2018 FALL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The Fall Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14, 2018, at the Doubletree Inn, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, Ohio 44131. Temporary Chairman Sandy F. opened the meeting at 12:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer. Judith C., Hudson Saturday Serenity AFG, read the Twelve Traditions; Steve R., Medina Saturday AFG, read the Twelve Concepts of Service and Jane R., Hope is Found Here AFG in Dublin, read the General Warranties of the Conference.

Sandy shared:—This is our Declaration of Unity, it was approved by the 1984 World Service Conference and can be found on page 237 in Many Voices, One Journey (AFG 2011), It says—'Each member of the fellowship is a significant part of a great circle of hope. While respecting each other's individuality, our common welfare must come first. Our recovery depends on our mutual need and an atmosphere of trust.' These are the goals of the Ohio Area Assembly: The first goal: Members will understand the purpose of the Assembly, relationships within the structure and be able to articulate Assembly decisions. The second goal: The spiritual tone of the Assembly will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members. And goal three: Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience; Assembly members will presume goodwill.

Sandy welcomed everyone and explained the voting procedures and reviewed meeting etiquette. During the election, election of Officers will require substantial unanimity, 2/3 of the votes, and Coordinators will require a majority vote. All elections will be done by paper ballot. She made announcements including changes to the agenda. Furthermore, beginning January 1, a Budget line item will be added for the cost of the District Representative Orientation packets.

Introductions by district were made and the following districts were represented: 4,5,6,7,8,9,10,15,19,23,24,25,26,30,31,32,33,34,38,39,44,45,47,48,51,and 56.

Delegate Theresa M recognized and welcomed 11 new Group Representatives.

<u>MINUTES:</u> The minutes of the Spring 2018 Assembly meeting were distributed via the AFG of Ohio website and via email. Phil H. pointed out concerns that the content of the reports in the minutes was not the same as what was exactly presented at the meeting. In particular, the count on the Regional Trustees was incorrect. He moved to not approve the minutes and resubmit them with the missing information for approval at the 2019 Spring Assembly. Sydney P., Bay Village, seconded the motion. The motion failed.

A second motion was made by Ann F., Genoa Giving and Getting AFG, to accept the Spring Assembly minutes as amended. Seconded by Louise, Just For Today Al-Anon Lorain AFG. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Judy A, Treasurer, presented the report –

I am real frustrated because it won't balance. There is 50 dollars more in the checking than I have accounted for. On the second page, are the expenses and reserve funds. The \$300 convention fund is wrong, it should come out because it is for Two Day Fall Assembly as meeting expenses. It should come out of convention fund and placed under meeting expenses. Second page is budget and will remain the budget until the Assembly votes on a new budget.

Beginning balance as of 1 January 2018 –	\$40,673.17
Income 1 January – October 2018 –	+ 17,411.32
Expenses 1 January – October 2018 –	<u>- 11,821.84</u>
Ending Balance as of October 2018 –	\$ 46,262.65

Cheryl B., DR District 9, moved and Merri G., Saturday Rainbow AFG, seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

On October 13:

86 registered
67 Voting members
9 Non-voting guests including 2 Alateen
10 Non-voting Officers/Committee Members

On October 14: 58 Voting members

ELECTION

Sandy explained that the Assembly will be voting to fill positions that are vacant and will be effective as of January 1, 2019. The open positions are Alternate Delegate and Area Chairman. Election is by written ballot and require substantial unanimity, that is 2/3 majority. She explained the requirements for these positions. Barbara Mc., Past Delegate Panel 34, chaired the election. Barbara Mc. read the job descriptions for Chairman and the Alternate Delegate. She also explained how the election would be conducted and suggested a simple majority if there was a tie. By a show of hands, the voting procedure was approved.

Each eligible candidate read their application and a vote was taken. The following members were elected:

For Chairman-Ginny Clark
For Alternate Delegate- Jo Stanovcak
For Secretary-Carmen Irwin
For Group Records-Shelly Cassidy
For Literature Coordinator-Anne Ferguson

ALATEEN: Sara M., Alateen Coordinator, presented the report-

Founders Day:

Four teens gave their mini leads on a panel and many teens participated in a skit. It was well attended and appreciated by attendees.

KOMIAC

It was a fabulous time! The total number for KOMIAC was "224ish," per Kentucky Board. We had a total of 50 people on the bus - kids and sponsor mixed. The kids were from Chagrin Falls, Hudson, Youngstown, Rocky River, Toledo, and Cincinnati area meetings.

New state representative: Bella G. from Chagrin Falls Alternate state representative Emily from Toledo

Rally

October 27 10:00-3:30 PM at Clague Road Cabin in Westlake; Canton teens are leading it. 27700 Hilliard Boulevard, Westlake, OH 44145

Gratitude Night:

November 2, 2018 St. Malachi, 2459 Washington Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Doors open at 6:30; leads at 7:30.

Sponsor Workshop:

November 10th 10-3pm North Congregational United Church of Christ. Interested AMIAS are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to email or call/text me with any specific topics or concerns you want covered.

KOMIAC/Ohio Al-Anon account:

In order to change the signers or add a signer all previous signers have to be present. This is not going to be a possibility. Therefore, we will need to close the account and open a new one or determine an alternative way to manage the money.

There have been issues found with the checking account. Money from the KOMIAC account has been misused and the account was essentially depleted. Approximately \$8000 appears to have been wrongfully spent. The inconsistent spending appeared to begin when Karen P gained access to the checkbook. When this was realized, Karen P was asked to step down from her positions in Alateen service while it was being investigated.

The \$2000 from the state for buses was still available as was money placed in the account for 2018 KOMIAC by the Cleveland area Alateen account. Since there was not enough money to pay for the bus total Gary J. paid for it on his credit card and was just reimbursed by the Cleveland Alateen account.

The information has been turned over to the Cleveland police by Gary J. who has access to the account as one of the signers. Gary turned over the information to Mary and Julie from the downtown Cleveland Office. They had a meeting Tuesday 8/14 with the detective investigating their case to make an amendment to the case in order to include this information as well. This is an open investigation; therefore, information is limited. In the meantime the majority of the money has been moved to the Cleveland Alateen account with a minimal amount being kept in the existing account to avoid fees.

