

**AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – SPRING 2016**

The Area World Service Committee meeting was held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at the North Congregational United Church Of Christ, 2040 Henderson Road, Columbus 43220. Chairman Buff N opened the meeting at 12:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Lee R, Two Day Fall / OAC Advisor, read the Twelve Traditions; Judy C, MVAIS Liaison, read the Twelve Concepts of Service; and Judy A, Treasurer, read the General Warranties Of The Conference.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the 2015 Fall AWSC meeting were previously electronically distributed to all of the Committee members. Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, moved and Kathleen S, DR 6, seconded to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORTS:** Judy A, Treasurer, presented the report –

Before I give the 2015 yearend report and the first quarter report for 2016 I would like to summarize the actions that I have taken since I assumed this position. I have discovered that the Federal Government and the state of Ohio requires financial accounting be given.

My first task was to renew our Trade Name with the Secretary of State’s Office. That was accomplished April 7, 2015. That certificate will expire April 7, 2020. My next project was to file a 990-N (e-postcard) for the year ending 2014 with the IRS, which I did May 6 2015. In doing so I saved the Ohio Area Assembly from losing its tax exempt status again. In the past our organization has become suspended. I filed for the year ending 2015 on January 29, 2016.

I am currently in the process of establishing an account with the Ohio Attorney General’s office and have been informed that I will need to file an accounting with this office for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 by May 15, 2016; which will probably result in late fees and penalties. To submit this report I will need a list of all our current assets. I believe I have found most of our assets which include: the Secretary’s computer - \$2,060.00; LCD projector & bulb - \$1,400.00; Al-Anon Banner & a retractable Banner Holder - \$650.00; 2 drawer file cabinet - \$90.00; and random posters - \$100.00, which equal a total of \$4,300.00 I am waiting to hear from the AG’s office before I file by May 15, 2016.

We have cashed our CDs that matured February 2016 and, with the Budget Committee’s approval, have reinvested the CD’s with Huntington Bank. They have an annual fixed rate of .50 % and will mature 10/8/2017.

When applying for a tax exempt status from a vendor please use the updated forms. I have them and they need to be signed by a current officer.

One last item, I asked Donna, as the Budget Chairman and a previous Review Committee member, to examine the records of 2015. We have no Review person at this time and I wanted to make sure that I was correctly doing my job with the start of 2016.

2015:	Beginning balance as of 1 January 2015 –	\$31,194.32
	Income 1 January – 31 December 2015 –	+21,971.92
	Expenses 1 January – 31 December 2015 –	<u>-21,534.95</u>
	Ending balance as of 31 December 2015 –	\$31,631.29

Cheryl B, DR 9, moved and Lee R, Two Day Fall / OAC Advisor, seconded to accept the 2015 report. The motion passed.

2016:	Beginning balance as of 1 January 2016 –	\$31,631.29
	Income 1 January – 12 March 2016 –	+ 3,543.59
	Expenses 1 January – 12 March 2016 –	- 1,183.04
	Ending balance as of 12 March 2016 –	\$33,991.84

Kathleen S, DR 6, moved and Christine T, Forum Coordinator, seconded to accept the 2016 report. The motion passed.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE & NEWSLETTER EDITOR REPORT:** Theresa M, Alternate Delegate, presented the Report –

I will be waiting to send email and snail mail to all DR-less groups until after AWSC. I'm hoping that we may have a few members willing to step up from the GCIS area after being present at the now bi-monthly GCIS meeting on 3-10-16.

I'm working on putting together the next batch of new GR folders for orientation at this year's Assemblies.

I have been a bit more active on the AFG Connects for Newsletter Editors. Others have asked to use the survey that I put in the 40.1 edition. I am hoping to get some valuable feedback to report on by Spring OAA (Assembly), and I am hoping that we can go to more of an electronic format in the future as others have. I'm am still working on having a list that members can access to find other Area's Newsletters that are available - either as an electronic subscription via email or on the websites. For example, KY's is available at <http://kyal-anon.org/members-only/newsletters/> , password is afg.

I have power points of a few other newsletters that I will have either received or accessed via the web.

**DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Ginny C, Delegate, presented the report –

The February Chairperson of the Board letter announced the following: North Central Regional Trustee Nominee Debbie Grace (Iowa), Chairperson of the Board Nominee Debbie Grace and the Meet the Board Event will be in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The question for my trustee call was what is your Area Doing to Celebrate Al-Anon Family Group's 65th anniversary? Cake? Party hats? Balloons? Archives Board for each decade? Special Outreach Project? Special Workshop? What are your ideas?

Some of the highlights of the WSO financial report are: Significant decrease in General Fund-\$361,033; Much lower literature sales; Donations fell short of projections by \$50,000 and Operating expenses up only 1.34%.

In Ohio, 55.8% of groups donated to WSO. \$83.73 is average yearly donation. Group giving was up from \$20,504 in 2014 to \$21,100 in 2015. Other donations were also up from \$4,424 in 2014 to \$5,339 in 2015. Yeah for Ohio!

WSO spends \$268 per group. How much does your group give back? Here is how your \$15 is spent: Conference \$1.25; Public Service Announcement \$1.60; Volunteer Oversight \$2.02; Member Services \$4.91; Toll Free Numbers \$0.10; and Communication Services \$5.12.

Four different changes to the service manual are suggested. I would like your feedback on them.

Changes to the Concept Eleven descriptive text were made with the following in mind: The Concepts belong to the world.

The World Service Conference is the senior group conscience providing an example to General Service Offices and emerging structures around the world. It is important that we maintain a brief description of those Board Committees that, while no longer in effect in the U.S., Canada, Bermuda, or Puerto Rico, may continue to be utilized in international structures.

