Delegate, the Delegate, or Trusted Servant as assigned by the Area Chairman.

Responsibilities of Trusted Servants: to respond to group-initiated re-listing request quickly; to maintain an open line of communication between the Group Representative and the policy Trusted Servants; 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 clear feedback to the group regarding compliance to the Criteria for Listing Meetings and to report the outcome of the process to the group and its members; to inform the group any actions that need to be taken in order to be found in compliance and re-listed (where applicable).

Criteria for Listing Meetings – The Group:

- is registered with the World Service Office and the Area
- abides by Al-Anon Traditions, Concepts of Service, Principles, and guidelines as outlined in the Service Manual
- uses only Conference-Approved Literature in group meetings
- has fewer than three reported incidents
- has designated representation at the group level (GR, Alt GR, and/or ISR)

Re-Listing Action Plan:

1. Through a Group Conscience the group has voted to address and resolve the concerns that led to De-listed status and initiates the re-listing process when change has been consistently demonstrated.
2. GR/Alt GR notifies DR to report compliance, presents evidence of change or of meeting all stated criteria (refer to page 1) to DR on behalf of the group as determined by Group Business Meetings (Group Conscience).
3. DR notifies the Delegate, Alt. Delegate, and Area Chairman the group wishes to begin the re-listing Process.
4. DR attends a regular meeting of the petitioning group and participates as a member. DR observes and documents all impressions and experiences from the meeting, in particular demonstrated actions taken to address and resolve concerns of previously reported issues.
5. Decides if group has demonstrated change and is in compliance with all stated criteria for group listing on local and area meeting schedules.

6. DR follows up with the GR/Alt. GR and updates the Delegate, Alt. Delegate, and Area Chairman regarding the observations recorded at the meeting s/he attended and the decision made regarding compliance.

Potential Action Plan Outcomes:

- COMPLIANT - Group is relisted
- DR attends a regular group meeting again and notifies group that they meet all stated criteria for re-listing and explains what happens next:
 - -DR notifies Area Officers of the decision to relist the group
 - -DR notifies AIS Office and the Area Group Records Coordinator that the group is in compliance with all stated criteria for re-listing and requests that the group be returned to all local and Area meeting lists.
 - -DR follows-up with GR/Alt. GR to notify him/her the meeting lists have been updated online and will be updated in print with the next scheduled printing.
 - -DR continues to attend group meeting on same basis as periodic routine visits (as outlined in “DR Responsibilities” in the most current Service Manual) unless a new incident is reported in between visits.
- NON-COMPLIANT - Group is not relisted
- -DR attends a regular group meeting again and notifies group that they do not meet all stated criteria for re-listing and offers support in the form of Traditions Workshops, CAL pertinent to the continued concerns, and other resources or information sharing as relevant and available.
 - -DR informs group of necessity for a Group Conscience to determine what assistance they are requesting from the DR and to decide if they would like to implement changes in order to meet all stated compliance criteria.
 - -If the group has voted to implement changes to meet all stated compliance criteria, the DR provides the specific assistance and guidance as requested by group. DR informs group they may request consideration for re-listing via the Re-listing Action Plan when persistent issues have been addressed and resolved.
 - -If the group has voted not to make the necessary changes to meet all stated compliance criteria, GR/Alt. GR informs the DR that they have chosen to remain off all local and Area meeting lists.
 - -DR notifies the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, and the Area Chairman the group will remain unlisted due to continuing non-compliance with all stated compliance criteria and/or the decision by the group to remain off all local and Area meeting lists.
 - -DR continues to attend group meetings on same basis as periodic routine visits (as outlined in “DR Responsibilities” in the most current Service Manual) unless a new incident is reported in between visits.

“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.

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.

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.

Allison G, Task Force Chair moved and Judy C, Archives Coordinator moved to adopt the policy. Buff announced that this motion would require a simple majority; a recount of GR’s showed 69 present and the vote was 56 for; 10 against and 3 abstentions. The motion passed.