We are in the process of determining the best way to manage Alateen/ KOMIAC money at a state level. Sara answered questions. Sandy F. reported that the officers decided the new account should have two signers on the account: the Chairman and the Alateen Coordinator.

<u>ALTERNATE DELEGATE & AL-A-NOTES EDITOR REPORT:</u> Sandy Flenner, Acting Alternate Delegate, presented the report –

The Newsletter editor for each Area has a link to AFG Connects. I asked other Newsletter editors, Does your Area Exchange newsletters and the secondly what topics have you chosen for your newsletters. Very Few responses were received on either topic.

The second edition of Ohio Al-A-Notes was published in early September. The Topic was "How do I use the Al-Anon Declaration as a personal guide to encourage me to do Public Outreach." September was National Recovery Month.

The committee proofread it and it was then sent to the Secretary for distribution.

Personal subscriptions and Exchanges were mailed via US Postal Service.

The deadline for the last 2018 issue of Al-A-Notes is November 11. A topic has not been chosen yet.

During the summer, I did work on exchanging newsletters electronically and received four replies. One newsletter was received via USPS and it is from Canada. Exchange newsletters received are available for anyone to take home and share with your group. They are located in the back on the handouts table.

It is a continued concern about the lack of participation from other Areas in regards to the newsletter exchange. A Task Force about Newsletters will be discussed under Old Business.

Another concern is the lack of submissions by Area Coordinators, Standing Committee Chairmen, and District Representatives for District Doings even though reminders were sent to all AWSC members.

Perhaps it is time to reevaluate the usefulness, need and desire by members about the Area's Newsletter. Are there any questions?

DELEGATE: Theresa M., Delegate, presented the report –

2018 Fall Assembly Delegate Report

2018 WSC: "Al-Anon - There Is No Standing Still"

<u>Many Voices, One Journey</u> (B-31), page 385: "Life is all about change. It is about our willingness to be open to this change—to use these opportunities for growth and to fall back on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Service to keep the program in check". Attending the World Service Conference has taught me more about how to apply our spiritual principles as a format for change rather than stagnation.

So, instead of reporting on the Open Policy Committee meeting on Meditation, the Area Reserve Fund Task Force Presentation, and the 5 Delegate-chosen Conference Agenda items, I will leave it to you to read the WSC Summary decide what questions or concerns to bring to Assembly regarding those items. I am available to come talk to your groups, district meetings or AIS meetings. Just pay my way and I'll be there. I am also okay with having web conference calls – which may very well be the way of communications in the future.

2018 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The full report is online at https://al-anon.org/resources-for-professionals/membership-survey/.

The 2018 Membership Survey responses from a record-breaking 13,395 Al-Anon members have been tallied. THANKS! to the Al-Anon members who took the time to complete the World Service Office's (WSO's) twelfth membership survey.

As you review the results, please consider:

- The 2018 Survey study is designed to present a big picture snapshot of the Al-Anon fellowship for the specific period of time period: (January 10, 2018 to February 27, 2018).
- This information can increase awareness of the effectiveness of our program and encourage professionals to refer clients and patients to us.
- Some questions were asked in a new and different way in the 2018 study. Comparison of results and responses to the same questions in previous membership survey reports would not be statistically accurate.
- The average age of female Survey participants was 61; women accounted for 85% of all Survey respondents.
- The report is only available in English because its results are primarily relevant to professionals serving English-speaking clients.

Of special interest to our West Virginia members (I was asked to give a Delegate's Report last weekend)

- 50% of members indicated that the family member or friend who had led them to initially attend Al-Anon meetings had a history of drug use.
- 35% of members specifically joined because of this drug use.
- While more members first joined Al-Anon because of their spouse, members' children have a much higher likelihood of having a history of using drugs and of leading members to join Al-Anon because of this drug use.
- While 35% of members first came to Al-Anon because of a loved one's drug use, 65% of those who came because of drug addiction joined because of a child's addiction.

Road Trip 2018

Road Trip! is a one-day event where you can meet with your Al-Anon Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. You'll learn more about the Board and its members' work as World Service Office Volunteers, but also hear personal stories and participate in roundtable discussions, such as "Attracting new members," "Reaching out to unrepresented groups," "Sponsorship," "Leadership," and more!

- Until Wednesday you can register online: www.al-anon.org/roadtrip
- "Road Trip!" will take place on Saturday, October 20.
- Registration is from 8 to 9 am. The day ends at 4:30 pm.
- Location: Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport, 9100 Gulf Freeway, Houston, TX 77017

There were no TEAM events this year because of the International Convention, as well as hosting the IAGSM (International Al-Anon General Service Meeting) the first week in October. There are 9 TEAM events possible for 2019; two have been scheduled as of the July COB letter.

TASK FORCE: CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES AND OUR COMMON PURPOSES

The Task Force: Celebrating Our Differences and Our Common Purpose presented a skit and workshop handout to assist members in identifying our own biases (known and unknown). Conference members then brainstormed ways to apply the spiritual principles of our program to move beyond biases.

I found the presentation and following discussion to be very meaningful. I am including the Facing Our Biases handout in the New District Representative Packets. I will be happy to email the handout to anyone who wishes to use it for personal, group, district or AIS (Area Information Services) inventory purposes. I believe it is posted or are going to be posted on our website and/or sent to all CMA's.

BOARD ACTIONS SINCE THE WSC

<u>DNL:</u> Based on the Board of Trustees July 2018 motion, WSO Staff have compiled materials to support those Areas which feel the need to develop "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policies. The material (14 pages long) is designed to support Areas in establishing fair and balanced "Do Not Refer" and "Re-Refer" policies that are founded on the spiritual principles contained in Al-Anon's three Legacies. Areas are not required to create "Do Not Refer" or "Re-Refer" policies, but the WSO will respect them after review. I have sent in our 2017 policy for the review.

