

**OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 8-9-2011**

Opening-

The meeting was opened with the reading of the Traditions by Steve A and the reading of the Concepts and Warranties by Barbara M. Barbara thanked Eric who graciously filled in for Mike K. operating our electronic equipment for the weekend.

CHAIRMAN: Barbara W

My gratitude to all who gave their weekend to serve AFG of Ohio. And there are those of you serving behind the scenes, clicking information forward to members, guiding others in service, shining our bright light of hope - thank you!

Below are the highlights of our assembly. Full reports will be sent to Group Representatives and AWSOC members in the minutes. We had two guests attending our assembly: Leslie N., Panel 47 Delegate from Washington (who previously served as our Secretary) and Evan J., who previously served as Chair of Minnesota South and now resides in Wisconsin. Evan contacted me, saying she would be in Ohio and wanted to attend our assembly and observe Knowledge Based Decision Making, an Informed Group Conscience in action. Our assembly gave these members a very warm welcome.

During the elections, members shared at the mic gratitude for successes achieved these past three years. Members shared their gratitude for the harmony and unity achieved through KBDM, the use of Thought, Task and Work Forces, the passing of background checks and the procedure for AI-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) and the strides we have made in the use of technology with our projector and email. One of our guests suggested members submit the gratitude sharings to the current Chair (me - Barbara W.). I will edit these and submit to WSO for consideration to be published in Area Highlights or the Forum.

The Action Committees met Saturday evening after the banquet and reported back on Sunday morning. The Fellowship Communications Action Committee performed a skit on KBDM. I am attaching that skit for your use.

Our weekend was one of gratitude. Outgoing officers, coordinators and standing committee chair people expressed their gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve AFG of Ohio. Here are the officers and coordinators for Panel 52 (serving Jan. 1, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2014).

Delegate: Steve F-Panel _____
Alternate Delegate: Ginny C.
Chairman: Sandra F. _____
Secretary: Karen _____
Treasurer: Theresa M. _____
Alateen: Rose R. _____
Archives: Caroline D. _____
Forum: Sharon B. _____
Group Records: Phillip H. _____
Literature: Shirley _____
Public Outreach: Rex M _____
Audit & Review Committee: Sheila M. _____
Budget Committee: Robin R.-
By-Laws & Handbook: Barbara W. _____
Compliance & AI-Anon/Alateen Area Process Person – Janice R. _____
Webmaster: - Michael K. _____
Registration- If you would like to volunteer for this position, please contact Sandy F

And now, let the transition begin. Stand up and applaud! A sentiment borrowed from one of our co-founders, Lois W., "we're not applauding any one person, we are applauding AI-Anon."

Introduction by Districts:

2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,15,16,23,24,25,26,27,28,31,32,33,34,38,39,45,47,48,51, and 57

SECRETARY'S REPORT- Merri G

Rose M approved the minutes and Tony B seconded it. I want to thank Assembly for trusting me with this position. Although no one wanted the job, I still had to be voted in which was unanimous (the best position to be in from my stand point). It makes me feel AI-Anon proud that I finished my commitment even when the going got rough. I could not have done it without the support of many of you, so thank you all!

TREASURER REPORT- Robin R

Balance as of 12-31-10 \$35031.22
Income after 12-31-10 was \$12823.87
Expense after 12-31-10 was \$-10411.16
Balance as of 10-1-11 is \$37443.93

Please submit any receipts for reimbursement as soon as possible so I can close out the books for 2011 and prepare for the transition to the incoming treasurer, Theresa M.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE/NEWS LETTER: Janice R

One of my duties as Alternate Delegate is to publish the Newsletter, Ohio Al-A-Notes. Every Group Representative and member of the AWSC receives a free copy. Group.Reps I hope you are sharing this copy with your group. If you did not receive a copy of the last edition, please see the Group Records Coordinator and check and see who is getting the mail for your group. I get my labels from her. If you have an individual subscription and you did not get the last one please see me sometime before you leave. I do the labels for the individual subscriptions. I receive exchange copies of newsletters from other states throughout the country. Since the Spring Assembly, I have set up seven more areas to receive our Al-A-Notes, bringing the total exchanging newsletters with us to thirty-four. It is fun and helpful to see what is being done in other areas. I brought copies with me for you to take and read. I do not want them back.

We have been talking for some time now about what abundant resources we may have. While struggling with what topic to use for the next edition of Al-A-Notes, I read in the WSC Summary where the question was asked, "What spiritual benefits do I receive when I give of my resources"? So the light bulb went off and I thought what a great topic. So I would like the coordinators, committee chairmen and officers to share on "What spiritual benefits have you received by using your abundant resources, time and talents. I will email this topic to the AWSC members within the next week. The deadline will be Nov. 11, 2011 (11/11/11) I am shooting to have them ready to be printed by the end of November.

In July I took up residence at Sandy's house and we worked on putting together the Application Packet for Al-Anon members involved in Alateen Service that will be voted on here today. We put in a long couple of days but had a lot fun along the way. Prior to going to Sandy's we had communicated by phone and email for quite some time. But there is only so much you can do that way and we needed to get together.

In August Sandy and I attended the Addiction Study in Columbus. I'll talk more about that when the Public Outreach Committee report is given

At this time I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity of being your Alternate Delegate. It has truly been an honor and a privilege. Your cooperation and understanding has been a blessing. My health hasn't been the best these last three years but you understood and you cared. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have been around these rooms for many years and with help from my Higher Power I hope to be around to help in some small way, whatever that may be.

