

Ohio Area Assembly Meeting Minutes
AFG of Ohio May 18, 2013

Meeting started at 12:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer and our Statement of Purpose. Chairperson, Sandra F welcomed everyone to the Spring Assembly Meeting.

The Traditions were read by Sharon F, the Concepts of Service were read by Susan W, and the General Warranties were read by Rose R.

Sandy F went over goals, meeting etiquette, voting procedure & KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making). 25 districts were represented. We welcomed 14 new Group Representatives.

Secretary, Karen McK - Sandy asked for any objections or corrections to the 2013 Two Day Fall Assembly minutes. No addition or corrections were made. Carol R moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Louise W seconded the motion. Motion Carried. By consensus of opinion, the minutes will be posted on the Area's website.

Treasurer, Robin R, Interim Treasurer- Caroline S made a motion to accept the financial report for 2012. Phil H seconded the motion. It was approved.

Alternate Delegate and AI-A-Notes Editor, Ginny C - Time sure flies in between Fall Assembly and Spring Assembly. Two issues of the AI-A-Notes have been sent out. Please be sure to bring the AI-A-Notes to your group and encourage them to read them. In the printing of the last issue, I have become aware of incorrect information on the contact's page and it will be up-dated in the next issue of the AI-A-Notes. The process was much streamlined this last printing due to the printer doing half the folding and putting the inserts inside. Thanks to the Hudson Saturday Serenity Group another large part of the process was done in just an hour.

Just would like to bring your attention to writing by Sharon B. that was published in the Winter 2012 Area Highlights on page 4. See the Member's Website.

In March, Rex, Sandy and I piled into my van for a nine hour trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the North Central Regional Delegates Meeting. Now some of the faces and names are beginning to become familiar. Everyone was friendly and helpful. After I found out the Alternate Delegate for another area will be fining in for the Delegate, I became a little nervous and took profuse notes on what it means to be a delegate. They even demonstrated how to vote electronically with a simulated controller wrapped around a mini candy bar. They reviewed the structure of the World Service Conference and introduced the Panel 53 Delegates.

We brainstormed on a topic as a practice for the World Service Conference Chosen Agenda Items (CAI). I was in a group that discussed how can we get districts, without DR's and few GR's, to become re-involved in participating in Assemblies and AWSC. I came away with many great ideas that I hope to be able to implement in the next year.

Next year Ohio will be sponsoring the North Central Regional Delegates meeting. The meeting will be held at the Columbus Airport Marriott the weekend of March 14-16, 2014. All officers and coordinators will be encouraged to come and attend as well as past delegates.

Three Trustees at Large will be chosen this year. Resumes need to be submitted to WSO by August 15, 2013. AI-Anon members are encouraged to complete the Unlimited Abundant Resources Skill Inventory found on the member's site.

Delegate, Rex M. -

Trustee Invite to 2 Day Fall Assembly. While going to NCRDM In Milwaukee it was talked about inviting a Trustee to Ohio 2 Day Fall Assembly. Your Delegate sent request to World Service Office. Good news, WSO sent approval of Trustee from Atlanta, Ga. to attend our Assembly. Ginny C., Sandy F., and I were on the trip.

Letter to Read to Assembly: I received a letter from Connecticut. To share with our Area thanking us for letters sent from Ohio.

Travel to Virginia Beach started at 4:00AM April 13, 2013 heading to Akron /Canton airport to board flight to Charlotte, NC, then to Norfolk, Virginia. Shuttle took us to Virginia Beach. Walking to shuttle I saw Jo Etta and Patrick. Just great seeing them. Weather was great.

Saturday we were pretty much on our own. Getting unpacked and settled in. Dinner with other Delegates and WSO officers. Tired!! Lot of talk with other Delegates as they arrived

Sunday, April 14, 2013

Registration started at 8 AM. We picked up our notebooks and signed in. Orientation Meeting next. Introduced the Leadership Team.

Then we attended Task /thought Forces. I was on the Literature Committee. Looking forward to working on Literature.

Sharing Area Highlights: Introduce yourself and share a minute of Highlights from your Area. Started with writing highlights of 300 words then reducing to about 100 words. When speaking it was to take one minute.

Opening Dinner: Sunday Conference Opened. Then we had a speaker that works at WSO. I have known Mary Lou for quite a few years. She has been very helpful when I have had questions and requested help.

Monday, April 15, 2013

7:00 AM Panel Pictures taken.

General Session: Delegates and others have assigned seats. We have a seating motion, Roll call, and Orientation.

Voting Procedures were presented. Electronic used or simple raise of hands.