Because of ongoing concerns expressed about how best to ensure that meetings remain a place of safety, Areas are urge to consider whether or not <u>safety guidelines</u> need to be adopted. AA has addressed this with a SAFETY CARD FOR A.A. GROUPS, F-211. https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-

211 SafetyCardforAAGroups.pdf

There will be a <u>3yr trial</u> of having Spanish and French translators at WSC- paid for out of the reserve fund. <u>Policy committee update</u>: There is ongoing work on the subject of how best to support Electronic Meetings. An Electronic Meetings Work Group will present findings at the 2019 WSC. The Associate Director -Digital Strategy has begun attending Policy meetings as a resource for a year beginning July 2018. The Policy Committee also continues to review items in the Policy Digest – the Alateen, and the Membership and Groups Sections.

<u>Finances</u>: At the time that I am writing this, the 3rd quarter report has not come out. It is anticipated that literature sales that were down in the first half of the year will have increased because of the new book B-33 "Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships" and the P-94 pamphlet "Hope and Understanding for Parents and Grandparents."

<u>LITERATURE</u>: The 2018 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval to develop a bookmark based on an August 2016 Forum article titled "Just for Tonight" using inclusive language. It is important to note that conceptual approval of the new bookmark does not mean that the "Just for Today" bookmark, which is currently in use, will be removed or replaced. I had the opportunity to work on this as a member of the Literature Committee. It was a truly spiritual growth experience.

<u>Translation Mega-Issue</u>: At the 2018 WSC, all Conference members were given the opportunity to openly discuss the challenge of how best to address Spanish and French translation needs across our worldwide fellowship. The discourse took place over three days (two hats/day using the DeBono method). Our new Executive Director led the discussion and did a fantastic job of keeping us on topic as we worked out way through the process.

Since the translation mega-issue conversation is still in its infancy, Staff and the Board need time to discuss the details and possible solutions before any conclusions can be reached. Once a clear direction is chosen, Conference members will be notified and will share the new information with members in their Area.

Day of Connecting July 4, 2018

- Attended by 1,200 members.
- First time planned the program by the Board of Trustees
- Aligns with the strategic goal of our Board to reach out and to connect with the membership
- Plans in the works for having in conjunction with 2023 Albuquerque International 2018 International Convention Baltimore July 5-8

- Attendance records were broken with 4,044 attendees. This included 49 Alateens, 271 members of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) and 40 quests.
- 131 workshops, speaker meetings and panel discussions
- Language of Love Parade, 500 members
- Big Meetings on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday morning
- International speakers from New Zealand, South Africa and the Netherlands

SERVICE and EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES at the World Service Office

As a reminder that we, the members through our Group Representatives, have the ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services, I am once again reminding members of opportunities to serve our fellowship at the World Service Office

As with all the other 4 Committees listed, the Literature Committee has Membership at Large position allows any member with 5 years of continuous Al-Anon experience to submit a resume. These positions do not require assembly/Area approval. The forms are all submitted electronically and can be downloaded from our website.

One doesn't have to have been a Delegate or Chairperson to apply. Requirements beyond length of time in program (5 years) are spelled out in the resumé application forms. You do not have to be approved by the Assembly in order to submit an application.

The ECRPM and Trustees-at-Large also do not need approval from the Area though requirements for these two positions are more extensive.

2018 is the last year for Debbie G to serve as our Trustee. For 2019, I hope to have our Assembly develop our own Regional Trustee Process. I have learned a lot from being a part of a Regional Committee on Trustees (RCT) in order to select an applicant to nominate a member to potentially serve on the Board of Trustees from our North Central Regional.

<u>Employment Opportunities</u> are listed on the al-anon.org main page at the bottom – click on Employment. Notices of the latest postings are sent out to members in announcements via *In the Loop* to CMA's and to any member who has given their email to receive *In the Loop*.

2019 WSC Theme: "Action is Attraction - There is No Growth in the Comfort Zone"

The dates selected for the 2019 World Service Conference are Saturday, April 13 through Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Delegates are scheduled to arrive on Friday, April 12 and depart on Thursday, April 18. The Conference will be held at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, 3501 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

Equalized Expense Forms for 2019 have been sent to the Area Treasurers asking for payment no later than December 31st 2018. [Equalized Expense Amount is \$1,302 US; Full Amount is \$1,972 US.]

YOUR INPUT IS BOTH WANTED AND NEEDED

Concept One-The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups.

Concept Four – Participation is the key to harmony.

- The WSC is 5 long days of sharing personal (between members as well as the leads), policy discussions and business information (financial, restructuring, etc.) –all done in order to gather information and ideas for how we help others find recovery.
- The business presentations of our finances and how the WSO has undergone some productive
 restructuring with our new Executive Director working with the Executive Committee and WSO staff <u>is</u> a
 necessary and important piece of how we are able to share Al-Anon's message of recovery worldwide.
- Presentations by outgoing BOT members on what it has been like to be a Trustee and shares by different WSO Staff members on their latest work also show how we are carrying the message.
- Going over just this part of the WSC and the breakout sessions related to this would easily take up an hour at each assembly.

So back to the beginning.

- With the advent of AFGConnects, I can assure you that there is ongoing dialogue between the
 Delegates, and between Delegates and WSO, about issues of concern. Questions raised receive a lot
 of feedback. The staff are paying close attention to what is being discussed in the different forums as
 well as providing information related to their specific AFGConnects groups.
- What I find missing is how to get communications established between myself as Delegate and you, the members of AFG of Ohio. What parts of the WSC do you want me to focus on in my presentations?
 What would facilitate your sharing your concerns with me?

Please discuss this at your home group and district meetings and get back to myself and our Officers here at AFG of Ohio, Inc.

Thank you for allowing me this service opportunity.

THOUGHT AND TASK FORCE PRESENTATIONS

The Officers presented a skit about Thought and Task Forces.

<u>Thought Force-- Action Committees – Whether to keep them, change to workshops, or another idea:</u> presented by Laura B., Thought Force Chairperson

The Thought Force for the future of Action Committees in the Ohio Area has gotten a slow start. Information requests have been sent to other Areas in the US and Canada as to whether they are still using Action Committees; and, if not, what they are doing. Several responses have been received. We also asked for and received a response from the Archives Department at the World Service Office about the history and effectiveness of Action Committees. We are also requesting assistance from the Ohio Area for assistance with our historical portion of the Knowledge Based Decision Making process.

