AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – SPRING 2017

The Area World Service Committee meeting was held on Saturday, March 11, 2017, 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. Judy A, Treasurer, read the Twelve Traditions; Kathleen S, DR 6, read the Twelve Concepts of Service; and Lisa W, GR-Serenity & Beyond, Upper Arlington, read the General Warranties Of The Conference.

INTRODUCTIONS: All present introduced themselves and there were 21 people present.

MINUTES: The minutes of the 2016 Fall AWSC meeting were previously electronically distributed to all of the Committee members. Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, moved and Karen S, Registration Committee Chair, seconded to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion passed.

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

Income 1 January – 31 December 2016 – + 25,649.53
Expenses 1 January – 31 December 2016 – -19,233.07
Ending balance as of 31 December 2016 – $38,047.75

Cheryl B, DR 9, moved and Karen S, Registration Committee Chair, seconded to accept the report. The motion passed.

Report for 2017: Beginning balance as of 1 January 2017 – $38,047.75
Income 1 January – 11 March 2017 – + 3,777.22
Expenses 1 January – 11 March 2017 – -2,050.00
Ending balance as of 11 March 2017 – $39,774.97

Marty O, Youngstown Alternate AIS Liaison, moved and Kathleen S, DR 6, seconded to accept the report. The motion passed.

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

Alternate Delegate

I have gained even more enthusiasm for service work after participating in a conference call with WSO about our upcoming T.E.A.M. event. Let’s talk it up and have great attendance!

Having the opportunity to answer questions from members and discuss our spiritual principles as it relates to service has been “life affirming” for me when I am having one of those “down days.” Thanks to the members who have called or emailed.

Newsletter Editor

I continue to work on ways to try and get participation for submissions to our Al-A-Notes. Many Areas publish only the number of times that their assembly meets while some have monthly website editions. I would like you to ask your groups if cutting back to twice a year would make more sense. It certainly would be easier to set definite and standard times for submissions and plan the printing.

An alternative would be to move it exclusively to a website publication and possibly move information from our chairman and various coordinators, meeting agendas and reports, etc., to that spot on the website. This would
depend on the available time and ability of our current webmaster to do so and the willingness of our members to use the website for this purpose.

In the meantime, I am working with the newsletter editors that access the AFG Connects website to try and update the existence of all of our different publications and the ways to access them.

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

The 2017 World Service Conference is April 25-28, 2017. The theme is OUR MEMBERS: OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

The Policy Committee is suggesting some changes to be discussed regarding: Financial Matters, Conventions and other events and “open” and “closed designations. The following are topics at the Open Policy Committee Meeting: Electronic (on-line) Al-Anon meetings and Understanding group autonomy (Tradition Four and Warranty Four).

Love Gifts: Spread the love of Al-Anon all over North America by sending love gifts to your Delegate to distribute to other members of the World Service Conference in April, to take home to their Areas! Please send love gifts and notes of encouragement. Please send to:

(Hold for WSC 4/24-4/28, 2017)
Ginny C – Ohio Delegate
Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel
5700 Atlantic Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Return address:
Please use the address on the AWSC roster
Please plan to have mail arrive after April 20th.

Finances at Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc. have drastically improved over last year. Literature Sales are down from this time last year but exceeded budgeted expectations by almost $115,000. Forum subscription income was up by 9.18 %. Contributions were up by almost 17%!!! Thank you, OHIO, !!! Ohio contributed $21,100.29 in 2015 and $30,062.13 in 2016.

The General Fund gained $88,153 this period in 2017. In 2016, it lost $361,025 this period last year. That represents an improvement of $449,178 over this period last year. Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) was able to pay back money taken from the Reserve fund. Keep it Up OHIO!!!! This level of giving will help AFG and the World Service Office (WSO) be able to provide services and support in the coming years. The Contribute Now Button: allows members to contribute each time OR members can set up a repeating monthly contribution.

The following measures will be implemented to decrease Budget Costs. The World Service Conference Summary: printed copies will only be available for purchase but a digital copy will be available online. Service Manual 2018-2021: a new version will no longer be sent to each group, printed copies will be available for purchase, a digital copy will be available online BUT newly registered groups will continue to receive a free copy.

Al-Anon’s 6th International Convention July 6-8, 2018, Baltimore, Maryland. Now is the best time to start planning your budget to attend. A few important things to consider:

1. Estimate your travel expense
2. Think about how many others you may want to room with
3. Plan to register early for the lowest registration price
4. Total these items for a preliminary budget
5. Divide this number by weeks remaining to determine how much to save each week

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<td><strong>Al-Anon International Convention Registration Fees</strong></td>
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2017 is Alateen’s 60th Anniversary: How is your district going to celebrate? How would you like the Area to celebrate? The Alateen Work Group Trial Ends October 2017 and will not be extended. Alateen Advisory Committee is to be disbanded. The Purpose was to provide guidance by identifying and articulating the needs of teenage members and to assure Alateen interest were considered. The Alateen Work Group struggled to obtain teen participation despite various methods over a 5-year period.

The 2017 Meet the Board will be in October in Colorado.

Groups can purchase multiple copies of the *Groups at Work* booklet so each member has access to the contents of the "Suggested Meeting Format". Using the *Groups at Work* booklet also prevents the errors that could occur if members typed the readings. The *Groups at Work* is available on the Members site as a .pdf document to be used electronically or printed out. Groups can enlarge the "Suggested Meeting Format" pages of *Groups at Work* on a copier and place in a binder, if the document is for group use only and that multiple copies will not be printed, distributed, or sold. Since the “Suggested Meeting Format” in the *Groups at Work* booklet (P-24) is Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature, it cannot be altered in any way except enlarging the font size.