DELEGATE'S REPORT- Sandra F

There are some things to tell you about. Some items are from the 2011 World Service Conference other items are information for you to take back to your group and include in your report over the next few weeks.

A report was given about the IAGSM. This was the 15th Bi-Annual International Al-Anon General Service Meeting where 34 members were present representing 14 service structures from around the world. The theme was "Many Structures, Many Voices, One Purpose." The meeting itself is very similar to our World Service Conference. Every fourth year this meeting is in the US. The meeting will be in South Africa in 2012. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees represents our conference structure, the US and Canada, at the IAGSM.

International guests, Rosa A, from New Zealand, and Maria Evangeline, from Mexico, shared a bit about themselves and their service structure. How amazing it was to get to know them better and see firsthand how Al-Anon Family Groups is connected around the world.

A report was given about the trip to Northern Europe and contact made with service structures in that region of the world. A trustee and the Associate Director of Member Services -International shared their photographs and stories about these service structures. Once again I felt connected to Al-Anon Family Groups around the world.

During the week, skills workshops were held. Delegates were able to participate in two of the three sessions offered. I chose to attend Communication---Active Listening and Communication---Presentation and Reporting Skills. These workshops were designed to help Delegates with giving reports and listening to member's concerns in their own Areas.

Two topics discussed were chosen by the Delegates. The first of these topics was about technology. After the topic was introduced, there was a lot of discussion. A question I heard which could extend the conversation on technology was: keeping our principles in mind how can Al-Anon make the best use of technology while maintaining all of meaningful aspects which made Al-Anon effective? I heard it said technology is a way to keep in contact with remote groups. I also heard, "It would be nice to develop an APP to assist in finding meetings". One other thing I heard about technology is many members do not even know one thing about

technology and are a little afraid to use technology. Not knowing how to use technology is one thing, but having the willingness to learn how to use technology is also important Willingness!!! Where have I heard that before? During this discussion it was strongly suggested that all members in service have e-mail accessibility. If they do not have a personal account, having a reliable, e-mail buddy is highly, even strongly recommended because more and more information is being sent electronically and not through the USPS now. The second topic had to do with diversity, addressing diverse populations, and undocumented immigrants. Diversity has been discussed during a few past World Service Conferences. However, undocumented immigrants were added to the discussion. One point I remember from the discussion is: Areas need to develop and implement a plan for their location in regards to reaching out to minority populations.

We had a speaker come from outside the fellowship and give a presentation. The topic was "*Cultural and Linguistic Competence*" *A Strategy Towards Diversity and Inclusion*" Through the exercises done during the talk I have a greater understanding of cultural factor that influence diversity. I refer you to page 32-33 of the 2011 Conference summary for more information about this topic.

The Annual Report and the Audit Report were received and approved. The Budget **was** presented. A discussion about the budget was held. Approval was given to the annual budget. During the week, the ways our contributions are used were presented in the form of short skits called Vignettes. It was mentioned that each group needs to continue sending contributions to WSO so services to groups can continue. Groups receive services whether they send contributions or not. Plea letter contributions go to public outreach and not to operations.

Members have asked what the difference between AFG and AFG, Inc. is. Let's see if I can explain it through my understanding. AFG, Inc is Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. and is the organization. The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for AFG, Inc, and exists in the eyes of the law. It has tax exempt status. It is the legal arm and protects our logo, copyrights, and trademarks. It conducts the business of Al-Anon. It has the By-laws of the corporation, which can be amended by the Trustees and it has a governance document. It recognizes the World Service Conference as the ultimate traditional authority. --- Al-Anon Family Groups, the fellowship, does not exist in the eyes of the law nor does it have tax exempt status. It is the traditional arm providing meetings and a service structure. It provides support for individual members. It has a governance document, the World Service Conference Charter, which can be amended by the World Service Conference. It recognizes the Board of Trustees as the chief service arm of the Conference.

During the week we attended the open Policy Meeting. The discussion was about dual members and how they can be in service. This discussion cannot be found in the Conference Summary. Policy Meetings are not a part of the Conference but Conference members are invited to attend the open meeting. Questions were asked and answered in the Knowledge Based Decision Making format. While information was shared more questions came up. More discussion will be held on the topic of dual members and service. I encourage all of you to look at the Policy Up-Date posted quarterly on the members' website. www.al-anon.org/members

TEAM events have begun. TEAM is Together Empowering Al-Anon Members. Areas reported about how their TEAM event had more interaction between attendees, how the event linked their service work and recovery, and the events leadership was shared between WSO staff/volunteers and the host committee. The reports told how members attending the event felt more connected to the presenters. TEAM events can be part of another event or can be a stand-alone event. The topics for the workshops, talks, etc. are geared to what the host committee would like but would include three sessions which have been determined ahead time which are presented at each TEAM event. A question I have for AFG of Ohio, when would be a good time for us to have a TEAM event?

Let's look for a moment at the Concepts of Service. They are on page 19 in your Service Manual and in a section explaining the Concepts of Service which begins on page 171. In Concept six, seven, and eight the Board of Trustees is mentioned. As stated on page 63, The Board of Trustees is the legal entity responsible for administration of Al-Anon funds and services. Explanation of what the Board of Trustees does begin on page 129. Ohio is in the North Central Region of the United States and will be electing a Regional Trustee in 2012. The process for electing Regional Trustees was adopted in 2010 and is described in the 2010 World Service Conference Summary (p.26-28). Persons interested in becoming a Trustee ~~can~~ obtain resume forms from the Area Delegate. A candidate's resume must be presented to the Area for approval before the August 15 filing deadline in the year in which they are applying.