Moving forward, the Members of the Fellowship Communications Action Committee will be the members of the Thought Force.

<u>Task Force -- Questions for GR's and DR's to Ask Potential AMIAS:</u> Sara M., Alateen Coordinator, presented the report-

Topic: Adding questions for GRs and DR to ask AMIAS applicants to the AMIAS Packet.

AMIAS Application Packet Questions

Adding questions to the AMIAS application packet for Group Representatives and District Representatives to ask AMIAS applicants and for AMIAS applicants to have access to when considering this service position.

Background Information-What we know:

Historical Perspective:

At both the Spring Alateen Sponsor's Workshop and 2018 Spring Assembly, the topic was addressed whether it would be helpful for District Representatives have questions to ask applicants before signing forms for AMIAS applicants. DR's were also inquiring about "what makes a good AMIAS?"

A Task Force was assigned to compile a list of questions. Sara M, Ohio Area's Alateen Coordinator, was asked to be the Chairman.

The list of questions was compiled with the assistance of AMIAS (Alateen Sponsors) and Alateen members attending KOMIAC 2018.

Existing Motions that pertain to this topic: At the 2011 Fall Assembly, Motion # 2011-04 addressed the packet and steps to become an AMIAS were implemented. Then, at the 2017 Fall Assembly Motion # 2017-

10/2 was made resulting in making the application process simpler.

There are no previous motions specifically discussing the need for questions for AMIAS to ask themselves or for Group Representatives and District Representatives to ask AMIAS applicants.

The current AMIAS Process Packet can be found in the Handbook of General and Committee Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. in the Appendix, which is available to the membership on AFG of Ohio's website. (www.ohioal-anon.org.)

What do we know about membership needs and preferences?

We know some District Representatives have expressed concerns that they do not have enough information about AMIAS applicants as well as being unsure about what questions to ask an AMIAS applicant.

We know our members would like qualified individuals in the role of AMIAS to assist with Alateen.

We know some members do not want the requirements in place to be so restrictive that they would be a hindrance to otherwise capable members from becoming AMIAS.

What do we know about our capacity (resources)?

This motion would require the time of our Handbook Chairman to add the questions to the AMIAS packet in the Handbook, our Website Chairman to add the revised AMIAS packet to the website, and of our Area Chairman to inform District Representatives, Group Representatives, and the membership an updated packet is available.

There are no financial implications.

What are implications of our choice? Pros and Cons:

Pros:

Would provide GR's and DR's with questions for AMIAS applicants

The questions would be helpful for AMIAS Applicants understand their responsibilities.

Alateen members actively participated in the compiling the list of the questions, giving them a voice in the AMIAS certification process.

Cons:

It requires adding another item to the AMIAS packet.

It requires the resources of time to add the questions to the packet.

AMIAS applicants may resist answering the questions.

What we wish we knew but don't:
Will GR's and DR's use the questions?
Do other Areas have questions for the AMIAS Applicants?

Motion # 2018/10-01: We move the following list of questions be added to the application packet for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service for DR/GRs to ask AMIAS applicants:

Possible Questions for a DR to ask AMIAS applicants: How long

have you been in Al-Anon?

Are you at least 21 years old?

Have you attended a sponsor workshop? If not, when do you plan on attending one? Do you

have a sponsor?

Have you worked the steps?

What makes you want to be an AMIAS? How did you

learn about a being an AMIAS?

Are you planning to just assist with teens or sponsor a meeting?

If sponsor a meeting, do you feel you are able to fully commit to being present for all meetings and finding an AMIAS to fill in if not?

Have you ever worked with kids/teens before?

Are you able to be open minded about teens lifestyle choices when it comes to the LGBTQI community?

Possible questions for a GR to ask an AMIAS applicant:

How long have you known this person?

Do they work a program?

Would you trust them with your children?

Do you feel they are ready to take on AMIAS service work?

Someone suggested another question: What is your goal (in becoming an AMIAS)? However, we are not editing it today. These are just suggested questions that a GR or DR can use.

The motion passed.

TASK FORCE for adding the Area Authorized Process Person to the list of Special Standing Committee Chairmen:

Sandy F. reported the following:

This is a note the Officers of the AFG of Ohio, Inc. We believe, and we have had this discussion for, just having our Handbook Chairman add AAPP to the lists is what we call style and editing. It doesn't need to be formal motions because the motions that are there (in the KBDM presentation) are not the only places that need to be added. So this is up to you. We sent out the paragraphs and the Task Force before Assembly. This is up to you whether we are going to present the Task Force or just ask Buff, the Handbook Chairman, to add it. If you are in favor of her just adding the notes, it does not change the content. It just adds it to the list. If you get out your By-Laws, p,5, Article 5 Committees Part B Simply add AAPP to the list. In the Handbook, p. 13, Special standing committees, would simply add Area Alateen Process Person would just add it. Description that Barbara wrote in 2009 for the AAPP is in the By-Laws. We are saying we don't need to do the motions. We all knew the Compliance person was the AAPP. Knew it in the spring we took Compliance out but didn't put AAPP back in.

Voted to read the Task Force Presentations and Motions. Motion failed by a show of hands.

Buff N. moved to have the Handbook Chairman add the AAPP to the list of Standing Committee Chairman through style and edit. The motion passed.

Old Business

<u>Mail/communications Concerns:</u> Sandy F. explained that all communications will be sent via email including the Al-A-Notes. If you want to be on the AFG CONNECTS Announcements, go to the Al-Anon.org members page. When the Area Chairman sends an email, sometimes it's for information only, other times it is asking for help and assistance. By affirmation, the Assembly agreed to continue to send communications via email.

If you are new, complete a GR-1 form to change the Group Representatives address or the Current Mailing Address and give it to the Group Records Coordinator, Carmen.

<u>Assign Task Force -- The future of Al-A-Note Newsletter Exchanges and Subscriptions:</u> Jo S. was assigned as Chairman. Members will include 2 DRS, 2 GRS, and All Past Delegates

Deanna, DR 15; Mary C., Copley AFG; Crystal, Fifth Tradition AFG volunteered to help with this project.

Ask It Basket Spring Assembly: The questions and answers were sent via email.

