

**OHIO AREA SPRING ASSEMBLY  
MAY 19, 2012**

**CHAIRMAN:** Sandy F.

Much gratitude is felt for all who attended the 2012 Spring Assembly while being in service to AFG of Ohio. Many thanks go to Merri G., Acting Secretary for the meeting in our Area Secretary's absence and to Eric J. for his service as our Audio Visual Tech, operating the electronic equipment during the meeting.

While it is true the meeting was lengthy, we accomplished as much at this Spring Assembly as is usually accomplished during our Annual Meeting in the Fall. Personally, I too, was very (even really, really) tired by the end of the day as so many of you were; however, I came away from the meeting bubbling with excitement and enthusiasm. Way to go Assembly! You are awesome!!!

Action Committees met before Assembly. Action Committees are where ideas and topics are discussed for possible implementation in the Area {Ohio} and are where suggestions for Thought and Task Forces come from. I am looking forward to their next meeting to see how the topics discussed progress. Reports of the discussions can be found in the minutes.

Members ask to have information available before the meeting. As in the past few years, Thought Force, Task Force, or Work Groups presentations are available on AFG of Ohio's website along with the Agenda. This information can be obtained from the District Representative of your District as well. The website address is [www.ohio-alanon.org](http://www.ohio-alanon.org). Click on Documents.

The day was filled with a great amount of information, fellowship, and greater understanding of AFG of Ohio at work. As we begin the second half of the first year of this term, I send many thanks to all of you and express my great appreciation for your service.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm and opened with the Serenity Prayer. The Traditions were read by Kathryn M., The Concepts of Service were read by Robin H., and The Warranties were read by, Mindy.

**Districts Represented:**

2,(2)4(3),5(1),6,(8)7(2),9(3),10(1),12(2),14(1),15(5),16(1),24(2),25(7),26(1),27(1),28(5),30(1),31(6),33(2),34(3),38(2),39(6),41(1),45(4),47(2),48(6),51(3),57(1)(Note some districts may not be represented if you were not present during the district count).

**New Group Representatives introduced by our Delegate Rex MC. and Ginny C.:**

Jane, Melanie K., Tara, Wendy, Sue H., Christina H., Paula C., Linda G., Philip C., Angie D., Shelly F., Sara M., Mary B., Sherri B., Michelle F., Tina B., Gale B., Nikki S., and India T. (We had 21 new GR's. I am sorry if you were left off of this list).

**SECRETARY'S REPORT-** Karen M. (substitute Merri G.)

Thank you for allowing me to step in, and fill in for Karen this Saturday. A big thank you goes to Sandy for having many of the reports sent electronically to me, and for the beautiful plant. Thank you, Barbara W., for proofreading the minutes. The Fall, 2011 minutes were approved by Jo S., and seconded by Caroline D.

Note- The emergency meeting minutes held Feb. 11, 2012 are at the bottom of this report. They were approved by Kathryn M. and seconded by Phil H.

**TREASURER REPORT-**Theresa M

<b>BALANCE AS OF 12-31-11</b>	<b>34,882.46</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>5,801.08</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>6,482.75</b>
<b>BALANCE AS OF 7/22/2012</b>	<b>34,200.79</b>

As of 5/15/2012: we spent \$681.67 more than we received, and our checking account had \$7,537.69.

I knew this might be a challenge and it has proved to be just that! After many attempts, I have finally succeeded in getting most of the numbers to match. I will be depending on another set of eyes to find my errors. That said:

- My income total was \$5801.08 vs. the bank's \$ 5899.47 – a difference of \$1.61. I wasn't sure which number to put in the report, so I went with my number in the hopes that I can eventually find the difference.
- The only other error I made that I am aware of is under paying one invoice by 6 cents.

The previous \$20,000 CD came due since I took office. I left off the \$20,000 on both income and expenses for the CD's, only including the interest on the cashed CD on the income. I will rely on the expertise of others to know whether I need to show that \$20K as both income and expense, and will do so in the future reports.

CD rates are abysmal at the moment, but these were the best I could find. I staggered them as shown with two \$5,000 and one \$10,000. We still will have two \$5,000 CD's coming due this fall, if funds are needed.

Please send your contributions (*with district and group numbers, please!*) questions, or concerns to me via email ([treasurer@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:treasurer@ohioal-anon.org)) or snail mail @ the PO Box 18062, Fairfield, OH 45015.  
(Amy H.-C. made a motion to accept the treasures report, and Sharon F. seconded it (2011).  
(Terry N. made a motion to accept the treasures report, and Nancy O. seconded it. (2012)

#### **DELEGATE'S REPORT**- Rex M. - Panel 52 Ohio

What an honor to serve as your delegate. I would never have thought I would be in this position. I can only hope I make you proud over the next three years. In the beginning, I stood for delegate and lost the election. Things changed for the elected delegate. Being behind almost four months, I had to get busy making travel arrangements for Minneapolis, MN and Stamford, CT. I attended the Regional Delegates meeting in Minneapolis. It was a learning experience for the World Service Conference.

World Service Conference travel began with flying from Akron-Canton to LaGuardia, NY. After getting checked in, I began meeting other members.

#### **Sunday**

The conference began on Sunday. We received materials for World Service Conference. The electronic voting system was explained. Four motions were voted on; all passed. Last year there were 22 motions. The motions were: Seating Motion, Approval of Financial Committee Report; Approval of Annual Report, Approval of Audited Financial Report.

I was not on a Task/Thought Forces. Later, we had Sharing Area Highlights and dinner. Each delegate wrote about a highlight from their Area and read it to the Conference.

#### **Monday**

On Monday, April 16 Al-Anon WSC was 52 years old. We had assigned seating with our Mentor and Trustee. This was so special. I had talked and e-mailed both before the Conference. Seeing them face to face was wonderful. They answered my questions and guided me along the way.

#### **Health Survey**

Ric B. made amends for the Health Survey complaints. He said the Review of Policy to check those doing the survey was not done, and this would not happen again. Al-Anon has a policy to work with researchers. It is posted on the member's website and titled "Cooperation with Researchers".

#### **E literature**

Sharings on this indicated that younger members were more in favor than older members. In Ohio there could be an impact on AIS/LDCs if books would no longer be carried. Other issues include copyright issues and income from sales of printed literature support WSO.

#### **Literature**

Thoughts were presented about creating a pamphlet on Abuse. Much discussion was held on the subject and it was tabled. There were concerns about distribution/shipping of literature. It seemed to be slow. The problem was in the shipping department and it has been resolve. Al-Anon pamphlets are getting a new look. It will appear one pamphlet at a time and may take several years to complete.

The trial period for the soft cover How Al-Anon Works has been extended for another year. Members are encouraged to share experiences of how using this with newcomers is working by June 15. They will be used in the CAL corner of the forum. More sharings are need for Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships.

Skill building. Shared leadership

#### **Tuesday**

Announcements

Restructuring: Restructuring the conference,

Redistricting: Dividing areas in half. Trial period would be 6 or more years. Some areas have already done this. Florida and California just to mention a couple areas. Would this work in Ohio? Information would have to be submitted to WSO.

#### **Wednesday**

We boarded five buses and traveled to Stepping Stones in New York. We toured the home and area buildings, had lunch, great cookies, took lots of pictures and returned to the hotel.