Thought and Task Forces gave presentations during the week. The Thought and Task Force presentations are included in this year's conference summary. (Pages 42 -60) The topics covered by these groups may continue in future discussions. The Thought Force I will mention was titled "Thought Force to Support Areas in Dealing with Groups Whose Activities Fail to Consider Al-Anon or Alateen as a Whole".

For example, groups who are not registered, high pressure groups, groups who talk about the book called Alcoholics Anonymous (AA "Big book"), outside literature groups, etc. Six strategies for dealing with such groups were given. Members were asked to which strategy they liked, disliked, and were there additional strategies. Personally I found the discussion to be interesting. You can find the complete discussion on pages 53-3 in the 2011 Conference Summary. I suspect the discussion will continue in the future.

At this year's Spring Assembly I talked about the "Do Not Refer" discussion which was held at the World Service Conference. I will not go into further detail about that discussions but I do want to refer all of you to this year World Service Conference Summary which includes the discussion from the floor. This discussion begins on page 35. This is the beginning of a conversation. Any up-dates can be found on the members' website (www.al-anon.org/members), click on inside WSO, then go to Board of Trustees and select Policy Up-Date. As I mentioned in the spring, Districts and Al-Anon Information Service Council locations are encouraged to develop a policy for their location in regards to not referring members to certain meetings. An Area policy is needed also.

My conference assignment for 2011 is being a member of the Literature Committee. The motion and discussion about the new piece of literature being developed can be found on page 78 of this year's Conference Summary. Our Literature Coordinator, Ginny will have more information about the new piece of literature.

Things you all can download from the member's website include *Group Inventory -Use of Conference Approved Literature (CAL)* -(S-62), *Joy of Service* (S-57), and *Links of Service* S-28. I encourage you to download a copy of these service pamphlets and take them to your home group for discussion. To find them go to the members' website, click on Publications and go to "other items to download". Guidelines can also be found on the members' website also and can be found under Group Services.

Podcasts are available on the members' website. When on the home page, click on "for Members and Groups". Topics include:

- How the group functions as a community
- Structure of the Al-Anon/Alateen fellowship
- The need for GR's and the GR duties
- How do I become a GR

A publication called *Area Highlights* can also be found on the members' website, click on Publications. A list of items available will pop up, click on *Area Highlights*. No Longer will groups have to wait for the District Representative to send them a copy. *Area Highlights* is compiled at our World Service Office and consists of articles and ideas on a variety of topics from around the US and Canada.

Taking a Group Inventory Guideline G- 8 has been revised and expanded into two parts, G-8a and G-8b. The Guideline G-8a was expanded to include additional question for all Al-Anon and Alateen groups, as well as a special section for Alateen and Alateen Sponsors. Guideline G8b includes methods for taking an inventory and a section for reflections as well as a list of additional resources for groups. This Guideline is now posted on the members' website under Group Services.

This is a note I received from WSO. "In the spring of this year, some Al-Anon groups were invited to share a message with their members presenting them with an opportunity to participate in a scientific research project that would study aspects of family recovery from the effects of alcoholism. Following the invitation, some members had questions about Al-Anon's policy of cooperating with -but not affiliating with--researchers."

Al-Anon has cooperated with professionals for over 60 years now. As stated in Tradition 11 our basic public relations policy has always been based on the distinction between attraction and promotion. A further explanation can be found in the *2010-2013 Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual* on Page 107.

Have you checked out the members' website recently? There are active blogs with pod-casts added each month to the Traditions blog. Other blogs are "For Member's and Groups", "Thinking Abundantly in", and the Concepts.

Speaking of the Members' website, everyone can find letters from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees along with Policy Updates and financial information by clicking on Inside the World Service Office (WSO) then going to Board of Trustees. I encourage all of you to read these letters.

Some of you have received an e-mail from WSO with a newsletter to groups. District Representatives and a few others in the Area also received this note for their information. Notes from time to time will be sent to groups via e mail. These notes will also be sent to DR's for their information. Plea letters will continue to be sent via USPS and will not be sent via e-mail, but notices about plea letters will be sent to DR's on e-communities.

My report this time has referred numerous times to the members' website and email. I highly, strongly, seriously recommend each of you have an e-mail account or a very reliable e-mail buddy. The address needs to have your anonymity protected. Like last names omitted but last initial is okay. More and more information is now being sent electronically and no longer through the USPS.

⁴¹¹¹ Can you picture yourself in Vancouver? Mark your calendar for July 5-7, 2013. A day of service is being planned for July 4th Registration and housing will be sent to groups in the fall of 2012.

I have one more question for everyone. What skills building topics would you like to see us cover next year? Ideas and suggestions can be given to me this weekend or e-mail to me and I will pass the information onto our next Area Chairman. Next year the World Service conference will be held in Stanford Conn. The theme will be, "Our Spiritual Journey -we get as we give." I send best wishes to all of you as you continue your spiritual journey.

I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to service as your Delegate on Panel 49. I am truly grateful for the all the encouragement, help, and enthusiasm given to me by each of you. I am honored to have served as your Delegate.

Friday of the 2011 World Service Conference was an emotional day. That evening, my Panel presented our skit. Our skit included things that had been accomplished during our three conferences as well as poking fun at ourselves. We ended the skit with a song. (Sing it here.)

Thank you for letting me share. As always, One Day At A Time Yours in service, Sandra F

COORDINATOR AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONVENTIONS

ALATEEN- Yvonne R

The 2012 KOMIAC will be held July 27th, 28th and 29th at Baldwin Wallace College in Cleveland. That is where Ohio hosted KOMIAC four years ago and they really welcomed us with open arms and a great time was had by all. We hope to have the same in 2012.

