

**OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY – MAY 15, 2021
MEETING REPORT**

Opening of Meeting and Welcome:

Serenity Prayer, Readings of Tradition (Jo S. delegate), Concepts and Warranties (Carol R.), Meeting Etiquette (Theresa M. chairman) adhering to agenda, timed discussion, staying on topic, demonstrate spiritual principles, mutual respect, atmosphere of respect, courtesy, limit distractions, discipline and respect for those who prepared for the meeting, accurate count for voting purposes. Reminders: there may be changes in the agenda.

Roll Call of Voting Members: (Darla Tuesday Serenity at High Noon). Theresa counts 51, simple majority is 26.

Introduction of Officers: Theresa M. chair, Mary Jo M. secretary, and Merri G. treasurer, Jo S. delegate, Ann F. alternate delegate, and past delegates present are: Sandra F. panel 49, Barbara panel 46, Ginny C. panel 55.

Approval of 2020 Fall Assembly Minutes

Motion to accept 2020 Fall Assembly Minutes made by Irena H. Firestone Park Akron, seconded by Mary H. Steps and Traditions Waterville. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Year End Report 2020

BALANCE 12/31/2019	\$ 47,425.44
INCOME	\$ 10,092.50
EXPENSE	<u>\$ 6,763.00</u>
BALANCE 12/31//2020	\$ 50,754.94

Motion to accept made by Tamara H. Bowling Green Circle of Hope and seconded by Ann F. Genoa Giving and Getting. Motion passes.

Presentation and Approval of 2021 Budget (Cherryl C.)

Three budget committee goals: 1) learn from the past, 2) plan for next year, 3) review prudent reserve. 5K in excess funds budget because we continued to put in money for travel expenses. Motion to accept the 2021 Ohio Area Budget made by Mary Ellen R. Hubbard Friday Night and motion was seconded by Mary H. Steps and Traditions Waterville. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report 2021

Beginning Balance March 12, 2021:	\$ 51,273.98
Income	\$ 4,228.62
Expenses	<u>\$ 218.80</u>
Ending Balance 5/14/2021	\$ 55,283.80
Book Balance for event 5/14/2021	\$ 1,952.00

Report period March 13, 2021 through May 14, 2021. One correction from my last report - \$100 was put back in. The only two expenses a background check and zoom cloud recording. A penny difference was found.

There was a discussion at AWSC of the Delegate's Equalized Expense fund— it was suggested to return it to WSO. What is the dollar amount? The amount of the fund is \$2,481.69. Darla H, Tuesday Serenity at High Noon makes a motion to return the money and Mary Ellen R Hubbard Friday Night second, and a consensus was passed.

Merri plans to send a plea letter out to CMA's this week.

Motion to approve the treasurer's 2021 report as presented made by Ann F. Genoa Giving and Getting and seconded by Darla Tuesday Serenity at High Noon. Motion passed.

Alternate Delegate Report (Ann F. Panel 61) - including 2021 World Service Conference Update. Ann F. is responsible for the Ala Notes (dates of upcoming events & personal shares) and the GR Training (April 10th and May 1st). Ann acknowledges and thanks the new GR's (by asking them to raise hands on their Zoom screen). She has had the opportunity to fill in for our delegate Jo S. She has attended orientation for new WSC members on February 27th, the NCRD meeting on March 2st and April 11- 16th WSC as an alternate.

The CMA's of the electronic meetings have been meeting with the WSO quarterly for several years and have an upcoming meeting in June. They were told by Sue Perez that they will be working with people from the WSO over the upcoming year on how to create the virtual area. They will learn about how they will elect GR's and how they will create the virtual districts. This will go on for a year and then the virtual districts will have to petition to become part of WSC.

Greetings Al-Anon Family. The Spring edition of Al-A-Notes, the Ohio Area newsletter, was published on the ohioal-anon.org website soon after the AWSC meeting. Thank you to all who contributed. Al-A-Notes is where you can find the dates and information for upcoming Ohio Area events, along with some great personal sharing. Two Group Representative (GR) training sessions were held prior to this Spring Assembly. They were April 10 and May 1. These sessions were directed to newer GR's or those interested in moving into the GR role. Both sessions were well attended, with about 35 participants. Thank you to all who helped with this, and welcome to our new GR's. I attended an Orientation Meeting for New WSC (World Service Conference) Members on February 27, and the NCRDM (North Central Regional Delegates Meeting), on March 20, 2021. On April 12-16, 2021, I attended the WSC (World Service Conference), as an Alternate for our Delegate, Jo S. I was very humbled and grateful to be able to stand in for her.