A task force did a presentation on Strengthening Communication.

We had a speaker from New Zealand.

Presentation on Northern Europe and Panama.

#### **Thursday**

Panel 50 did sharings.

The Thought Force did a presentation on Members involved in service work who are unable to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of the position. This is a good subject. I know when I suggest to someone that they run for or accept a position; I also remind them that if they can't fulfill the obligation they can resign. Suggestions were to identify issues that may result in members being unable to fulfill the responsibilities of their service positions, and to develop a variety of strategies that will assist the areas in dealing with these in a positive manner.

Public Service Announcements

There is a new PSA titles "Portraits II" in English, Spanish and French. We will now show this.

We had the closing dinner and Paul G. was the speaker;

Friday

Annual Open Board Meeting

The 2013 WSC will be at Virginia Beach.

Conference Closed

2018 bid presentations started. There were 11 presentations. Ohio's was at 2p.m. Selections for site visits were sent out later. They are Denver, Indianapolis and Baltimore.

### ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Ginny C.

October seems like a long time ago as a lot has been going on in my service experiences since I was elected Alternate Delegate. Just before my term started in January, I learned that I would need to take on the duties of the Delegate until a new one could be elected in February. This was just when the Delegates were all being sent information regarding the upcoming World Service Conference. I tried to print out all the urgent documents put up on e-communities which meant checking every few days.

After the election, Rex, Sandy, Barbara and myself all attended the North Central Regional Delegates Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. The meeting was very informative and it was very exciting to meet Delegates and other officers from other states. After attending I felt like I would be prepared to attend the World Service Conference if needed. Also I came to understand much more about how the World Service Conference works and the role of the Trustees and the Executive committee. Everyone was very friendly and fun to be with. I collected information, correct exchange addresses or contact information from each state regarding their newsletters. When we had free time we all took advantage of the shuttle to the Mall of the Americas which I had only ever heard of. As the weather was unseasonably balmy, on the last day Rex and I took a small hike in a Nature Preserve across from the hotel.

After Rex was elected I could then focus on one of my main duties which is publishing and distributing the AI-A-Notes. Pulling together the written document was fairly easy as I incorporated everyone's writings as they came in. The hard part began with getting it printed. Our printer took a while to get the job done but gave us a huge price break. Several hours were spent either with friends or on my own folding, sealing and labeling the AI-A-Notes. Then Karen, our secretary, and I finished the job and tried to meld 5 different sets of labels into one set. As I don't do numbers well, I think I was having nightmares of zip codes that night. Of course, Karen later discovered we did not have to work as hard as we did at putting them all in order. Leave it to a couple AI-Anons to make a simple task complicated!

Since getting the AI-A-Notes in the mail, I have been exchanging emails with many newsletter editors/ alternate delegates I met at the North Central Regional Delegates meeting. Some states have stopped publishing newsletters and others publish them only online and post it to a website. A few states still publish and mail newsletters, whereas others snail mail and email their newsletters. A recent development has been an e-community for newsletter editors and WSO passed on some guidelines for newsletter editors and websites. I attempted to pass this on to everyone in the state I knew who was involved in either writing a newsletter or posting them online. If you would like a copy, send me an email or call me and I will send it to you.

The past week I have been busy with assembling the new GR packets.

### COORDINATOR AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONVENTIONS

#### ALATEEN- Rose R.

Planning meetings have been under way since January for KOMIAC which will be hosted in Ohio this year at Baldwin Wallace University on July 27<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup>. We have personally invited Coordinators from Ontario South, IL North and South, PA and W Va. The Maine State Coordinator has also been invited and I believe has accepted our invite. I have emailed the registrations forms to all Sponsors that listed emails on the certification list. If you did not receive one, please see me after the meeting or on break and I'll take down your email address. I have flyers for you to take back to your area with items we will need for our Hospitality room and listed on them are the contacts in your area that you can get the donations to.

Gum, Candy, Cookies, Chips, Pretzels, Gold Fish Crackers, Crackers-Peanut Butter, Cheese etc. Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, Fruit Roll-ups, Pop-2Liter bottles, Coffee-Reg. or De-caff. Water-Cases, Gatorade, Vitamin Water, Crystal Light Packets, Cups, Plates, Napkins, Creamer/Sugar, Forks/spoons/knives, Fruit-Fresh, Grapes, Bananas, and Apples(Call Gary J. in the Cleveland area to arrange to pick up the fresh fruit and other items at 440-835-8807. Call Steve in the Columbus area-614-256-9628, Yvonne in Youngstown-330-974-7204, Rose in the Toledo area-419-367-5242, Micki in the Akron area-330-801-3248, and Pat in the Dover area-330-364-6183. Money donations are more than acceptable, and the proceeds will go to buy the above items.

Please know that all of us, Sponsors and Alateens truly appreciate all the support Assembly gives us and we love you all lots and lots....etc.

I received an invitation for NOMAAC, Northern Mid-Atlantic Alateen Assembly & Conference. It will take place @ Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA July 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. A few of our teens are interested and may attend.

WSO contacted me regarding our Ohio area's articles in the Alateen Talks magazine. We received 25 copies which I will pass on to the Sponsors to take to their groups. If you didn't get a copy and are a Sponsor, see me for one!

There have been numerous sharing's regarding Sponsor training on the e-community web site through WSO. Since I have been busy with KOMIAC, I haven't gotten a chance to really participate but I plan on looking into some training sessions for Ohio in the fall.

The fall Rally is scheduled for Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Gary J. has offered us a new location near the Cleveland area. This will be hosted by the Westerville, OH "Way Of Life Alateen" group. As soon as I have the location address, I'll get it out to the Sponsors.

#### **ARCHIVES**- Caroline D.

I graciously accepted the position of Archivist last Fall assembly and feel very honored to have had the opportunity to share some of our great gems of old literature and memorabilia with some of the groups in my local area since my acceptance of the plethora of materials. I have successfully transferred the bulk of the not so exciting bins and lock boxes to a dry and protected closet in my basement and have kept the traveling luggage and Poster Board for assembly in a more accessible location to take to the meetings that are in my area so others have a chance to see the history that our State is privileged to own.

I think it is an honor that we, as a founding state, in touch with the founding members have some real gems that go way back to the early years of our organization. I'm sure many groups in Ohio and other states may at some time wish to have access electronically to some of the wealth of history we are so honored to have in our collection. It made me THINK, having read some of the posts from the new e-communities that there may be some value in putting some thought force into action in the near future for the safe and accessible electronic archival of our rare finds and history. We have some audio tapes that may become media obsolete and could get damaged or lost to being heard. I can see value in transferring these to a digital format to be more safe and accessible to members who may be interested in future. I marvel at just such an undertaking to digitize these items.

Some states have shared that the digitizing process has taken longer than the three year term of a rotating Archivist and could require hiring or finding a talented person to do such a job or having two Archival positions with one non-rotating to accomplish this monumental task. I was also rather alarmed reading of other states losing many documents to house fires or misplacement when they had relied on home storage as Ohio does. Some of our lock boxes are fire proof but not all and I'd hate to see items lost moving locations.