We really appreciate the assembly for helping us get to KOMIAC safe each year. Since next year is our turn to host KOMIAC, we will not be providing transportation. We only use transportation when it is in the other three states.

Our Fall Rally will be Saturday, October 15th in North Olmsted at John Knox Church.

I attended a luncheon at KOMIAC with other state coordinators and I learned that they all have training manuals for their sponsors. I am looking into establishing one for our sponsors.

I also was asked to attend a workshop in Dayton for the educators in that area. Mark from Dayton is affiliated with the school districts there and he has started Alateen in the schools, therefore he asked me to attend the workshop to answer any questions. It was a very informative meeting and it would be nice if we could get more Alateen meetings in schools.

It is election time again, and I will not be running again for coordinator, because I am a firm believer in rotation of service and I want to give the opportunity for someone else to grow in service like I did.

I want to thank my service sponsor and all the people that have helped me with this position. It has helped me grow in my program tremendously. I know we have new obstacles to cross but with our higher power we will get through this.

Alateen side note from our chairman Barbara W. in response to questions asked at assembly:

Questions arose about the determination of pass/fail for the AMIAS certification: The determination of pass/fail is the same as it has always been, as stated in the minimum safety requirements under #ID:

D. Not have been convicted of a felony, and not have been charged with child abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior, and not have demonstrated emotional problems which could result in harm to Alateen members.

Update by Steve A- Komiac 37 located at Adrian College in Adrian Michigan was well attended. Wisconsin brought one Alateen, Indiana brought 41, Kentucky brought 69, Michigan brought 70, and Ohio brought 110 teens for a grand total of 212 teens. There were 79 sponsors for a total of 291 for the weekend!

ARCHIVES- Sharon B

It has been my honor to be the Archive Coordinator for the State of Ohio for these last three years. Having precious items that have been passed on through the years in my home was scary at first, because I didn't want to damage anything or lose anything.

Whew, it all worked out and everything is intact, and in my house in Twinsburg. It is not a difficult service position, but it is rewarding, and I recommend it to someone wanting to get involved in service at the state level.

FORUM- Shirley M

The Forum subscription charts that I received from WSO for August show an increase of 18 subscriptions from May through August. YES!!! We are still a little below our goal of having two subscriptions for every group. We have 490 groups and 908 subscriptions, so we are only 72 from our goal. Please keep up the good work.

I have heard some comments from groups in my area about not receiving their Forums until almost the middle of the month. I just received a news item from WSO regarding this matter. They have determined that this appears to be a postal issue. The Forum has moved internal production deadlines up a week. The November issue and those to follow should arrive closer to the first of the month.

At this time I would like to express my gratitude for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Forum Coordinator for Ohio Area Assembly for the last three years. It has been a rewarding experience.

GROUP RECORDS- Judy A

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation during my term. I have learned a lot about myself, and how Al-Anon works at the state level. The books (records) are on the back table. Please make changes on the sheets provided. I will make all changes and updates, and meet with the new Groups Records Coordinator. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you for the last three years. .

LITERATURE- Ginny C

Ohio Area Literature Coordinator Report

I want to thank the Assembly for the opportunity to serve as your literature coordinator for the past three years. During that time, I have grown more familiar with the wide variety of books, pamphlets and other printed material that Al-Anon offers. Over the past three years, the job has changed to utilize online communications much more widely. In the first year, WSO developed the E- communities

as a way for coordinators to distribute skits and workshops that have been developed. Furthermore, WSO can easily distribute forms and updates to the coordinators through the E-communities. In the past year, via the E communities coordinators can post a comment regarding a discussion topic and that posts will then be distributed via e-mail to all coordinators. This allows for ongoing discussion of topics outside two conference calls a year. All of the above, I have participated in and have tried to develop and maintain an e-mail list of those interested in literature. Whenever a skit or workshop or forms becomes available, I often send them to those on this list. This list includes all the Ohio area intergroup offices.

As part of my duties as the literature coordinator, I have chaired the Fellowship Communications Action Committee. This has been a rewarding and a learning experience. We have had many good discussions; one of which resulted in a project for this weekend.

Recent literature news from WSO:

1. A workbook is being developed on the topic of intimacy which includes all kinds of closeness in relationships, not just sexual intimacy. A sharing sheet is available today through me. In November you can go to the WSO member site and there will be a form you can click on and electronically submit or download to distribute.

2. Please encourage members of your groups to purchase and read the new book, Many Voices. One Journey. This is not just a historical book, but also each section can be used for a topic in a meeting or to explore an issue personally. Knowing our past can help us make better decisions currently and in the future as well as not repeating mistakes. For example, each phrase in the opening of an Al-Anon meeting is rooted in our history and is there for a reason.

3. On the WSO member site one can continue to write about the legacies on the legacy blog. Just click on the words "legacy blog." These sharings will be assembled into a workbook. Currently, WSO is considering several different Al-Anon writers to assemble this.

4. Something I learned this week in a conference call with other literature coordinators across the country and Canada was that many literature coordinators sell literature at the assembly and have a budget to do this or provide the literature on consignment. Most have a considerably larger budget with which to either purchase literature to distribute or to bring workshops around the state or other projects. Providing workshops has been discussed by the Fellowship communications action committee in discussing what to do with surplus funds. These two issues could be addressed by the next literature coordinator.