“Al-Anon’s Twelve Concepts of Service” is not a procedural manual. It is not the place to outline roles, duties, or provide an organizational chart. Committees have guidelines for direction.

As with all changes to the descriptive text, any deleted information is maintained in the “Amendments” section following the Twelve Concepts of Service in the Service Manual.

The double asterisks mean the Committee is no longer used in the WSC Structure. However, the Committee may be functioning in worldwide General Service Offices or emerging structures that look to us for guidance. The proposed changes to policy on memorial contributions is as follows:

The World Service Office accepts contributions in memory of deceased Al-Anon members from "family" who are not Al-Anon members. The Fellowship recognizes that accepting such contributions can give comfort to families as described in Tradition Five.

The World Service Conference defines family as anyone who has a close relationship of loving care and concern for another. The individual donor defines his or her relationship to the deceased Al-Anon member. This one-time gift of gratitude is limited to an amount no greater than \$500.

Memorial contributions by non-members are not solicited.

The proposed policy change regarding conventions in the service manual read as follows:

#### Conventions and Other Events

Al-Anon and Alateen events attract many members, drawing them to celebrate and share their experiences. These events can vary in size and content.

#### Conventions

Among common Al-Anon/Alateen events are Area Conventions, bringing together members from across the Area to celebrate recovery, often for a weekend. Conventions hosted by Areas for Alateen are often referred to as conferences.

#### Workshops

A local Al-Anon district or districts Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), or one or more Al-Anon/Alateen groups may host a weekend, day or evening of workshops and meetings, luncheons or banquets planned to address various topics of interest to members, or for public outreach purposes. Weekend events often combine workshops and speaker meetings.

#### Alateen Participation

Since Alateen is part of the Al-Anon fellowship, its members are to be included in Al-Anon activities wherever possible at the Area and local levels. It is within the autonomy of the Planning Committee to make the decision

whether or not the Alateens have a separate agenda. All events that include Alateen must be in compliance with the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements of the Area in which the event is held. (See "Events with Alateen Participation" in the Alateen Policy section of the Service Manual.)

#### A-A. Events with Al-Anon/Alateen Participation

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) may invite Al-Anon/Alateen to participate in conventions or conferences at the Area or local level. It is within the autonomy of the Area/local service arm to participate or not. (See the Guideline Participation in an Area AA Convention (G-71.) An A.A. event must have Al-Anon participation in order to have Alateen participation.

#### Distribution of Proceeds

Excess funds are often used to establish the next convention's "seed" fund. Since accumulating large sums of money is discouraged in keeping with Al-Anon's Traditions excess funds over and above a seed fund for the next event can be donated to the district Al-Anon Information Service (AIS), Area or the WSO.

If you want a copy of these changes, add your name to the list in back and I will email them to you. I welcome feedback on these suggested changes.

Proposed change to the Prayer for Today on the Just for Today Bookmark.

The current wording of the "Prayer for Today" is as follows:

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy.

"O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Should we remove it? Substitute another less religious prayer?

Merri G. and myself have been planning the Al-Anon participation for the AA State Convention. It will be held in Westlake, OH August 19-21, 2016 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Fliers are on the back table.

We are very excited about the program which consists of a Panel on Sponsorship, a Workshop and Skit on Sponsorship and a Panel on Parents/Grandparents of Alcoholics. The Lead is Barb E., Hudson. She is a very spiritual and inspiring speaker.

There are now forms out for the two new DVD rentals: "Lois's Story" (AV-1) and "Lois W and the Pioneers" (AV-24)

Feedback from Ginny's report was centered around the Service Manual changes on memorial contributions, more specifically does the proposed change more clearly define "family" and "non-family" members sufficiently; and on the Just For Today prayer, specifically what is there seems to be "too religious" for Conference Approved Literature.

Buff added that the Ohio Area World Service Committee Inventory, that Ginny had sent out, should be taken home, completed and brought to the Fall AWSC meeting. Those that did bring them were asked to turn them in to Ginny. She also asked that the Inventory be attached to these minutes and posted on the website.

**REGISTRATION:** Karen S, Registration Committee Chair, was absent. Louise W, DR 33, reported that a total of 27 people registered for the meeting: 12 DR's, 13 Officers and Coordinators and 2 visitors.

## **TASK FORCE & THOUGHT FORCE REPORTS:**

**TASK FORCE – GUIDELINES FOR INCOMING ALATEEN SPONSORS:** Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, presented the report –

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

In the mean time we will continue offering the suggestions that as to date that have been proven to be helpful and successful.

**TASK FORCE FOR IMPLEMENTING CHANGES TO OHIO AREA CONVENTION:** Lee R, Two Day Fall / OAC Advisor, presented the report –

### WHAT WE KNOW:

- Attendance at the convention has been declining the past ten years
- The costs of facilities are increasing
- The assembly does not always get a report on the progress of the convention

### BACKGROUND:

- In looking over the guidelines in the handbook we found many statements were not clear. EX: Convention is not to be a fundraiser but if profit is made (6) it is to be referred to AWSC for recommendations of disbursement. If more than \$500.00 is made where does the state treasurer put the funds? EX: The convention treasurer needs to purchase insurance to protect him/her (4) for the time frame of the convention; however because of the uniqueness of our needs it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain this kind of coverage.
- In the past the Ohio Area Convention has not been publicized enough
- The costs of preparing this convention have been rising

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

- Through the Membership Outreach committee many have expressed need for changes in the Ohio Area Convention
- A central location for the Ohio Area Convention has been suggested
- Clarification of AA's participation in the Ohio Area Convention

At this point, we are continuing to work on preparing a KBDM.

Lee added that the reference to insurance could possibly be removed, if the Convention Treasurer was covered under our new insurance policy.