The WSO has launched the official Al-Anon Family Groups Instagram account. Would you consider joining us in this Public Outreach effort? Become a “follower.” By liking and sharing AlAnon_WSO Instagram posts, you can help carry the Al-Anon message of hope to many people, including young adults, affected by someone else’s drinking that may not have heard about the support that Al-Anon offers. Find us on Instagram by searching for “AlAnon_WSO,” or by clicking on the Al-Anon_WSO Instagram icon located on the WSO Public Outreach website, [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org). Please remember to protect your anonymity on social media by not making comments that would reveal your Al-Anon membership.

Planning has commenced for the TEAM event to be held in Ohio. Our theme is Spirituality Of Action in Recovery (S.O.A.R.) - more later.

WSO has three employment opportunities: Communications Secretary-Bilingual English/Spanish, Research Analyst and Webmaster. See job descriptions listed under WSO employment opportunities on the members website (and printed copies at the back of the room).

In Loving Memory of Rex A. McVicker, Jr. – consider a memorial contribution to Al-Anon Family Groups.

**REGISTRATION:** Karen S, Registration Committee Chair, reported there were 18 AWSC members and 3 visitors present.

There was discussion on ways to increase attendance at the AWSC meetings. Several suggestions were made and the consensus was to have a "pot luck picnic" immediately preceding the Fall AWSC in August at 11:45. Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair moved and Kathleen S, DR 6, seconded to have the picnic. The motion passed. The AWSC will furnish the plates & cups – everyone coming to the meeting is asked to bring a covered dish to share. This announcement will go in the Fall AWSC emailing.

**TASK FORCE & THOUGHT FORCE REPORTS:**

**TASK FORCE – GUIDELINES FOR INCOMING ALATEEN SPONSORS:** Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, presented the report –
I attended the training in Indiana in September for Alateen sponsors. It was interesting and I got some ideas from that, and some ideas on how I don’t want to do it, so I’m looking at getting with the Committee and trying to get something to set some recommendations by the Fall AWSC.

**TASK FORCE FOR IMPLEMENTING CHANGES TO OHIO AREA CONVENTION:** There currently is no chairman for the Task Force, but a comprehensive report was made at the 2016 Fall Assembly. The AWSC referred this matter to the Handbook Committee for recommendations.

**TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A NEW FLYER FOR GR ORIENTATION FOLDER:** Mike K, Web Site Coordinator, presented the report –

Mike showed this concept for a tri-fold flyer that would replace several items currently in the new GR folder.

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**For More Information:**

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-23/27)
When I Got Busy, I Got Better (P-78)
Al-Anon/Alateen Guidelines for Group Representative (G-11)
Joy of Service (S-57)
Service Sponsorship (P-88)
Getting In Touch With Al-Anon/Alateen (S-23)
Catalogue of Conference Approved Literature (CAL)
OAA Web site: www.ohioalanon.org

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**Glossary of Common Terms**

AFG – Al-Anon Family Groups
CAL – Conference Approved Literature
DR – District Representative
Group – A registered Al-Anon or Alateen meeting
GR – Group (Meeting) Representative
ISR – Information Service Representative
KBDM – Knowledge Based Decision Making
LDC – Literature Distribution Center
OAA – Ohio Area Assembly
ODAT – One Day at a Time
WSO – World Service Office

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**Stepping Up in Service**

Group Representative Reference Guide

A Group Representative, (or GR), is an important link in the Al-Anon/Alateen chain of service. A GR helps keep the group informed, bringing timely announcements of upcoming events. A GR is also the voice of the Group, casting votes on matters affecting the business of Al-Anon/Alateen at Ohio Area Assemblies.

Any Al-Anon or Alateen member who is willing to represent their group at the Ohio Area Assembly, and who is not also a member of AA, is eligible to serve as a GR (Group Representative).
Much of the discussion centered around the fact that a lot of GR’s attending the GR Orientation have not received any information at the district level prior to the Assembly, and a flyer like this should be distributed down to the districts to pass along to newly elected GR’s.

Since there is content that is reprinted from Conference Approved Literature, the consensus of the AWSC was to submit the proposed flyer to the World Service Organization for approval to use their copyrighted material.

**TASK FORCE - MAILING AND PRINTING CONCERNS:** Melanie B, Chairman was absent and Phil H, Secretary, presented the report –

Our committee has been using the current KBDM on re-evaluating the methods used to print and distribute communications to groups and individuals.

For those who have responded to my emails I apologize that a motion is not going to be made on this subject for Spring Assembly. My reasons are in light of the new info of mailing would be to 80 groups vs 11, and we did not have time to discuss the printing issues: should we have a printing company do the work vs the board members.
I did not think we could make a solid recommendation at this time. (We needed to have a committee decision by March 6th for it to be considered for Spring Assembly.)

We are continuing to study these issues and our plan is to have a recommendation for the Fall Assembly 2017.

OLD BUSINESS:

**APPOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIR:** Buff confirmed that Kathleen S, DR 6, has volunteered to fill the position for this year.

**APPOINT TASK FORCE CHAIR – CHANGES FOR THE OHIO AREA CONVENTION:** There will be no appointment, as this has been referred to the Handbook Committee.

**MEET THE BOARD 2017:** Ginny C, Delegate, announced, in her report, that the Meet The Board Event will be hosted in Colorado in October. It was decided to bring the matter to the Spring Assembly for discussion of submitting a bid for 2018 and, if favorable, a vote.