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS: Christine T, Forum Coordinator, presented the report –

These are the bullet points that we talked about – a complete report has been turned in:

- Use the Forum for a meeting once a month
- Groups purchase additional Forum subscriptions and sell them for \$1.00 each or use them as door prizes
- There is a Forum Board showing Conference Approved Literature that may be borrowed
- Use Conference Approved Literature (CAL)
- Compile a group library of CAL
- Use the Reflection questions at the end of each section in Many Voices, One Journey
- Use old pamphlets for meetings
- Use the Newcomers packet for a meeting
- Have a writing workshop during a meeting
- Make a list of ideas and turn it into a handout
- Use “Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism” for newcomers and the “Forum” for seasoned members
- Remember that the WSO website has a list of phone meetings that lists topics and times

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Laura B, GR for Willoughby 4th Step Saturday AFG, presented the report –

The committee discussed now to implement the goals of the committee, as outlined in the Handbook. We picked one of the 5 goals to focus on and discussed it in depth.

The committee decided to put together Public Outreach packets for GR’s to be distributed at the 2017 Spring Assembly and the Committee requests \$75 to cover the cost of the packets.

The money will come out of the Projects Fund Reserve Fund, which currently has a balance of \$800.00, so no motion is required.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH: Mary S, GR for Mentor Monday Night AFG, presented the report –

Our charge was to review the Goals of the Membership Outreach Action Committee and to brainstorm for how to implement them.

Discussion and ideas included

- Be truly welcoming to newcomers
- Use service as a topic at the group – move away from using the daily reader to other literature (pamphlets, The Forum, books)
- Remember and remind members that all changes we make (in life and in the meetings) is on a trial basis and decide on the trial period.
- Invite members into service positions – join me in visiting AIS, District meetings, AWSC, OAA, or just trying a different meeting. Service sponsorship to help learn the position.
- Learn and use the different Guidelines, brochures to design your own fliers to meet the need of Community Mental Health Centers, Schools, etc.
- Contact Community Newspapers to put information about local Al-Anon

The group then revisited the Into Service Bookmark/Card with the design changes that Allison worked on. These were approved, and after copyright permission is received from WSO, we will move on getting them printed up for the Spring Assembly.

GROUP SERVICES: Cheryl C, GR for Tri County AFG, presented the report –

We looked at our four goals, but only talked about 2 and a half.

1 – Keep mailing lists current and maintain records.

- The Area Group Records Coordinator now can make changes directly in the WSO database.
- Ask that the DR’s and GR’s ensure that their groups are receiving mail.
- Submit changes to the Area Group Records Coordinator

- Encourage the Al-Anon Information Services (AIS's) and Intergroups to get their information from the Area Group Records Coordinator

2 – Strengthen connections between Assembly and Groups.

- Be positive about service in general.
- We propose obtaining a list of groups that have a GR, but does not attend Assembly (about 75% currently), organize it by DR's and then establish a pilot program where an Assembly member could reach out to these groups in the spirit of "Let It Begin With Me".
- Work with the DR's so as to not step on anyone's toes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Buff announced the results of the vote taken Saturday afternoon, for the Assembly's choice of city to submit a bid for the 2023 International Convention. The total was: 47 votes for Columbus; 28 votes for Cleveland; and 1 person was absent.

MOTION:

Steven M, GR for Hope AFG Columbus, moved and Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair & Past Delegate, moved that Ohio Area Assembly submit a bid to WSO for the 2023 International Al-Anon Convention with Columbus, OH as the Host City.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017: (Note – this schedule was updated after the Assembly meeting and dates shown have been confirmed with the church)

Spring AWSC – March 11, 2017 - North Congregational United Church Of Christ, 2040 W Henderson Rd, Columbus
 World Service Conference – April 24 - 28, 2017, Wyndham Virginia Beach Resort Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA
 Spring Assembly – May 20, 2017 - North Congregational United Church Of Christ, 2040 W Henderson Rd, Columbus
 Ohio TEAM Event - July 7, 2017, Double Tree Inn by Hilton, 3150 W Market St, Akron (Fairlawn)
 Ohio Area Convention – July 7 – 9, 2017, Double Tree Inn by Hilton, 3150 W Market St, Akron (Fairlawn)
 KOMIAC – July 28 – 30, 2017 – Terre Haute, IN
 Ohio AA Convention w/ Al-Anon participation – July 21 - 23, 2017, Double Tree Inn, 175 Hutchinson Ave, Columbus
 Fall AWSC – August 12, 2017 - North Congregational United Church Of Christ, 2040 W Henderson Rd, Columbus
 Fall Assembly – October, 2017 – Districts of Columbus host

CLOSE: There being no further business, the meeting was closed on November 6 at 11:59 AM, with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil H
 Area Secretary