Report from World Service Conference The 2021, 61st Annual, WSC, Moving Forward with UNITY, COURAGE and PERSEVERANCE, was held April 11-16, via WebEx. Attending were Delegates from the US and Canada, including 11 International representatives, Trustees, the Executive Committee and members of the WSO staff. The 5 days, each 10-11 hours, were preceded by roughly 70 downloaded documents consisting of several hundred pages of information. This material led to 15 motions being discussed and approved with unanimity.

Financial Summary For 2020, literature sales were \$1.8M, or a decrease of 36%. Thanks to the generosity of our members, donations were nearly \$3.3, for an increase of 51%. This is the first time since 1954 that donations exceeded literature sales. The budget for 2021 forecasts

donations to remain high but not at the 2020 level, and literature sales to increase over 2020, but not back to historic levels. This leads to a projected deficit \$73,780.

Time Sensitive Issue Al-Anon's largest group conscience, the World Service Conference (WSC), has recognized Electronic Meetings as Al-Anon Family Groups and they have become part of our Al-Anon service structure. As an Area our structure will need to be reviewed and provisions made for the new Al-Anon Family Groups to join our Area is requested.

Literature News Several decisions and announcements made at WSC affect our literature. These include: • Electronic Welcome, Newcomer! (eK-10) Is Coming Soon • To add a preface to The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage (B-4), that would place it in historical perspective and develop a booklet of "gems" from the original book Alternate Delegate's Report Spring Assembly May 15, 2021 • To create a new introduction to our first daily reader, One Day at a Time in Al-Anon (B-6) from 1968. This will provide an historical perspective on the book • Develop an Alateen bookmark based on the Just for Tonight Al-Anon Bookmark (M-81) • Motion approved to update the Alateen preamble, to make the wording more current • Motion to move a paragraph in of the Bequests portion of the Service Manual • Motion to update the Service Manual to reflect the Electronic Meetings update • And the On-line Story is getting a new look!

Other Topics The WSC Mega Issue was: How to Encourage Trustee Applications The Board of Trustees Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) was: Diversity Today! I attended two Break Out sessions: Hybrid Meeting Experience Newcomers: What can we do to serve them? If you would like to hear more details on the events happening at Conference, "More will be revealed" on Friday June 25, 2021, from 6-8 pm. Registration will be on the website. Last, but certainly not least, get out your 2023 calendar and save the date, June 29 - July 2, 2023, for the Al-Anon International Convention in Albuquerque, NM! Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to attend this Conference. It left me in awe of the work our trusted servants and WSO Staff do on behalf of the Al-Anon Family Groups. Yours in service, Ann F. Alternate Delegate Panel 61

Question was taken about making donations at electronic meetings.

WSO Road Trip Announcement October 23, 2021 at Cleveland Westin hotel. The event will be held unless pandemic shuts the hotel down. Winning the bid to host this event means we had to guarantee 100 members would attend this event. WSO wants feedback to find out: does Ohio wish to have this event be a hybrid?

Road Trip Poll Chair asked who is interested in in person and who is interested in a hybrid meeting. Poll was taken and group was split 50/50. This information will be shared with Jeanne our regional chair for road trip.

Registration Roll Call – we have 52 voting members – half of that is 26.with final # voting for Handbook and Bylaw Motions

Task Force: Cooperation with AA

Topic:

To discuss and generate some ideas regarding improving cooperation with the Ohio A.A. Convention, and its planning committee. To propose and clarify the roles and responsibilities of Al-Anon members participating in an A.A. Convention. Develop a three-year A.A.-Al-Anon liaison

position description if deemed appropriate. Provide proposed Handbook wording changes (similar to OAC guidelines) to the AWSC and Assembly through a KBDM.

FRAMING:

During the Fall 2019 Two Day Fall Assembly, Theresa M., Delegate, brought up under new business that we need to encourage all districts, intergroups and maybe individual groups to improve connections between Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. (AFG of Ohio) and A.A. An elected or an appointed contact between A.A. and Al-Anon at different levels: intergroup, district, and Area may be needed to coordinate this. We would be able to participate in the A.A. conventions more fully. A suggestion was made that the liaison would take a position for 3 years as opposed to one year so that the A.A.'s know who to contact. The discussion followed that we need something in our handbook, a guideline, to say how the cooperation works. A Thought Force was formed.