**TEAM EVENT 2017:** Theresa M, Alternate Delegate, presented the report –

The theme for the Ohio TEAM event is Spirituality Of Action in Recovery. (S.O.A.R.) What is the TEAM event? This is a partnership between Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio (AFG of Ohio) and the World Service Office (WSO) which is designed to energize members' spiritual program into action and expand members' understanding of our worldwide fellowship. The day will consist of workshops and talks by WSO members teaming up with members of AFG of Ohio. The workshops we will be presenting are on Spirituality, Action and Recovery. WSO will be sending Mary G., Executive Director, Tom C., Literature and Joan S., Trustee.

The TEAM event takes place **Friday July 7, 2017** 8:30am-4:30pm. The cost is $15 Pre-registration or $17 at the door. Lunch on your own. It takes place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Akron Fairlawn 3150 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio. S.O.A.R. into the OAC!!! Ohio Area Convention (OAC) will start right after the TEAM event.

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING FORM & MOTION** – Ginny C, Delegate, made the presentation –

**Topic:** Inviting two speakers from World Service Office to speak at the Ohio Area Convention

**Background information – What we know**

- **Historical perspective**
  - Mary G. and Tom C. from WSO will be speaking at the TEAM event on Friday July 7, 2017.
  - WSO pays for their flight to Akron/Cleveland.
  - The OAC would normally have to pay for the registration, travel costs, and meals for two speakers during the OAC.

**Existing motions that pertain to this topic:** In 10/96 the following was approved: All speakers to be from Ohio and/or adjoining states unless otherwise approved by the Area World Service Committee.

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

When told of the OAC’s planning committee idea, many people have expressed interest.

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

This will save the Assembly the cost of travel by car from Ohio or one of the surrounding states.
What are the implications of our choices? (pros and cons)

Pros: Members may come to the OAC who do not usually come. Members may come from other Areas to attend our OAC.

Cons: None.

What we wish we knew, but don't: Will this attract more people to our OAC?

Need for motion? Yes.

**MOTION:**

To invite two WSO staff, Mary G and Tom C, to speak at the 2017 Ohio Area Convention.

Karen P, AAPP, moved and Jo S, DR 51, seconded, the motion. The AWSC unanimously approved the motion.

**REVISE SECRETARY’S DUTIES IN BYLAWS:** Phil H, Secretary, presented the report –

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING**

**Topic:** To revise the Secretary’s duties in the By-Laws

**Background Information – What we know**

**Historical Perspective –**

The Secretary’s duties were completely revised in the Handbook at the 2016 Fall Assembly. A portion of that revision detailed the manner in which the minutes are retained, and by whom.

The current description for the Secretary’s duties in the By-Laws is now not correct.

**Existing Motions That Pertain To This Topic –**

Motion 2016 – 11/05, adopted at the 2016 Fall Assembly, revised the Secretary’s duties in the Handbook.

**What Do We Know About Our Members’ Wants, Needs and Preferences?**

We need to “Keep It Simple” and ensure we have clearly defined responsibilities.

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

We should be mindful that our By-Laws are the legal framework for our organization. Inaccurate job descriptions can lead to unnecessary work.

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

Pro – Aligning the Secretary’s duties in the By-Laws with the current duties in our Handbook avoids confusion.

Con – Maintaining the “status quo” places an unnecessary burden on the Secretary.

What we wish we knew, but don’t:
Need for motion? Yes – the motion follows.

**MOTION:** To amend the Secretary’s duties on Page 4 of 11 in the Bylaws, as follows:

As is currently written:

**Article III – Officers**

**F. Secretary**

Takes minutes of all Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings and records the minutes in permanent minute book, which is passed on to successors.

By deleting the last part of the sentence, as follows:

Takes minutes of all Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings and records the minutes in permanent minute book, which is passed on to successors.

And adding the following in its place: and maintains them as specified in the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.

So that the amended section reads, as follows:

**Article III – Officers**

**F. Secretary**

Takes minutes of all Assembly and Area World Service Committee meetings and maintains them as specified in the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.

The AWSC recommended this amendment to the Spring Assembly for consideration.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPOINT CHAIRMAN FOR 2017 OHIO AA CONVENTION W/ AL-ANON PARTICIPATION:** Louise W, DR 33 and Columbus AIS Liaison, volunteered and was appointed. She stated that it would require a lot of support from the AWSC.

**EXPAND GR ORIENTATION MEETING TIME:** There was a discussion on expanding the amount of time of the GR orientation meeting at the Spring and Fall Assemblies. As there was no consensus, the GR Orientation meeting will remain at one hour. The Committee suggested that the new GR’s be asked if they felt the allotted was enough to get all of the information.

**TAPE RECORDING OF MINUTES:** Buff explained that, currently, the AWSC and Assembly meetings have been recorded, to assist the Secretary in getting all of the information correct in the minutes. When the minutes of a meeting have been approved at the succeeding meeting, the recording is destroyed. However, there is nothing in either the Bylaws or Handbook providing for this. Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chairman, said this may have already been voted back in the early 2000’s and suggested researching those minutes. Then, the matter can come back to the Fall AWSC.
**HANDBOOK & BYLAWS CHANGES:** Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chair, presented the report –

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING**

**TOPIC:** Change the name of the title for the By-Laws and Handbook for AFG of Ohio

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The titles have been the same for these documents since AFG of Ohio was incorporated in 1991.
Title of the By-Laws: **BY-LAWS of the OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY FOR AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS**
Title of the handbook: **HANDBOOK of General and Committee Working Procedures for Ohio Area Assembly Meeting**

**EXISTING MOTIONS:**

**WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP’S NEEDS, WANTS, AND PREFERENCES?**
Members want the documents to have clear titles and descriptions.

**WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR CAPACITY (resources)?**
The proposed change would not have any effect on the line item in the budget for the Handbook Committee.

**WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CHOICES?**
**PROS:** More clarity to the titles of documents. Titles match the name of the organization on page 2 of the By-Laws.

**CONS:** The titles would not match the name of the organization on page 2 of the By-Laws.

**WHAT DO WE WISH WE KNEW BUT DON’T? ???**

**NEED FOR MOTION:** Yes – three motions are required.

**MOTION:** To change the title of the By-Laws

From: **BY-LAWS of the OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY FOR AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS**
To: **BY-LAWS FOR AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS OF OHIO, INC.**

**MOTION:** To change the title of the Handbook

From: Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for the Ohio Area Assembly Meeting
To: Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.

**MOTION:** To change the wording description on the title page of the Handbook

From:
This handbook is intended to be used in conjunction with “Ohio Area Assembly By-Laws for Assembly By-laws for Al-Anon Family Groups, Inc.”.
In all Proceedings, the latest edition of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual will be followed except for deviations found in this “Handbook” and “Ohio Area Assembly By-Laws”.

All succeeding Ohio Area Assemblies will follow the current guidelines in this Procedure Handbook, until and unless amended.

To:

This handbook is intended to be used in conjunction with the By-Laws of the Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.

In all Proceedings, the latest edition of the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual will be followed except for deviations found within this “Handbook” and the “By-laws for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.”.

All succeeding Ohio Area Assemblies will follow the current guidelines in the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.

The AWSC recommended this amendment to the Spring Assembly for consideration.

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING

TOPIC: Update By-Laws Article II Section F to match current practice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Until 2005, the Handbook Committee printed a set of the By-Laws and Handbooks with all the updated information yearly for each attendee of the Fall Assembly. The Fall Assembly in 2005 changed the printing schedule to be a full set every three years with changes only printed every year and distributed at the Fall assemblies to attendees.

When Ohio Area launched its website the By-Laws and Handbook were one of the first items to be added to the site.

With the addition to the website of the By-Laws and Handbook changes were easily made and members were able to download and print an updated version of these documents themselves.

Printing of sets of the By-laws and Handbook were no longer printed for every attendee for distribution as the cost for printing had skyrocketed. Only enough sets were copies for new Group Representatives. This practice started in 2007 and continues today.

EXISTING MOTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO THIS TOPIC: To print complete sets of Handbook and By-Laws every three years. For the in-between years only the changes from those two intervening years will be printed. (Passed 10/21/05)

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP’S WANTS, NEEDS, AND PREFERENCES?
Members want the By-Laws and Handbook to be up to date and available.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR CAPACITY (resources)?
Available funds for budget line items for the Handbook committee have decreased over the past several years.

WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CHOICES?
PROS: updates will be available shortly after each assembly and only printing copies for new GR will help keep Area expenses down.

CONS: no change will increase Area Expenses in order to follow By-laws directive.

WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW BUT DON'T? ???

MOTION: Yes, motion follows.

**MOTION:** To change Article II, Section F of the By-Laws of AFG of Ohio

From: To print complete sets of Handbook and Bylaws every 3 years. For the in between years only the changes from those two intervening years will be printed.

Change to read: Changes and all updates to the By-Laws or Handbook for AFG of Ohio, Inc., shall be posted on the Ohio Area Website within two months following each Assembly meeting. Printed sets of the By-Laws and Handbook shall be limited to the number of new Group Representative from the previous year plus ten.

The AWSC recommended this amendment to the Spring Assembly for consideration.

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING**

**TOPIC:** Listing Past Delegates as officers in the Handbook as stated in the By-Laws.

**BACKGROUND:** Past Delegates have served in a variety of service positions in the past, and are listed in the By-Laws as Officers. The experience, strength, and hope Past Delegates bring to discussions is valuable.

**EXISTING MOTIONS:** None

**WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP’S NEEDS, WANTS, AND PREFERENCES?** Members appreciate the wisdom brought to discussions by Past Delegates.

**WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT OUR CAPACITY (resources)?** Adding Past Delegates to the List of Officers in the Handbook would have no impact on the budget as Past Delegates already have a line item in the budget.

**WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW BUT DON’T?** How long members wondered about this topic.

**MOTION:** Yes

**MOTION:** Move to add Past Delegates to the list of Officers on page 4 of the Handbook and a description on page 5.

Currently reads:  

Change to read:  

AND add to page 5 the following description: 
Past Delegates
May be appointed as Area Coordinators of a special service, or may fill any position the Delegate or Assembly may desire.

The AWSC recommended this amendment to the Spring Assembly for consideration.

**APPOINT TASK FORCE – KEEP ALL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN COLUMBUS:** This item was tabled until the Fall AWSC.

**KBDM – Group Records to update AWSC records at WSO:** This discussion was tabled until the Fall AWSC meeting.

**KBDM – ability to update AMIAS FBI instructions with FBI changes:** Karen P, AAPP, presented the report –

**KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING**

**Topic:** To modify the method of updating the AMIAS instructions in the Handbook

**Background Information – What we know:**

**Historical Perspective –**

The “Application Packet for Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service” was adopted in 2011. At that time, a portion of that packet contains instructions for using the FBI web site.

