

**NOTE: These are the “complete” minutes of the 2016 Spring Assembly meeting. The mailing was merely a “condensed” version. These minutes here, not the mail-out, will be presented for approval at the 2016 Fall Assembly.**

**2016 SPRING ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES**

The Spring Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, May 21, 2016, at the North Congregational United Church Of Christ, 2040 W Henderson Road, Columbus 43220. Alternate Delegate Theresa M, filling in for Chairman Buff N who was ill, opened the meeting at 12:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Kim F, GR-Niles Wednesday Night AFG, read the Twelve Traditions; Lee R, Two-Day Fall & OAC Advisor, read the Twelve Concepts Of Service; and Lorraine M, Alternate GR-Hudson Saturday Serenity AFG, read the General Warranties Of The Conference. Theresa welcomed everyone and explained meeting etiquette and the voting procedures.

Introduction by Districts were made and the following districts were represented: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 41, 45, 48, 51, 56 and 57.

Delegate Ginny C recognized and welcomed the 11 new Group Representatives.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the Fall 2015 Assembly meeting were distributed via the AFG of Ohio website. Cheryl C, GR-Tri County AFG, moved and Allison G, Women’s Choice AFG, seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** - Judy A

Judy reported that she filed the 990-N Form with the IRS for the year 2014 last year. It’s the first report that been filed in some time and kept AFG of Ohio from losing its tax-exempt status. This is an annual report that must be filed. AFG of Ohio did not have to pay any penalties or interest for non-filing.

She also reported filing 3 years of past due reports for 2013, 2014 and 2015 with the Ohio Attorney General’s office. Again, these are required reports that had not been filed in the past. AFG of Ohio paid \$550 in fees to file the reports - \$50 for each year that was filed, and a penalty of \$200 for both 2013 and 2014 because the reports were late.

2015 –	Ending balance as of 31 December 2014 –	\$ 31,194.32
	Income 1 January – 31 December 2015 –	+ 21,971.92
	Expenses 1 January – 31 December 2015 –	- <u>21,534.95</u>
	Ending Balance as of 31 December 2015 –	\$ 31,631.29
2016 –	Beginning balance as of 1 January 2016 –	\$31,631.29
	Income 1 January – 9 May 2016 –	+5,910.15
	Expenses 1 January – 9 May 2016 –	- <u>3,493.27</u>
	Ending Balance as of 9 May 2016 –	\$34,048.17

Cheryl B, DR 9, moved and Allison G, Women’s Choice AFG, seconded to accept the reports. The motion passed.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE & AL-A-NOTES EDITOR REPORT:** - Theresa M

Newsletter Editor –

- I am requesting our “IT” person to run a PowerPoint of other Area newsletters during my report (the presentation is a compilation of newsletters from other Areas)
- I still am working on clarifying the different ways to connect with other newsletter editors.
- 487 Al-A-Notes were mailed: 428 to Al-Anon groups; 24 to Alateen groups; and 35 to the Subscription & Exchange list. Three were returned with address changes and three were returned as "temporarily away" (meaning gone on vacation or for the winter).
- Al-A-Notes were emailed to 60 people on the AWSC list.
- I received only 4 responses to the survey that was included in the 40.1 (last edition) – obviously from the groups that read and share the notes. One GR emails copies to all members in the group.
- The four members who responded all would like a “heard at a meeting” or “ask a question” section.

- One response was that important information be highlighted. This is up to the GR or person who receives the publication. (We do not print in color.)
- All 4 wished to know more about what was going on in different districts across the Area.

Alternate Delegate –

Emails were sent to the Members who attended the New Group Representative orientation at the 2015 Fall OAA - welcoming them into service, suggesting items to bring to and providing a copy of the Agenda for the 2016 Spring Assembly.

I have also been involved with the Greater Cincinnati Information Service to revise their Guidelines and encourage greater participation in Service.

With the support of my service sponsors, and because of the lack of response to the Newsletter Survey and the time being spent in working on encouraging members into service locally, I am officially no longer attempting to act as “temporary Alternate District Representative” for the 190+ meeting from the 21 out of 48 Districts that have not elected District Representatives.

### **DELEGATE’S REPORT:** - Ginny C

The World Service Conference was held in Virginia Beach April 11-15, 2016. This was not a beach vacation but I looked at the sunrise and beach on a daily basis but the cold temperatures and busy schedule kept me from enjoying the ocean further. I got my very cold toes in the sand.

The theme of the 2016 World Service Conference was Realizing Our Spiritual Potential. To set the tone I will read you some of the quotes that introduced the theme.... The World Service Conference makes the group conscience available and effective for all AI-Anon...and the guarantee that our world services shall continue to carry on under all conditions. *2014-2017 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), p. 139*

**65th Anniversary:** In the beginning, there was a typewriter and two women who were determined to reach out to others affected by the family disease of alcoholism: Lois W. and Anne B. In May of 1951, the largest group conscience began when they wrote to all the groups and asked their opinion on certain questions. In 2016 we are celebrating the 65th anniversary of the founding of AI-Anon. Here I am outside the beautiful offices of the World Service Office in Virginia Beach which serve AI-Anon members around the world.

As part of the Open House for the 65th anniversary, I was able to once again tour the WSO offices and spoke with some of the staff whom I have met by attending the World Service Conference. Some of our best resources are the WSO staff who work hard every day to answer phones, emails and provide a variety of services.

A somewhat surprising change for many of us is that Ric B. is no longer working as the Executive Director. Mary G. will be serving as the Interim Executive Director while a search is under way for a new Executive Director. An announcement was made on AFGCONNECTS explaining some of the reorganization that the World Service Office (AFG, Inc.) that is going under way. To quote it: “The WSO under Ric Buchanan’s leadership was an era of moving from New York, blending New York and local talent, creating a strong, skilled and diverse workforce. If members in your Area would like to send expressions of gratitude for his service, they may do so through the WSO. These will be forwarded to him.”

**Finances:** Numbers have never been my thing but thanks to being Delegate I can now read an audit report and a budget. Finances were a big part of this conference. Your \$15 donation is used in this way: World Service Conference \$1.25, Public Service Announcement \$1.60, Volunteer Oversight \$2.02, Member Services \$4.91, Toll Free Numbers \$.10, Communication Services \$5.12. In 2015, WSO expenses per group were \$268.