Policy Discussion-Anonymity

Conference Goals:

1. The Spiritual Tone of the Conference will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct as it's members presumes goodwill.
2. Conference members will understand the purpose of the conference and relationship within the structure.
 - a. Make decisions of Al-Anon.
 - b. Equal, in agreement as much as possible. Info back to Area's.
3. Knowing our higher power is present in the expression of our group conscience. Conference members will be able to support and communicate Conference decisions.

Dual members: Members of Al-Anon also members of AA. AA and Al-Anon differs

-Primary purpose

-Tradition 5

-Focus

Conflict of Interest

-Adherence Tradition 4

Retention of newcomers and experienced Al-Anon members.

Develop Newcomer packet.

Page 38 Service Manual.

Tuesday: April 16, 2013

Announcements, Voting Procedures, and Agenda Highlights.

Policy Discussion-Public Relations

1. Motion was made,,seconded, and unanimously carried to amend
The text on pages I07-109 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, "Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies,"
'Public Relations becomes Public Outreach. These and other changes will be in new Service Manual. The
section on Anonymity writing to be changed.
2. Full Pay VS Equalized Expense. This is payment for WSC. Concern is some
Area's may not be able to afford WSC in future. WSO pays out \$252 per group.
3. Literature changes. 2012 Summary – amended By-Laws to be added to 2013
Summary. How Al-Anon works to be offered e-book in three languages for \$11.99.
Digital only How Al-Anon Works (no cd) for \$24.99
4. Alateen online Group Records-password protected, can run report, read
only. Delegate can open and change.

Wednesday: April 17,2013

Alateen Love Gifts: Wrist bands with KOMIAC on them and Lanyards that Rose gave to me to take to
World Service Conference. All gone within one day. Plus other love gifts from Ohio.

Concern: Literature sales have dropped off. Forum sales down. Donations have slowed. Increased prices
on some literature.

PSA-1 received a copy of TV PSA Titled "Portraits III" We can view the
PSA and see what it is like. It is available from Customer Service at
WSO.

Anonymity: Changed writings in Service Manual. Many motions made
And voted on .

New Book to be released at International. The Legacies workbook, Reaching for Personal Freedom-Living
the Legacies on track to be
Ready at International. Another book "Intimacy" still in works. Need
More writings from males.

Thursday: April 18,2013

Friday: April 19,2013

Breakfast @ 7 am

Board meeting.

Packed bags to depart. Shuttle at 12:30

Norfolk Airport Flight ended up delayed and then cancelled.

Due to weather in Charlotte. Had to find motel for night.

Saturday : April 20,2013

Shuttle to Norfolk Airport. Check with US Airways for standby and able to get two. I got into Akron /
Canton day late.

A letter from Connecticut was read. The Al-Anon groups there thanked us for supporting them during
Hurricane Sandy .

There have been policy changes on pages I07 & 109 of the Service Manual. They will be posted on the
members website.

Rex M -Delegate -Panel 52- Ohio

We had a special report by Natasha A, the 2013 Alateen State Representative from Ohio. Alateen 2013 State Representative - Hi, my name is Natasha. After being in Alateen for 2 years I was finally eligible to go to KOMIAC – the Kentucky Ohio Michigan Indiana Alateen Conference. My first KOMIAC was in Ohio and even at the age of 12 I was eager to help put on a phenomenal conference. At that time I helped with the registration committee. Last year, my 5th KOMIAC, I had officially gone full circle and attended KOMIAC in every state. KOMIAC was being held in Ohio again, and I was elected chairman. During the 2012 KOMIAC I was elected by fellow Alateens as the 2013 Alateen State Representative for Ohio.

As state representative it is my duty to represent what the Alateen program is about and what it has to offer. Essentially I do this by speaking at meetings, area events, possible anniversaries, and Al-Anon conferences. It is also my job to represent the state of Ohio in emergency board meetings at KOMIAC, even if KOMIAC is being hosted by another state. For example, the state that is hosting KOMIAC has an elected board for the conference, but Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana also each have an elected representative that is involved in decision making for any emergency – whether that's a violation of the mob rules, misconduct from teens or sponsors, or any other emergency situation.

Alateen provides so many opportunities to help teens affected by alcoholism get the help we need, but we cannot do this without the support of Al-Anon. The best way Al-Anons can show your support for the Alateen program is by encouraging other Al-Anon members to take their children to Alateen and help grow membership. In addition to encouraging more teens to become involved in the program, Al-Anons can show support by having teens speak at Al-Anon meetings, with helps teens share, and encourages adults to volunteer their time and service. Adults can also get involved by providing provisions, financial help, and becoming sponsors. As an Alateen, I can assure you our sponsors are the most influential and helpful people in our lives, and I know there are always groups looking for more sponsors. If Alateen interests you in anyway, I truly encourage you to please get involved, whether that's through sponsorship or any other support method.