The Thought Force: Cooperation with A.A. Convention prepared a KBDM for the Two-Day Fall Assembly 2020. They made five different points. a.) Being involved early in the Convention planning process allows for clearer definition of responsibilities particularly in regard to financial matters. b.) Having clear links of service allow for this early participation to take place. c.) Clearly defining the role of Al-Anon in making the connection with A.A. to provide convention support. d.) Clarifying the Handbook budget amount of \$200, specifying either what it is intended for, or preferably leaving it up to the local committee to determine, would be helpful. e.) Finally, and perhaps most importantly, fully participating in an A.A. Convention fosters growth in Al-Anon as expressed in our 6th Tradition and may facilitate more communication and cooperation between our groups, allowing for a more integrated Convention.

After a discussion at the Assembly, a consensus of GR's present voted to move this to a Task force to clarify how AFG of Ohio cooperates with the yearly Ohio A.A. convention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

Historical perspective:

The Al-Anon WSO Guideline, G-7, "Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an A.A. Convention" describes the guidelines and procedures for participation in an A.A. Event.

Existing Motions that appertain to this topic:

From: Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures

For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.,

<https://www.ohioal-anon.org/documents/HANDBOOK-OAA.pdf>

Section XV, Ohio Alcoholics Anonymous Conference, October 2020, page 22.

"A. Committee: The Delegate shall appoint a liaison to the Ohio State AA Conference who resides near the conference location. The Delegate shall be a member of the planning committee for this event. Local Al-Anon Family Group members shall make up the planning committee for this event. (motion # 2008/10-#08)

B. Funds: Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates to the host committee the sum of \$200.00 towards the expenses of the Ohio State AA Conference. (Motion #2008/10-#09)"

What do we know about our member's or prospective member's wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

Concept 4 - Participation is the key to harmony.

From WSO Guideline G-7:

“Al-Anon, almost from its beginning, has participated in A.A. events. Such participation often led to the growth of Al-Anon, the added success of the A.A. convention, and an enhanced spirit of cooperation between both fellowships.

It is through the application of our Traditions that this spirit of cooperation is encouraged. Tradition Six states that: “. . . Although a separate entity, we should always cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous.” The basic ingredients for a successful convention, as in all our service work, can be found in the application of all our Traditions: unity, reliance on our Higher Power, and the need to place principles above personalities.”

What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

AFG of Ohio, Inc. has provided a contact and a budgeted amount of money for the annual Ohio AA convention since 2008, per Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. (October 2020, page 22).

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

- A.A. requires all convention attendees, including speakers, to register and pay the registration fee.
- There is a need for clarification of the as to use of the funds donated for the A.A. Convention.
- It has been 13 years (2008) since \$200 was allocated to the committee, and we believe this needs to be increased.
- The connection or link of service, between A.A. and Al-Anon appears to be broken. This, combined with the broken links from local groups, with missing GR's, and DR's, have made the communication from A.A. to the Area difficult or non-existent.
- With the evolving shift to virtual meetings and conventions, Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. desires to remain flexible and resilient in these changing times. It is our hope to always maintain and foster our relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous.

What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply. Identify both pros and cons.

Pros:

We believe these changes will show our spiritual principles of simplicity, efficiency, respectful collaboration and consideration by:

- a. Providing year to year continuity in how Al-Anon interacts and cooperates with the AA Convention.
- b. Providing consistent support and guidelines for each local committee to follow.
- c. Allowing for more advanced planning with each AA Region.

Cons:

We will be creating an additional Area position which may be difficult to fill.

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

We don't have prior experience with this position. We don't know if this will improve our connection with A.A.

We also don't know how having an Area A.A. Liaison position will help the local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for the A.A. Convention.

Our recommendation is to proceed with the following:

A. Create a new position titled, Area AA Liaison. This would be a 3-year appointed Special Standing Committee Chair, and listed as such in our Handbook, Section XI - Special Standing Committees, (October 2020, page 15) as #8.

Duties and responsibilities, (page 16, as #8, October 2020).

- Establish and maintain contact with the Delegates of the four AA Areas (53, 54, 55, 56).
- Assist the Al-Anon Area Delegate in appointing a local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention.
- Serve on the Al-Anon Committee planning for the AA Convention.
- Provide the local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for each AA convention with the tools and information (i.e. Guideline G-7) necessary for the planning committee.
- Report to AWSC and the Area Assembly with timely AA information.
- Facilitate Al-Anon cooperation as requested by AA.
- Extend invitation to AA to participate in Ohio Area Convention (OAC).