A multi-year decrease in literature sales, our major source of income, is causing deficits which must be made up by increased literature sales, increased contributions or, as a last resort, a cut in expenses (services). Literature sales were down. Donations were up by 8.41%. Forum Subscriptions were down -4.71% and Interest on investments (Reserve Fund) down by 1654.86% Expenses were about the same as the previous year.

There is less than a year’s expenses currently in the Reserve Fund. Projected Budget deficit is that the expenses will exceed the revenue by \$184,000. If you want more details on the WSO finances, see the Member’s Website under

WSO/Financial Information. Ohio Donations did increase last year: 55.8% of groups donated to AFG, Inc. Groups donated \$596 more last year. Individuals donated \$915 more last year. Total increase of \$1511. Yeah Ohio!

**What can we do? Think Abundantly.** Buy a book and give it away to a newcomer, Al-Anon friend or library. Groups could buy multiple copies of Al-Anon and Alateen Groups at Work (P-24) and use it for their meeting format for only a \$1.00 each. Have your group buy a book for its library. Buy more pamphlets and use them for meeting topics. Buy multiple subscriptions of the Forum for your group and sell each monthly copy on an individual basis for a \$1.00. The subscriptions pay for themselves. Buy Forum subscriptions as gifts to Sponsees. Make sure your group orders a group subscription.

**Individuals:** As an individual member place \$15 in the appeal envelope this year. Donate as little as a \$1 to Al-Anon directly through the Contribute Now button on the member's site. The possibilities are almost incredible. \$200,000? (that might be only \$1-\$2 per member) \$1,000,000? (that might be \$5-\$10 per member) \$3,000,000? (that might represent \$15-\$20 per member) Think of the possibilities!

**Groups:** What if even 25% of the groups gave an extra \$20 this year? We would realize \$76,000. What if they were able to give more? What if all groups were able to give a little more this year than last?

**Districts/Areas:** What if even half our districts contribute to WSO? Any amount would be an expression of gratitude, abundance and responsibility. One Area donated over a \$1000 to WSO by each group making "dream jars" and throughout the year they collected loose change in their jars.

We are blessed with so many grateful members. That is our abundance. If each of us does a little, we can accomplish a lot. We each have multiple opportunities to express our gratitude for what Al-Anon has given us.

**WE CAN DO IT.** Please don't be discouraged. We each can and do make a difference. We can not only close the deficit but fund the Reserve as well. Ensure Al-Anon's presence far into the future.

Thank you everyone for sending such lovely handmade love gifts and tasty Buckeyes for me to share!

Here I am in the skit from my task force on Communication and Strengthening the Links of Service. I was Polly Ease i.e. "Police". More will be revealed next fall at the Two Day Fall Assembly. The charge of the Task Force was Develop a presentation that assists trusted servants in better communicating information using spiritual principles as guideposts while empowering members to use the links of service and make their needs known. We developed a Skit, a Handout and a Workshop. Copies of each are available.

**Some suggestions for communicating using Spiritual Principles & encouraging use of the Links of Service:**

Abundance-Highlight the many resources available through the Links of Service. Knowing our Roles-Practice Concept Ten by pausing before responding to questions, in order to allow the person currently serving in the most direct Link of Service to act as the resource to the member with the question. Open mindedness- Ask and invite members to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns about their personal experience with the Al-Anon program and respond with humility, patience, and sincerity. Unity-Frequently revisit the "WE" in our program—we do not ever have to do it alone in any level of Service!

**Concept Eleven Descriptive Text:** The World Service Conference finally finished the changes to the Concept Eleven Descriptive Text. Final changes will be posted to the member website.

**Memorial Contributions Changes:** The World Service Office accepts contributions in memory of deceased Al-Anon members from "family" who are not Al-Anon members. The Fellowship recognizes that accepting such contributions can give comfort to families as described in Tradition Five. The World Service Conference defines family as anyone who has a close relationship of loving care and concern for another. The individual donor defines his or her relationship to the deceased Al-Anon member. This one-time gift of gratitude is limited to an amount no greater than \$500. Memorial contributions by non-members are not solicited.

**Just for Today Prayer:** The Literature Committee presented their KBDM on Should the WSC give conceptual approval to remove the "Prayer for Today" from Conference Approved Literature? After much discussion of the pros and cons, the WSC decided to drop the issue. After a presentation on welcoming various communities, cultures, and beliefs in Al-Anon, we changed our minds and decided to talk more next year. This was the most spiritual moment of the entire conference for me. I had voted against the conceptual approval because there had been negative feedback from our Area and other Areas but I felt convicted, like many others, that we were not being open minded and we may have been guilty of being

biased. At the Two Day Fall Assembly, I hope to show you that very powerful PowerPoint. In addition to a mind blowing PowerPoint on Bias, the Task Force on Acceptance of Communities, Cultures and Beliefs presented a funny yet to the point skit.

This is the second year Mexico sent a representative, Lourdes Maria C. She is very friendly but speaks through an interpreter and I don't speak any Spanish. Or I should say I have to speak through an interpreter. The Central Zonal Meeting was held in Paraguay. The countries that were represented are Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Panama.

**Alateen Survey.** Earlier this year WSO did a survey of regarding Alateen members. More of these results will be published later. The Average Alateen age is 14 years old. Face to face meetings is the most important part of the program. 70% were brought by parents. What is your favorite thing about Alateen? "Be able to talk to someone I trust, Group of teen friends that get it, share stories, Caring, Love daily, Support and friendship and Not Al-Anon."

**Meet the Board.** This year the Meet the Board Event is in Fayetteville, Arkansas at the Chancellor Hotel on Saturday, October 22, 2016. Meet the Board in 2017 will be October 21, 2017. The Board decided to extend the trial through 2019, build upon lessons learned and adapt and modify as necessary

**Where will you be in 2 years, 1 month, and 13 days?**

**Our next Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention will be July 5-8, 2018 in Baltimore, Maryland!**

Now is the best time to start planning your budget to attend. A few important things to consider: Estimate your travel expense; Think about how many others you may want to room with; Plan on registering early for the lowest registration price; Total these items for a preliminary budget; Divide this number by weeks remaining to determine how much to save each week.