This packet was subsequently uploaded to the Area web site for AMIAS to refer to.

Since that time, the FBI has updated its web site at least twice, possibly more.

In March, 2015, the Area Chairman gave permission to update the instructions on Page 9 of the packet, to coincide with changes made to the FBI web site.

The site has been updated since that time, but our Area web site still has instructions which are no longer current.

There is a need to be able to update Page 9 (or the future instruction page) without the necessity of bringing a motion to the Assembly.

**Existing Motions That Pertain To This Topic – None**

**What Do We Know About Our Members’ Wants, Needs and Preferences?**

Our members need clear and concise instructions on our web site and in the Packet in order to complete the forms.

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

It is a matter of re-navigating the FBI web site and changing the instructions, to keep them current.

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

Pro – Our members have the most current information at hand to renew their AMIAS background checks.
Con – Members may become frustrated and simply not renew their AMIAS certifications.

What we wish we knew, but don’t: How many members have not renewed their AMIAS certifications because of incorrect instructions?

Questions and Clarification: The current instruction page follows, for illustration purposes.

Need for motion? Yes – the motion follows.

Presented by: Karen P, AAPP

FBI Fingerprint Impression Card can be found at www.fbi.gov (See below)

FBI Applicant Information Form can be found www.fbi.gov (See below)

Credit Card payment form Can be found at www.fbi.gov (See Below)

Step by step instructions to download FBI forms: Go to www.fbi.gov

☐ Click “Services”.
☐ Click “Identity History Summary Checks”.
☐ Scroll down to Step 4 and click “Identity History Summary Request Checklist”.
☐ Scroll down to the bottom of the next page and download the form.

To download the Fingerprint Impression Card:

• On the “Identity History Summary Checks” page, scroll down to Step 2.
• Click “standard fingerprint form (FD-258)”.
• Scroll down to the bottom of the next page and download the form.

To Download the Applicant Information Form:

☐ On the “Identity History Summary Checks” page, scroll down to Step 1.
☐ Click “Applicant Information Form”.
☐ Click “Request the Applicant Information Form” button on the next page.
• Click “download the form” on the next page.

If you need the Credit Card Payment Form:

• On the “Identity History Summary Checks” page, scroll down to Step 3.
• Click “Credit Card Payment Form”.
• Scroll down to the bottom of the next page and download the form.

MOTION:

To make an exception to procedure by allowing the instructions for accessing the FBI web site on the last page of the AMIAS Packet to be updated without the need of a motion at the Assembly. Information shall be passed to the Area Chairman, who will notify the web master of the changes needed.

The AWSC tabled the matter until the Fall AWSC meeting.
CONVENTION & ASSEMBLY REPORTS:

2016 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY: Jo S, Committee Chair, presented the report –

2 day Fall 2016 was held on November 5th and 6th 2016 at the Holiday Inn Canton, 4520 Everhard Road. Room rates were $109.00 per night plus tax (which were 12.5%).

The banquet was held on Saturday night and we had 71 attend this event. At the time this report was submitted, I did not have a final count of how many attended the weekend.

Rick B. was our speaker for Saturday evening and also participated the entire weekend.

Total Banquet cost was $1894.14 (to the hotel), banquet money received was $2130.00 and 71 people attended. Meeting room cost for Saturday and Sunday was $4354.02

After everything was paid, there was $139.98 left over. (per delegate Ginny C.)

Notebook with all receipts will be prepared and available at Spring Assembly.

2017 OHIO AREA CONVENTION: Districts of Akron / Canton – Jo S, Convention Chairman, presented the report –

CONVENTION REPORT – The Ohio Area Convention:

- Will be held on July 7th, 8th and 9th (following the TEAM event)
- Our theme this year is “Together we can Make it”
- We will be at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel located at 3150 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio
- Room rates are $119.00 per night plus tax (which is 15.25%). You can either get 2 double beds or a king. Any room that is not cancelled by noon the day before arrival will be charged one night’s rate plus tax.
- If you are sharing your room (1-4 people) the hotel will be glad to split your bill for you.
- You can call (330) 869-9000 for reservations or you can go to their website at www.doubletreeakron.com/afgofohio
- Be sure to use the code afgohi for your guaranteed room rate!
- This lovely hotel is located west of downtown Akron with a large mall across the street.
- There is an indoor swimming pool as well as a fitness center
- “Free Cookies when you check in
- + room with 2 queen size beds
- We will have three meeting rooms
- The banquet on Saturday night will be buffet style and the cost is $35.00
- If you prefer, there is a restaurant in the hotel called Cafe Bricco and there are numerous other restaurants nearby.
- We are excited to bring you 2 great speakers from our World Service Office (who are coming for the TEAM event and staying.
- Mary G. is the new Executive Director for WSO
- Tom C is the Assistant Director of Communications, Literature at WSO
- And there is more... there will be Al-Anon, AA and Alateen workshops and speakers all weekend
• If you want to take a break on Saturday afternoon, this hotel is a very short distance from Dr. Bob’s (and Ann’s) house as well as the gatehouse. We are working with AA to see if we can schedule a tour, but this has not yet been confirmed
• Mark your calendars now and we hope to see you there

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS –

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chairman, presented the report –

All revisions to the By-Laws and Handbook were completed in January this year. The By-Laws have been posted on the website and can be downloaded for use. The Handbook was sent a few weeks ago but has not been posted yet.

As I was reviewing the Handbook while making the revisions, it seems to me the content of the Handbook is usable, but the organization tends to be a little confusing. I will continue to review the Handbook and bring a recommendation to Fall Assembly.