A Banquet announcement was made. The meeting ended at 4:55 pm Saturday to be reconvened at 8:30am Sunday, October 14.

On Sunday, October 14, 2018, Sandy F. opened the meeting at 8:39am with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. There was a presentation by the Host Committee for the 2018 Two Day Fall Assembly by Julie C. They presented a gift to Theresa M., Delegate, for her lead the night before.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Lee R., Registration Committee Chair, presented an updated report of 58 voting members being present on Sunday based on checking in with registration and head count. Eleven non-voting members were present.

New Business

Assign Task Force -- The future of Al-A-Note Newsletter Exchanges and Subscriptions- Sandy F. suggested we table discussion of this topic until the Spring Assembly because each of the Action Committees are working on this and the Alternate Delegate as well. Julie C., Westside Women's Saturday AFG, moved that we table the discussion of this topic until Spring Assembly under New Business. Mickie G., DR 25, seconded the motion. Motion passed by affirmation.

Insurance for AFG of Ohio: Judy A., Treasurer, presented the report-

Three years ago Jan S. did a KBDM on AFG of Ohio, Inc. having an insurance policy and we agreed to that. We had a three year policy. This is the general information regarding the policy. I have been talking to Bill, the agent. I changed the contact information on the first page. Next page this is what we are insured for, our general liabilities and the limits. A higher limit on auto insurance in case we rent a car. It covers two conventions and two social events. Some exclusions. Covered for crime. \$500 deductible. It will continue to be \$874 a year. Discussion followed.

Motion # 2018/10-02 We move that Ohio Assembly renew the insurance policy of AFG of Ohio, Inc. for another three-year term. Moved by Sharon B., AAPP, moved. Ann F. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Finance Committee Road Trip –2019:

Maybe we will get selected.

Profile sheet for AFG of Ohio – Assign a Task Force:

Tabled until Spring Assembly 2019.

Website – add announcements and updates for AFG of Ohio to the list of choices:

This feature will be available soon.

<u>Website Discussion:</u> Mike K. is working on a description of the Website Chair duties which will be discussed in the Spring Assembly.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

ARCHIVES: Phil H., Archives Coordinator, presented the report-

Work continues of the "sorting process" of the archives.

Area convention reports have been very time consuming – items have been found in several locations within the archives, which makes the initial sorting more difficult. One idea that was suggested was to sort the convention reports by City (AIS/Districts) first, then by year. That would make it easier to find the reports for one particular location.

The real challenge is going to be the four containers of "stuff" – papers & documents that will have to be read individually, then determine where they should be filed. Again, the suggestion to sort those documents by "City/AIS/Districts" would make locating them easier.

There are still several empty notebooks that are available to Coordinators & Committee Chairs if you need them. They just take up too much space in the archives.

FORUM: Allison G., Forum Coordinator, presented the report-

- The October Forum Sales Report was released recently, and while it shows that Ohio DOES order quite a
 few group subscriptions (88) relative to other states, that number represents less than 25% of our total
 groups, and this number is down from August.
- I'd like to collect some data without drawing attention to anyone please close your eyes:
 - 1. Raise your hands if you've never heard of *The Forum*;
 - 2. Raise your hands if you've heard of it but your group does not subscribe to *The Forum*;
 - 3. Raise your hands if you didn't know you could get your own subscription to *The Forum*;
 - 4. Raise your hands if you are a GR and just found out right now that you are also the Forum Representative for your group.
- Thank you so much for helping me to figure out how best to serve you. If you raised your hand, I'd love to answer questions and/or get you or your group subscribed for *The Forum*. Find me during one of the breaks I'm here to help you! And because I'd like to improve our group outreach, I am giving away 3 subscriptions to groups not currently signed up (blind drawing, every new group gets a chance). Please come see me!
- Did you know? You don't have to go through me to get The Forum, you can subscribe online, any time here:

al-anon.org/forum

- Did you know? *The Forum* is also available in an electronic version at: al-anon.org/electronic-literature
- Did you know? Readers are encouraged to send in not only articles, but photographs, too?
 al-anon.org/forumshare
- The WSO Forum team just released a PowerPoint presentation all about *The Forum*, and it's great! I can make it available to District Representatives for workshops, meetings, etc.
- Last but certainly NOT least: please consider running a writing workshop for your members, *The Forum* is always in need of sharings. You make it work:

Let it Begin with Me Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,

Let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen Always be there, and—let it begin with Me.

GROUP RECORDS: Carmen I., Group Records Coordinator, presented the report-

As of September 20, 2018, according to the Ohio Database there are:

604 Meetings listed

- 469 Active meetings
 - o 414 Al-anon Family Groups
 - o 55 Beginners meetings
- 125 Inactive meetings

In Area 44 (Ohio Database) there are:

6 meetings in No Mail Status

•	Barberton AFG	(Akron AIS)	District 25
•	Monday Night AFG	()	District 30
•	Zollinger Rd AFG	(Cleveland AIS)	District 31
•	Peaceful Moments	(Cleveland AIS)	District 31
•	Friday Freedom	(Cleveland AIS)	District 45
•	Westshore Serenity	()	District 47

2 meetings in Bounced email Status

•	Bowlusville AFG	()	District 24
•	Monday Night AFG	(Sandusky AIS)	District 12

1 meeting reported not meeting

• Recovery Too AFG (Miami Valley AIS) District 23

0 meetings marked for deletion

In addition there are:

- 103 that have no current email address
- 162 that have no GR

The Ohio Al-Anon Update Sheets were mailed out by the WSO on September 21, 2018. Please fill them out and send them back to me so we can reduce the number of meetings that are not being notified by email of important changes and events.

LITERATURE: Jo S., Literature Coordinator, presented the report-

Together we can make it!

The following notes are from the Literature Coordinator Conference call on September 23, 2018.

- Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships—Over 35,000 copies have been sold; they were out of stock at the time of this call, however another shipment has been delivered as of October 3rd.
- 2019 CAL Catalog (S-15) and CAL Order Form (S-16): In order to include our newest Literature in them, these free service tools will be available beginning this summer.