Al-Anon International Conventions are a great way to celebrate recovery, meet old friends, and make new ones. An International Convention is where members from Canada, the U.S., and many other countries gather together to speak the same language—the language of the heart. This fall we can submit for a bid on the 2023 International Convention.

**Does Ohio want to submit a bid? Cleveland? Columbus?**

**TEAM:** Together Empowering Al-Anon Members. The WSO TEAM members make three presentations: Their personal stories, a Financial Presentation (Giving—Our Spiritual Link to Gratitude: Al-Anon world services in action, or Abundance and our Twelfth Step in action), and Trustee Search. This is a sample TEAM event agenda.

The WSO TEAM members make three presentations: Their personal stories, a Financial Presentation (Giving—Our Spiritual Link to Gratitude: Al-Anon world services in action, or Abundance and our Twelfth Step in action), and Trustee Search. As you saw on the sample agenda, along with the WSO Presentations, the Areas work with the WSO TEAM Task Force to design presentations related to Area specific concerns and interests. We are planning an Ohio TEAM even the summer of 2017 in conjunction with Ohio Area Convention in Akron/Canton districts. **What do you want as a topic?**

Ginny elaborated on the TEAM event schedule, noting that it is all all-day event. Holding it in conjunction with the 2017 convention would offer the alternative of attending just the TEAM event, just attending the Convention or attending both.

A question was asked about submitting a bid for the 2023 International Convention for Ohio. It does require a committee from the Assembly to visit the Convention & Visitors Bureau in the prospective cities. The committee reviews all of the elements necessary and the Bureau submits the formal bid to the WSO. Bids were previously submitted for both 2013 and 2018, and Ohio was not among the final 3 sites to be considered.

A question was also asked about submitting an application to host the "Meet The Board" event in 2017. Again, Ohio can submit a bid for this as well.

A consensus of all present was to go ahead with both ideas. Both of these questions will be taken up at the Fall AWSC meeting in August for approval.

## **THOUGHT FORCE / TASK FORCE REPORTS:**

**TASK FORCE – Guidelines for Incoming Alateen Sponsors:** Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, presented the report –

Information is still being gathered, including looking into what kind of training other states require. I'm looking at the possibility of attending something in one of our neighboring states.

In the mean time we have continued to offering the suggestions that we have discussed and when taken they have been proven to be helpful and successful.

**TASK FORCE – Implementing Changes for the Ohio Area Convention:** Lee R, Two Day Fall & OAC Advisor, presented the report –

**WHAT WE KNOW:**

- Attendance at the convention has been declining the past 10 years.
- The costs of facilities is increasing as well as the cost of preparing for this event.
- The assembly does not always get a report on the progress of the convention.

**BACKGROUND:** In looking over the guidelines in the Handbook, we found many statements were not clear and or outdated.

- EX- There is reference to “Metropolitan Districts” several times in the guidelines which could use more clarification.
- EX- Under *secretary* duties it states “written” invitations need to be sent to all Ohio AA delegates –no mention of e-mail.
- EX- Some Convention chairman have questioned -- “All speakers need to be from Ohio or adjoining states unless otherwise approved by AWSC “(10-96).
- EX-Under *program committee*-- Secure appropriate gifts for special workers .No definition of special workers.
- EX-Convention is not to be a fundraiser but if profit is made (6) it is to be referred to AWSC for recommendations of disbursement, although AWSC does not meet until 2 months after convention. Our budget funds include two line items, one is convention float and the other is convention reserve. Clarification of these would help the convention committee.
- EX- The convention *treasurer* needs to “purchase necessary insurance” to protect him/her (4) for the time frame of the convention; however, as of November 1, 2015 Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc purchased insurance which now covers the convention.
- In the past the Ohio Area Convention has not been publicized enough.

**WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE MEMBERS NEEDS AND WANTS?**

- Through the Members Outreach Committee, many have expressed need for changes in the Ohio Area Convention
- A central location for the Ohio Area Convention has been suggested.
- Clarification of AA’s participation in the Ohio Area Convention.

**WHAT WE DON'T KNOW—**

- We don't know what it is we don't know yet

**MOTION:**

- NONE

AT THIS POINT, I BELIEVE FOR THIS TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE, WE NEED MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

**THOUGHT FORCE – Removing AMIAS who do not meet guidelines:** Karen P, AAPP, presented the report –

The Guidelines for continuing to be an Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service, also known as AMIAS, for Ohio consist of yearly recertification.

Every year, before June 1st each year, AMIAS have to have a clear FBI background check on file which is less than five years old. Form 1 and Form 2 for 2016 are to be filled out and signed by their home group GR and DR, and sent to the AAPP in order to make sure that the AMIAS is actively working their own Al-Anon program. To carry the message, we must be active in our own program. Also they are to attend regular Sponsor training, which can be done by attending the Spring Alateen Sponsor Workshop, the Fall or Spring Rally, in order to help Sponsors keep in touch with other Ohio Alateen Sponsor and continue to learn from others experience.

The AAPP should be checking to see that all requirements for certification are completed and maintained up to date. When the AAPP is appointed it needs to be someone who is willing to follow these guidelines and follow through on them at the time of recertification. Provided the AAPP follows through and sends notice to those who do not meet the requirements and attempt to help sponsors to follow the guidelines prior to removing certification. The committee feels that there is no further action which needs to be taken than those spelled out in the guidelines which currently exist.

Those who do not wish to follow through should be asked not to use the Alateen name in the event that they wish to continue to work with teens.

Al-Anon has taught us that we cannot control the actions of those not in our fellowship.

**TASK FORCE for Developing Workshops to take to Remote Groups:** Theresa M, Alternate Delegate and Kay J, DR 56, presented the report –

I have been working with Kay on the Remote Group Task Force and have sent out a “test letter” contacting some of the District 15 far eastern groups.