B. Revise Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., October 2020, page 22, to read:

Section XV - Ohio State AA Convention

1. Committee: The Area AA Liaison shall assist the Area Delegate to appoint a local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention. The local Chairperson shall reside near the A.A. Convention location and will recruit other Al-Anon members to make up the local Al-Anon planning committee for this event.

2. The Area Delegate and Area AA Liaison shall be members of the local Al-Anon planning committee for this event.

3. Funds: Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates up to \$400 to the local Al-Anon planning committee. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the committee and may include such items as a hospitality room (rent and/or supplies), speakers registration fees or expenses, publicity and outreach expenses, or other expenses as approved by the local committee.

Presented By: Cooperation with AA Task Force

MOTION:

Add as #8, under Article VI - Committees, Section B, Special Standing Committees the title, Area A.A. Liaison. (Page 6, October 2020, By-Laws)

A question was asked about the Registration count because it did not agree with the number of actual participants in the Zoom meeting. Because there were not 50 registered GR's present to vote there was no quorum. Both motions were withdrawn and the KDBM and motions were tabled to the fall assembly.

TASK FORCE: INSURANCE RENEWAL Submitted by Ginny C., Task Force Chair

The charge of this Task Force is:

- 1- To review the Ohio Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements to ascertain what policies either need to be changed or need to be developed.
- 2- Develop policies that are consistent with 2019 WSC Motion 3 changes to the text in the "Alateen" section in the "Digest of AI-Anon and Alateen Policies" section of the 2018-2021 AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27).
- 3- Present a KBDM with the suggested changes.

During the winter, we had several meetings to discuss the KBDM. Based on our discussions, recommended the following: renew the insurance and strengthen our financial procedures and policies to increase the likelihood it will be renewed. The following changes are recommended: double signatures required above \$2000, some kind of credit background check, online monthly reconciliation done by a non-signer on the account and CD's must have two signatures to be cashed or renewed or moved.

Discussion:

Question: the bank doesn't recognize whether a check has two signatures, so how will the area make sure of this? By being trusted servants with background check and financial background checks.

Question: What are we voting on? Double signatures on checks over 2K.

Question: Was the recommendation from the AWSC on this? Chair answers to send it to the assembly. Member clarifies the question: to send it ok'ed? I didn't see it in the minutes. I just wondered if the AWSC discussed it and what was their recommendation? Chairs replies yes.

Question: Wasn't that already in the KDBM and in the motion itself? Ginny answers that she's not sure.

Some recommendations did not get put into motions.

Question: how the TF arrived at a 2K figure?

Question: what is the insurance deductible? It's \$500.

MOTION Task Force Insurance Renewal

On page 10 of the October 2020 Ohio Handbook of General and Working Committee Procedures for AI- Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc add number 19: Checks over \$2000 require a second signature from an authorized signer. CD's must have two authorized signatures to be cashed or renewed or moved. CD Funds can only be moved into another AFG of Ohio, Inc. account.

Irena H Firestone Akron seconds the motion. Poll shows 38 yes 0 no and 3 abstain. Motion passed.

This will be Motion 2021/05 - # 01

Task Force on Cashless Means of Payment – Sheri B. (chair) is absent - Ginny M reads the update.

The thought force was formed to develop specific recommendations for making cashless donations and registrations possible at the Area level in addition to cash methods. This was a question that Delegates were asked to bring to our Areas and a thought force explored in 2020. The Covid-19 crisis made cashless payments even more relevant. Online meetings and events have benefited from allowing online payments. Some groups meeting in person shared that handling cash is not sanitary and electronic payment options are preferred. It is thought that having cashless means of payment available may encourage more individuals to donate to the Area. Additionally, electronic payments provide tracking and reporting capabilities that make them more secure and auditable. The Taskforce met from October 2020 to February 2021 and evaluated various options for supporting cashless means of payment. We collected information on the electronic payment options offered by Areas and Intergroups around the country, as well as the WSO. We found that 22 of the 59 Areas and Intergroup sites we surveyed accept electronic payments through their websites and some at events. The majority of those that accept electronic payments, process those payments through PayPal. While we researched a number of electronic payment providers, we found that PayPal is uniquely designed to serve non-profits. In addition to offering simple, easy to implement donation and payment solutions, they offer special pricing to non-profits. They are also one of the most trusted and widely used electronic payment platforms in the country, which we felt would make our members comfortable.