If there are any questions about Alateen or sponsorship I am more than happy to answer them. And again, please, if you can, get involved with the program that changed my life and the life of so many kids. Thank you for your time and the privilege to speak here today. Have a great day.

Report for 2013 Two Day Fall - Judi H, Chair for the upcoming Two-Day Fall assembly, reported that the hotel site is set. It will be at the Holiday Inn in Boardman. Flyers went out with the recent Al-A-Notes for the banquet registration.

Registration Committee- Eleanore T

Eleanor reported that a total of 78 people were in attendance. There were 62 voting members.

Budget Committee – Robin R

Robin read the presented the 2013 budget. After explanation and discussion, the budget was approved.

Treasurers Report - Robin R. Interim Treasurer

Bank Balance as of 12-31-12-	\$33,698.45
Income	3,650.77
Expense	-2,871.12
Book Balance 5-15-2013	34,478.10

Sharon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Fred S seconded it. The motion carried.

Election: Election for the open position of Public Outreach Coordinator was held. Marissa D was elected.

Thought / Task Force reports:

Non-Referral – Chairman- Susan W reported they have sent out requests to other areas that have adopted guidelines already, to see what they have done.

Remote workshops -Chairman- Carol R reported they are still working on defining "remote" locations. They already have the southeastern part of the state identified, but they are looking at other parts of the state where there are very few meetings.

Ohio Area Convention -Chairman - Buff N said they are reviewing the current guidelines as well as suggestions that have been made from past conventions.

Electronic / USPS- Chairman- Phil H said the response to the survey has not been as good as hoped. Initially, snail mail seems to be the preferred method. The committee handed out blank survey sheets to everyone that registered and is asking them to fill them out before they leave today.

Coordinator Reports:

Alateen Coordinator - Rose R

Dayton area has a new meeting that started from the Alateen meeting @ Fairmont High School. This was started with the help of Mark H. and a new Alateen Sponsor, Ana R. The meeting began on April 13th and will be on the 2nd and 4th Saturday's of each month @ 5 PM. The meeting got off to a good start and like most Alateen meetings it goes up and down until members get established. Mark states that several schools in the Dayton area have expressed an interest in Alateen meetings. Fairmont has been in existence for 3 years now and they have a practice of presenting Alateen members coins for their years in recovery. What a great idea! They have plans to take their first group of kids to KOMIAC and also want to express their gratitude to the MVIS (Miami Valley Information Service), AMIAS and Al-Anon members in Ohio for all your support!

The Toledo Alateens had their Spaghetti Dinner on May 3rd and we raised about \$1000! Everyone had a good time, the teens did a fantastic job on the leads and helping out. We are planning our annual Car Wash on June 15th to round off the funds for the KOMIAC trip. We plan on taking about 10-12 Alateens this year.

The Sponsor Workshop was held on March 2, 2013 and was attended by about 30 Sponsors. We had about 5 new incoming sponsors in the mix! We discussed the AMIAS forms and the proper way to fill them out and when to have them to our AAPP (Al-Anon/Alateen Process Person). We also talked about putting together some information for a KBDM regarding reimbursement for background checks and fingerprinting fees and costs for busses to KOMIAC this year.

Spring Rally was held on April 27, 2013 and hosted by the Cleveland area. It was a small turn out with about 40 Alateens and 10-15 Sponsors but we had a really great time. The ice breaker idea was a lot of fun and the Alateens that hosted put a lot of work into the workshop. Everyone that came enjoyed the day.

The Fall Rally will be held on October 12th, 2013 @ John Knox Church in N. Olmstead, OH. Toledo Alateens will be hosting this event.

KOMIAC is coming up and will be held at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, IN. Dates are July 26th, 27th and 28th. Ohio will be taking busses but I don't have any information yet as to the cost. The approximate figures I have are around \$9300. This includes 1-2 Vans if we need additional room. With the \$2000 from Assembly and monies on hand, we have about \$6300. We will be asking for donations and some fees from the Alateens if possible to help defray the costs. The cost per Alateen will be about \$125 + \$15 for t-shirts.

That leads me into the next item.....I have worked up a short plea letter for GR's to take back to your groups, if you wish, regarding donations for the Alateens. Please see me on break for a copy if you would like one.