**THOUGHT FORCE FOR REMOVING AMIAS WHO DO NOT MEET GUIDELINES:** Karen P, AAPP, presented the report –

The Thought force has investigated the current WSO and Ohio guidelines for AMIAS and guidelines to implement them. Ohio currently requires FBI background checks to be clear; a minimum of one Sponsor workshop at State level per year; attending two Al-Anon meetings a week to assure an active program to aid in a good power of example; appropriate behavior when with teens; using Conference Approved Material for Alateen meetings; regularity and reliability for Alateen meetings and teen events; and recertification yearly with signatures of GR and DR; Home Group and acknowledgement of knowledge of the safety guidelines.

The current process when one is no longer participating in or following through on any of the requirements is to decertify the AMIAS after all possible attempts to help the willing person to learn what could be done to improve the situation. Many need help being guided back on track once in a while and it is our mission to help when possible. When one is not willing to do so we already have the requirements in place to help protect our teens.

The belief is that with support at local and State levels, the AAPP and Alateen Coordinator should be able to address these issues. If we are careful in who we elect and appoint into these positions, many of these issues could be dealt with by enforcing our already existing requirements.

If it is chosen to move on to a Task Force, might we suggest that this group have experience with having been an Alateen sponsor in the past; given the chance to study the current guidelines and discuss how these guidelines can better be used in the future; unity in the Area to help support those who choose to hold the position; to decertify an AMIAS when not following through on the current guidelines may be much of what is needed to solve many of these kinds of problems. Possibly a more explanatory description of how to deal with such problems may be one answer to this problem and not making exceptions to those who will not try to do what is asked of in our guidelines. Our AMIAS are powers of example to our teens. Let's make sure they are positive examples.

Karen reported that the group was still gathering information and hopes to have a KBDM ready for the Two Day Fall Assembly.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**APPOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIR:** No one volunteered for the position and Buff asked Budget Committee Chair Donna K to serve as the Interim Committee Chair, since she has previous experience with this and review the records for 2015.

**APPOINT TASK FORCE – DEVELOP WORKSHOPS TO TAKE TO REMOTE MEETINGS:** Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, noted that this would be to just develop the workshops, not necessarily GO to those locations. Theresa M, Alt. Delegate, stated she would chair the Task Force and Kay J, DR 56, volunteered to help

**APPOINT TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A NEW FLYER FOR GR ORIENTATION FOLDER:** No one volunteered to chair, but Mike K, Web Coordinator, volunteered to help with the design of a flyer.

**APPOINT TASK FORCE - MAILING AND PRINTING CONCERNS:** No one volunteered to chair the Task Force.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**TASK FORCE – “DO NOT LIST” POLICY:** Allison G, Task Force Chair, presented the report –

She asked, in light of the defeat of the motion at the Two Day Fall Assembly, what action, or direction, the Task Force should take from this point forward.

Discussion points included:

Be more specific about “What the problem is”.

Make the KBDM shorter and more concise.

Make the proposed Policies shorter and more concise (it was mentioned that other Areas have much

shorter policies on this subject).  
Use examples – be “specific, but generic”, so as not to identify any specific person(s) or group(s).  
More effectively manage the Question & Answer period – don’t allow a “laundry list” of questions.  
Can these changes come to the Spring Assembly and be voted on?

Buff explained that a new presentation could be done at the Spring Assembly, however if there were changes to either the KBDM or the proposed Policies, those would have to first go to the AWSC (the Fall AWSC in August) for its recommendation and, if approved, then be presented to the following Assembly (the Two Day Fall Assembly in Akron).

Allison, speaking for the Task Force, moved to be allowed to make format changes to the proposed Policies and present them, along with a skit about the incidents that have occurred, at the Spring Assembly. Kathleen S, DR 6, seconded the motion and it passed. Allison added that the Task Force will re-work the KBDM and actual proposed policies and bring them to the Fall AWSC for consideration.

**KBDM – AMEND TREASURER’S RESPONSIBILITIES:** Judy A, Treasurer, presented the report –

**TOPIC:** To amend the Treasurer’s responsibilities

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION-WHAT WE KNOW:**

The Federal Government requires a 990 form to be filed yearly and the end of our fiscal year. The Ohio Secretary of State requires a Statement of Continued Existence of Nonprofit Corporation every five years. The Ohio Attorney General’s Office requires a financial filing yearly which has never been done in recent years.

As the new treasurer I have learned the following:

- The IRS requires us to document, in writing, our fiscal year which is January 1 to December 31. They require a return to be filed annually (currently this is a 990-N electronic notice e-postcard) by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the fiscal year. This process for the postcard is for tax exempt organizations whose Gross Receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.
- The Ohio Secretary of State requires a Statement of Continued Existence of Nonprofit Corporation every five years. Going forward, this will need to be renewed March 2017.
- The Ohio Attorney General requires charitable organizations located in Ohio, to file annual financial reports with their office. These filings are public and contribute to accountability and transparency within the charitable sector. The filing reveals to the public the name of the organization, an address, the (EIN) number, previous year income, expenses, and the total assets. This filing needs to be done by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the end of our fiscal year.

**WHAT ARE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CHOICES?**

These duties will be moved from the compliance’s position to the treasurer’s position. When we do NOT follow these laws, we lose our tax exempt and non-profit status.

**WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW, BUT DON’T:**

What other laws exist of which we are uninformed. Do we need to revise the compliance /AAPP job descriptions in the Handbook and also in the By-Laws?

**QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATION** - no timing or microphone limitations

## **IS THERE A NEED FOR A MOTION? Yes**

### **MOTION:**

I move to clarify the treasurer's responsibilities.