- There is a Forum book in the works that will be comprised of Forum Favorite Stories. Recent forum story suggestions are still needed. Please submit your favorite Forum story. Members are encouraged to send in suggestions for the title of this book.
- NEW DAILY READER (working title): There have been about 1400 sharing received so far, but there are more needed. Specifically, any sharing on the legacies are needed.
- The commemorative 50th anniversary version of the ODAT (B6-50) that was available at the International Convention for \$15.00- as of yesterday, there are still some of these available. A copy of this book will be given away tomorrow (name tag drawing) as well as a copy of the Intimacy book
- There was quite a bit of conversation about some items that were new to me. Some of these were Al-Anon calendars. Many districts do these as a fundraiser, all types of themes, 12 months, 12 steps and so forth- one district focuses on Alateen and proceeds go to the Alateen program.
- There was also a discussion (and again, many districts are doing this) about selling literature at assembly meetings, or having literature available. This is something that perhaps we can discuss in the future.
- Finally, there was a discussion about writing workshops. Per Tom, these are a great format for
 members to contribute to the Forum as well as to the new daily reader. We talked about the best
 format in which to hold these. Some of the suggestions were to do these at conventions (which we
 have done) as well as at meetings. When doing them at meetings, it is a good idea to announce the
 topic ahead of time so that members are prepared

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Kay, Public Outreach Coordinator, presented the report-

Part of my responsibility as the Public Outreach Coordinator is to facilitate Al-Anon presence at the Addictions Studies Institute. To those of you who are new-it is a major event that takes place in Columbus. Presenters come from all over to work with the professionals that come—mental health professionals, psychiatrists, psychologists, MSWs. This year we had significant presence of folks that work in the prison system. Whoever we reach has the potential to reach many more people.

The Addiction Studies Institute for 2018, in conjunction with The Ohio State University/Wexner Medical Center, was held at the Columbus Convention Center with nearly 1,000 participants in attendance. As this annual event presents a major outreach opportunity for Al-Anon Area 44, the Public Outreach Coordinator has been responsible to arrange for exhibitor space and to staff an information and referral booth to serve the needs of the doctors, researchers and mental health professionals in attendance. Typically, Al-Anon and AA share adjacent booth spaces to facilitate referrals.

This being my first year as Public Outreach Coordinator as well as experience with Addiction Studies Institute, Sandy F. greatly assisted my husband Brian (who was drafted as assistant) and me by guiding us through the process. Furthermore, she and her husband housed us for the three overnights, thus saving our Area 44 budget either lodging costs or multiple driving costs, since we reside in Mansfield.

Also this year, our Area 44 Delegate Theresa requested that we keep a record of persons who visited the Al-Anon booth for Conference Approved Literature, meeting lists or other information, along with their town, city or state of residence and/or place of employment. This we did to the best of our ability given that on many occasions we were approached by numerous people at once. It is worthy of note that we assisted about 20 individuals who work within the prison system, a category of professionals not mentioned above.

To illustrate the origin distribution of the attendees served, I prepared a map which charts the locale distribution/ number of attendees. Each colored tab represents Columbus (pink)-50, Dayton (rose)-15 and Cincinnati (peach) - 15. Akron-Canton (green), Cleveland (blue), Toledo (lavender), and Youngstown (orange) - each had 5 persons attending. The yellow tabs represent smaller outlier towns, and those total 80 attendees. Finally, there were some out-of-state attendees: Florida-2, Kentucky-2, Michigan-1, New York-1, North

Carolina-1, Pennsylvania-1, Tennessee-3, Washington DC/Maryland-1, for a grand total of 202 attendees assisted.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORTS

BUDGET: Donna K., Budget Committee Chairman, presented the report-

Good afternoon everyone,

The Budget Committee has had some conversations about our aging equipment this past summer via e-mail.

I did give Judy permission to purchase a new printer for the Treasurer's position so that she could get our plea letter and envelopes out in a timely manner.

Many of you may not be aware that Phil as our secretary and Robin as our Group Records coordinator were using their own equipment. Phil's brother (who is more versed in this technology than I am) has said that at least the laptops have seen their better days.

I expect that the Budget Committee will be getting together soon to make some recommendations. Mike K made a suggestion and I will consult with Ginny and Carmen on their thoughts this weekend.

PLEASE if you are using your own equipment at least save a receipt for paper and ink once in a while. We have gotten spoiled with the generosity of so many but not everyone is in the financial position to DONATE ink, paper, and equipment. Also we are not being self-supporting if so many are DONATING ink, paper, and equipment.

HANDBOOK: Buff reported she did not have a report to present.

Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP): Sharon B., AAPP, presented the report-

I am honored and humbled to have been asked to be the Ohio AAPP. I have a special relationship to this position. When I came into AI-Anon and into Service at the state level, my good friend Rex M. was the AAPP. He and I had many conversations about service and he changed my life. I became the Archive Coordinator for Ohio and then the Forum Coordinator. During that time, I was chairing an Action Committee on the Area Alateen Safety Procedures. The task was to determine if background checks needed to be part of the process in Ohio. I was on the Thought-Force and then Task-Force to present the Knowledge Based Decision Making Report to the Assembly. After the presentation, the Assembly voted to add background checks to the AMIAS (AI-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service) process. At that time, Janice was the AAPP and she took on the revised process with grace and help from her AI-Anon Family. I was inspired by both Rex and Janice and I know that although they are not with us on this earth any longer, they are helping me in this new service role. I am grateful to have been asked and happily accept the service.

Here is the status of the Area Alateen Process in Ohio as of October 6, 2018:

- 22 Active Alateen Groups in Ohio 2 in No Mail Status.
- 65 AMIAS Certified through 2019 3 in No Mail Status.
- A list of each has been sent to the Ohio Alateen Coordinator for reference.
- Alateen Coordinator and AAPP will be in Communication at least monthly.
- The renewal process for this year was completed before the AAPP position transitioned to me.
- New PO BOX for submitting applications was secured. This information was updated on the Ohio AFG website. For your reference it is PO BOX 984 Twinsburg, OH 44087
- No new applications for groups have been received.
- One AMIAS application has been received and is being processed.

Several inquiries were received and responded to regarding the process and how it works.