As always, the sponsors and the Alateens appreciate your support. Remember to call a Sponsor from a group in your area and have the Alateens lead or do a panel at one of your meetings. It is a great way to help us get our message out to the Al-Anon members and most of the kids love to speak when asked.

Archives-Caroline S

I have investigated some better air and water tight storage for some of our materials for better protection. These items include paper items collected over the years from WSO (WCS), Alateen, Pamphlets, Pictures and albums and some CD's from conferences in Ohio. I have recently purchased these better quality storage for our Archives and made a new box just for some old Forums that I have found in my own collection and from area Ohio AFG group collections that have donated or cleaned house and given to Ohio Archives.

The limited storage we have had left has also made me clean house a bit and expunge some duplicate materials (OAA reports or Conf. binders) that are repeats. I have also been reluctant but considered pitching Financial data that is taking up space that is older than a decade. I would appreciate some guidance as to what IRS would expect in time frame for keeping such financials.

There are two rather hefty fire and waterproof storage boxes I have inherited that are still serving us well with Original books and media (one with keys and the other unlocked but w/o keys). The additional boxes I have invested in are a bit bigger and would not withstand fire but better accommodate some of the large binders from past OAC's and other materials that may not be so tragic to loose in a fire. I think the choice to move some of our paper archives, that someone may enjoy looking through, to these water tight boxes will help better preserve these materials in my own basement and perhaps the home of our future archivists. The cost of these containers was \$142.75.

I look forward to sharing any of our treasures with area group reps. at the spring and fall assembly and would be happy to share these items with any Ohio group that may want a presentation (if feasible) or would like to borrow items from our treasures. We are all owners of this wealth of history as members of Ohio AFG's and I hope group reps would consider preserving their own group History and Archives and periodically consider a manner of keeping record of anniversary fliers and any special notes or mementos that are special to a groups history.

Forum -Sharon B -presented by Ginny C

At this time I do not have a subscription report from WSO for the Forum magazine but hope that one will be published soon.

As I reported at the Fall Assembly 2012 several articles from the Forum are published online every month. The more that you access these articles and share them with others the better. It is also important that you continue to submit sharings to the Forum. That can include stories, photos, quotes and funny things that have happened.

It is up to us as Al-Anon members to keep the Forum around - through the sharings and subscriptions. Only \$11 for one year - get one for yourself, your Sponsee, your Sponsor and your friends.

Group Records Coordinator -Phil H

There are updated copies of the Area World Service Committee Roster (the green paper) on the Group Records table. This is your contact list for Area Officers, Coordinators, Committee Chairs, DR's and AIS's. Please be sure to pick one up. Also, on that table, you'll find (1) Groups sorted by Meeting City in the red notebook ; (2) Groups sorted by District in the white notebook; and (3) Groups sorted by WSO group number in the blue notebook. That information is for your reference and convenience.

The WSO introduced the new GR-1, Group Registration Change Form, last year. It's a "fillable" form, that is you can fill in the information from your computer, as well as by hand. Please use this form ONLY when you are sending in group information changes because it has the fields in the WSO database. Groups that

used to indicate life situations such as Men, Women, Parent, LGBT or Adult Children are asked to include that designation in the group name now. Meetings with a special format such as Step-study, literature, and Speaker meetings can include that in the format of the group name. More guidance on group names can be found in the Service Manual, pages 32-33 and 77-78.

Please keep in mind that when you change the CMA (Current Mailing Address, where all group mail is sent), it may take two or three months for that change to process through, especially for the Forum magazine. If you've sent in a change, and it hasn't occurred, please contact me and I can check that for you.

Speaking of sending in group change forms – who should these forms be sent to? They should be sent to:

- 1 – Your District Representative (DR), if there is one for your group;
- 2 – Your AI-Anon Information Service (Intergroup), if there is one for your group, or the webmaster for the web page with your groups meeting (each AIS/Intergroup has their own policy for processing changes – please check with them);
- 3 – Your Area Group Records Coordinator; and
- 4 – The World Service Organization.

All of us need that information. As a rule, when I get a change from a group – once I upload the information to WSO, I will send an updated copy of that information back to the AIS, the DR and the group person who submitted the change – PROVIDED that I have a valid email address.

There are *blank* GR-1 Change Forms on the back table, along with Instruction Sheets on how to fill out the form. On the back of the form, there are instructions on how to save it, if you're filling it out on your computer, so you can email it.

While we are talking about Group Change Forms, Alateen now has an electronic change form as well. Please keep in mind that the Alateen forms are for Alateen groups ONLY! Janice will talk more about the Alateen Group Change form.