5/28/2016

Dear Group

What's missing from this picture? "You are!" Although you may be actively participating in your local group(s), you are part of something so much more. The district and area levels offer many opportunities for fellowship as well as service to provide input and sharing in the following areas:

- Budgeting and other matters at your District, local AIS and the Area level
- Minority opinions on many issues that come up locally and at the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Ideas for and outcomes of public outreach activity
- Understanding our service structure, its history and its benefits
- Identifying barriers to participation at all levels of service - from regular attendance at meetings to filling service positions at the group level and above

This letter is coming to you as a way to gather information about our Area and local fellowships. This is Al-Anon's 65th anniversary and Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio 40th anniversary. We would like to hear of your group's experience with filling service positions and suggestions on how AFG of Ohio, Inc. can help you in that endeavor.

Some possible examples:

- Area Officer(s) speaking at a District/AIS meeting or workshop
- Providing a skit on service
- Providing a workshop on service positions/structure
- Working with local groups to create their own skit or workshop

Attached to this email are a few examples of skits that have been created from different Districts, Areas and the WSO that you may find useful.

Please contact us to let us know your thoughts about what would be useful for your group/district/AIS

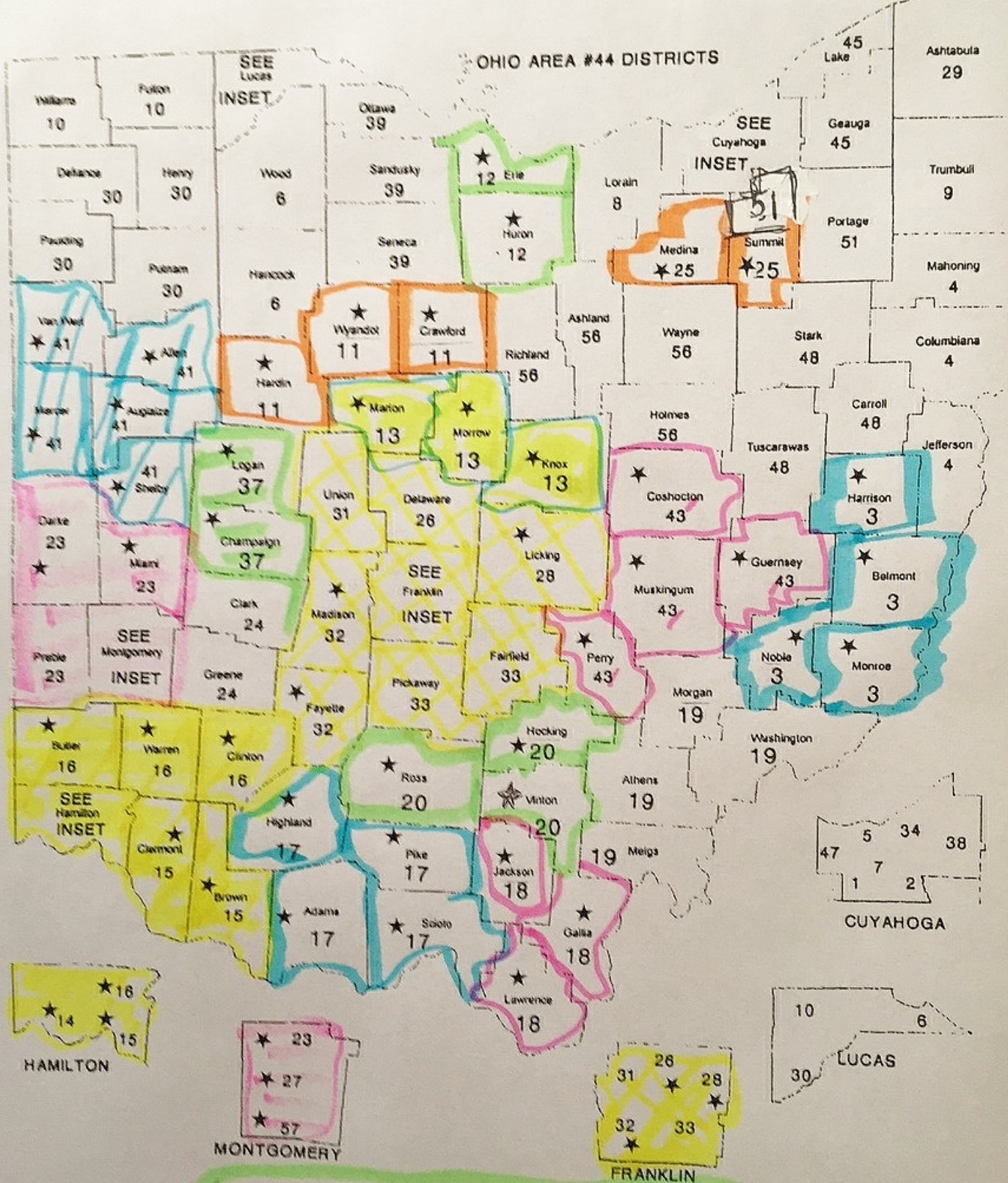
Yours in gratitude for service,

Theresa

We will use that information to further guide us on how best to proceed.

Sign up for email copies of the letter

UPDATED - FALL ASSEMBLY / OCTOBER, 2014



What's missing from this picture?  
**YOU ARE!!!**

Twelfth Step Tune – sung to “The Addams Family” tune

OLIVIA OLDTIMER - Verse 1

I called to bring you greetings; We've missed you at the meetings; We hope you are okay and will be back with us soon.

NATALIE NEWBIE - Verses 1 & 2

There's finding all the liquor; I've got to be much quicker; And then I have to pour it all down the sink.  
I've got to check his emails; To see if they're from females; You never know who he might meet in a bar.

NN and OTHERS – CHORUS (anxious, flustered)

House is a mess (OH NO!) Not even dressed (OH NO!) Cause there are so many more things I have to do (BOO HOO!)

OO - VERSE 2

I hear you're in a tizzy; Your chaos makes you dizzy; It seems to me that you should H.A.L.T.!

NN - Verses 3 & 4

He's very prone to shirk; So I better call his work; Because we're getting way behind on our bills  
Our finances are tanking; And I need to do some banking; Or we will lose our home and utilities.

