

Delegates Report - Ohio Area Assembly – Fall 2015

This summer I was busy working on a Task Force regarding Communication and Strengthening the Links of Service for the WSC. I worked with a small group consisting of the Delegates from Nevada, Hawaii and Ontario North. Timing conference calls was a challenge but we worked it out. I met up in person with the Delegate from Nevada who happened to be visiting nearby and together we conducted our first GOTO meeting with the others that are working on the project. In September, I submitted an application for Akron-Canton to host the Meet the Board Event in October 2016. We will not know until January as to whether we were selected. Areas are selected at random. The Meet the Board Event is usually held on a Saturday and it is an opportunity to both hear trustees talk on certain topics but mostly to mingle with the trustees and participate in discussions with them. Most of the cost is sustained by WSO but volunteers are needed in the local area to help with the planning and advertising.

The World service Conference next year is Monday April 11- Friday April 15, 2016. Start thinking about and making some love gifts for me to distribute. Other Areas make or give all kinds of love gifts. In the past two years I have been sent few love gifts from Ohio but brought back many. In fact, please help yourself to the love gifts on the table to the side of the room. Please think about making some love gifts in your districts to distribute next WSC. Get creative!

In celebration of 65 years of Al-Anon Family Groups and the beginnings of the Clearing House, the World Service Office (WSO) will host an Open House. The open house will be Saturday, April 16, 2016 – Tours are 1:00PM-3:00PM; office closes at 4:00PM at World Service Office, 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Continuing the celebration, there will be a 65th Anniversary Banquet, which will be a ticketed event with limited seating. Tickets (\$55.00 US) will go on sale later this year. Saturday, April 16, 2016, the Reception is 6:00PM-6:45PM and the Banquet is 7:00PM-10:00PM. The reception and banquet are located at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 5700 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Please note: The Open House is free of charge. The Banquet is a ticketed event and seating is limited.

I would like to bring your attention to the Letter of the Chairman of the Board. First, the Board of Trustees would like to help Al-Anon groups understand the relationship of the Board to Al-Anon family groups as well as why they do that they do. Second, in the Spring I reported that the Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. Budget projected a \$ 50,000 deficit. At the WSC, we decided that rather than keep taking money from the Reserve Fund as in past years, we would work on increasing donations.

However, the treasurer reports that “Income is falling behind projected income for the first six months of the year...As of June 30, 2015, contributions are 42.78% of budget, falling below the 50% mark as we are halfway through the year.” Contributions are down. The sale of literature is down. The sale of Forum subscriptions is down.

How can our Area help to close the deficit? Please donate in proportion to your gratitude for Al-Anon. Some ideas include birthday donations, Al-Anon anniversary, or memorial contributions for those that have passed. Every group that currently donates could donate \$20 more this year or groups that never donate could donate something. The Ohio Area could donate to WSO. I have been busy participating on the Two Day Fall Assembly committee for 2016 in Akron/Canton. In addition, I have appointed Merri G. as the liaison to the Ohio State AA Conference in Cleveland in 2016. I plan to attend any planning meetings that she has with her committee.

The 25th Anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. will be at the Two Day Fall Assembly 2016. We have invited Ric B., executive director of AFG, Inc. who wrote our incorporation to visit and give a talk about the early days of forming the Ohio Assembly or any other topic we would like. He is an excellent speaker, very inspiring and also very approachable. We would be expected to pay for all or some of his expenses if he is able to come. Expenses might include airfare, hotel room, banquet meal, transportation from airport and his other meals. The Akron/Canton region is hosting that Assembly so I will be happy to coordinate his visit. Our Handbook states it is to occur on the second or third weekend of October. However, Ric B. cannot come until the first weekend in November. I propose we have our Two Day Fall Assembly on the first weekend of November just next year so we can have him come and help us celebrate the 25th anniversary. In addition, I ask the Assembly to pay for his hotel room costs, banquet meal, and \$300 toward airfare. A motion will follow later. The Forum Editorial Advisory Committee needs At-Large Members. Forum Editorial Advisory Committee members recommend editorial policies for our monthly magazine; considers articles for publication and seeks to place The Forum in the hands of every Al-Anon and Alateen member. Criteria for application include the following: Continuous active Al-Anon membership for at least the last five (5) years or continuous active Alateen membership for at least the last one (1) year and at least 13 years old; a member of Al-Anon Family Groups who is also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous may not serve in this position; the ability to send and receive e-mail and attend meetings via telephone conference calls four to eight days per year, including evenings and weekends; and time and ability to complete projects in a timely manner. WSO Committee members are required to relinquish information service, literature distribution center, or area world service positions (GRs and alternate DRs may serve provided they do not serve in another area capacity). Résumés are due at the WSO by the time of the World Service Conference.

AFG Connects has been launched as our new electronic form of communication. The following communities have been launched: Al-Anon Information Services, Alateen Coordinators, Announcements - WSO Structure, Archives, Coordinators, Area Alateen Process Persons (AAPP), Area Chairs, Area Treasurers, District Representatives, Forum Coordinators, Group Records Coordinators, Literature Coordinators, Literature Distribution Centers, Newsletter Editors, Public Outreach Coordinators, Web Coordinators and WSC Members. If you should be connected but have not been able to access AFG Connects let me know.