Question for the GR's present -how many of your groups have sent in their AI-Anon Annual Update Form? How many GR's even know what I'm talking about? WSO mails an Annual Update Form to every group in October. The form is sent to the Group's CMA. Groups are asked to review the form, make any corrections if needed and mail the form back to the WSO. This is the way every group ensures that their information at WSO is correct. GR's -please check to see if your group sent in the Update. I can look the information up for you today.

GR's – the CMA for your group, if they have sent in a valid email address, should be receiving the E-Communities newsletter from WSO every month. Your group CMA will need to print that off and bring it to the meeting (and yes, if your CMA has to get it printed at the library, for example, then the group should reimburse the CMA for the expense). How many of you have seen this at your meeting?

In addition, every registered group receives a complimentary copy of the Forum magazine. It will be easy to identify because it will say "Group Copy" and it will have the Group's WSO number on it. Your CMA should be bringing ALL group mail to the group meeting. The Service Manual has a lot more information about the Group CMA's responsibilities. Remember -this is SERVICE!

District Reps – if you still are not able to access E-Communities, please contact Laurie at the WSO, 757-563-1600. She can help you obtain and/or reset your user name and password. All DR's can get group information for groups in their district with their e-communities user name and password. You can only "read" the information, not correct it – but it's there for you. Again, changes need to be sent in. Also DR's – if you are NOT receiving E-Community Updates in your e-mail, please let me know so I can have our Delegate update your information with WSO.

Now, what's in a name? The answer is: a lot, but only when you know what the name is. Confused? Let

me give you an example.

Let's say you're talking about the "Euclid Thursday Night" group – and you want to send in new information . You don't have the WSO number handy (for shame!) so in the group name, you put in "Euclid Thursday Night". Everything's great – right? NOPE -because when I go through the database to try to find the group, all I can find is "Euclid Tuesday AFG". Now, it's detective time for me. I'll probably email you to try to find out more information, but if you don't have an email listed on the Change form. Okay, I'll call you – oops, no phone number listed. Back to the database I go and start looking – there's no group listed in Euclid for Thursday night; and it's a nightmare to look up the group by street address unless I have the number. I may call the Intergroup for additional help. Eventually, I'll find the group, but it's not "Euclid Thursday Night" – it's "Attitude and Gratitude AFG" that meets at the Euclid Avenue Christian Church ...on Mayfield Road ...in Cleveland Heights ...on Thursday night !

When you're talking about your group, as far as updated information, or registration when you sign in, please give us the "official" group name. If you don't know it, that's okay – but please give us enough information so we can look it up and get the correct group.

There are 449 active groups, holding 501 meetings. Please remember that WSO lists individual meetings separately, including beginner's meetings. So, for example, if your group meets on Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 PM, and has a beginner's meeting on Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 PM, that's a total of FOUR meetings. As of our Fa\1 Assembly last year, there were 450 groups and 494 meetings.

8 groups in "No Mail" status, compared to 10 groups last fall. These are groups that have mail returned to the WSO by the Post Office. Again, DR's and GR's – check to ensure that your groups are receiving their group mail.

14 inactive groups are listed, compared to 134 last fall. Inactive groups are either: (1) a group that has notified the WSO that it has disbanded and is no longer meeting; or (2) a group that has been in "No Mail" status for a period of two years.

Of the active groups, 156 have returned their Annual Report – that's 34.7% .

And, of the active groups, 280 have a GR listed, which is 62.4%. Last fall, it was 65%. At the risk of preaching to the choir, GR's & DR's -please check to see that your group information is current. GR's – I do have the individual group report printouts available, if you'd like a copy for your group.

Literature Coordinator -Shirley M

As of May 1, 2013 the price of literature has increased due to projected budget deficits. This increase will be on most items, including some previously free items.

The title of the Legacies work book will be "Reaching for Personal Freedom – Living the Legacies" (P-52). The workbook will be spiral bound and consist of 170 to 180 pages. The workbook will be available at the 2013 International Convention . It will be available in English, Spanish, and French. This workbook is composed of sharings from over 200 members, posted on the member's website on the steps, traditions, and concepts of service.

"Having Had a Spiritual Awakening" is for sale as an "e-book" at \$9.99 through your electronic provider (EB-25). In 2012 the Policy Committee reported to conference members that after lengthy discussion, it concluded that using a third party vendor to sell electronic CAL is not a violation of the Traditions of policy, giving the WSO permission to proceed with an electronic version of "Having Had a Spiritual Awakening" as granted by the Board of Trustees in October 2011. The majority of the money does go to WSO. In return for their royalty fee the e-book provider handles all setup, processing, returns, reformatting as technology advances, etc. In a related way, when you buy a print book, a portion of the price you pay covers the printing which is also handled by an outside vendor. An audio version of this book is also planned to be available this summer in MP3 format through electronic audio providers .