NN and OTHERS – CHORUS (resigned)

House is a mess (OH NO!) Not even dressed (OH NO!) Cause there are so many more things I have to do (BOO HOO!)

OO - Verses 3 & 4

I think that you are needing; To get out to a meeting; And try to get back to your serenity.  
Consult your Higher Power; It's only one short hour; And you fill up on Experience, Strength and Hope.

CHORUS (sad)

House is a mess (OH NO!) Not even dressed (OH NO!) Cause there are so many more things I have to do (BOO HOO!)

OO - Verses 5 & 6

It's not some hocus pocus; You simply need to focus; On program tools to be Happy, Joyous, and Free.  
Please try a little Gratitude; It will adjust your attitude; And then you'll have so much Better things to do.

NN – Final Verse

I guess it could be thrilling; I just need to be willing; To do my part in sharing and service too.

NN and OTHERS – Final Chorus (peppy, enthusiastic)

Now I am dressed; (HURRAY!) I'll do my best; (HURRAY!) Service helps me service helps you and others too! (WOO HOO!)

Sign up for email copy of the “Tune”.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Appoint Review Committee Chair** – There were no volunteers for the position. Theresa noted that this is the Committee Chair only – that person can get one or two others to help out. Email Buff, the Area Chairman, if you are interested.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Karen S, Committee Chair, reported that the preliminary count was 60 GR's registered and 17 non-voting members registered.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Theresa reported that Barbara W had submitted a letter of resignation as Archives Coordinator. Judy C, GR-Monday Night Pathways Springfield, volunteered for the position and was appointed as an interim at the Spring AWSC meeting. Judy was absent and Phil read her application for the position. Since Judy was absent, Theresa asked for a “standing vote”. The vote was 54 in favor, 1 opposed and 5 abstentions. Theresa stated that Judy was elected.

**COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**ARCHIVES:** Phil reported that he and Buff had picked up the archives from Barbara W and delivered them to Judy C in Springfield.



## OLD BUSINESS:

**Appoint Task Force to develop a flyer for the new GR orientation folder** – Theresa explained that a lot of the groundwork had already been done by the Action Committee and the Thought Force. However, no one volunteered for the Task Force.

**Appoint Task Force – Printing & Mailing Reports** – There were no volunteers for this Task Force either.

## CONVENTION AND ASSEMBLY REPORTS –

**2015 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY – DISTRICTS OF TOLEDO:** Kathleen Sallah, DR 6, presented the report –

2 Day Fall was held on October 17-18, 2015. It was held at the Ramada Inn at 3536 Secor Rd, Toledo Oh, 43606. We had 70 reservations for the banquet dinner at a cost of \$35 per dinner. The bill for the banquet was \$2,435.70. The bill for the hotel use was \$2,016.98. We received \$300 for the hospitality room. Our expenses were \$211.19. We had \$92.33 left which means someone donated \$3.52. A check is being returned to Ohio AFG for \$92.33.

My thoughts for next year's chairperson:

- 1 room for new group representatives
- large enough room for 100 people set up classroom style
- 2 but preferably 3 microphones
- 2 tables for audio visual
- breakout sessions after banquet and speaker-need room for 4 large groups
- Let the group representatives know that they will be working after dinner so probably won't be done until 10 or 10:30pm
- tickets to hand out for banquet dinner/can be used as a receipt

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

Today is a significant deadline for this year's OAC hosted by the Districts of Cleveland, so fortunately our convention Treasurer Donna K. is here to help you with the following:

- This is the due date to pay for the **banquet. The cost is \$30.**
- This is the last day to buy the **weekend pre-registration at \$30**; after today it is \$35
- This is the last day the **\$25 Saturday only pre-registration** is available
- This is the **drop date for our rooms block** with the Holiday Inn Mentor. Please contact them directly if you still want to book a room. As of last week there were still 14 rooms available.
- **Pre-paid T-shirts can be ordered for \$15.** So far we have sold 36 out of our batch of 50. IF we sell them at the convention, they will be priced at \$20 and we may not have your size.

At this point we have 95 registrations, 45 banquets, and 21 hotel rooms reserved. It is still possible to register after today, but the cost will be the \$35 walk-in rate.

We are pleased to report that we have a great weekend planned for you June 24-26. The agenda is posted on the Ohio Assembly website on the *calendar tab* and the Cleveland website on the *notices tab*. We do so look forward to seeing you!

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

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this position. I want to thank Ginny for understanding that I cannot stretch myself to thin and working with the best that I can give. Below is the schedule of events for the convention. If you have never been to an AA Convention with Al-Anon participation, I hope that you will come. If you need a copy of the flier, you can contact me or there is a flyer posted on the Ohio website – [www.ohioal-anon.org](http://www.ohioal-anon.org). On Friday night, we have the panel on Sponsorship at 7:30.

Our speakers will be:

Jan S  
Malinda M  
Angela M

On Saturday morning at 9:45, we have the skit on Sponsorship. Several people have volunteered to be on the skit.

At 10:00 we will have a workshop on Sponsorship led by our delegate Ginny. Kathy, Rae, Jan, Malinda, Angela will be in the skit and also will help with the workshop if needed.

At 1:00, we have a panel on Parents/Grandparents of Alcoholics: Our speakers are:

Sharon G  
Judy L  
Jane E

At 3:30, we will have the main AI-Anon and AA speakers- Ginny chose the AI-Anon Speaker whose name is Barb E.

At 5:00, we will have a panel of adult children of Alcoholics. The speakers are:

Joanne V  
Bill V  
Debbie C

We are combining our hospitality room with the AA's. If anyone wants to contribute to this cause or has any ideas, please let me know.

**2016 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY:** Jo S, DR 51, presented the report –

The meeting will be in North Canton, the Belden Village area, at the Holiday Inn. The flyer is already up on the Area website and there are copies on the table as well. Hotel reservations need to be made by October 6 to get the negotiated rate of \$109 per night. Banquet reservations have to be made by October 24. The Assembly will be held November 5 – 6 and Ric B from Virginia Beach is still coming to be the guest speaker.