The cost however and drawback of having many of the archival items nearly never seen when locked away in a storage center does not appeal to me either. It reminded me of when my mother started having my sister and I set our dining table with the good china, commenting, "What good was owning something so special and only getting to enjoy it on rare occasions." Mind you we always set a "Miss Manners" 3 courses meal place setting at every dinner in our house, even casually, since I could remember (not that I ever noticed that this was so odd growing up). I have learned to take what I like and leave the rest in my recovery and pass on to my 3 boys the way to set a proper table as well and share that it is nice to occasionally use the stuff you love even if there is some risk to Let Go and Let God; to understand when something chips or breaks when it was an accident and still know it was a good thing to have enjoyed it and celebrated its memory. I hope we always find our archives accessible and safe and I hope and trust that my home will remain safe for the duration of the stay that our archival materials are in my care. I will be yet still brave and bring these items to share with Ohio Groups and assemblies.

Curious find: I was surprised to find attached to an OAC 2004 check book interior a \$5 bill. I submitted it our Treasurer at our last emergency meeting in Columbus this winter 2/2012. Clearly a \$5 bill was not intended as Archival material, and I think it made it to the correct hands this winter for fiscal recognition albeit late a few years. Progress Not Perfection.

#### **FORUM**- Sharon B.

According to a report from the World Service Office, we have had a slight decrease in groups in the state of Ohio and a slight increase in Forum Subscriptions.

As of March 1, 2012, Ohio had 487 groups with a total of 840 Forum subscriptions. This is an average of 1.72 subscriptions per group. As of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Ohio had 479 groups with a total of 843 Forum subscriptions. This is an average of 1.76 subscriptions per group. So while we gained 3 additional subscriptions in Ohio we lost 8 groups.

Also, there is a feature on the WSO website which posts 3 of the articles from the Forum each month. Just wanted to make you aware of this so that you can make newcomers aware and you can check it out too.

As a reminder, the Forum is full of information submitted from Al-Anon's members. Your stories, humor, pictures, and sharing make up this great tool. The Forum can be a lifeline to others in the fellowship. Please send sharing's in. Many of our members from Ohio have been published in the Forum.

Finally, a subscription is ONLY \$11 a year. That's less than \$1 a month. Already have a subscription you say?? Does your spouse? Sponsor? Or does your Al-Anon friend have one? It is a gift of the fellowship and you can give it for an Al-Anon Anniversary, holiday, or birthday.

I have a copy of the subscription form for each of you to send one in today! And in case you lose it, it is on the website and in the back of every edition of the Forum.

#### **GROUP RECORDS**- Phil H.

I would like to welcome the 21 new GR's to our Assembly. Would they please stand and be recognized?

A lot of new things have happened since the Fall Assembly.

First of all, Ohio Area is now able to access group records online, directly from the WSO database. Previously, we relied on two printouts a year to update our own database. Now, we can get an update any time we need one. Additionally, by being able to access the WSO database, we can make updates directly to WSO without the need of snail mailing the Group Records Update Form.

Along that same line, we are no longer making the huge printouts of “Groups By City” or the “Groups By WSO number”. The “Groups By City” and Groups By WSO Number” are now in one SMALL notebook. If you want to check your specific group’s information, see me either during the break or after the meeting.

Secondly, and speaking of the Group Records Update Form, this form is now available online and can be filled out right from your computer! Here is what the form looks like. One change that has been made is there is no longer a “Group Focus”, i.e. Men, Women, Adult Children, LBGT choice on the Change Form. WSO has requested groups include this information in their group name instead.

With regard to Group names, the WSO has begun reviewing group names to ensure they are consistent with current Al-Anon and Alateen policies. When you go looking through the notebooks for active groups, your group name may **NOT** be what you thought it was. Please review the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, pages 32 – 33 and pages 77 – 78.

When you are completing this new form, please – **PLEASE** be sure to complete all of the applicable fields. Even if you believe you have sent in the information, take a couple of minutes to fill it out on the form again, especially the Group Registration/Overview and the Meeting Details section. Remember, this is the information that the WSO passes along to people calling to inquire about an Al-Anon meeting near them.

You may know that the meeting “is held in the white brick building behind the church, downstairs, through the kitchen to the choir room”...but how is a newcomer expected to find it?

Also, when you fill in the meeting address, please use a complete street address, i.e. 123 West Main Street, instead of “corner of Main & High”. Why? Because a newcomer might be using a GPS unit to find their way, and the complete street address will ensure they arrive at the correct meeting location.

It also follows to check off the appropriate boxes – babysitting, handicap access, etc. Again, this is information a newcomer might need.

GR’s – when you are sending in changes, please be sure to include “everyone” in the chain. Simply sending the change to WSO does **NOT** mean that your District Rep and your AIS (Intergroup) will get the change. All of our AIS’s now have websites that list the meetings within their part of the state. All of this information really needs to match; otherwise your AIS will have one listing for a group, while the WSO will have different information. This is a combined effort and we rely heavily on the GR’s to ensure we have correct information.

Getting correct information is so vitally important – but how many groups completed and returned the “Annual Update” to WSO? Do you know if your group even received it? And, what about the complimentary copy of the Forum – does your group receive it? If not, then who is getting your group mail? That’s another important item on the Group Update Form. I cannot do this alone – I need **YOUR** help. There are instructions on the member’s website on how to fill in the form, as well as how to attach it to an email to send it in. My email address is on the AWSC roster that is available – but here it is again: [PHILLUPSPACE@AOL.COM](mailto:PHILLUPSPACE@AOL.COM).

In addition to being able to update our information direct to the WSO now, I’m also able to download reports for the District Reps. Also, DR’s can now download those reports directly as well, provided they are a member of E-Communities. However, DR’s cannot make changes to the information – it either has to come to the GRC or to the WSO. DR’s – if you’re not sure about being enrolled in E-Communities, please see Sandy or Rex. Again, this is how we can keep our information current – it’s a team effort.

As of last night, Friday May 18, 2012, Ohio Area has: Active groups – 439. Of these, there are 4 groups that hold multiple meetings, that is more than one meeting a week. One group has 6 meetings a week and 3 groups have 3 meetings a week. Of these active groups, 141 have sent in their annual update so far. That’s just 32%. “No Mail” status groups – 21. These are groups that have had mail sent to their Current Mailing Address (CMA) that has been returned “undeliverable” by the Postal Service. I’m asking DR’s, and even GR’s to check over the list to see if it’s a group you attend. Please let them know so we can get a good mailing address for the group. “Inactive” status groups - 121. Once a group has been on “no mail” status for two years, it’s placed on inactive status. Additionally, when WSO is notified that a group is no longer meeting, it’s placed on inactive status. Again, DR’s and GR’s – please review the list for accuracy. If you know a group is meeting that is listed as “inactive”, we need to get on this right away to keep them from being deleted from the WSO database.

Once a group number is deleted from the WSO database, it can never be retrieved again. We’ve already found one group that had been deleted that is now reactivated. But, consider this – while that group was “deleted”, they received no mail from the WSO and no mail from Ohio Area. They were, literally, marooned in the middle of the ocean. So please, check to ensure your group is getting group mail. If it isn’t, ask why, and if necessary have a group conscience to get a good CMA for the group. As of May 18, 2012, we also have: 39 active Alateen groups

1 Alateen group in “no mail” status. Janice may have more current numbers, but this is what I have for our mailing purposes.