As you know the election of Officers and Coordinators will be held at the Fall Assembly this year. I recommend looking in the Handbook for who is eligible for the service position you are thinking about, just to be sure you are eligible. Then call the person who has that position currently and inquire about it.

CONVENTION & ASSEMBLY REPORTS:

2017 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY (ELECTIONS): Districts of Columbus – Sandy F, Handbook Committee Chairman, presented the report –

The Site Selection Committee was formed January 14, 2017. Sandra F. agreed to be the chairman for the search committee.

Contact was made with Experience Columbus’ small groups division. A bid request was sent by Experience Columbus to suburban full service hotels. Downtown hotels were not included in the search as past inquiries proved to be locations AFG of Ohio could not afford. Four bids were received. All four of the bids were over our budget.

Following inquires to each bid location about possible negotiations on the meeting room fees, the discussions did not work out. At this point, I as the Site Selection Committee Chairman called three other Central Ohio locations about possibilities. These were Delaware, Newark, and Dublin. After two calls to the Delaware Visitors Bureau and calls were not returned, I stopped contacting them. Newark, actually, Licking County Visitors Bureau, had one hotel who did submit a bid which the committee reviewed. Dublin Visitors Bureau responded and the three full service hotels submitted bids. Site visits were done of all there hotels. After visiting each of the locations, one of the hotels withdrew their bid as the space was rented to larger group. The remaining two were given serious consideration and a lengthy review of these bids was completed.

Following the review, the Site Selection Committee gladly announces the Fall Assembly 2017 will be held at the Embassy Suites in Dublin located at the corner of Bridge Street and Franz Road in Dublin, October 28-29, 2017. Rooms are for 1-6 people with breakfast included. Room rate is $124 plus tax. Banquet choices and pricing will be announced no later than Spring Assembly.

A flier is being developed for distribution at Spring Assembly, also to be included in the Summer Issue of Al-A-Notes, and posted on the website.
2017 OHIO AA CONVENTION W/ AL-ANON PARTICIPATION: Louise W presented the report –

There are some flyers for the 2017 Ohio AA Convention July 28 to 30, on the table. The hotel information is on the flyer, as well as registration information. Al-Anon will have a set time on their agenda for speakers and workshops. Al-Anon will also have a designated room. There is more information on the Ohio website.

2018 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY: Districts of Cleveland – No report was submitted.

COORDINATOR REPORTS – Due to a lack of time, Coordinators were asked to submit their reports for the minutes.

ALATEEN: Tina L, Alateen Coordinator, did not submit a report.

ARCHIVES: Judy C, Archives Coordinator, was absent but submitted the report –

Working with the Archives is like working the Twelve Steps – you’re never really finished with them. The inventoring and cataloguing of the archives will be passed along to my successor after our Fall Assembly. A lot of progress has been made, but there is more to be done.

A reminder – the archives are where AREA documents are stored, and those include flyers from the various AIS’s and Districts on events they are sponsoring. Please be sure that the flyer clearly states who is sponsoring the event – for example “Miami Valley AIS” or “District 24”. That helps in getting them catalogued for future reference.

On down the road, another part of gathering the archives will be working with our webmaster to retrieve older documents that have been posted on our web site in the past. This will ensure we have that important historical copy!

There are still several empty notebooks from previous reports that were sent to the Archives. If an Officer, Coordinator, Committee Chair or Task Force Chair needs one, please let me know.

FORUM: Christine T, Forum Coordinator, was absent but submitted the report –

1. General information from the Forum Office of WSO as of Feb. 2017:

- **Increase in subscribers:** Ever since the World Service Office stopped sending complimentary copies of *The Forum* to groups, there has been an increase in subscriptions. This has been most notably from groups buying subscriptions. Please remind groups that receiving *The Forum* is a great way to make the magazine visible, and let everyone know of its value for recovery.

- **The Forum needs more sharings!** We are very short on sharings about the three Legacies--especially about Steps Five through Twelve, and all Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service. Also needed are sharings from Canada and from Alateen members.

- **New Department in The Forum:** In October, *The Forum* began a yearlong series of articles written by members of the Board of Trustees. They share about the recovery their service provides them, and provide an inside peek at the work the Board does for our fellowship.

- **THE FORUM BOOK (working title):** So far, members have sent in over 270 titles and publication dates of *Forum* articles they consider the best of recent years. Please encourage members to let the WSO know which *Forum* stories they want to see included in this book. And don't forget to send in your own picks too!

- **Instant Step Meetings:** Beginning in January, the "Instant Meeting" feature of *The Forum* will include, in addition to two or three brief sharings on the Step of the month, several thought-provoking questions to get the conversations started.
2. A Note about Electronic Subscriptions:

“Improving ways for members to order *The Forum* and Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature (CAL) ebooks and audiobooks is important in the technological world we live in today. More members want to read *The Forum* and CAL on their mobile phones, tablets, ereaders, and personal computers in addition to their print publications.

Like digital CAL, the availability of *The Forum* in an electronic format is a service to members who are already subscribers and to those who may not yet be familiar with Al-Anon’s monthly magazine.

The “Electronic Literature” section of the WSO’s online store now has hyperlinks that transfer visitors directly to the digital *Forum* magazine page of the respective vendors’ websites:

A disclaimer statement is included to uphold the spirit of Al-Anon’s Traditions and to adapt the WSO’s online store to today’s technological world. Announcements and articles about this addition are being made through Group e-News, AFG Announcements, and *The Forum*. You can also assist by including this information in your communication within your Area.”