Here's the latest update of literature news:

- Keep those sharings coming! The official designed version of the INTIMACY IN ALCOHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS (working title) sharing sheet is available online in a downloadable .pdf document at www.al-anon.org/members/pdf/intimacysharing.pdf. Members can also submit sharings on-line at the Members' site, www.al-anon.alateen.org/members under "Submit a Personal Sharing." We've received 41 sharings so far. Most are about sexual intimacy, and the vast majority are from women. Only one describes a same-sex relationship. Please encourage more members to share on the many types of intimacy, including sexual intimacy.
- Keep posting too! We are working hard on the development of the LEGACIES WORKBOOK (working title), but we can still use more sharings on how members use our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of Service in their personal lives. To be considered, members can post their sharings on any of the three Legacy blogs found on our Members' Web site (www.al-anon.org/members).
- Paying your gratitude forward: Please let members know that the purpose of printing the softcover edition of *How Al-Anon Works* (B-32) is to encourage abundant thinking and make it easier for members and groups to provide this book to newcomers.
- Talking to Each Other: Participants in our biannual conference calls express gratitude at the opportunity to communicate with each other during these calls. Others express disappointment that the calls have occurred when they were unavailable. The Discussion Boards on this e-Community provide all Literature Coordinators to share information and questions with each other every day of the year. Yet few have used this tool, and no one has posted anything for two months now. If you're not sure how the Discussion Boards work, please call Annette at 757-563-1600, ext. 1688, and she'll be happy to help.
- Writing about CAL: The "CAL Comer" feature in *The Forum* includes members' sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. November's articles concern *...In All Our Affairs* (B-15). In December the topic is CAL in general, and in January, members discuss *How Al-Anon Works*. Please draw members' attention to these articles and encourage them to send in sharings as well. There is a "CAL Comer" sharing sheet posted in this e-Community under the "CAL-Spreading the Word" subfolder.
- Next Sample Chapters: Each quarter we post a Sample Chapter for Conference Approved Literature on both the Public Outreach site, www.al-anon.alateen.org and the Members' site, www.al-anon.alateen.org/members. The Sample Chapter for October through December is *...In All Our Affairs* (B-15) and the topic is "From Denial to Awareness." The chapter for January through March is from *How Al-Anon Works* (B-22, B-32), and the topic is "What Do We Mean by 'Detachment with Love'?" The Sample Chapter on the Members' site also includes an opportunity to share on this topic, as well as quotations, meeting topics, a list of where to find this topic in other CAL, and discussion questions from this book that were submitted by groups and members.

PUBLIC OUTREACH-Sandy F.

It is exciting to be here today and tell you about information about Al-Anon that is now being posted on Twitter.com and Facebook.com.

The hope is these social media Web sites will help share Al-Anon's message of hope and recovery with as broad an audience as possible. On Facebook look for us as Al-Anon_WSO and on Twitter we are found as AlAnon_WSO. More information can be obtained from the District Representative in your District.

At the Addiction Studies Institute in August we played the DVD called "Al-Anon and Alateen's Role in Family Recovery". Attendees ask us for a copy. Janice and I referred them to their local Al-Anon office who are asked to have the DVD's available. These DVD's can be ordered from WSO at the cost of \$5.00 per copy. Groups can also order the DVD for use in their community. *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012's* second printing can now be ordered through February 8th. This publication is a key tool in public outreach not only to individuals but also to professionals in your location. I encourage all groups and individuals to distribute more copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*. Yes, individual can order copies them self to distribution. *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* is a tool for use for public outreach for all of you to use in your location. As I read this year's AFA, I noticed a sharing from a member in Ohio. Have you seen it?

Members can find ideas for Public Outreach in a publication called *Area Highlights*.

Beginning with the fall an edition, *Area Highlights* will be posted on the members' website and is available now for you to download. This issue has 10 articles about Public Outreach.

A volunteer opportunity to help with pod casts for the public outreach website is available now. Podcasts called "First Steps to Recovery" are being made. Your help might encourage prospective members to attend their first Al-Anon or Alateen meeting. To volunteer to help make one of these pod casts, contact Delores at 757-563-1600, Ext. 1662 or by e-mail at wso@al-anon.org Subject line ATIN: Delores. Be sure to include your name and telephone number.

The pamphlet *Are you in a CORRECTIONAL FACILITY?* -S83 is no longer available. It has been replaced with a Guideline titled *Services In Correctional Facilities* (G-14). Districts and Al-Anon Information Services are asked to have their local Public Outreach Coordinator contact local prisons and jails to see how we can be of service.

Recently I was flipping stations in my car and the seek button stopped on a local sports station. A station I do not normally listen to. As I was sitting at a stoplight and I heard words that sounded very familiar. I thought WOW!!!YEA!!! The station was airing one of the PSA distributed earlier this year by WSO. When I got home I wrote a letter to the station manager thanking the station for playing the PSA. I am asking you to writing the TV and radio stations in your location encouraging them to play the PSA's. Then send a letter thanking them when you hear one. (Play the one minute PSA here) For a list of stations in your location contact me and I will share the list of stations who received a copy of this year' PSA.

On the table today were copies of the Public Outreach bookmark. These bookmarks are for you to take to your home group for members to have to distribute in the community. Additional copies can be obtained from WSO and are free, but there is a shipping fee.

Are there any questions?

Janice has the report about The Addiction Studies Institute which was held August 17-19 in Columbus.