Ginny pointed out that Ric was invited because he was instrumental in getting the incorporation for AFG of Ohio, as well as its tax-exempt status. She also stated that we would need to pay all of his expenses to attend the Assembly and the Budget Committee has already approved an additional \$200, if needed.

**Ginny moved to authorize the additional funds and Richard N, Alt GR-Saturday Night Acceptance AFG, seconded the motion. The vote was 43 yes, 8 No, and 9 Abstentions and the motion passed.**

**2017 CONVENTION:** Jo S, DR 51, presented the report –

The Committee is still in the planning phase, but they are looking at using the same hotel as the Assembly, provided we can get the same price as the Assembly. The Committee is also looking at possible sites near some of the historic sites in the Akron/Canton area. More volunteers are needed, so please contact Akron/Canton.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BUDGET COMMITTEE:** Donna K, Budget Committee Chair, presented the report –

You have a copy of most of my report in front of you. I will be looking at some of the Handbook and By-law items that pertain specifically to the Budget

- 1) We need to clarify the number of people that are on the budget committee and who they are.
  - 2) We need to clarify the By-laws description of the Budget and who can approve expenditure of money.
  - 3) We need to clarify what some of the items are on the Reserves page
- Hopefully, I will have a KBDM or 2 or 3 ready for the AWSC meeting in August.

Donna presented the budget for 2016 that had been recommended for approval by the AWSC. Charis B, Alt GR-Thursday Night 12 Step AFG moved and Sandy D, GR-Let's Step It Up AFG, seconded to approve the budget. The initial vote was 52 Yes; 3 No and 6 Abstentions, which was one more than the initial Registration Committee report.

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT:** Karen S, Registration Committee Chair, reported a revised total of 64 GR's registered and 17 non-voting members. She also reported that 3 GR's had left early.

The second vote was 51 Yes; 3 No; 7 Abstentions and 3 absent, to total 64, and the motion passed.

## **THOUGHT FORCE / TASK FORCE REPORTS:**

**TASK FORCE “DO NOT LIST”:** Allison, Task Force Chair, along with the Committee, presented a short skit demonstrating some of the issues that have been reported and that the Task Force is working on to develop a policy. Allison pointed out that, while the skit illustrated the complaints that were received, all names and locations of people who made the reports were changed. They titled the skit, “Letters To Lois”. Allison said the Task Force was working on a new presentation to be made to the Fall AWSC.

## **COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**LITERATURE:** Karen M, Literature Coordinator, presented the report –

Each quarter WSO posts a sample chapter of Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org), and the Members’ site, [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members). Through the end of March, the chapter was from Al-Anon’s Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (B-8). From April through June, it’s Discovering Choices (B-30).

Sharings Needed: Writing guidelines for the NEW DAILY READER (working title), INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title), and PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS OF YOUNG PROBLEM DRINKERS (working title) can be found on-line at the Members’ site, [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members). Sharings can also be submitted on-line at the Members’ site, in the “Featured Publications” portion of the “Individuals” section, under “Submit a Personal Sharing.” We have 680 Sharings for Daily reader and need many more. WSO is hoping to include a rich diversity of experience and how we have things in common.

CAL Corner”: Each month, the “CAL Corner” feature in The Forum includes members’ sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. The March articles were about Reaching for Personal Freedom (P-92). In April, we focused on the When I Got Busy, I Got Better (P-78) booklet.

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).

## **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.

**ALATEEN:** Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, presented the following report –

The sponsor workshop was held on March 19, 2016 in Columbus. The topic for the day was the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Guideline (G-34). The feedback I got was positive.

The Alateens have been busy planning for 2016 KOMIAC. It is being held at:

Wright State University, Dayton, OH  
July 29-31, 2016

The theme will be "Lean On Me" with the focus being on the First Tradition and Unity. The Alateens have been meeting monthly since January and plans are progressing nicely. All Alateens are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate.

One area that Al-Anon or Intergroups can help in making Ohio KOMIAC successful would be by donating the following items:

Books  
Items for hospitality (store bought only)  
Small boxes with lids  
Poster boards  
Stakes  
Masking tape  
Personal items for Ways and Means (ex: shampoo, crème rinse)

Monetary donations can be made out to KOMIAC 42 and mailed to:

KOMIAC 42  
PO Box 167193  
Oregon, OH 43616-7193

One concern that has come up, the board will arriving at Wright State on July 28th, which is going to leave some districts short of drivers to get the other Alateens there. Normally when KOMIAC is in Ohio, we don't request transportation money from the state but are looking into what a bus would cost to help this year to provide transportation for areas without enough AMIAS to provide transportation.

Other Alateen dates for 2016 are:

October 22, 2016 Fall Rally:  
Clague Cabin  
Clague Park  
1400 Clague Rd  
Westlake, OH 44145-2742

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

This year I have taken part in Addiction Studies in August in Columbus. In September, I went to Columbus State House and past out literature. Also in Akron I took part in addiction Study at Highland Square. October, I went to Brecksville at a Catholic Church on a Wednesday night pass out literature. The parents of a son who died of heroin sponsored the night with prayer and information on addiction. Also they had an AA speaker. In November, I took literature to Harvest Home in Akron. It is a place that helps women and their families get back on track. In February, I helped Canton with their Public Outreach. In March I took literature to Highland High School in Medina County and left it with the Counselor. April 24th there was an event at Akron U. for American Society of Suicide Prevention. In May I took literature to Copley High School in Summit County for the Counselors.

The Addiction Studies Institute will be July 20-22 in Columbus – that's what the money from the budget is for. I will need 200 schedules from each Al-Anon Information Service and 500 from Columbus. I need them by July 1st, but if you're coming to the Convention, you can bring them to me there. My contact information is on the AWSC roster.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**COMPLIANCE / AAPP:** Karen P, Compliance/AAPP, presented the report –

#### **AAPP:**

The recertification dead line for Al-Anon Members In Alateen Service (AMIAS) is quickly approaching. All paperwork and background checks need to be current and on file with the Al-Anon Alateen Processing Person by June 1st. Many reminder emails and letters have been sent out to help our Ohio sponsors to be encouraged to follow through.