The Taskforce recommends that we adopt cashless means of payment, in addition to cash-based payment, for contributions, registrations and Ohio Area Convention Ways and Means and literature sales. Specifically, we recommend leveraging PayPal to collect payments via credit card, debit card or member PayPal accounts.

Taskforce members: Theresa M, Ginny C, Jo S, Mary Jo M, Sally S, Kay J, Lisa W, Ginny M, Sheri B, Chair

Discussion:

How do we know what donation came from which group? There is some control over the PayPal feature where we can request the group number.

Who is paying the PayPal fee? Discussion about absorbing the fee and if PayPal recognizes non-profits.

What about other apps like Venmo? The Task Force has a spreadsheet comparing and contrasting the different apps. Venmo exposes anonymity. The task force researched all the different apps.

MOTION: Add to the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. on Page 10 after #17,

Sets up and maintains a PayPal account for Area Events for a three-year trial period.

Motion was read and seconded by Darla Tuesday Serenity High Noon. Motion passes with 35 yes votes and 1 no.

This will be Motion 2021/05 - # 02

Task Force updates or questions There were no questions or comments.

TF: Meeting Improvement –

TF: Public Outreach – There were no questions or comments.

TF: Rotation of Fall Assembly and Ohio Area Convention

Discussion regarding Cincinnati being on the rotation. There will be no Ohio convention during 2023. A survey will come in the email. If members would like to see the convention placed in a central location, they can put that suggestion in the survey.

TF on Isolated Groups – as far as we know they never met.

District map that shows district 56 and it seems to show that Richland county is not included. Jo S. speaks to the large scope of this issue and that it needs a work group – she is on a work group on this with WSO. An isolated group work group is suggested. Anyone interested please contact the chair.

Richland Ashland Holmes and Wayne County are all in District 56. Phil H shows the map from 2014.

Workshop Irena H., Literature Coordinator presents a 70th year Al-Anon historical perspective.

Question and discussion about titles that are now out of print that are ordered and backlogged due to WSO computer service being down and publishing orders restarting after the pandemic.

Coordinator Reports: ALATEEN, FORUM, GROUP RECORDS, LITERATURE, PUBLIC OUTREACH - Due to time constraints coordinator and standing committee reports were not given.

Standing Committee Reports: AAPP, HANDBOOK, 2 DAY FALL & OAC ADVISOR, - Due to time constraints coordinator and standing committee reports were not given.

SPRING ASSEMBLY WEB REPORT – May 15, 2021

Back in March 2021, our hosting company (BlueHost) ended their promotion and increased our hosting fee by 59% for a 3-year plan. We reached out to a competitor (Dreamhost) offering equivalent services and we landed a deal for a similar 3-year hosting plan at a substantial discount, saving AFG of Ohio \$289.44.

- BLUE HOST 3YR PLAN CHARGE: \$431.64
- DREAMHOST 3YR PLAN CHARGE: \$142.20

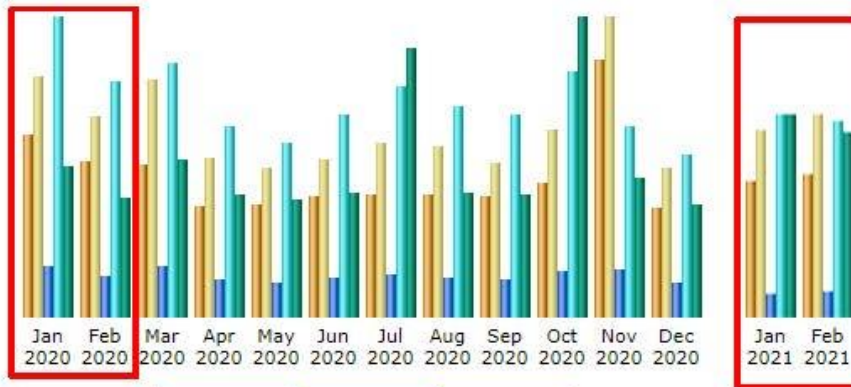
We were able to easily transfer the website and re-create all the email addresses on Dreamhost with minimal interruption.

Web stats from our new hosting vendor will be available this Fall. For now, here is the Web site traffic summary of 2020-2021 prior to the move to Dreamhost (see Figure 1).

Browsers Used by Our Visitors:

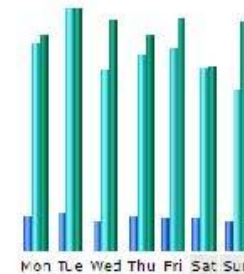
- 57.3% Google Chrome
- 26.2% Safari
- 07.0% Firefox
- 04.1% MS Internet Explorer
- 01.0% MS Edge
- 04.4% Remaining browsers vary.