PUBLIC OUTREACH-ADDICTION STUDY HILIGHT - Janice R

On August 16th I again traveled to Dublin, OH and again took up residence at Sandy's House. We attended the Addiction Study at the Ohio State Medical Center, Talbot Hall in downtown Columbus on the 17th through the 19th from about 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The beautiful tablecloth that covered out table drew a lot of attention. Sandy had sewed the words "AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS" on it. This study was for professionals and we had literature geared towards them. We also had schedules from all the districts around Ohio and most of them and the literature were taken. I would say the majority of the professionals know about Al-Anon but were really happy to have literature that they could take and give to their clients. They were also to find out that Al-Anon would be going on Twitter and Facebook soon.

Several of the topics that were presented were "Understanding the family dynamics of addiction" and "Making use of spirituality in a recovery process" *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2111* was given to anyone who wanted it. It was quite popular.

Sandy was interviewed as an Al-Anon member for a radio broadcast called "Recovery Coast to Coast" These interviews are broadcast at 1:00 pm and is streamed on the internet. If you go to [Recovery Coast to Coast.com](http://RecoveryCoasttoCoast.com) you can listen to these broadcasts through your computer.

We, Ohio, would like to submit a proposal to be a presenter next year, 2012. Claire R. from WSO is willing to help with the proposal. States attending the Addiction Study were Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Minnesota, California, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona, Washington and Ohio

We came prepared for comfort. Instead of sitting on folding chairs all day we brought along lawn chairs and pillows. A continental breakfast and snacks were provided throughout the day so along with the lunch we brought with us we didn't go hungry.

I would like to participate again next year. I'm not as outgoing as Sandy is but if you are around her long enough it starts to rub off. If you are interested in attending and helping in the booth you will be more than welcome. So on Saturday August 20th I loaded up all my stuff and headed back to Walbridge. A big THANKS Sandy and her honey Steve for all their hospitality. I had a great time. We even made it to a few of the Buckeye shops.

BUDGET- Steve F

I am so thankful to assembly for allowing me to serve as your Budget Chairman. My duties are to make a budget based on the previous year donations. I did not do this alone. Members of the budget committee for the past three years are our delegate, Sandra F. Our chairman, Barbara W, Our Treasurer, Robin R, and two district Representatives, Kathryn M from Cleveland, and Allen D.

The current year has been an interesting year. Another portion of my position is to be involved in dispensing monies above the coordinator-officer, and other budgeted line item amounts. We as a committee must have done well as most items. (minus the meeting expense) are within budget. Please get your expenses in to Robin so she can close out this year's finances. The purpose of being punctual with expenses is so next year's budget committee can make well informed choices when making the budget. Thanks again to all the beautiful angels in Ohio AI-Anon that have shared with me. I love all of you!. Thank you for having the faith in me to serve as your delegate. I will try very hard to serve Ohio assembly well with the help of God and all of you Angels.

BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK-Barbara M- No Report

REVIEW AND AUDIT- Donna K

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the last six years as your Review and Audit Chairperson. I've made many friends who have helped me to grow and learn. Robin has done a wonderful job as our Treasurer, and the few questions that my committee had have been answered, and corrected if need be. The 2010 Convention is balanced. We are still working on the 2011 Convention due to scheduling difficulties.

One thing that would help the Treasurer and the new Review and Audit people would be to make sure that your District number and group number are on the check or money orders. We do not need area #44 since that is the entire state.

OHIO WEBSITE- Mike K

The highest hit page on the site is the Ohio AI-Anon Meeting List Directory, with Cleveland being the highest hit city for meeting information requests. Remote meeting locations ranked second, then Akron, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton in that order. This report shows a significant jump in interest for remote meeting locations compared to past reports.

Some projects in the works: Mobile tools for finding al-anon meetings and events, and Continuing design ideas to make our site more consistent with the new AI-Anon WSO site "look". Recent costs: Annual email spam filter subscription that covers all email accounts for trusted servants was renewed. Cost \$60. For a comprehensive web traffic report:

<http://69.90.236.54:8585/awstats/awstats.pl?config=ohioal-anon.org> Michael K (email: webmaster@ohioal-anon.org)

Coming soon- Mike will talk briefly to the Assembly about vulnerabilities to anonymity by people bringing in Smartphone's and Tablets into meetings

COMPLIANCE LIAISON AND AAPP- Rex M

It has been a pleasure to serve OAA as Compliance Liaison and Area Alateen Process Person for the past three years. I wish all success in years to come.

Some OAA renewals come due next year with the State of Ohio. Time to review legal documents, and see when they come do. I have had several requests for AMIAS numbers for Komiatic. Had AMIAS wanting to start meetings or submit forms to obtain ID numbers. They were unable to contact DR's in their districts. I would hope with background checks this will improve.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN- Phil.H

The registration count was 116 in attendance, with 38 new Group Representatives, 78 returning Group Representatives, and 96 voting members (GRs). 16 members paid for one day, and 80 members paid for two days. The alternate chair, Sheila M. did a wonderful job. Phil was at a wedding and was missed!

The winners for the drawing to receive \$200 towards the Ohio Area Convention were Pat D. and Carol S. (To be eligible for the drawing, an AWSC member must have attended three out of the four AWSC meetings, and Group Representatives must have attended two out of the three previous assembly meetings. (The winners do not qualify for another three years.)(pg. 17 of Handbook, 9-2011)

OIOO AREA CONVENTION AND 2-DAY FALL ADVISOR-Karen M

The Ohio Area Convention for 2012 will be the Districts of Youngstown. The 2012 Two Day Fall Assembly will be hosted by the Districts of Dayton. Hotel for the 2012 assembly is in Dayton. It will be at the Wyndham Gardens near the Dayton mall. It was previously a Holiday Inn, and is currently undergoing a complete renovation.