The Forum is waiting to be released for electronic devices, but it is a slow process. The members will be notified in our WSO publications (The Forum) and on the member's website.

Please encourage members to submit sharings for "Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships" (working title). Over 1200 sharings are needed and at last count there are only 700 sharings that have been submitted. WSO is looking for all forms of intimacy sharings, not just physical intimacy, but also emotional intimacy. Sharings from Alateen are also welcome. It is important to make sure that this book includes sexual intimacy, because our literature is sparse on that topic and it is also not discussed at the group level. There is no deadline for accepting submissions.

According to Members Services, the next edition of the Service Manual is expected to be posted in late 2013 on the Member's Website. The printed version will be mailed out to all registered groups in 2014. One of the recurring questions asked by members is sale from WSO verses LDC's (Literature Distribution Centers). The question was asked: why should we support the LDC's when they have increased their book prices by a dollar or more, and the booklets have also been increased? Why should we pay more at the LDC's when these books are available at WSO for Jess? The answer: As it states in the Literature Distribution Centers Guidelines (G-18), LDC's are asked to maintain WSO prices, but may add a surcharge for postage and handling as well as any local taxes. The difference between the cost of material to the LDC and income from its sales is used for rent, salaries, telephone, postage, and other expenses incurred by operating the center. Surplus earnings are used to support other Al-Anon Services. In the report sent to all Literature Coordinators, Tom Coffey, Associate Director of Communication - Literature, suggests to ask the LDC what their rationale is for increasing prices. While members may purchase literature whenever they wish, they might not realize that purchasing literature from local LDC's not only supports important local services, it also helps WSO. It is far less time consuming (and therefore far more economical) for the WSO to ship large orders to the LDC's than it is to ship small orders to groups and individuals.

Top selling books:

1. "Courage to Change"
2. "Paths to Recovery"
3. "How Al-Anon Works"
4. "One Day at a Time"
5. "Hope for Today"

Sharings are needed for "Cal-Comer". Very few sharings about how CAL has helped members in their recovery have been received for the Forum. Articles about "Many Voices-One Journey", "Al-Anon's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", and "Alateen, Hope for Children of Alcoholics" are needed. News from the World Service Conference: This year's Conference gave conceptual approval for a new pamphlet for parents and grandparents of young problem drinkers. A guideline will be posted soon, but in the meantime, please encourage members to write on *this* topic. Of particular need is how parents and grandparents apply each of the Twelve Steps. If there are aspects of their situation that make a particular Step difficult, how have they worked through these challenges?

"CAL Comer" in The Forum: May's articles are on *Paths to Recovery* (B-31). The June article will be about *Many Voices, One Journey* (B-31)

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Public Outreach: The new PSA was played for us to view.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

By-Laws and Handbook Committee Chair, Barbara W. -

- The most recent edition of the Handbook/By-Laws is September, 2012.
- A reminder: One time motions are not included in the Handbook/By-Laws (see pg. 16/28#4). Only motions that change/add/delete are included.
- Since October, 2012 I have lived in Columbus. This move involved a major life change and I want to express my gratitude for your love, patience and unconditional love.
- In January, 2013, I withdrew my name as a candidate for Regional Trustee. In my heart, I knew I had to do this - that I did not have the time, attention or energy needed for this service position, should I be selected. I love Al-Anon too much to allow my ego to trump the needs of the fellowship - the fellowship that saved my life. The timing is off now, but that doesn't mean it will always be off. 2013 is a year of transition for me. I have had to let go of things and plans until I thought there was nothing left to let go of - then someone or something would remind me of my abundance. There is something humbling about letting go, but it is that humility that reminds me I am not in charge - nor am I alone.
- I have been asked to speak at the West Virginia AFG Convention in July.

Report on the: 57th Ohio State AA Service Convention is August 2, 3, and 4, 2013

I am co-chairing this "cooperation with A.A." convention. It will be at the Double Tree by Hilton, 175 Hutchinson Ave. Cols., OH 43235 phone 614-885-3334.

Our Area Chair, Sandy F., has agreed to be the Saturday afternoon speaker. I encourage you to join us, we are planning workshops and meetings.