Yours in fellowship,

Linda Briggs-Harty, Magazine Coordinator

You can see that OHIO forum subscriptions are up and that is great! Go OH-IO!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Date:</th>
<th>JUNE 2016</th>
<th>SEPT 2016</th>
<th>FINAL: 10/11/16</th>
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<tr>
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<td>22,694</td>
<td>Gain/loss: 858</td>
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<td><strong>Total number of Al-Anon/Alateen Groups:</strong></td>
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<td>13,803</td>
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<th># of subs</th>
<th>sub/group</th>
<th># of groups</th>
<th># of subs</th>
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<th>GAIN/LOSS</th>
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<td>456</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>912</td>
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<td>68</td>
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<td>613</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>112</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>13,949</td>
<td>21,836</td>
<td>1.565</td>
<td>13,803</td>
<td>22,694</td>
<td>1.644</td>
<td>858</td>
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</table>

**GROUP RECORDS:** Robin R, Group Records Coordinator, submitted the report –

440 Active Groups holding 502 meetings
2 Groups in No Mail status
121 Inactive Groups 128 Inactive meetings
16 Groups with “bounced e-mail” addresses

I would like to remind the District Reps that they have “read only” access to the WSO data base.

Go to: [http://www.al-anon.info/OnlineGroupRecords/](http://www.al-anon.info/OnlineGroupRecords/)
Use your AFG Connects user name and password to log in and bring you the “search” page.

From here you can access the information for the groups in your district.

**LITERATURE:** Karen M was absent and no report was submitted.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH:** Jane E, Public Outreach Coordinator, was absent but submitted the report – looking forward to our all state convention in Akron Ohio July 7, 8, 9.

Al-Anon member is working at a rehab festival and has requested Al-Anon literature.

I have ordered Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017 for our May meeting and the Addiction Studies.
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS –

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Donna K, Committee Chair, was absent and Robin R, Group Records Coordinator, presented the report –

Our Budget meeting on Feb. 26, 2017 went very smoothly. Within about an hour, we had made our adjustments and thanks to Robin and her computer everything balanced.

Thanks to the generosity of our membership we had more money to work with.

We put $885 of that surplus into our Equipment Fund just in case we need to buy computers for the Secretary and Group Records positions in the Fall. So far, Phil and Robin have been using their own computers and we reimburse them for ink and paper.

The other $500 went into the Convention Reserve Fund. Robin noted that we have not increased that fund in a lot of years.

We added $200 to Al-A-Notes for printing and mailing cost. We moved $300 from the Bulk Mailing Fund to the Secretary’s Fund since our printing cost included the bulk mailing charges.

We gave our Delegate back the $50 that we took from her last year. We reduced the Group Records Fund by $50 because Robin and Phil have found a way to keep Group Records up-to-date and save us money, too.

We gave the Secretary and Treasurer and additional $50 each to balance the books.

**OAA 2017 BUDGET WORKSHEET**

**2016 Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Donations</td>
<td>10,857.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plea Letter Contributions</td>
<td>5,947.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Donations</td>
<td>67.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Service &amp; District Donations</td>
<td>200.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD Interest</td>
<td>618.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME for budget &amp; reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,691.37</strong> (2016 – 16,320.00)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ASSEMBLY FUNDS**

**Excess Funds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 Budget</td>
<td><strong>14,560.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Expended</td>
<td><strong>-15,512.47</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>-952.47</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0 To Excess Funds in 2017</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Reserve FUNDS

Active Past Delegate Fund 0.00
Convention Float 0.00
Convention Reserve 646.37
Action Comm/Coordinator Fund 0.00
District Rep AWSC meeting 5% 0.00
Equipment Fund 5% 885.00
OAC Fund 0.00
Transition Fund 0.00

TOTAL Reserve Fund Adjustments - 1,531.37

17,691.37
- 1,531.37
Available for 2017 Budget 16,160.00

2017 PROPOSED RESERVES ADJUSTMENTS & BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly Funds</th>
<th>Balance 12-31-2016</th>
<th>Budget Adjustment</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Past Delegates Fund</td>
<td>$608.89</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$608.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention Float</td>
<td>$3,200.00</td>
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<td>$3,200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention Reserves</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<td>$2,646.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Rep AWSC Meeting</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Fund</td>
<td>$402.96</td>
<td>$885.00</td>
<td>$1287.96</td>
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<td>Excess Funds</td>
<td>$3,473.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAC Fund</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
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<td>$600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition Fund</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL OF NON-BUDGET ITEMS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1531.37</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET ITEMS</th>
<th>2017 Proposed</th>
<th>2016 Budget</th>
<th>2016 EXPENSE</th>
<th>2016 BUDGET BALANCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA Convention Hospitality</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>-211.20</td>
<td>-11.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action Committee</td>
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<td>40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addiction Studies Institute</td>
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<td>Al-A-Notes</td>
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<td>Alateen Coordinator</td>
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<td>700.00</td>
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<td>89.28</td>
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<td>Alternate Delegate</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>-30.40</td>
<td>19.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives Coordinator</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10.00</td>
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20
Audit/Review Committee | 10.00 | 10.00 | 0 | 10.00
Budget Committee | 300.00 | 300.00 | -236.95 | 63.05
Bulk Mail/Return Postage | 1000.00 | 1,300.00 | -782.02 | 517.98
Chairman | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0 | 50.00
Compliance Liaison/AAPP | 120.00 | 120.00 | -25.00 | 95.00
Delegate | 200.00 | 150.00 | -191.05 | 41.05
Delegate Equal Fund | 2000.00 | 2,000.00 | -1909.00 | 91.00
Del/Alt NCRDM & Delegate OAC | 1000.00 | 1,000.00 | -707.46 | 292.54
Forum Coordinator | 10.00 | 10.00 | 0 | 10.00
Group Records Coordinator | 50.00 | 100.00 | -16.83 | 83.17
Group Rep Orientation | 100.00 | 100.00 | -74.95 | 25.05
Handbook and By-laws Committee | 200.00 | 200.00 | -36.88 | 163.12
Liability & Crime Insurance | 875.00 | 875.00 | -874.00 | 1.00
Literature Coordinator | 10.00 | 10.00 | 0 | 10.00
Meeting Expenses | 3000.00 | 1,800.00 | -2,992.12 | -1,192.12
Public Outreach Coordinator | 10.00 | 10.00 | 0 | 10.00
Secretary | 1000.00 | 650.00 | -1,144.89 | -494.89
Travel Expenses | 2000.00 | 2,000.00 | -1845.52 | 154.48
Treasurer | 500.00 | 450.00 | -951.07 | -501.07
Two-Day Fall & Convention Liaison | 10.00 | 10.00 | 0 | 10.00
Two-Day Hospitality | 300.00 | 300.00 | -292.97 | 7.03
Website setup and maintenance | 115.00 | 115.00 | -79.95 | 35.05
SUBTOTAL OF BUDGET ITEMS | 16,160.00 | 14,560.00 | -15,512.47 | -952.47