They are to include the financial filings with the IRS and the Ohio Attorney General's offices for each fiscal year beginning January 1 to December 31. A filing to the Ohio Secretary of State needs to be filed before the expiration of the current document, which is March, 2017. Going forward, future filings are to be filed before the document's expiration.

Judy A, Treasurer moved to recommend the KBDM and motion to go forward to the 2016 Spring Assembly for consideration. Phil H, Secretary, seconded the motion passed, however it was requested that the motion be redone to more clearly define exactly what part(s) of the Handbook are being changed. It was also suggested to present another motion, at the same time that would amend the Compliance Liaison duties.

The motion was rescinded to allow it to be more clearly explained, and develop a motion for changes to the Compliance Liaison duties as well.

### **KBDM – AMEND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:** Phil H, Secretary –

**Topic:** Aligning our legal name to conform to WSO policies and directives.

### **Background information – What we know**

Historical perspective:

- 1 – This organization was incorporated in the state of Ohio on April 6, 1990, as “AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, INC.” This statement is made in the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Ohio Secretary of State at that time.
- 2- Subsequently, this corporation was granted exemption from the payment of federal income taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code in 1991. Informally, our corporation was “tax exempt”.
3. Page 36 of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) states, “to protect the CMA’s anonymity, all Al-Anon groups are registered with the letters AFG (for Al-Anon Family Group).
4. On January 22, 2009, Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. applied and was granted the trade name “AFG of Ohio, Inc”. The cost for this filing was \$50.00 and the use of the trade name was granted for a 5-year period, expiring on January 22, 2014.
5. The trade name was subsequently renewed April 7, 2015, at a cost of \$50.00.
6. A review of minutes of the Area Assembly meetings for 2008 and May, 2009 fail to show where this action was ever brought for a vote to the Assembly.
7. No action has ever been taken to change (amend) our Articles of Incorporation, the legal document that establishes our corporation in the state of Ohio or the By-Laws of the Ohio Area Assembly for Al-Anon Family Groups.
8. No formal request has ever been made to the Internal Revenue Service to change our corporate name, as it was originally registered.



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

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

- 1 – We need to comply with the laws of the state of Ohio regarding corporations.
- 2 – We need to comply with the Internal Revenue Service Code, or risk losing our tax exempt status.
- 3 – We need a simple way to “fix” this – and it available at a lesser cost than continually renewing our trade name.

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

The process is straight forward:

- 1 – We need to amend our Articles of Incorporation. However, in order to do that we need to
- 2 – Amend our By-Laws first. Once that is done, a resolution is submitted to the Ohio Secretary of State, withdrawing our trade name, in favor of amending our original name.
- 3 – With those documents in hand, we notify the Internal Revenue Service of the changes. They, in turn, will issue an updated letter verifying our tax exempt status as “AFG of Ohio, Inc”
- 4 – It does NOT require the resources of a lawyer to do this.

**What are the implications of our choices? (pros and cons)**

Pro - The filing of a Certificate of Amendment to our Articles of Incorporation is a one-time fee of \$50.00

Con – The Trade Name must be renewed every 5 years at a cost of \$50 every time.

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

At this time, it is unclear whether or not there is a fee required to “unfile” the trade name, AFG of Ohio, Inc. It is presumed there would be a fee and a telephone call to the Ohio Secretary of State’s office would answer that question.

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

**Need for motion?**

Two motions must be presented: The first motion will amend our By-Laws. Once that motion is passed, a second motion will be required to adopt the Resolution to amend our Articles of Incorporation.

**MOTION 1:**

I move to amend the By-laws of the Ohio Area Assembly for Al-Anon Family Groups as follows:

On Page 2 of 11, amend the first three lines from, as currently reads, “The name of the corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, INC. With the principal office in Columbus, Franklin County.”, by adding the phrase, “, however, in keeping with Tradition 11 of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., this name shall be abbreviated as AFG of Ohio, Inc”, immediately after “INC.,” on the second line, so that the amended section reads, “The name of the corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO INC., however in keeping

with Tradition 11 of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., this name shall be abbreviated as AFG of Ohio, Inc., with the principal office in Columbus, Franklin County.”

**MOTION 2:**

I move to adopt the following Resolution:

## *Resolution*

*Whereas* Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., was incorporated as a domestic corporation in the state of Ohio on April 6, 1990, and

*Whereas* Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., observes and abides by the Traditions, Concepts and Policies of the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., and

*Whereas* Tradition Eleven of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., states, “Our public relations policy 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 care the anonymity of all AA members.”, and

*Whereas* Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., has developed a policy to abbreviate “Al-Anon Family Groups” as “AFG” on all public correspondence, and

*Whereas* Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., needs to adopt this same policy of anonymity on all of its public correspondence;

*Now, Therefore Be It Resolved That* Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., meeting in its regular session, has amended its Articles of Incorporation, as follows:

The First Section, which currently reads:

“FIRST: The name of said Corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, Inc.

is hereby deleted in its entirety, and replaced with the following:

“FIRST: The name of said Corporation shall be AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, Inc., however, in keeping with Tradition 11 of the Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc., this name shall be abbreviated as AFG of Ohio, Inc.”

Because the proposed motion will amend the By-Laws, sufficient notice must be given to all GR’s and DR’s. It was suggested to re-write the motion to better show where the change in the By-laws will be made, and present it at the Spring Assembly. At that time, it could be presented and then lay over until the Fall Assembly for a vote. That would give sufficient time for the required notifications. Christina T, Forum Coordinator, moved and Karen P, Compliance & AAPP, seconded, to present the motion to the Spring Assembly, distribute it, and vote on the motions at the Fall Assembly. The motion passed.