Finally, of the 439 active groups, there are 284 groups with GR’s listed – that’s 65%. This comes with a caveat, though. WSO maintains the GR information as a courtesy to the areas. I have seen at least one GR who has been serving since 1999! This information can only be updated through either the Annual Update or the Group Change Form. Once again, I have to rely on our GR’s and DR’s to keep this information current. Please help us keep our information current.

**LITERATURE**- Shirley M.

The booklet *The Parents of Alcoholics* (R-18) reprint is now available at the cost of \$1.00. It was developed by the Literature Committee with the help of a Task Force made up of parents of alcoholics from the recent stories from the Forum. This booklet is also available in French (FR-18 & FS-71) and Spanish (SR18 & SS71).

There is a new Conflict Resolution Wallet Card (S-71) available for \$1.00. It is a service tool to help groups and individuals deal with conflict resolution.

There are now over 300 intimacy sharing's for *Intimacy In Alcoholic Relationships* (working title), many more are needed. Members are encouraged to share from the heart. The sharing sheets were posted on The Members Website and were mailed out in the December 2011 issue of the Forum. They would like sharing's from men and women describing all forms of intimacy not just sexual intimacy.

The Legacies work book is progressing well and will be completed by the 2013 International Convention. The sharing's are being selected from the Legacy blogs. They still need more sharing's on how members apply the principles of the concepts to their personal lives.

I did not participate in the March 2012 conference call, but I did receive a copy of the summary of the things that were discussed.

The soft cover *How Al-Anon Works* (B-32) is still on a trial basis and has been extended. It was developed by the Finance Committee as a way to involve members in thinking more abundantly. The purpose of the \$5.00 soft edition was to give it to newcomers. The decision to continue the project will be determined by whether this purpose has been met. It was suggested that groups who could afford it, purchase this edition to give to newcomers and for sponsors to give it to people they sponsor. It is also a good outreach project to give to local courts and to female inmates who come to meetings in prison where hardcover books are not permitted. Please encourage members to submit sharing's about how their group is using the new soft cover *How Al-Anon Works* to share our program with newcomers. WSO needs these by June 15th for possible inclusion in a future "CAL Corner" in *The Forum*.

Each quarter we post a Sample Chapter of Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, www.al-anon.org and the Members' site, www.al-anon.org/members. Through June, the chapter is from *Alateen – Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3), and the topic is "Letting Go of Blame." The Sample Chapter on the Members' site also includes a list of where to find this topic in other CAL, an opportunity to share on this topic, and quotations, meeting topics, and discussion questions pertaining to this book.

Each month, the "CAL Corner" feature in *The Forum* includes members' sharing's on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. April's article featured *Hope for Today* (BN-27, B-28). This month the book discussed is *Alateen – Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3), and in June it's *Paths to Recovery* (B-24).

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**- Amy H.-C.

Since I was unanimously elected today for this position with 65 Votes, I do not have a report.

**BUDGET**- Robin R.

**OAA 2012 BUDGET WORKSHEET**

**2011 Income**

Group Donations	8,100.57	
Plea Letter Contributions	3,979.54	
Personal Donations	50.00	
Information Service Donations	349.40	
Interest Income (deposit to cking)	<u>113.51</u>	
TOTAL INCOME for budget & reserves	<b>12,593.02</b>	(2011 – \$11,618.63)

**Excess Funds**

2011 Budget	<b>11,018.63</b>	
2011 Expended	<b><u>-11,223.96</u></b>	
	<b>-205.33</b>	\$0 to Excess Funds for 2012
2011 Excess Funds Balance	3906.70	
	<u>-1700.00</u>	transferred to Action Comm /Coordinator Fund
Excess Funds 2012 Available Balance	2206.70	

**Transition Fund**

2011 Transition Fund Balance	1009.82
2012	<u>500.00</u>

Transition Fund 2012 Available Balance 509.82

**ASSEMBLY FUNDS**

Active Past Delegate Fund	0
Assembly Reserves	0
Convention Float	0
Convention Reserve	0
Action Comm/Coordinator Fund	1700.00 added from Excess Funds
District Rep AWSC meeting 5%	0
Equipment Fund 5%	413.00
OAC Fund	0
Transition Fund	-500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-87.00</b> to Assembly Reserves from 2011 INCOME for budget & reserves
	<b>12,593.02</b>
	<b>+ 87.00</b>
<b>Available for 2012 Budget</b>	<b>12,680.02</b>

The budget process starts with the total of the donations and realized interest income from the previous year. From this, money is added to the various reserve funds depending on anticipated expenses and in keeping with the funds' descriptions in the Handbook. The exception to this is the Excess Funds reserve fund. This receives funding from any amount left over from the previous year's budget. Last year, we were over budget on expenses so nothing was left over to add to Excess Funds for 2012.

After the reserve funds are reviewed and funded, the remaining total of the previous year's donations and realized interest income is what we have to work with for this year's budget.

While there were some budget items that we thought could be cut in 2012, there were several others that we felt required a substantial increase in funding. These were Al-A-Notes, Alternate Delegate, Compliance Liaison, Delegate/Alternate Delegate to the Regional Delegate Meeting, Meeting Expenses and Website. Most of these were over budget last year to varying degrees with increased expenses expected again this year. In the case of the Delegate/Alternate Delegate to the Regional Delegate Meeting line item, we needed to accommodate sending both our delegate and alternate to the meeting in this, the first year of their terms. As for meeting expenses, the over budget amount last year was due to the AMIAS background check information packet that was sent out last spring. Our desire to increase the budgeted amount however goes to the fact that, for the last several years, the Assembly has incurred roughly \$1000 in hotel expenses for the 2-Day Fall meeting that had not been accounted for anywhere in our budget or reserve fund process. It seems that in the past, the hotel contracts resulted in no additional expenses as long as our room commitment was met. Now however, while the meeting rooms are provided at no charge as in the past, the hotels have been adding charges for miscellaneous items as well as the cost of coffee and snacks. So, while we've had sufficient funds in the checking account to pay the bills, as previously stated, this was never accounted for in the budget process. Moving forward, this will now be an anticipated meeting expense.

It was noted that the Alateen Coordinator was substantially over budget last year but we decided to leave that budget amount alone for now. Of course we have the unknown expense of the AMIAS background checks and while the Application Packet adopted by the Assembly last fall specifies that the Assembly will cover the cost if the districts cannot, it has not yet been determined if this will come out of the Alateen budget, an existing reserve fund or an as yet to be established reserve fund. Personally, I believe we need to take this "one day at a time", see what the Assembly's obligation turns out to be and then make an informed decision on how to budget for it.

So, now let me explain how we arrived at this year's budget. When we applied the process of adding the necessary anticipated amounts to the reserve funds and then applied the remaining total of the previous year's donations to this year's budget, there just wasn't enough there. Remember that we did transfer \$5000 from one of our certificates of deposit to the checking account last year and while it may be necessary to cut expenses in the future, we felt that for now, since we have money in savings, we could continue to fund our current known and anticipated activities. In order to accomplish this, rather than add money to the reserve funds from last year's donation total, we chose to transfer amounts previously designated from one fund to another. We took \$1700 from Excess Funds and added it to the Coordinator/Action Committee Fund. This is mainly to cover the cost of the Addiction Studies Institute this year; a POC event that the Assembly has consistently agreed to participate in. We then took \$500 from the Transition fund and added it to the Equipment Fund since we knew we needed to fund this up based on previous years' expenses. We felt comfortable transferring money from the Transition Fund since the Assembly's transition expenses have been running much lower than when the fund was instituted some years ago. By transferring these funds with-in the reserves, we had a sufficient balance to work with for the budget in 2012.