The dates are October 19-21st 2012. The room rate is \$88.00 good for 3 days prior to and after the assembly. The banquet will be in the \$25 to \$30 range. Complete information will be coming at a later date.

I want to thank all committee members for their hard work, and the wonderful service they have given to us. I tried very hard to answer all questions, and be as helpful as I could. The detailed reports that you have turned in are so appreciated, and will make the next committee's job much easier.

2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY AND CONVENTIONS

2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY-2011-Districts of Columbus-Cathy W.

The committee consisted of Sandy F, Eleanor T(hospitality), and Lorilee (Treasurer). Lorilee worked hard behind the scenes. She flew in from New York each weekend and collected the forms for meal choices, and made the spread sheet. She sends her regrets for not being able to be here, and total involvement with the committee due to her job. Audrey (out-going treasurer for Intergroup who was able to step in for Lorilee as needed. Three other individuals withdrew from the committee for various reasons. Attendance at the hotel on Friday was 6, and on Saturday it was 34. Attendance for banquet was 79. There was one no show for the banquet. I was able to pass this meal on to a GR whose small group was unable to pay for her dinner. This was one of many miracles I noticed throughout this experience as chair of the Two Day Fall Assembly. Thanks for allowing me to continue to grow in Al-Anon by doing service which is a major part of my program.

2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY- 2012-Districts of Dayton

OHIO AREA CONVENTION -2012- Districts of Youngstown-Beverly J

They are in the process of making calls to various locations, but a date has not yet been determined.

2011-OHIOSTATE AA SERVICE CONVENTION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION:-No report.

2012- OHIO STATE AA CONVENION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION-NO R E P O R T . ACTION COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH-Teresa M

1st we discussed how to attract minority's to our groups other than predominant white 53 age woman. We would like to get more Blacks, Hispanics, deaf, young (different ages), disabled and homebound. Many said that we need to be simply welcoming! It was also suggested to every day seek our higher power's wisdom asking, Where do you want me to go? Who do you want me to talk to, and what do you want me to say? One must be willing to act when the opportunity arises. Some suggested distributing AFA;s and old forum's. We talked about reaching remote areas. God with skin is very effective, and having enthusiasm is a plus. When you visit groups, offer resources, and offer to chair a meeting.

We also talked about the convention. Some felt that having a one day as opposed to a three day would be better. We also discussed the pros and cons of having the meeting in colleges as opposed to having them in hotels. Additionally, we discussed asking assembly, to consider changing the handbook to put an option to allow for a one day convention.

PUBLIC OUTREACH-Marissa D

1st, we discussed encouraging home groups to use the public outreach bookmark for additional public outreach in our cities and towns. Secondly, we discussed asking local TV and radio stations to air the PSA, and sending letters of thanks. Lastly, we discussed the addiction studies institute for the 3rd time. We recommended putting together a task force to further investigate participation in the addiction studies institute in Columbus in August.

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING SKIT

Scene One

Setting: At.Anon business meeting

Characters: Annie Monus, Chairperson, Objecting Stella, Stella's Sidekick, Sally Sidetrack, Fred UP (Someone hold up a sign reading BEFORE KBDM)

Chairperson: Let's have a business meeting.

Annie Monus: I would like to make a motion to add something after the Lord's prayer. The motion is to add "Ring around the Rosie" to the end.

The group: You mean like this?

(They do the "Ring around the Rosie" for one verse)

Objecting Stella: Wait a minute. I don't like changing things. Why should we change things? We have always just ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Stella's Sidekick: Yeah, you people always want to make things different. Can't you accept things the way they are?

Sally Sidetrack : Well, I don't like "Ring Around the Rosie." I make a motion to sing and dance the "Hokey Pokey" after the Lord's Prayer.

The group: Like this? (They dance and sing "Hokey Pokey" for one verse)

Fred Up: You people are crazy, I'm leaving. (Leaves the meeting)

Chairperson: Hold on, everybody, we still haven't voted on the first motion!

Scene Two:

Characters: Chairperson, Reasonable Ralph, Informed Ingrid, Agreeable Annie (Someone holds up a sign reading "after KBDM")

Chairperson:

Let's have a business meeting. This time I would like to try a new way of making decisions called knowledge based decision making. I learned it at the assembly. Here's a copy of the knowledge-based decision making form. (Group members take turns reading the form out loud)

(If available, show form on screen)

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING FORM

Topic: Adding Ring Around the Rosey Background information -What we know Historical perspective

Some say it was a story set to song to describe the Black Plague. Others say it was first printed in 1880's. Existing motions that pertain to this topic

Previously, the group voted to have the Lord's Prayer at the end.

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

The group tends to say something informally at the end that puts us in a good mood. What are the implications of our choices?

Pros

Singing Ring around the Rosie would help us learn how to have fun. Cons

1. Someone may hurt themselves.

2. Some people may be self-conscious and stopped coming to the meeting as a result.

3. Some members may not be able to dance around in a circle and fall down.

4. Ring around the Rosie has nothing to do with Al-Anon recovery What we wish we knew, but don't:

How many members would stop coming because they are embarrassed or unable to dance the Ring around the Rosie. Questions and

Clarification -no timing or microphone limitations

Need for motion? If so, use motion form provided by Chair Presented by: Ginny Clark

Reasonable Ralph: Gee, in looking at this form, it seems there are more cons than pros. Informed Ingrid: I move to table this idea for now.