## **CONVENTION & ASSEMBLY REPORTS:**

### **2015 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY:** Karen S, DR 6, submitted the report –

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

My thoughts for next year's chairperson:

1 room for new group representatives

Large enough room for 100 people set up classroom style

2 but preferably 3 microphones

2 tables for audio visual

Break out sessions after banquet and speaker-need room for 4 large groups

Let the group representatives know that they will be working after dinner so probably won't be done until 10 or 10:30 PM

Tickets to hand out for banquet dinner can be used as a receipt

**2016 OHIO AREA CONVENTION:** Jan S, Committee Chair, was absent and Lee R, Two Day Fall / OAC Advisor, presented the report –

The 2016 OAC Committee continues making steady progress:

- We toured the hotel again so the committee could re-acquaint themselves with the space for the meetings, hospitality, ways & means and literature as well as the guest rooms.
- The hotel has once again increased our meeting space without charge, and we have the use of the largest ballroom throughout the weekend. We can seat 200 theater style (in rows) plus 50 in the small meeting room at rounds which we will use for specialty workshops. Now all we need is people!
- Based on our menu tasting, we finalized the 5 banquet choices:
  - 1) London Broil (optional mushroom sauce)
  - 2) Salmon with mango salsa
  - 3) Vegetarian option: cauliflower steak with creamy mushroom/spinach sauce  
OPTIONS 1, 2, OR 3 INCLUDE:  
Salad, bread, au gratin potatoes, green beans with sweet red peppers, coffee, hot/iced tea, chef's choice dessert
  - 4) Gluten free option: cauliflower steak with creamy mushroom/spinach sauce  
OPTION 4 INCLUDES:  
Salad, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans with sweet red peppers, coffee, hot/iced tea, and fresh fruit dessert
  - 5) Vegan option: cauliflower steak with olive oil, spinach  
OPTION 5 INCLUDES:  
Salad, fried wedge potatoes, green beans with sweet red peppers, coffee, hot/iced tea, and fresh fruit dessert
- We have 10 hotel registrations, 19 convention registrations and 10 banquet registrations

- After our AA liaison stepped down, our committee decided that working with dual program members might be easier. Our 2 new members began attending in 2016; *we know we are on the right track because they are thanking us for the opportunity to participate!*

PLEASE continue to spread the word that the Ohio Area Convention is a FUN weekend, NOT a business meeting, and that all Al-Anons and AAs are welcome, plus Alateens with parent or AMIAS. DO help us to be good hosts by **letting us know you are coming**. If you pre-register, we can get a better count for our hospitality room and help prevent gray hair as we have stuck our necks way out!

**2016 OHIO AA CONVENTION W/ AL-ANON PARTICIPATION:** Merri G, liaison, was absent and Ginny C, Delegate presented the report –

As the Liaison for the 60th Ohio State Convention, I am pleased to present my report. The theme for the weekend is “Working with others through Sponsorship”.

The dates are August 19, 20, and 21st. The registration fee is reasonable at \$25 and the lunch buffet is \$22 and the evening dinner is \$35. The convention will be held at the Double Tree Inn in Westlake, Ohio. Rooms must be reserved by July 21, 2016. Call 440-871-6000 (mention Ohio State Convention)

I decided to merge our Al-Anon hospitality room with the AA’s rather than having them separately. I based this decision on the 6th Tradition which says: “...Although a separate entity, we should always co-operate with Alcoholics Anonymous.” (Probably a stretch, but it works for me).

On Saturday, we are going to have a skit on sponsorship at 9:45 AM, followed by a workshop on sponsorship at 10:00 AM. In the afternoon on Saturday around 1:00 PM, we plan on having a panel on parents/grandparents of alcoholics. Ginny is my co-chairperson. She chose the main speaker whose name is Barb E, who will be the Al-Anon Speaker for Saturday afternoon at 3:30. We are planning on another panel on Saturday around 5:00 on the topic of Adult Children of Alcoholics. We may decide to do something on Sunday but only if we have volunteers that cannot do Friday or Saturday. Some of the Al-Anon former chairs said that Sunday is poorly attended, so I may just attend the AA meetings.

We have a lot of volunteers that are willing to pay the registration fee.

Kathy B is going to help on the Sponsorship skit.

We have Sharon G who is a step-parent and grandparent of an alcoholic.

Debbie C is an adult child of an alcoholic.

Jo Anne and Bill are willing to talk on panel-adult children

Jan S is willing to talk on a panel

Angela M- is willing to help anywhere

Judy is the mother and grandparent of an alcoholic.

I am certain that all the above would help on the skit. I will work with the participants to see what panels would best fit their experience, strength, and hope in the next few weeks and get things confirmed.

The AA's said that we need to have our planning done by July so that they can get the flier together, so we are well on our way.

I want to thank Ginny for asking me to be the liaison.

I will miss everyone this weekend, but I have a Calculus test to study for. Since my boss is out of town for the next two weeks, I am not likely to get approved to leave early to get help at the tutoring lab during spring break, so unfortunately this Saturday is my last chance to get some help before my exam a week from Monday.

**2016 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY:** Jo S, Committee Chair, was absent and Ginny C, Delegate, presented the report –

The flier for the Two Day Fall Assembly is ready for distribution. Copies are on the back table.

The Two Day Fall Assembly is at the Holiday Inn Canton (Belden Village). The rates are \$109 per night plus tax for double or king room and \$149 Suite studio. The Banquet is \$32 for choice of entrée: Tuscan chicken, Asiago Pork Chop, or Vegetarian Lasagna. Gluten free options are available.

Ginny also reported that Ric B's expenses will have to be paid entirely by AFG of Ohio. She moved, and Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, seconded, to recommend this be brought to the Spring Assembly for a vote. The motion passed.

**2017 OHIO AREA CONVENTION:** Districts of Akron/Canton – Ginny C, Delegate, reported only that this will be held at the same hotel as the Two Day Fall Assembly. Other than that, they are still in the planning stages.