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

I apologize for the delay in the updating the Handbook and By-Laws on the website. I have submitted the changes to our webmaster. The delay was the result of the destruction of the box of materials by the USPS sent to me by the previous Handbooks/By-Laws chairperson. All materials were lost.



Here are the changes from October 2011:

The AMIAS form has been removed from the By-Laws on page 10 of 11 with this information added: The Application Packet for Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service Policies, Application Process, and Forms is in the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for the Ohio Area Assembly Meeting.

The following statement is added to the Handbook index: The Application Packet for Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service is attached.

**REVIEW AND AUDIT**- Louise W.

The audit and review is progressing thanks to the hard work of Theresa and guidance from Sandy F. and Robin R.

**OHIO WEBSITE**- Mike V.

This Spring, the number of unique visitors each month has decreased slightly compared to last year's traffic report numbers. An average 2,600 visitors a month in 2011 is now down to 2,400.

**Web Traffic Report highlights:**

- Tuesday continues to be the highest hit day of the week.
- The average peak traffic of the day has shifted later into the early evening between 4pm and 6pm.
- Most viewed pages in order of ranking: 1.State index page of meeting lists 2.Link to Cleveland meeting list 3.Remote area meetings 4.Alateen page 5.Link to Columbus meeting list 6.Link to Toledo meeting list 7.Calendar 8.Link to Akron meeting list 9.Link to Cincinnati meeting list 10.12steps page
- Most of our visitors are coming in from the Al-anon/AlateenWSO Web site.

Mike K. at your service: (Email: [webmaster@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:webmaster@ohioal-anon.org) )

**Other News:**

The volume of site traffic from mobile handheld devices like SmartPhones and tablets continues to increase, in particular, iPads and Mac users. They now make up 23% of our visitors. Tablet and Smart Phone considerations will have to be made in the upcoming web site design overhaul. If any tablet users in the Assembly would care to volunteer to test the new site, we could use your help. Please contact Mike K. if you're interested in joining the test team.[webmaster@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:webmaster@ohioal-anon.org)

To view stats, go to:<http://69.90.236.54:8585/awstats/awstats.pl?config=ohioal-anon.org>

**BROWSERS:**60% MS Internet Explorer23% Safari 12% Firefox5% Other

**COMPLAINCE LIAISON AND AAPP**- Janice R.

I have sent letters to all Alateen sponsors, with the exception of those sponsors who attended the Sponsor workshop in March, reminding them of their need fill out new paperwork and have fingerprinting done in order to be re-certified to work with the Alateens. I also emailed all sponsors that I had an email address for again reminding them of what part of the process is yet incomplete.

I did not mail letters to all the AMIASs (Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service) as there were 267 names on the list I received from WSO. Paperwork has been filled out for all AMIASs stating that they are INACTIVE. If I receive the proper paperwork from them by June 1<sup>st</sup>, I will pull their Inactive paperwork out and not send it to WSO.

In the event that AMIASs or Sponsors want to re-certify after the deadline, new paperwork will have to be completed and sent to WSO to make them to active again.

There are some Alateen groups that will no longer be recognized by WSO as an Active Alateen group because their sponsors did not re-certify.

My deadline for re-certifying with WSO is June 1<sup>st</sup>. I have to have everything in the mail to them my June 10<sup>th</sup> at the latest. As of 5/19/12

53 AMIASs, Sponsors, CMAs are certified (includes 3 nurses for KOMIAC)

12 – I am waiting for FBI results (paperwork is complete) 65 Total in the process

WSO has sent out to all CMAs an annual Update Sheet for all Alateen groups. This is to be checked and any corrections made and sent back to me. My name and address is on the bottom of the sheet. Also, they included a self-addressed envelope with my name and address on it. Please do not send this information sheet back to WSO. They will not accept anything unless it comes from me first. A locked 2-drawer file cabinet has been purchased to keep all Alateen and Compliance paperwork in.

The Statutory Agent Update, form 521 has been filed with the Ohio Secretary of State. The cost to do this was \$25.00. I also received notice that our non-profit status is in effect.

I have been doing a lot of reading regarding the Compliance position. I need to get together with Rex M. and/or Barbara M. to go over more of what is required of this position.



**TWO-DAY FALL ADVISOR-** Donna K.

I am your new Two Day Fall advisor, and Ohio Area Convention Advisor. I have nothing to report at this time. I am available to help in your planning. If you do not hear back in three days, please call me!

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN-** Eleanor T.

There were 91 members in attendance. There are 81 voting GR's. We collected a total of \$240 for the 81 voting GR's. Louise W. helped Eleanor at the table.

**ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**GROUP SERVICES-ROSE R.**

We discussed the question of whether or not the job of AAPP and Compliance Liaison should be separate or one job. The group decided that we didn't know enough about either job to do a pro and con list. We will discuss further and two day fall. Once again, we looked at how to get groups involved in service so all districts, numbered and lettered have a DR and or Gr. It was brought up that the Toledo group that did the "Service Road Show" perform & 2 Day Assembly so everyone can see how simple it is to "get the message" out there. A member will check to see where the skit is and get copies of it.

It was also suggested that if you know a group that is out of the city limits and are not sure if it is still an active group, to maybe take a few members with you or call some other members to take a road trip to visit the group to bring them into the "Assembly Experience".

**FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS-ROBIN F.**

The first goal of this committee is to establish whether or not AI-A-Notes is within guidelines. The second goal is to determine if we want a task force to further look into electronically distributed AI-A-Notes.

We read through and clarified the meaning of the guidelines for the newsletter editor. We discussed the pros and cons of electronic distributing of AI-A-Notes-(Access to technology needed and cost availability.)

We voted on whether or not to take it to a task force. It unanimously voted that there should be a task force to further look in electronic distribution. We have two volunteers, and are interested in getting more volunteers for the committee. If interested, talk to Shirley M.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH-Marissa D.**

We discussed the WSO Poster Contest. AI-Anon and Alateen members are invited to participate in a poster contest for Public Outreach. The World Service Office welcomes members' designs- in either a horizontal or vertical format- for new posters, based on the theme-"Is Someone Else's Drinking Tearing You Apart?"

The poster should also include AI-Anon's toll free meeting line number (888-4AL-ANON, 888-425-2666),the Public Outreach Web site URL([www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)), and leave space for members to insert local contact information.

Please submit your own photo, drawing, painting, or graphic design for consideration. Do not submit copyrighted material, unless the copyright belongs to you. All submissions become the property of AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. Submissions should be: JPEG OR PDF Files, No larger than 11" x 17", no smaller than 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", 200-300 dpi at 100% print size, no more than 10MB, and preferably converting all fonts to outline. Please submit to the department of Public Outreach at the WSO at [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org) Att: Public outreach. Or submit a hard copy/CD to: AFG Inc- Public Outreach Department- 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway- Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Winning entries will be posted on the Members Web site for use as Public Outreach posters.