Register online at www.area53aa.org

Questions may be emailed to 2013stateconvention@area53aa.org

Compliance Liaison and Area Alateen Process Person, Janice R

I have sent emails to all AMIASs and Sponsors who are not yet certified for 2013. There were a few that I did not have an email address for, so I mailed them a letter regarding recertifying and the AMIAS paperwork. (Forms One and Two) from the recertification packet that is posted on the Ohio Area Assembly Website. My deadline is absolutely June 10th. After that, whoever has not mailed me their paperwork will be inactivated. By inactivating someone leaves the group without a sponsor or an AMIAS to fill in, the group will be inactivated and will not be able to function as an Alateen group in the State of Ohio. The place where the group meets will be notified that the group no longer is a valid group and not registered with WSO.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the 2013 Alateen Annual Update Sheet and the AMIAS forms required by Ohio Area Assembly. The World Service Office sends to all groups the Annual Update Sheet. Sponsors or CMA's are to check the form for any changes. Then the form is sent to me, whether or not there are any changes and I inform WSO of any changes or updates. My name and address is in the bottom left corner of the form and was put there by WSO. The AMIAS forms (Form One and Form Two) are required by Ohio Area Assembly to be filled out and signed and sent to me. This is done annually. This is not something new. This has been a requirement for quite a few years now and like I said earlier, my final deadline is June 10th.

Something new - All AAPPs are now able to recertify everyone on-line. So if I have all your annual paperwork, you are already certified with WSO. I no longer have to send it to WSO and then wait for their return saying you're updated. In WSO's next update, I will be able to make more changes online to where in time most all changes will be able to be done online. Phil H., Group Records Coord. has that capability now for the Al-Anon groups.

Currently there are 64 Sponsors or AMIASs that are certified and 34 that are not. There are 27 active Alateen groups in Ohio and 4 groups that I'm still trying to find out if they are active or not. WSO still shows them active. There are 5 groups that are no longer meeting that WSO still shows active. I will send the paperwork in to them to inactivate these groups.

The GR-3 form has changed. It no longer has all those little boxes that we used to have fill in for any changes or anything new. The new form is much easier to read and use. I have some with me if you need any. Just remember, that even though you fill out the form it must still be returned to me. WSO will not accept anything unless it comes from me first.

If you would like to see any of the printouts from WSO, I have them with me.

I now have a P.O. Box. So any mail should be sent to AAPP, P O Box 446, Walbridge, OH 43465. This is the address that Mike K. Webmaster *will* use for the Ohio Area Assembly website.

Review - Louise W

2011 Ohio Area convention- In the absence of some documents or bank statements, it is not feasible to audit (review) the records from this event. However, the consolidated reports indicates the \$2000 seed money and \$671.34 excess of income over expenses were returned to the Ohio Area Assembly. This correlates with the Treasurers records.

2011 Two Day Fall Assembly- Financial records include source documents and a bank deposit slip. Final numbers correlate with the OAA 2011 Treasurers report.

2012 Ohio Area Convention – In the absence of source documents it is not feasible to confirm the figures provided by the host committee, although, copies of expense vouchers provided correspond with figures in expense income summaries and other financial records. As of the date 5/1/13 the A & R committee does not have confirmation of the whereabouts of residual monies from the convention. However, anecdotally the money has been accounted for and is in transit to the OAA treasurer. Any further information about this event that is reported at the spring assembly will be noted.

2012 Two Day Fall assembly – Records of this event have not been made available to the A & R committee but are anticipated to become so at the 2013 Spring assembly. A report of this review will be made available at the 2013 Two Day Fall Assembly.

2012 Financial Report – The Audit and Review Committee has verified the expenses and income reported in the source documents, expense vouchers, bank statements and check register are in agreement. Although the source of a variance has not been determined, there is no indication of any irregularity.

Ohio Area Convention and Two Day Fall Liaison, Donna K

I have been receiving regular communication from Sandy F. with information on the sites under consideration for the Two Day Fall Assembly meeting in 2014. Carol, Karen, Sandy and I toured 4 of them on April 22. It was a very busy day. Along with information overload, I offered my opinion and let the committee decide.

Ohio Area Website Committee Chair, Mike K

- Our website traffic has declined slightly this year, with an average of 2,182 unique visitors each month.
- Mondays and Wednesdays are the highest traffic volume days this year. Friday is the lowest.
- The most visited Web page continues to be the index of meeting lists throughout Ohio.
- The top 5 area meeting lists asked for on the OAA meeting directory are:
 - 1 Remote
 - 2. Toledo
 - 3. Cleveland

4. Akron

5. Columbus

- The World Service Office website continues to be the largest contributor of visitor referrals to the OAA site.
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Trend Analysis:

\ . The number of visitors who use the Web browser Safari is fast approaching the same numbers as those who use Microsoft Internet Explorer. 39% IE, 37% Safari
This may indicate more visitors are using tablet computers to visit our site.