**2017 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY (ELECTIONS):** Districts of Columbus – Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, stated it was too early for a report.

## **COORDINATOR REPORTS –**

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

Planning for 2016 KOMIAC is under way. It is being held at:  
Wright State University, Dayton, OH  
July 29-31, 2016

The theme will be “Lean On Me” with the focus being on the First Tradition and unity. The following dates are being held at BRC, 8231 East Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44023. Time: Noon to 4 pm.

January 10, 2016  
February 07, 2016  
March 06, 2016  
April 17, 2016  
May 15, 2016  
June 26, 2016  
July 17, 2016

Dates for KOMIAC planning meetings to be held at Wright State  
June 05, 2016

All Alateens are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate.  
One area that Al-Anon in or Intergroups can help in making OH KOMIAC successful would be by donating books, yarn or donations for the hospitality room. Monetary donations can be made out to KOMIAC 42, PO Box 95, Washingtonville, OH 44490.

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

Other Alateen dates for 2016 are:

March 19, 2016 Sponsor Workshop at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd, Columbus, OH 43229

April 23, 2016 Spring Rally at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd, Columbus, OH 43229

October 22, 2016 Fall Rally, place to be announced

All the above dates are listed on the Ohio area website.

**ARCHIVES:** Buff received a letter from Barbara W, Archives Coordinator, stating she had to resign the position, due an allergic reaction anytime she opened one of the boxes. Buff also stated help will be needed to get the boxes out of her basement and asked the people from Columbus to meet with her to make arrangements to get the boxes out of the basement at Barbara's home. Judy C, MVAIS Liaison, volunteered for the position and Buff appointed her on an interim basis. An election for the position will be held at the Spring Assembly.

**FORUM:** Christine T, Coordinator, presented the report –

1. The following letter was sent to all Al-Anon groups stating that WSO will discontinue sending complimentary copies of The Forum beginning in March of 2016.

*Dear Al-Anon and Alateen group members,*

*For several years, your group has received a free copy of The Forum. This service provided by the World Service Office costs over \$100,000 a year. Due to decreased literature sales and increased costs, your Finance Committee has decided to discontinue sending free copies with the March 2016 issue for a one-year trial. The Committee has a fiscal responsibility to keep a watchful eye on Al-Anon's expenditures and make adjustments when necessary. Budget constraints make this decision necessary. We are not discontinuing the magazine – only the distribution of the free monthly copies to the English-speaking groups. You can continue to read The Forum with a paid group subscription. Also, individual members can subscribe electronically for \$1.49 per issue and access the magazine by smart phone or other device. Al-Anon's monthly magazine contains meaningful sharings of experience, strength, and hope from members around the world. Don't miss out! We are sorry for the necessity of discontinuing free copies, but hope your group has appreciated receiving The Forum.*

In grateful service,  
Jennie M., Treasurer, Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc., WSO Finance Committee Chairperson

Ohio subscriptions were down 7% last year. I would like to encourage DR's and GR's to have their groups subscribe to the Forum and continue to encourage individual subscriptions and use of the Forum in meetings.

2. The following is an invitation to write and send in sharings for a new book

THE *FORUM* BOOK (working title)

They ask: Have you ever read a *Forum* magazine sharing that:

- helped you to look at something a bit differently?
- made you laugh?
- touched your heart and reminded you that you aren't alone?

- had a unique way of presenting the topic/subject?
- will stand the test of time?
- These are the sharings we would like to include in THE *FORUM* BOOK (working title).

The piece is intended to compile thoughtful sharings published in past issues of *The Forum* that are important enough to be read for years to come.

You are cordially invited to send us your most memorable and relatively recent, *Forum* sharings (2005 – present). There’s only one caveat! We need to know the title, month, and year in which it appeared in the magazine. You can submit your suggestions on-line. Go to the Members’ Web site at [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members). Click on Individuals, Featured Publications, *The Forum*, THE *FORUM* BOOK (working title).

**GROUP RECORDS:** Robin R, Coordinator, submitted a written report and stated she would present it at the Spring Assembly –

428 Active Groups, holding 490 meetings	24 Active Alateen Groups
4 Groups in No Mail status	27 Inactive Alateen Groups
153 Inactive Groups 159 Inactive meetings	3 Alateen Groups Marked for Deletion
22 Groups Marked for Deletion	
3 Groups with “bounced e-mail” addresses	

**LITERATURE:** Karen M, Coordinator, stated she would present her report at the Spring Assembly.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:** Jane E, Coordinator, was absent but submitted a written report. Buff read the report –

In November, I took books and literature to Harvest Home in Akron. It was for the women's center.

I gave Public Outreach information to Canton, taking old Forums and attaching Al-Anon information cards, leaving them in Doctor’s offices, Churches and the Akron General Wellness Center.

On April 24th, there will be at an event at Akron University for the American Society of Suicide Prevention.

I’ve also given literature and books to Highland High School in Medina County.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

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

The 2016 Budget took some time to decide on. We started out with 2015 Budget being in the RED (negative).

We had a convention that did EXTREMELY WELL which saved us!!	\$3,232.53
The 2-Day Fall Assembly had some unfortunate expenses because the contract changes could not be verified due to Janis Reining’s death.	2,040.00
We added an insurance bill of	875.00

and noted that the insurance will now cover the Convention Treasurer, as required in the Handbook, so that will not be an additional expense

for future conventions. Then there are the mailing issues. We finally made a few cuts and were able to balance everything! The budget Worksheet shows how we came up with our income.