We also discussed: Public Outreach suggestions and experiences:

- \* Working w/or speaking at organizations that work w/troubled kids/parents/rehab facilities.
- \* Partnering w/Dare programs
- \*Providing PO Bookmarks to local law enforcement including parks departments.
- \*Working w/school (HS) health teachers, guidance counselors and administrators to have AI-Anon/Alateen info. available.
- \*PSA's-requesting they be run and thanking station managers for running them
- \*Providing PSA's to churches as many have TV systems and family counseling services now.
- \*Public access stations-request running PSA's or create a text add to run w/local group/mtg. info.

**MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH- Pam**

Some said that in the remote areas such as Hartville that the reason many woman do not get involved in Service is because of a cultural difference. Since we are a program built on attraction rather than promotion, we cannot push the remote area members to get involved in service. Many could face negative repercussions by doing. Many knew of members who had to sneak out of their homes just to come to meetings. It was shared that Anonymity should be discussed at every meeting so that members who see people they know remember the importance of this Tradition, and that new members feel confident that their life will not be discussed outside of meetings.

We discussed how to attract other members rather than just the white 50 year old women. We had one member in our group named Pam who had less than one year, and was already coming to service. We discussed reasons why members to not return after trying groups one time. We said that the three reasons why perhaps some may not return, is dominance, gossip, and talk of Religion as outlined on page 24 of our service manual. One member suggested doing a meeting on the pamphlet called "Al-Anon Spoken Here" which outlines the principles of the program in a concise manner. It was said that we can try to encourage one to attend at least six meetings. Some early members feel that taking care of themselves by attending an Al-Anon meeting is a foreign idea.

One male member spoke of feeling uncomfortable at meetings because of clicks, and that he has observed how one member seems to take control, and will not let new ideas in. Because of this, he gets more out of the online meetings. One member started an Al-Anon meeting in the same building as an AA group hoping to attract members.

One member shared that their group welcomes children by having on hand coloring books and crayons so that younger members can come to the meeting when their alcoholic may be at work. We also discussed the "Lone Member" program that the WSO website advertises for members who are unable to get to meetings. The Lone Member program has members who are willing to write letters filled with Al-Anon literature quotes to help encourage the home-bound person. There is also online meetings and Telephone meetings. For information, members can log onto the WSO Website.

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

### **2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY**- 2012 Districts of Dayton-Dennis K.

I have finalized the banquet menu with the hotel. There will be 4 choices:

Steak -Stuffed chicken breast -Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian) and Gluten free chicken and veggies

The banquet price is \$30.00. Hotel reservations must be made by September 28, 2012.

Tell the hotel you are with OAA to get to discounted rate. I have had 100 copies of the banquet registration printed and you are welcome to take some home with you.

I will send it to Mike K. the OAA webmaster to be put on the calendar page.

### **OHIO AREA CONVENTION** - June 29, 2012 – July 1, 2012 -Bev J.

The planning for the 2012 Ohio Area Convention has been going very well. Although planning for the convention began in the fall of 2011, our team has been meeting on a weekly basis for the past three months to iron out all the details. Team members are as follows: Chairperson-Bev J., Co-Chairperson-Sandy M.C., Treasurer-Gene K., Program Chairperson-Lee, Publicity Chairperson-Judi, Hospitality Chairperson-Peggy S, Literature Chairperson-Shelley W., Ways & Means-Theresa, Alateen-Tina and AA-John D. Our convention this year will be held from Friday, June 29, 2012 through Sunday, July 1, 2012. The theme for our convention is "That's Y We're Here!" The Logo using a play on words having the "Y" represent Youngstown and the "W" represent Warren.

The convention will be held at Mount Union College located at 1972 Clark Ave., Alliance, OH 44601. The cost of the entire weekend including room and meals is \$120.00. The \$120.00 includes a semi-private dorm room, all meals, workshops and speakers. (Note: This **also** includes bed linens, towels and wash cloths) All dorm facilities are handicapped accessible. There are special rooms available for those with special needs if necessary. The dorm rooms are set up so that two rooms share one common bathroom. There are two single beds in each dorm room. A limited number of private rooms are available at an additional cost of \$43.00. The total amount due for a private room is \$143.00. Husband and wives may share a room. The cost for walk-ins is \$35.00 and this cost is good for the entire weekend. This does not include overnight accommodations or meals. There is no charge for an Alateen "walk-in" and the cost for an Alateen overnight stay is \$95.00. If a walk-in would like to buy a day meal ticket, they must advise the committee chairperson or vice-chair 2 weeks prior to the convention. A meal ticket covering lunch and dinner on Saturday is \$17.50. If you want to buy just a Saturday dinner ticket, the cost is \$10.00.

All rooms, sleeping rooms, workshop rooms and the speaker hall are air conditioned. Transportation will be available for those who are physically impaired.

Deadline for registration is June 8, 2012. Registrations are to be sent to OAC, P.O. Box 2624, Alliance, OH 44601. Checks are to be made payable to O.A.C.

A program schedule has been established, workshops have been planned and speakers have been booked. During the course of the weekend, we will have two Al- anon speakers, one AA speaker and one Alateen speaker.

Registration for the convention will be in the lobby of the Mt. Union College Hoover-Price Building. All meals will be taken in the Hoover-Price Building Cafeteria except the Pizza Party on Friday night and the BBQ dinner on Saturday. This will take place on Campus Grounds. All workshops will be held in the Engineering & Business Building and the Tolerton & Hood Hall. Our literature room and Ways & Means displays will be set up in the Engineering & Business Building and the Tolerton & Hood Hall for easy access to those attending the convention. All Saturday speakers will be held in the Presser Rectal Hall, a wonderful hall that houses 170 people. The chairs are very comfortable and the stage is close to the audience to give a more intimate feel. Overnight accommodations will be at the Bica-Ross Hall. This building will also house our hospitality room. Walk-in guests will have access to the hospitality room throughout the day on Saturday. Our closing spiritual panel will be held at the beautiful Mt. Union Chapel. In addition to the rooms used for the workshops, rooms will be available to members of AA and Alateen.

We will have many handmade crafts available in our Ways and Means Room along with trinkets to remember your convention weekend. Books and literature will be available for Al-Anon, Alateen and AA. We will raffle off a gift card basket and three other gift

bags over the weekend. Any Group that would like to help support the Ohio Area Convention are asked to donate items for the Hospitality Room. Please collect items and make arrangements with Peggy S. at 330-326-3959 to have the items picked up by June 23rd. The following items are needed. Small plates, large plates, cups, napkins, plastic silverware, table covers, storage bags, water, cookies, crackers, cheese, dips, chips, pretzels, cheese curls and any snack items. If your group would rather send cash donations for the hospitality room, make checks payable to O.A.C. and mail to P.O. Box 2624, Alliance, OH 44601 by June 25th and mark for Hospitality. Spread the word, this weekend will prove to be beneficial for anyone who attends. Hope to see you all there.