Currently Ohio has 83 total AMIAS and 40 still need additional documentation in order for them to be able to be recertified for the next year. DRs and GRs can help by making themselves available to sign both Forms 1 and 2 for your local Alateen Sponsors and encouraging them to follow through or allowing me to know if they no longer choose to sponsoring Alateens.

There are currently 24 Alateen Groups registered in the state of Ohio. One started early this year in the Brook Park area and another one is starting in Hudson next month. Our teens and their sponsors need Al-Anon support for the meeting.

Tina, the Alateen Coordinator, and I have encouraged the new sponsors to follow through on training and sitting in on a seasoned meeting prior to starting their own. The feedback from those who have done this has been very positive. Our hopes are to set them up for success.

#### **COMPLIANCE:**

With the help of Buff (Chairperson), Phil (Secretary) and Judy (Treasurer) we have worked together to update our status with both the State of Ohio and the IRS. Our goal is to follow up on any missing reporting from the past and to make things easier to pass onto our predecessors.

**HANDBOOK COMMITTEE:** Sandy F, Committee Chair, presented the following report:

Copies of sections from the **By-Laws** of the Ohio Area Assembly for Al-Anon Family Groups and **Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for the Ohio Area Assembly Meeting** have been given to each Area Officer, Area Coordinator, and Area Standing Committee Chairman. The purpose of this activity is for each area Trusted Servant to check the description to determine if what is written agrees with what duties each trusted servant is doing. Trusted servants are asked to send changes to me.

I have been reviewing the Handbook and By-Laws. Revisions are needed. Suggested revisions will be presented at the Fall AWSC meeting.

### **COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**FORUM:** Christine T, Forum Coordinator, was absent and Ginny C presented the report –

As many of you know, WSO has dropped the free copy of the Forum that was sent to groups. WSO had to make budget cuts somewhere and the Forum has always been a weak link. Forum subscriptions have been declining for years and it has never really paid for itself. Each GR is the Forum Representative for your group – encourage your group to use

the Forum in meetings; encourage them to submit sharings and you can even submit photos as well. Sharings can be submitted by mail or online. Give gifts of the Forum.

Following are the Forum numbers from Christine –

Ohio has 451 Al-Anon groups and 774 Forum subscriptions as of March 2016, which is up 36 subscriptions from Dec. 2015, and down from last year at this time by 10 subscriptions. Keep up the good work OHIO and use your Forum!

As of March 31, 2016, these are the Forum subscription numbers –

	DEC 2015	MAR 2016	Gain/loss
Total number subscriptions mailed:	19,464	19,690	226
Total number of Al-Anon/Alateen Groups:	14,044	14,140	96
Subscriptions per group:	1.3859	1.392503536	0.0066

STATE	DEC 2015			MAR 2016			GAIN/LOSS
	# of groups	# of subs	sub/group	# of groups	# of subs	sub/group	
Ohio	450	738	2	451	774	2	36
e-Forum (Annual):		496			578		82
e-Forum (Monthly):		118			114		-4
Grand Total:	14,044	19,464	1.386	14,140	19,690	1.393	226

There will be a Forum writing workshop at the Area Convention, giving tips on how to write a sharing for the Forum.

**GROUP RECORDS:** Robin R, Group Records Coordinator, was absent and Phil presented the report –

- 434 Active Groups holding 496 meetings
- 2 Groups in No Mail status
- 154 Inactive Groups 160 Inactive meetings
- 22 Groups Marked for Deletion
- 4 Groups with “bounced e-mail” addresses
- 24 Active Alateen Groups
- 29 Inactive Alateen Groups
- 3 Alateen Groups Marked for Deletion

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**WEBSITE:** Mike K, Chair, was absent and Phil H presented the report for him. That report appears at the end of these minutes.

An item I did not include was a question to the assembly about adding an additional web domain that takes people to our site. Our current domain includes a hyphen. This hyphen can be inconvenient for smartphone users to enter. So I propose a domain that simply says **ohioalanon.org**. It would not replace the current domain; it would just be another way to get to the site. I’m not sure if the Assembly is the best time to discuss that, or if this should just be discussed between you, me and Buffy. The cost of a domain is about \$12 a year...not really a big deal to bog down the assembly about. I’ll leave that up to you.

**ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH:** Becky presented the report –

One topic we discussed the “Getting Into Service In Al-Anon” bookmark, which is currently being revised.

What is Service in Al-Anon/Alateen?

Coffee/Hospitality Person

- makes coffee before meeting
- greets newcomers
- purchases coffee and supplies

#### Literature Person

- oversees the setting up & putting away of Conference Approved Literature (CAL)
- orders CAL for the group

#### Treasurer

- collects 7th Tradition donations
- pays group expenses & gives reports

#### Secretary

- takes notes & records minutes
- keeps group's mail

#### Chairperson

- opens and closes the meeting
- provides speakers & program (if needed)

#### Beginner's Meeting Chair

- simple, friendly introduction to newcomer
- introduces Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and Conference Approved Literature

#### Alateen Sponsor

- meets Ohio certification qualifications
- two sponsors are recommended
- ask your District Representative (DR)

#### Group Representative (GR)

- the link between the group & World Service
- attends District & Area Assembly meetings makes Al-Anon related announcements
- encourages use of The Forum
- suggests application of the 12 Traditions
- shares World Service Office information

#### Alternate Group Representative

- fills in for GR when GR is unavailable
- attends local information service (AIS) meetings

Another topic we discussed was how to get more teens to come to Alateen. Some of the ideas were putting signs up in eateries where teens go. Distributing bookmarks at schools & juvenile courts, Salvation Army & Goodwill. We're planning on doing a skit at the Fall Conference using the song "I Feel Pretty" from West Side Story.

Another topic we discussed was how you attract people in the community. Use the local newspaper, sites of Facebook or the computer, meetings on wheels, contact AA and send mailings to police & fire departments and the courts.

Finally, we came up with a little slogan – "Do You Have A Problem With Your Partner's Drinking or Does Your Partner Have A Problem With Their Meeting?"

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:** Pam K, GR-Genoa Giving & Getting AFG, prepared the report and Dawn presented it –

Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, will be sending an article for the next edition of Al-A-Notes, explaining how to hook-up with Facebook and Twitter, to learn more about Al-Anon.