2. A browser called "Lynx" is showing up in our visitor stats for the first time. Lynx is a text-only browser commonly used by people who are visually impaired.

3. No signs of intruders or spammers have broken into our site since security measures were put into place on the Web server 8 months ago.

Considerations for New Site Design:

Website Accessibility Under Title II of the ADA (American Disabilities Act) provides guidelines for Web designers and organizations who wish to make their online materials more accessible to those who are visually impaired. Reference: <http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap5toolkit.htm> . Free development tools also exist for developing websites for tablets and mobile devices. Both are being considered in the design process. If anyone is interested in serving on the OAA Web Team, please contact Mike K. at:

Phone: 513-847-4804

E-mail: webmaster@ohioal-anon.org

Ohio Area Action Committee Reports:

Membership Outreach – Discussion was on how to avoid commercialism in raffies. Page 95 from the Service Manual was referred to. The committee recommends a reprint of the "Getting Into Service In Al-Anon/Alateen" with the following changes: Add *(Requires certification) at the bottom. On the backside under Service Twelfth step in action gratitude made visible: add * www.ohioal-anon.org www.al-anon.org/members.

Group Services - The committee is suggesting separating Compliance from AAPP, due to liability issues. They also feel there is a need for liability insurance, but more information is needed on this. In lieu of establishing another officer position, perhaps the Compliance duties could be merged with another position. The Committee also echoes the need for more people getting involved in service, especially in district activities.

Fellowship Communication - The committee is suggesting a "welcome" type of pamphlet or booklet for new GR's – more extensive than the current folder they receive at the GR orientation.

Public Outreach - The committee is suggesting that letters be written to churches, informing them about Al-Anon, as well as dropping off pamphlets and schedules. Some groups are asking about bringing kids to Al-Anon meetings. The committee is suggesting this would be a matter of group conscience, but also suggests that if the kids are old enough, for the groups to include them in the meeting, by reading a part of the agenda, i.e. Suggested Welcome, Preamble to the 12 Steps, etc.

Ohio Area Convention & Two Day Fall Assembly Reports

2012 Two Day Fall- Dennis K gave the report on the Two-Day Fall held in Dayton in 2012. He said the main problem was the fact that the hotel pulled over half the rooms out of the booking block with no notice to us – he found out while he was overseas. We had good participation at the event.

2013 Two Day Fall Assembly – Youngstown Area districts 4&9 are hosting this event on October 19th & 20th at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, Oh. The hotel is very easy to get to, right off the 1-680. Plans are coming together to have a great weekend. We will be having a WSO volunteer coming, Char and she will also be our evening speaker. Flyers have been sent to DR's. Any questions call Judi @ 330518-7794

2013 Addiction Studies Institute- Will be held July 31 to August 2 at the Convention Center in Columbus, Oh. This event is for professionals who have clients with addictions concerns. They are expecting between 800 and 1000 professionals. Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2013 and other literature will be available as handouts. A budget for the Addiction Studies Institute was prepared and submitted to the Budget Committee. However, some items proposed will be deleted in order to stay with the budgeted amount as approved by the Budget Committee. A request for meeting schedules was made at Spring AWSC. If you have not sent yours, please mail them to Sandy F at address listed on the Area world Service Committee list in Ohio AI-A-Notes. Sandy is looking for help in the booth. It is lots of fun. Sandy says her recovery grew after talking to professionals about Al-Anon family groups. If you can help, please contact Sandy F.

Old Business - None

New Business MOTIONS FOR SPRING ASSEMBLY;

Motion #2013-1- To roll over the CD's maturing April 19th and 30th and the CD maturing August 21st to coincide with the maturation date of the 18 month CD which matures 10/2013Motion carried.

Motion #2013-2-Move to purchase a laptop and appropriate software for use by the area secretary in the amount not to exceed \$700.00 with fund being taken from the Equipment FundMotion carried.

Motion #2013-3 -Move to accept the budget as presented for 2013Motion carried.

Motion #2013-4 – To cover WSO Volunteer Char G-F's expenses to the Two Day Fall Assembly, out of Excess Funds.....Motion carried.

District concerns and Celebrations

Motion to Adjourn was made by Laura C and seconded by Eleanor T.

Closing - Al-Anon Declaration. Meeting ended at 5:20 PM

Meeting Schedule for 2013

AWSC - August 17, 2013

Fall Assembly --- Hosted by Districts of Youngstown October 19-20, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen McK
Area Secretary