### **OHIO 56th STATE AA SERVICE CONVENTION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION- July 20, 21 and 22-Betty M.**

**Service- What a Concept! Celebrating 50 years with 12 Concepts, 1962- 2012. It will be at the Hilton Cleveland East/Beachwood- 3663 Park East Dr. Beachwood, Oh 44122. Special convention rate is \$75.00 plus tax. Must reserve by June 29th. 216-464-5950- Mention Ohio State Convention. Al-Anon participation has been very low, but we hope to improve that with this year's convention.**

### **AL-ANON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WITH AA PARTICIPATION!- July 5 – 7, 2013- Vancouver, British, Columbia**

Al-Anon members from around the world will come together in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, **July 5 – 7, 2013** for fun and fellowship! Here's a checklist to help you begin planning your trip:

- Passport and travel to Canada requirements\*
- Registration begins in September:** information will be mailed to the groups and posted on the Members' Web site—  
[www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members).

*Once you have registered to attend the convention you may:*

- Reserve room—Al-Anon has reserved a certain number of rooms at a guaranteed rate with several hotels in the area. If you book an "Al-Anon" room, not only will you receive the lowest possible rate, you'll also be supporting the convention.
- Register to participate in the Language of Love Parade
- Register for the Pioneer Luncheon (limited seating)

Notes:

1. Day of Connection (July 4th) will be a separate service-oriented, one-day event so plan to come a day early!
2. A.A. participation: A.A. will be holding daytime meetings on Friday and Saturday (July 6 and 7).

**\*Please note:** *Anyone with a criminal record (including misdemeanors or alcohol-related driving offenses) may not be able to enter Canada without first obtaining a special waiver well in advance of any planned travel. Please refer to [www.cic.gc.ca/](http://www.cic.gc.ca/) for information.*

News from our Chairman: "My copy of the June issue of **The Forum** just arrived. On page 8 the information Rex shared during his report about the 2013 International Convention is listed. Please share this with your meetings."

### **KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING-KBDM EXPLANATION AND PRESENTATIONS:**

At Ohio Area Assembly we do not ask our Group Representatives to make uninformed decisions. We use Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM), an informed group conscience. The outcome is harmony, understanding of the decisions made and the ability to articulate and communicate the decision of the membership.

A Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) presentation is framed or has bookends. KBDM is a beginning that informs us of the discussion to come and closes with a brief summary.

The presentation has three important facets which aids in clarity of the discussion.

- Background/ history -- what happened in the past
- Relevance – why are we having this discussion
- Context – why are we talking about this at this time

Action Committees brainstorm. All members of Assembly belong to an Action committee. A specific idea is explored further in a thought Force, made up of volunteer members of Assembly. Their thoughts are presented to Assembly. If Assembly agrees, with the direction the thought force is going, A Task Force is formed. The Task Force Figures out how to carry out the thought and what steps; must be taken to make the changes. The Task Force presents their findings and recommendations to the Assembly. The Assembly discusses the recommendation(s). If necessary, a motion is made followed by more discussion and clarification time. A vote is then taken. Sometimes a Task Force becomes a Work group who is charged with a specific assignment to design a procedure or guideline.

### **THOUGHT FORCE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **I. Task Force on Continued Support for Participation in the Addiction Studies Institute**

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

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

AFG of Ohio has participated in the Addiction Studies Institute annual event for 2 years (2010 and 2011) as an exhibitor. Participation as an exhibitor allows for distribution of CAL and meeting schedules to professionals from across the region and beyond. For some, it is their introduction to Al-Anon. For others, it provides an opportunity to expand their understanding of our program. The Budget for ASI 2011 was \$1200.00. The Public Outreach Committee is very supportive of continued participation (2011 Spring & Fall Assemblies). The Addiction Studies Institute in an annual conference for professionals in the addiction, treatment, and counseling fields. It is "considered the largest Midwest conference of its kind providing an array of dynamic educational choices for the chemical dependency counselor, social worker, prevention specialist, criminal justice professional, clergy, physician, marriage and family therapist, nurse and other healthcare specialists." (Quote from addictionstudiesinstitute.com) ASI 2012 will be August 22-24 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. A proposal to give a presentation at the 2012 Addiction Studies Institute was submitted in November 2011. Notification by ASI of acceptance or denial expected by March 1, 2012.

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

Those participating would prefer to be able to attend ASI annually with the full support of AFG of Ohio. At this time, we would like to consider adding a line to the annual budget that will support continued annual participation in ASI. This means AFG of Ohio will not be scrambling to provide money for participation every year.

**II. Task Force on Continued Support for Participation in the Addiction Studies Institute**

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

Comparing the ASI budgets for 2010 and 2011 to the financial reports from the same years, there appears to be the capacity and resources available to support participation in this event on a continued annual basis. Comparison between the AFG of Ohio financial reports for 2010 and 2011 should show the minimal impact that ASI participation has made on the budget.

**What are the implications of our choices?**

**Pros:**

Continued annual participation in the ASI annual event gets word to the professionals in the region (and beyond) about Al-Anon/Alateen. Professionals attending ASI that visit the Al-Anon booth are given literature to expand their understanding of Al-Anon, and literature they can provide to their clients. Meeting schedules for their areas are distributed. Those returning to the table or showing deeper interest are given posters and other additional materials. Participation gives AFG of Ohio the ability to hone our public outreach. It is also a public outreach opportunity that many other states/assemblies do not have. Participation provides the possibility of increased membership. Many professionals still do not know about or understand Al-Anon/Alateen, and an increased understanding leads to more professional referrals.

**Cons:**

Participation is a lot of work for the people volunteering to work the ASI. Participation does equal considerable cost to AFG of Ohio

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

Will AFG of Ohio support a budget for continued annual participation in the Addiction Studies Institute on a long-term basis? (Note: FOR THE FULL PRESENTATION, PLEASE SEE THE OHIO WEBSITE. IT WILL BE UP THROUGH AUGUST)

**III. ALIGNING AFG OF OHIO'S CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS' WITH THAT OF THE WORLD SERVICE OFFICE-**

Phil H., Group Records Coordinator

**Background information – What we know**

Historical perspective – At present, Al-A-Notes is distributed as follows, "All groups registered with Assembly receives a free subscription, mailed to Group Representatives. The World Service Office, Ohio AIS offices, District Representatives, Assembly Officers and Coordinators also receive complimentary subscriptions" (Taken from the header page of the most recent Al-A-Notes). In addition, there are paid subscriptions as well.

To accomplish this mailing, the Group Records Coordinator must currently maintain a "dual database", comprised of the mailing address of all Group Representatives. However, groups that have no Group Representative have their copy of Al-A-Notes mailed to the Group's Current Mailing Address (CMA). Currently, the GRC must manually update some 550 records individually to determine if the Al-A-Notes is mailed to the GR or the CMA.

Within the last year, the World Service Office has established an online database available to all Area Group Records Coordinators. Through this database, the GRC can download a complete copy of the Area database, consisting of active groups, groups on "no mail" status and inactive groups. From that same database, the GRC can quickly prepare a set of mailing labels for the CMA or the GR, but not both - doing that would require someone extremely well versed in Microsoft Office programming. By mailing the Al-A-Notes to the CMA's instead of the GR's, we can take advantage of the resources of our World Service Office and greatly reduce the GRC's workload.

**Existing motions that pertain to this topic:** – None.

**What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences?** - It is vitally important to get information to the Group level. The individual who volunteers as the Group's Current Mailing Address has agreed to take all group mail to the meeting, to be made available to all group members. Keeping our groups informed is necessary to the success of our program.