Contact the Board of Trustees to see if they have a way to design an "app" for smartphones.

Encourage taking Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to social workers and doctors' offices, and be sure to put contact information on it. Also, distribute the "business cards" to first responders, again making sure the contact information is up to date.

Schedule an appointment with the various school superintendents to give literature to the schools and guidance counselors.

If more information is needed, contact Jane E, our Public Outreach Coordinator by email, [publicoutreach@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:publicoutreach@ohioal-anon.org)

Ginny commented that WSO had looked at hiring some to develop an app "in house" but didn't believe there was enough need for an additional person on staff, so they looked at outsourcing the project, but it was too expensive.

**GROUP SERVICES:** Kathy H, GR-Circle of Hope AFG, presented the report –

One topic we discussed was how we use technology to connect groups and people. We're in a transition period with different age groups in AI-Anon. Some groups still prefer "hard copies" (paper mailings) while others prefer electronic distribution.

Another topic was how to encourage GR's to attend assemblies. It's important to befriend them and mentor them, and encourage them to take back the information they get here. Explain to them that it's unity that helps us accomplish our goals.

We also discussed recording group history. It's important for groups to write down when the group was started, who started it, what the struggles and successes have been. Also, keep a record of the group's GRs through the years as well as the DRs.

And we discussed what tools, practices or spiritual principles can we use to encourage people to serve. There are so many ideas – it's just a matter of putting them into practice.

Finally, we discussed ways to have groups keep their information up to date. Some groups use post office boxes, while others have the church (or their meeting place) provide a box or slot for the group's mail. Whatever the case, we need to reach out and explain how vital this link is for all the groups.

**FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS:** There was no report given.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Theresa tabled the KBDM – Amend Treasurer & Compliance Duties w/ motions, and the KBDM – Amend Bylaws & Articles of Incorporation w/ motions until the Fall AWSC.

### **Meeting Schedule for 2016**

KOMIAC Planning Meeting – June 5 – Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Dayton  
Ohio Area Convention – June 24 – 26, 2016 – Holiday Inn (Cleveland Northeast), 7701 Reynolds Rd, Mentor  
KOMIAC Planning Meeting – June 26 @ 12 PM – BRC, 8231 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls  
KOMIAC Planning Meeting – July 17 @ 12 PM – BRC, 8231 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls  
KOMIAC – July 29-31 – Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Dayton  
Ohio AA Convention w/ AI-Anon participation – August 19 – 21, 2016, Doubletree Inn, Westlake  
Fall AWSC – August 13 - North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus  
Alateen Fall Rally – October 22 – Clague Cabin, Clague Park, 1400 Clague Rd, Westlake, OH 44145-2742  
Fall Assembly – November 5 – 6, Holiday Inn (Belden Village), 4520 Everhard Rd NW, Canton 44718

**CLOSE:** There being no further business, Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair moved and Phil H, Secretary, seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed at 4:40 PM, with the Serenity Prayer followed by the AI-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil H  
Area Secretary

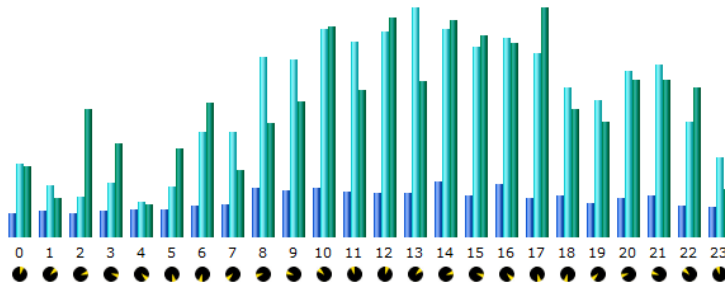


# OAA SPRING WEB REPORT – May, 2016

Although there was a 20% decrease in unique visitors in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the previous year, document downloads have increased 33%. Using April as an example, we had 246 downloads, compared to 167 in April last year. Popular download items include flyers, forms, and meeting minutes.

No spammer or hacker activity to report. Content was updated on many pages, including PDF documents and forms.

## TIME OF DAY WEB TRAFFIC TRENDS



The top meeting directories that visitors clicked on:

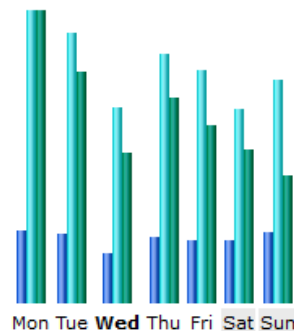
1. Remote
2. Cleveland
3. Akron
4. Columbus
5. Cincinnati
6. Dayton
7. Toledo

## MONTHLY AVERAGE COMPARISON 2015 / 2016

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	5,901	13,182	22,386	45,951	415.30 MB
Feb 2015	5,309	11,042	14,810	33,203	270.93 MB
Mar 2015	5,423	11,015	15,326	37,918	323.70 MB
Apr 2015	5,829	11,666	16,220	38,414	319.32 MB

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2016	4,571	7,478	11,839	33,408	566.67 MB
Feb 2016	4,362	6,989	10,885	30,655	605.94 MB
Mar 2016	3,621	6,049	9,356	29,641	618.76 MB
Apr 2016	3,197	5,099	8,372	27,926	572.35 MB

## DAY OF THE WEEK TRAFFIC TRENDS



## TOP 10 FILE DOWNLOADS FROM THE SITE MAR 2016

Downloads: 223	Hits
/documents/2016-OAC-Convention-flyer.pdf	63
/documents/KBDM%20form%20description.pdf	30
/documents/trustee_resume_1_06.pdf	29
/documents/2015-fall-assembly-minutes.pdf	27
/documents/2016_Spring_Assembly_Agenda.pdf	26
/documents/Conference_Workshop_on_Opening_Our_Hearts.pdf	21
/documents/2016_Spring_AWSC_Minutes.pdf	20
/documents/2015-Spring-Assembly-Minutes.pdf	17
/documents/newsletter_memo.pdf	16
/documents/BY-LAWS-OAA.pdf	16