I have a print out of details for each District, Group and AMIAS if you wanted to verify with me for accuracy. You can reach me via my email sharonbserenity@yahoo.com or aapp@ohioal-anon.org

REVIEW: Robin R., Review Committee chairman, presented the report-

We've not yet been able to review the books for 2018. I do have the information now and will meet shortly.

TWO-DAY FALL/CONVENTION LIAISON: Sandy F., presented the report-

I have been working closely with this year's Fall Assembly Host Committee working out some bumps in the road so to speak.

The 2019 Fall Assembly Committee has been working hard preparing for the event in Cincinnati next year. I have been working with the host committee's selected site on contract details. Their report will give the details for the event.

I also was in communication and worked with the Host Committee location for the 2019 Ohio Area Convention. Districts of Columbus will not be hosting Ohio Area convention in 2019. They are, however, working on an alternative event which is in the development stage at this time. If the event comes to be, an announcement and information will be given about it in the Fall Issue of Al-a-Notes.

What do you all think about us asking the combined AA Area's if they would consider us joining them in their location and holding simultaneous events? If that would come to be, the cost of space would be more reasonable.

I need to remind all host committees, four copies of your final report need to be printed. One is then given to the Review Committee chairman, one is given to the Archives Coordinator, one is given to the next host site committee, and one is given to me.

Are there any questions?

WEBSITE: Phil H., Archives Coordinator, presented the report prepared by Mike K. and Phil H. -

The report is attached to the end.

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sandy F. announced that the Action Committees were each given a Thought Force or Task Force to explore. Thought Force for What to do to encourage groups that are isolated to get connected and participate is assigned to Membership Outreach. Fellowship Communications was already assigned to the Thought Force Whether to keep Action Committees as stated in the current handbook and if not, what suggestions do you have. Public Outreach project is to develop an Area Wide poster, Area Wide business card, and Area Wide bands to put around Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism. Fourth one, we will hear from the committee because they have a suggestion.

GROUP SERVICES: Phil H., Chairperson of Thought Force, presented the report-

Thought Force: Develop a Finance Committee for Ohio Area

Summary we heard from the Budget Committee Chair, Treasurer, and Review Committee Chair currently serving the Area all three felt the current system was working well. Having separate entities was useful for checks and balances as opposed to one Finance Committee under one umbrella. However, the Action

Committee believes much further discussion is needed about finance procedures to look at and explore. We do have the KBDM questions answered if you want those also.

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS: Mary Ellen R., Hubbard Friday Night AFG, presented the report-

Thought Force: Whether to keep Action Committees-Laura B., Chairperson

What do we want to do different if we don't want to be an action committee?—need to increase attendance at Assembly and participation in groups in the Ohio Area. What do we want to do?-A Thought Force? An Action Committee? We were never whole. Could not find a common purpose. KBDM works great when it works or would work on a local and in close proximity to each other. Has to catch up when new GR's begin and old ones leave. Workshops—Setting aside time to meet and set up workshops—redefine our role as a committee—action rather than inaction. We used to have workshops which are awareness and a positive effect. Something you can take back to our meetings. What is promoting? When we have fellowship, a meeting, sharing etc.—Instead to have late night meeting the thought process is taxed to come up with another thought after a long day of travel, day long assembly, dinner, lead etc. Do we want to continue with Action Committees? NO Recommend to dissolve.

Pros: To help people feel they were a part of something

Cons: No Beginning, No End, No Continuity, No proposed actions, Not productive

We want to find out how or why this meeting was formed-Will look into the archives for the answers.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH: presented by Marty O., Mineral Ridge Monday Night AFG-

Thought Force on Isolated Groups Outreach -Karen D., Chairperson

We discussed what we don't know about rural groups-possible problems with anonymity in small rural groups.

What do we know about their needs, wants and preferences? We suggested the idea of the District Representative visiting the rural groups. Need to get the meeting information and contact information including an email to find out when and where they meet so the DR can attend a meeting. We discussed ways to reach out such as get active groups to "adopt a group" in a rural area.

What do we know about their situation? Can these rural groups afford to send a representative to Assembly?

- (1) Invite one person/write to the Group/CMA
- (2) Become a pen pal to a group to keep them informed

Possible resources-Budget Committee could reimburse groups who can't afford to pay their own way.

Why they don't attend Assembly? Did they have a bad experience? Couldn't afford to attend?

Pros: Reach out/Connect with Groups

Cons: Losing Anonymity

Find out why groups are disconnected

Take a survey and have mutual agreement/consent to share information about their meeting

PUBLIC OUTREACH: presented by Mickie G., DR 25

<u>Task Force to Develop an Area wide public outreach poster, business card and bands for AFA</u>
Area Wide band to put around Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) for groups to distribute:

LEAVE THE LIT-TAKE A 12TH STEP

Area Wide Business Card: HOPE: END OF ROPE? HERE'S HOPE

Area Al-Anon Information

Area Wide Poster ideas:

- 1) END OF ROPE? AL-ANON GIVES HOPE Al-Anon Information
- 2) SICK OF BEING SICK AND TIRED? AL-ANON CAN HELP
- 3) GOT CRAZY? THERE IS A SOLUTION Al-Anon information

4) TWELVE STEPS-DESPAIR TO REPAIR

(picture of ladder with despair, hope and repair as rungs on ladder)

AL-ANON!!!

Graphic art will be done by Karron

Deanna made some pictures on her computer

Sandy F. stated the following: The Action Committees that are working on a Thought or Task Force, the formal KBDM presentation will not occur until the Spring Assembly 2019. Each of the Thought Forces and the Task Force have a chairman and they will be in contact with you to prepare the KBDM to be presented at the Spring AWSC in March.

Officially assigning a Thought Force to explore financial procedures to the Group Services Action Committee. Charge: to explore financial procedures.