Hopefully, you have all had a good meeting so far. I hope this budget "stuff" is reasonably clear and I will see you at the Spring Assembly. Thank you Robin for filling in for me at the VERY last minute.

Robin moved and Kathleen S, DR 6, seconded to recommend the budget to the Spring Assembly for approval. The motion passed.

Due to lack of time, other Standing Committee Chairs were asked to email their reports.

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

Starting a new year it is time for all AMIAS (Al-Anon Members In Alateen Service) to begin recertification before June 2017. The end of February reminders were been sent, emailed to those who have one on record and mailed to the few who have no email address. I currently have many who have completed the process.

Currently Ohio has 23 Alateen Groups Active and 73 current Certified AMIAS. I have been contacted by a few members who wish Start new groups in their area and will be working with them.

The AMIAS members have been good at keeping in touch with me and asking for help when needed. It is a pleasure to be in the center of our Ohio Al-Anon and Alateen Family and for that I am blessed.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE (2016):** The report will be submitted at the Spring Assembly meeting.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE (2017):** The report will be submitted at the Spring Assembly meeting.
TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY / OHIO AREA CONVENTION LIAISON: Position vacant.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Mike W, Committee Chair, submitted his report. It is at the end of these minutes.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE:

Alateen Sponsor Workshop – March 18, 2017, Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd, Columbus
Alateen Spring Rally – April 29, 2017, Ascension Lutheran Church, 1479 Morse Rd, Columbus
World Service Conference – April 24 - 28, 2017, Wyndham Virginia Beach Resort Hotel, Virginia Beach, VA
Spring Assembly – May 20, 2017 – North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus
Ohio TEAM Event – July 7, 2017 – DoubleTree Inn by Hilton, 3150 W Market St, Akron (Fairlawn)
Ohio Area Convention – July 7 – 9, 2017 – DoubleTree Inn by Hilton, 3150 W Market St, Akron (Fairlawn)
Ohio AA Convention w/ Al-Anon participation – July 28 – 30, 2017, DoubleTree Inn, 175 Hutchinson Ave, Columbus
KOMIAC – July 28 – 30, 2017 – Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
Fall AWSC – August 12, 2017 – North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 Henderson Rd, Columbus
Fall Assembly – October 28-29, 2017, Embassy Suites, 5100 Upper Metro Pl, Dublin
Alateen Fall Rally – October 28, 2017 – Location TBA

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil H
Area Secretary
AWSC SPRING WEB REPORT – March 11, 2017

Our volume of visitors is down almost 33% from last year. This may be due to the WSO release of the new Meeting Locator tool. Indeed, most of our traffic last year were searches for meetings.

An effort is being made to make it easier to find our site. An additional domain was registered without the hyphen. Both ohioalanon.org and ohioal-anon.org take you to the same website now.

Also, a proposal for a new web site is under discussion. The new site will automatically adjust to the size of a person’s device or desktop computer screen. A prototype of the site can be viewed here. http://beacondelta.com/webs/OAA/

GoDaddy domain registration fees increased to $20 a year. We’re considering transferring our domains to registrar DOMAIN.COM before May of this year. Expected savings of 50%.

Our remote meeting page was replaced with the WSO meeting locator tool.

WEB TRAFFIC TRENDS 2017

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<th>Unique visitors</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2016</td>
<td>4,362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>3,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>2,837</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Most popular pages year-to-date:
/she/alaist.html
/schedule.html
/remote.htm
/documents.htm
/alateen.html
/12steps.html
/pro.html
/akronredir.htm
/12concepts.html
/contacts.htm

A sampling of top downloads from last 30 days:
1. 2017 Ohio Area Convention
2. Conference Workshop on Opening Our Hearts
3. Alateen GR 3 Form
4. AMIAS Packet
5. Ohio Area Handbook
6. Al-A-Notes Subscription

OAA Web Committee Report by:
- Mike K. webmaster@ohioal-anon.org
- Phil H. secretary@ohioal-anon.org

Stats by AWSTATS