Agreeable Annie: I second that.

Chairperson: All in favor? The group: Aye!

GROUP SERVICES-Barbara C

We discussed using a Service Workshop "Road Show" as an additional recovery tool on the group level. How to get people interested in service was discussed. Sharon F offered to provide the information used in the Toledo area to be shared at the Spring Assembly.

This is a 5 minute workshop to let people know about service on the district level and the time involved to follow through. We also discussed designating one person to head up the workshop. The next step is to follow up down the road. We also decided to let new Alateen Coordinator consider the possibility of putting together an Alateen Sponsor training manual.

DISTRICTIDGHLIGBTS

Meeting Hop was introduced by Sandy F. and implemented at assembly as small group discussions while ballots were being counted for the election. Example topics for discussion: 1, What have I learned about myself after working the Traditions?, 2, How do I apply Tradition 11 in my daily life. Does this Tradition include the Internet? ("Our public relations is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films and TV. We need guard with special the anonymity of all AA members")3, In your personal life, how do you place principles above personalities?4, How is my home group autonomous, but yet we keep in mind Al-Anon/Alateen as a whole.

Thought Forces Electronic vs Postal Communication on minutes-Mike K-Chair-No report

The Reserve Fund -Cecelia S-Chair.-No report

Alateen Transitioning to Al-Anon (from Komiac) & the AMIAS Certification Procedure.-Sandy F and Janice R.

Motion 2011-04—We move that the Application packet for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service be approved and included in the Handbook for General and Committee Working Procedures

Sandy and Janice opened up the floor giving members a chance to ask questions or make comments concerning the Alateen packet that was mailed to every registered member of assembly. Some had questions on who was going to pay for the background checks. Each sponsor will need to submit an expense report first to their district, and if there is not money, then they would need to submit one to the Assembly for reimbursement. Some members felt we were already in compliance, and others stated that even though someone has had a background check, it does not ensure that they are not harmful to children. Some sexual predators have not been charged or convicted which is why some felt that breaking their anonymity in order to obtain a background check was not within the Al-Anon principles. Some felt we should table the discussion, but the 2/3 vote taken at the end of the discussion approved the motion as read. Sandy F. explained that Alateen Sponsors must register every year, but background checks only have to be done once every five years.

Although, there were conflicting viewpoints on both sides, the Knowledge Based Decision Making process kept the discussion respectful.

Alateen side note from our chairman Barbara W. in response to questions asked at assembly: Questions arose about the determination of pass/fail for the AMIAS certification.

The determination of pass/fail is the same as it has always been, as stated in the minimum safety requirements under #10:

D. Not have been convicted of a felony, and not have been charged with child abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior, and not have demonstrated emotional problems which could result in harm to Alateen members.

TASK FORCES

Two Task Forces arose from requests by Action Committees and chairs were appointed. Members interested in serving on these Task Forces should contact the Task Force Chair. The Task Force from Public Outreach Action Committee will explore our future participation in the Addiction Studies Institute annual event held at the Convention Center in Columbus. The co-chairs for this Task Force are: Marissa D. , and Cindy T. If you need their phone numbers, please call me at (937) 422-4180.

A Task Force from the Membership Outreach Action Committee will explore the current Handbook/By-Laws documentation for the Ohio Area Convention and offer possible changes for consideration. Barbara Mel. was appointed the Chair _____

NEW BUSINESS

For those attending this 2-day assembly, please submit an evaluation form. This is available on our Ohio website or click on this link: Leslie from Wisconsin thanked our assembly for welcoming her. She was impressed with the knowledge based decision making process that we have in Ohio rather than the motion madness that existed when she was secretary in Ohio years ago. For those of you who knew and loved Sue K., she passed away.

Please visit the website below and fill out the survey. This will help our trusted servants in planning for future assemblies.

<http://www.ohioal-anon.org/fall2011survey.htm>

Motions

Motion 2011-04 - We move that the Application packet for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service be approved and included in the Handbook for General and Committee Working Procedures.(Motion 2011-04 passed with substantial unanimity (2/3rd vote):)

DATES TO REMEMBER

The below dates have been reserved for Komiatic planning:

KOMIAC planning dates are as follows and all meetings are @ Noon - 4PM/Sundays @ Bainbridge Recovery Club, 8231 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022:

Jan 15th, 2012, Feb. 26th, 2012, March 18th, 2012, April 15th 2012, May 6th 2012, and June 3rd 2012.

The following meetings will be @ Baldwin Wallace College: June 24 2012, July 8th, 2012, and July 15th 2012.

We will plan on arrival @ Baldwin Wallace on 7/26/12 with KOMIAC to take place on 7/27 - 7/29/12

If you have any questions, please contact Rose R, our newly elected Alateen Coordinator, at

Here is the meeting schedule for 2012:

March 10th, 2012-Alateen workshop @ Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd., Columbus, OH 43229

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

March 23-25 - Regional Delegate Meeting (Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Past Delegates attend) - Minneapolis, MN.

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

April 21, 2012 - Spring Rally @ Ascension Lutheran Church - hosted by the Toledo and surrounding area Alateens

May 19th 2012-Spring Assembly -Action Committees meet at 11 a.m., Columbus, Ohio August 11th 2012-

Fall AWSC – 12:30 p.m. Columbus, Ohio

October 13th 2012-The tentative date for the Fall Rally providing we can get a place on that date. We're looking @ an alternative place w/ Gary

October 20-21, 2012-Fall Assembly -Districts of Dayton

Kathryn M made a motion to adjourn and Rose R 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, Merri G. Secretary