**What do we know about our capacity (resources)?** – There is no requirement for the GRC to be an “advanced” software programmer, at present. Adding that requirement would severely restrict the list of eligible people. We need to “Keep It Simple”

**What are the implications of our choices? (Pros and Cons)**

**PRO:**

1 - By utilizing the CMA for mailing the Al-A-Notes, we can obtain the most current address information from the WSO possible. Their database is updated daily, whereas the Area database can only be updated when we receive the information.

2 – By utilizing the WSO database for the CMA information, we will have fewer “returned mails” with address updates. Although this can never be totally eliminated, it will certainly reduce the associated costs with the mailings.

3 – Changing the mailings over to the CMA's also helps us look ahead to using “automated” mailing rates, which are less expensive, than the non-automated rates we use now.

**CON:**

1 – Keeping the current system will require the GRC to create one “mailing database” from the two existing databases. Lacking the advanced computer skills to write a program to do this, it will have to be done manually, one record at a time. At the present time, WSO shows we have 464 “active” Al-Anon groups and 24 groups in a “no mail” status. Additionally, there are 40 “active” Alateen groups and 1 group in a “no mail” status.

2 – We will incur higher “return mail” costs by not always having the most current mailing information available.

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

Is there some software program, readily available that would perform the function of combining the databases into one, to create the mailing labels?

If so, is it “user-friendly” enough to allow someone with only very basic computer knowledge to operate it, or would it require a trained technician to install it and run it? In doing that, would we be allowing an “outsider” access to all of our groups' information.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

An Election was held for The North Central Regional Trustee Candidate- Barbara W. (past Delegate) was elected as the nominee from Ohio.

The report of the Task Force to explore possible changes to the Ohio Area Convention was postponed until the 2-Day Fall Assembly.

**REVIEW AND AUDIT- Past Committee Chair for 2011(panel 49 closing)- Donna K.**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Review and Audit Chairman. Your treasurer's records are up to date and accurate. My committee would like to thank you for your efforts to include your group name, District number, and group number on all of your donations. Please remember that we need all of that information on any and all money orders especially.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Acting on a recommendation of the Fellowship Action Committee, Sandy moved to form a Task Force to further explore electronic vs USPS mailing of the Al-A-Notes and the Minutes. Phil H. and David L. volunteered to help, Mike W. who was the committee chairman for the thought force, will be asked to confirm his willingness to chair the task force.

Sandy F., our chairman, surprised all those members who endured the meeting to the end. She drew name tags, and gave those chosen a beautiful cloth Al-Anon bag.

**A Note from Sandy F., our chairman**

Thank you for attending the 2012 Spring Assembly. We accomplished a lot. I believe we did as much in one day as we normally do in two at Fall Assembly meeting.

Two items held until Fall. Appointing a Chairman for the Task Force to look at the Guidelines for the Ohio Area Convention (OAC) to see if they are current or need revising. The other is the 2011 Two Day Fall Final Report.

A question - Are you willing to serve as the Chairman for the Task Force about OAC Guidelines? I think much of the work can be done by e-mail. FYI: The next year we have an OAC is 2014, so this Task Force has time to thoroughly look at this topic. OAC Guidelines are in the Handbook on pages 21-24.

The flier for ordering copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2013* was an insert in the May edition of *The Forum*.

North Congregational UCC, where we hold AWSC and Spring Assembly, has requested we submit our request for meeting dates. Rex and I will decide on dates and will forward them to you soon.

**AWSC is August 11th. If you are thinking about a KBDM presentation, please have the packet to me electronically no later than July 22, so I can send it on to AWSC members.**

**Motions presented during Spring Assembly and their voting results:**

**2012 #1** – For a three year trial, starting in 2013, include funding for the Addiction Studies Institute as a budget line item. This will allow participation without prior Assembly approval each year as is required with funding is taken from the Action Committee/Coordinator's fund as has been done in 2010,2011, and 2012. **Passed w/56 "YES" Votes and 13 "NO" Votes.**

**2012 #2** – Authorize expending the proposed amount of \$704 from the Action Committee/ Coordinator's Fund for the 2012 Addiction Studies Institute and an additional \$325 from the Equipment Fund for a retractable banner stand for use at the Addiction studies Institute and other events. **Passed w/ 62 "YES" Votes, 6 "NO" Votes, and 1 "Abstention".**

**2012 #3** – Align AFG of Ohio's mailing addresses with that of the World Service Office. That is mail will go to the CMA instead of the GR. AWSC and DR's will still receive mailings as before. **Passed w/ 65 "YES" Votes, and 4 "Abstentions"**

(Note: In the above motion, CMA means Current mailing address, GR means Group Representative, AWSC means Area World Service Committee, and DR means District Representative.)

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**June 29th - July 1st 2012-Ohio Area Convention-Mt. Union College Alliance, Ohio**

**July 27-29th, 2012- KOMIAC @ Baldwin Wallace College**

**August 11th, 2012- Area World Service Committee Meeting(AWSC)- North Congregational UCC. Bring a peanut free lunch or snack. Meeting begins at 12:30 pm**

**October 20-21, 2012-Ohio Area Assembly(2 day fall)Hosted by Districts of Dayton.**

**July, 2013- Al-Anon International Convention w/AA participation- Vancouver, British Columbia**

At 5:15 Sandy asked for a motion to adjourn our meeting. Kathy M. voted to adjourn and Louise W. seconded it.

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

Respectfully submitted by, Merri G.

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**Ohio Area Assembly  
Emergency Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2012**

**CHAIRMAN:** Sandy F.

The meeting opened at 12:30 with the Serenity Prayer, Traditions and Concepts

There were 33 people in attendance and 25 GR's

An emergency meeting was called due to the resignation of Steve F. as Delegate for Panel 52.

Sandy reviewed goals and etiquette. Sandy asked us to stand and introduce ourselves since we were a small group. Knowledge Based Decision Making and Voting Procedures were then reviewed.

Rex M. submitted his Profile sheet and read it. He was elected.

With the election of Rex M. as the Delegate, the position of Public Outreach Coordinator is open.

Sandy will appoint a temporary person to handle this position until an election can be held at the Spring Assembly on May 19, 2012.

Eleanor T. has been appointed to be the Registration Committee Chairman.

Sheila M. has stepped down as the Review Committee Chairman due to work requirements.

Ohio Area Convention up-date: No one was in attendance to give an up-date. Sandy will request a flier be sent to Ginny C. for inclusion in the next edition of Al-A-Notes.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 17, 2012 - 12:30 p.m. Spring AWSC

April 15-19, 2012 – World Service Conference ( Delegate Attends) Stamford, CT

May 19, 2012 – Spring Assembly 10:00 a.m. New GR orientation, 11:00 a.m. Action Committee, Columbus, Ohio

August 11, 2012 – 12:30 p.m. Fall AWSC, Columbus, Ohio

October 20-21, 2012 – Two Day Fall Assembly, Districts of Dayton

Sandy asked for a motion to adjourn our meeting. XXXXX made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

We closed with the Al-Anon Declaration: **Let It Begin with Me**

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

**Respectfully submitted, Karen McK**