Group Donations	\$9,915.87
Plea Letters	6,281.54
<u>Personal Donations</u>	<u>+ 123.00</u>
Total income	\$16,320.41
Then we took our Budgeted amounts for last year	\$14,329.20
We subtracted the money that was actually spent	<u>- 15,797.34</u>
Which is the over expenditure of	< \$ 1,468.14 >

We made a few minor adjustments to the Reserve funds except for the Equipment Fund which we felt needed to be prepared for the eventual need for new computers.

We added	\$234.21
That makes the adjustments to the Reserve fund of	\$292.27
Next we took the Income of	\$16,320.41
<u>Subtracted the Reserve fund adjustments</u>	<u>- 292.27</u>
Subtotal	16,028.14
Deducted the over-expenditure	- 1,468.14
Our available income to be budgeted	\$14,560.00

Robin R, Group Records Coordinator, moved and Kathleen S, DR 6, seconded to accept the report and recommend it for approval to the Spring Assembly. The motion passed.

**COMPLIANCE LIAISON COMMITTEE / AAPP:** Karen P, Committee Chair, presented the report –

**COMPLIANCE:**

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

**AAPP:**

WSO has just opened the 2016 recertification access to AAPP's to begin updating AMIAS for the next year. Many of our current AI-Anon Members in Alateen Service are due to have their FBI background checks updated. I have recently sent out reminder letters to those who are due for another background check. Included in those letters are directions on how to go about the process from the FBI web site.

All recertifications must submit AMIAS Forms 1 and 2 fully completed with two signatures for processing. The lines state: Member, DR and GR. We are aware that not all groups have access to both and in these situations a person at State level or Officer at Intergroup level who can easily be cross referenced to be active may be



substituted. The purpose of this is to help confirm that the AI-Anon member is active in their program and an appropriate example to our teens.

We currently have 84 AMIAS with 47 due for an update on their FBI background check.

The State of Ohio has 25 active Alateen meetings. The Stark County group started July 2015 and Brookpark group started the beginning of February 2016. Currently Hudson and Lorain have potential sponsors working on background checks and volunteering to go through WSO provided sponsor training. Their hope is to start new meetings early this summer. A group which is held at a school in Berea has been approached to follow through on becoming active according to Ohio and WSO standards and is complying to do so.

As Tina and I have encouraged the new sponsors to follow through on training and sit in on a seasoned group prior to starting their own, the feedback from those who have done this has been very positive. They have said that it has set them up for success.

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

The printing cost for the Handbook and By-Laws is substantial because of the length of the documents. To cut down on the printing costs I have turned both documents into booklets. These booklets will be given to all new Group Representatives at the New GR Orientation on a trial basis.

After this meeting I will send all officers, coordinators, and special standing committee members their job description which appears in the Handbook via electronic mail. Your task is to see if the description matches what you are doing. Note any changes need to be implemented and return your response to me.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Position vacant. Donna K, Budget Committee Chair, has been asked to do the review on the 2015 Treasurer's documents.

**TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY / OHIO AREA CONVENTION LIAISON:** Lee R, Liaison, stated that the information had previously been given. She did ask everyone to please talk up the Convention.

**WEBSITE COMMITTEE:** Mike W, Committee Chair, submitted his report and it is attached at the end of these minutes.

He also reported that our web hosting company has raised our rates, from \$59 to \$79, which will still be within our budget. Next year, we will have to renew our domain name, but we will still be within budget with that as well. He also reported that over 200 documents, some dating back to 2002, are still stored on our web server. We're going to work on removing the old documents, but provide printed copies to both the Area archives and the respective AIS.

Judy C, interim Archives Coordinator, reported that Miami Valley AIS has undertaken a project to pay for a 1-year subscription to The Forum, if groups would notify Intergroup. So far, only 8 of the 48 groups have responded.

### **UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Alateen Sponsor Workshop – March 19 @ 9 AM - Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd, Columbus

KOMIAC Planning Meeting – April 17 @ 12 PM – BRC, 8231 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls

Alateen Spring Rally – April 23 @ 10 AM – Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd, Columbus

KOMIAC Planning Meeting – May 15 @ 12 PM – BRC, 8231 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls  
Spring Assembly – May 21 - North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus  
KOMIAC Planning Meeting – June 5 – Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Dayton  
Ohio Area Convention – June 24 – 26, 2016 – Holiday Inn (Cleveland Northeast) 7701 Reynolds Rd, Mentor  
KOMIAC Planning Meeting – June 26 @ 12 PM – BRC, 8231 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls  
KOMIAC Planning Meeting – July 17 @ 12 PM – BRC, 8231 E Washington St, Chagrin Falls  
KOMIAC – July 29-31 – Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy, Dayton  
Ohio AA Convention w/ Al-Anon participation – August 19 – 21, 2016, Doubletree Inn, Westlake  
Fall AWSC – August 13 - North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus  
Alateen Fall Rally – October 22 – Location to be announced  
Fall Assembly – November 5 – 6, Holiday Inn (Belden Village), 4520 Everhard Rd NW, Canton 44718

There being no further business, Robin R, Group Records Coordinator, moved, and Karen P, Compliance & AAPP, seconded to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

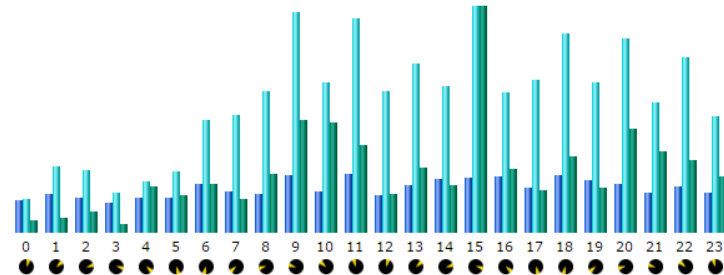
Respectfully submitted,

Phil H  
Secretary

# OAA WINTER WEB REPORT – March, 2016

We saw steady traffic of over 4300 unique visitors in January and February of this year, down from about 5800 last year. Document downloads increased substantially to 253 this month, compared to 145 this time last year. No spammer or hacker activity to report. Content was updated on many pages, including PDF documents and forms.