CONVENTION AND ASSEMBLY REPORTS

2018 Ohio State AA Service Convention with Al-Anon Participation:

Anne F., Committee Chairman, Genoa Giving and Getting AFG-

It was a true service opportunity. Enforced the link between AA and Al-Anon. Held in Perrysburg, July 27-29, 2018. 33 Al-Anon's preregistered. We had a lot of walk- ins from Toledo area but they did not keep track of them. Over 40 in attendance. We held a variety of meetings: a discussion family disease, many leads focused on young people, main speaker who was recorded prior, men's panel. Finances: In our Handbook p. 25 it is really vague other than we get 200 dollars. Doesn't say what it is used it for. Tradition is it's used for hospitality which we used it for. AA provided the room plus the meeting room. Local Toledo Al-Anon's handed out and sold literature and we had Districts of Toledo Archives displayed with the AA Archives. AA paid for our main speaker's fee and her dinner. Everybody else who participated had to pay for their registration fee and I found it very awkward to ask someone to participle on a panel or speak and also pay 25 dollars to speak. I was really glad to serve. I suggest that in the future we ask for 200 dollars to pay for the registration of those who are asked to speak.

2019 FALL ASSEMBLY: Mike B., Montgomery-Pfeiffer Road AFG, presented the report-

I am the current serving chair at the Intergroup in Cincinnati and chair for the committee for the Two-Day Fall Assembly. We have a contract for the Clarion Hotel on the north side of Cincinnati for that date. More details in the Spring. We are developing a form that you can fill out.

Date: October 19-20, 2019
- Location: Clarion Hotel
3855 Hauck Road, Cincinnati, OH, 45241
513-563-8330

https://www.clarioncincy.com/

- Room Rate: \$103.69, all fees included.
- Saturday Evening Banquet Cost: \$30.00

The following 2017 reports were not presented but will be at the end of the minutes: 2017 TEAM Event and the 2017 Ohio Area Convention.

Yearly drawing winners to attend an OAC or International Convention: Brian J., Wednesday Adult Child AFG Cindy T., Barberton AFG Allison G., Serenity and Beyond AFG, made a motion to close the meeting. Connie A., Kirkland Tuesday AFG seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration at 12.11 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Alateen Fall Rally, October 27, 2018; CLAGUE ROAD CABIN, 1400 Clague Road, West Lake, Ohio 44145 10-3:30

November 10, 2018: Alateen Sponsor's Workshop, 10am-3:30pm, 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Spring AWSC: March 23, 2019, 11am-5pm, 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Alateen Sponsor's Workshop: April 13, 2019, 10am-3:30pm, 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Spring Alateen Rally: April 27, 2019, 10am-3:30pm, 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Spring Assembly: May 18, 2019, 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Fall AWSC: August 24, 2019, 11am-5pm. 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Two Day Fall Assembly, October 19-20, 2019, Cincinnati, Ohio, Clarion Hotel, 3855 Hauck Road, Cincinnati, 45241

Fall Alateen Rally, TBA

Fall Alateen Sponsor's Workshop, November 9, 2019. 10am-3:30pm, 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny C. Area Secretary

REPORTS

Final TEAM event Report

The theme of the 2017 Ohio TEAM event was Spirituality Of Action in Recovery (SOAR). It was held on July 7, 2017 at the Double Tree Hotel in Fairlawn, Ohio the day the Ohio Area Convention began. The convention began that evening. Fifty people attended from across Ohio plus a handful of people from Ontario, Canada who had an interest in planning a TEAM event. WSO sent Tom C., Associate Director of Literature, Joan , Trustee, and Mary G., Interim Executive Director of WSO.

The day began with 15-minute sharings by each of the three representatives from WSO. Three workshops were presented by both Ohio and WSO: a SPIRITUALITY workshop, an ACTION workshop, and a RECOVERY workshop. WSO representatives made two presentations, one on Abundance and another on the Trustee Search. There was also a skit on the difference between AFG and AFG, Inc.

Evaluations were returned from 32 of the 50 attendees. The following questions were asked, and the majority answer is given:

- 1. Have you been to a TEAM event before? NO
- 2. Would you like Ohio to host another TEAM event? YES
- 3. Would you be interested in helping with a TEAM event? YES
- 4. Did this event inspire you to get more active in service? YES
- 5. Do you want to be more active in the Ohio Assembly? YES **
- 6. Was the timing of the event good? YES

7. Would you prefer a stand-alone event as opposed to being before a scheduled OAA meeting or event? **NO**

In summary, the TEAM event was a success. Those that attended enjoyed the day and especially meeting and getting to know the WSO representatives. Ohio would be wise to have another one soon. However, more advertisement or encouragement to attend is needed to increase the numbers attending. Many people I spoke to about it ahead of time were reluctant to come because they did not understand what it was. Overall, it was a great success and fun was had by all.

Ginny C. Area Secretary

^{**}There was not a statistically significant majority answering yes.

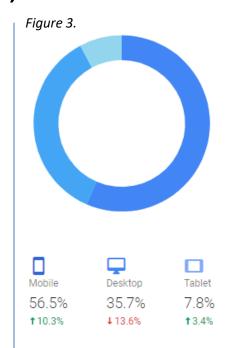
FALL ASSEMBLY WEB REPORT - Oct 13, 2018

In our last Web report, we showed a drop in web traffic and attributed it to visitors finding meeting information on the new search tool provided by the World Service Office. Since that report last May, we're now seeing a staggering drop in visits, likely due to the same thing. In July of last year, we saw 3000 unique visitors. This past July, we only saw 334 unique visitors. The top pages people are visiting are still the *Find a Meeting* page, and that may be the clue regarding why the change in traffic.

Below is a chart showing how many new visitors come back each week after their first visit (see Figure 1) in July 2018. When you look at the chart (figure 2) you will see most people are visiting the alalist (the meeting search page), and then see at the bottom they are not coming back, it could be users are bookmarking the WSO search tool.

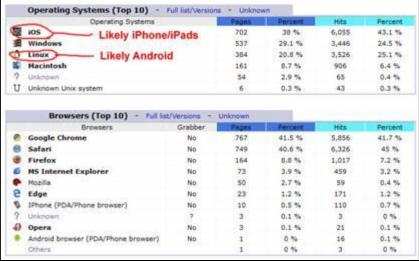
Figure 1.
User retention





Regarding our existing visitors, mobile users have increased from 55% to 56.5% since last report. Desktop users are about the same. Tablet users have dropped off. See figure 3 (above) and figure 4 (below).





Web Committee Report by:

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