## TIME OF DAY WEB TRAFFIC TRENDS



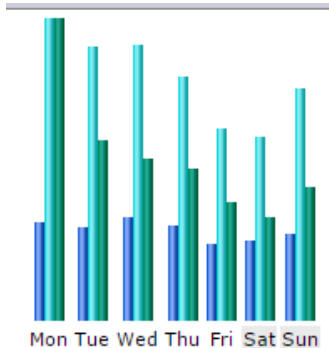
The top five meeting directories that visitors clicked on:

1. Remote
2. Cleveland
3. Columbus
4. Akron
5. Cincinnati

## MONTHLY AVERAGES 2015

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	5,901	13,182	22,386	45,951	415.30 MB
Feb 2015	5,309	11,042	14,810	33,203	270.93 MB
Mar 2015	5,423	11,015	15,326	37,918	323.70 MB
Apr 2015	5,829	11,666	16,220	38,414	319.32 MB
May 2015	5,331	10,477	15,231	37,149	421.60 MB
Jun 2015	4,693	8,598	12,899	34,733	406.35 MB
Jul 2015	3,777	6,812	10,568	32,680	262.42 MB
Aug 2015	4,444	7,426	12,019	38,847	434.15 MB
Sep 2015	4,690	7,716	11,579	33,980	322.61 MB
Oct 2015	3,823	6,916	10,577	31,423	346.10 MB
Nov 2015	3,629	6,240	9,282	28,074	304.18 MB
Dec 2015	3,659	6,326	10,036	27,104	368.54 MB
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,508</b>	<b>107,416</b>	<b>160,933</b>	<b>419,476</b>	<b>4.10 GB</b>



## DAY OF THE WEEK TRAFFIC TRENDS



## MONTHLY AVERAGES 2016

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2016	4,571	7,478	11,839	33,408	566.67 MB
Feb 2016	4,362	6,989	10,885	30,655	605.94 MB

## TOP 10 FILE DOWNLOADS FROM THE SITE MAR 2016

Downloads: 243		Hits
	/documents/2015-fall-assembly-minutes.pdf	102
	/documents/2016-OAC-Convention-flyer.pdf	52
	/documents/trustee_resume_1_06.pdf	51
	/documents/AMIAS_Packet_Revised_Format_Octobe_2011.pdf	49
	/documents/2015-Spring-Assembly-Minutes.pdf	48
	/documents/Conference_Workshop_on_Opening_Our_Hearts.pdf	46
	/documents/Forum-Order-Form-fillable.pdf	42
	/documents/2011-Spring-Assembly.pdf	41
	/documents/Ohio_Area_Spring_Assembly_final-May_19_2012.pdf	41
	/documents/2015-Spring-Delegate-Report.pdf	38

OAA Web Committee Report by:

- Mike K. webmaster@ohioal-anon.org
- Phil H. secretary@ohioal-anon.org

Stats by AWSTATS

# Ohio Area World Service Committee Inventory

*Please read the following questions and reflect upon your answers. Then write your thoughts on the second page and bring to AWSC.*



## MY PART AS A MEMBER OF THE AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE

- Do I attend the meetings regularly?
- Can I accept disagreement and differing points of view good-naturedly?
- Do I volunteer for, or willingly accept, service opportunities at the Area level?
- Am I understanding when personal circumstances compel some members to limit their service work?
- Do I criticize others in the group or gossip about them?
- Am I afraid to express my opinions because of other people's reactions?
- Do I allow other officers and coordinators the dignity of doing their own jobs without trying to control them?
- Do I volunteer to be a buddy for a new officer/coordinator/District Representative?
- Do I read AI-Anon/Alateen literature every day, and apply the principles to my daily life?
- Do I keep the focus on AI-Anon Area business and my own recovery when I share?
- Do I help out before and after meetings by setting up or putting away tables and chairs, literature and refreshments?
- Do I interrupt or carry on a conversation while another member is speaking?
- Do I listen carefully to the reports, the chairperson and other group members?
- Do I avoid giving advice to members?
- How well do I think I am doing my job?
- Is this job what I expected it to be?
- What are my difficulties with this job? (i.e., equipment, officer interaction, etc.)
- When problems arise, do I focus on the problem or the solution?

“What’s my part?”



## MY VIEW OF THE AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE

- Does everyone have a chance to voice his/her opinions to the committee?
- Do we criticize others in the group or gossip about them?
- Are we forming cliques or being indifferent to other members of the group?
- Do I pressure the group to accept my ideas because I have been in the fellowship a long time or for any other reason?

“What’s our part?”

- Do we let new District Representatives/Coordinators/Officers know what the buddy system is and how to obtain a buddy?
- Does our area undertake service projects on its own or in conjunction with the World Service Office?
- Is our Area active?
- Do we send representatives and financial contributions to the World Service Office? Do we support the information service office?
- Does the group leave the meeting room in an acceptable manner?

## MY VIEW OF THE WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Are our meetings interesting and helpful?
- Do we encourage everyone to participate in the discussions by sharing and listening?
- Do we refrain from giving advice?
- Do we stick to the subject being discussed or wander off on tangents?
- Do we maintain as our primary purpose – to help families of alcoholics?**



We are **all** part of the world-wide fellowship of AI-Anon.

After you have read and reflected on the above questions, answer the following questions:

What does our Area World Service Committee do well? What are our strengths, good things that we do?

What could our Area World Service Committee do better? What are our weaknesses, problem areas?

What suggestions do you have for our Area World Service Committee to improve?