Figure 1.



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages
Jan 2020	2,491	3,279	6,509
Feb 2020	2,127	2,739	5,339
Mar 2020	2,074	3,234	6,487
Apr 2020	1,522	2,168	4,774
May 2020	1,539	2,035	4,370
Jun 2020	1,651	2,144	4,971
Jul 2020	1,667	2,370	5,605
Aug 2020	1,674	2,343	5,121
Sep 2020	1,640	2,114	4,802
Oct 2020	1,828	2,549	5,926
Nov 2020	3,516	4,096	6,267
Dec 2020	1,496	2,033	4,330
Jan 2021	1,551	2,122	3,958
Feb 2021	1,622	2,296	4,287

2020, we had a steady flow of traffic, with a significant jump in July, and the Fall, and a slight drop in December. 2021 starts off lower than last year, but with a relatively consistent flow of traffic.



Weekly Trend DEC 2021

How Are Visitors Finding Us?

1. Bingbot (MS Bing)
2. Googlebot (Google)
3. Baiduspider
4. Spider
5. Yandex
6. Applebot
7. DuckDuckGo

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

Stats by AWSTATS

TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY:

Miami Valley is slated to host the fall assembly. Hotels are currently inflating prices and rewriting contracts so that there is no cancellation possibility. Sandy F. proposes voting today on Fall Assembly. Twenty-seven (27) out of forty-six (46) vote for virtual fall assembly. Three (3) votes for an in-person assembly.

Road Trip (10/23/21) will not be virtual or even hybrid.

If the hotel itself cancelled, that would cause Road Trip to be virtual. Questions about what is a Road Trip and how often it comes close to home. Members shared opening homes to members is a great idea.

Old business:

Election of Archive Coordinator Darla Tuesday Serenity at High Noon in a unanimous poll.

Selection of Review Committee - we need a volunteer to review our 2020 books. We still have a need to have 2019 and 2018 officially reviewed. The chair of this committee need to live in a different geographical area than our current treasurer Merri G. lives in Brook Park Ohio.

Selection of Registration Committee – we need tech help (teaching people how to use Zoom). When we go back face to face, we need volunteers to run the projector.

New business:

Announce that an evaluation of the 2021 Spring Assembly will be mailed to all of those in attendance. Members who return the evaluation by the end of the Month may win a prize (Many Voices One Journey book) and will receive an email telling them on June 1.

2021 OHIO AREA CONVENTION REPORT - Cheryl B., Conv. Chair

Please note that the Planning Committee has decided to hold only a 1-day Convention on June 26, 2021. Since the Ohio Area Assembly does not have a designated Zoom link to use for the Convention, I will try to request that our Area web support staff create a new Convention Zoom account. I have currently been using our new Youngstown Districts Zoom account.

The Area also does not currently have an online payment option such as PayPal to collect donations, so I have been working with our Area Treasurer, Merri G., on that matter too. She has set up a separate Events checking account that still falls under the umbrella of the main Ohio Area checking account, but this will allow us to track our Convention income and expenses easier. Only our Conv. seed money is held in this account to date.

Our Planning Committee structure has changed since going to a virtual platform rather than face-to-face at Holiday Inn, and the GRs in Districts 4 & 9 have collaborated on several issues.

The original volunteer treasurer had already processed her AMIAS Background Check but will not be handling the traditional registration fees and expense reimbursements due to the current Zoom platform and the new Area Events checking account. Monies will be processed through the Area Treasurer.

The Co-Chair had to step down due to personal matters, and the Program Chair had to step back due to family medical matters. I began to wonder whether HP wanted this Conv. to happen at all. But there have been enough amazing developments to convince me that it must be a "GO"... especially when I discovered that it was the 70th Anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups.

Additionally, Stepping Stones Foundation granted me a one-time special permission to use one of Lois' own pencil drawings on the flyer. Despite the uncertainty and the challenges we have faced, God has brought together a fantastic combination of dedicated Al-Anon personalities, talents, enthusiasm and levels of recovery to provide the necessary help, hope and energy for this planning process to continue. God is good!!!

Our Districts Webmaster set up a Convention email link on our Districts webpage for communication to the Chair and others as follows:

2021ohioareaconvention@al-anonohiodist4-9.org

The Convention Program Planning Committee has held weekly meetings each Sunday with a diverse group of local Al-Anon members. An overview of our actions include:

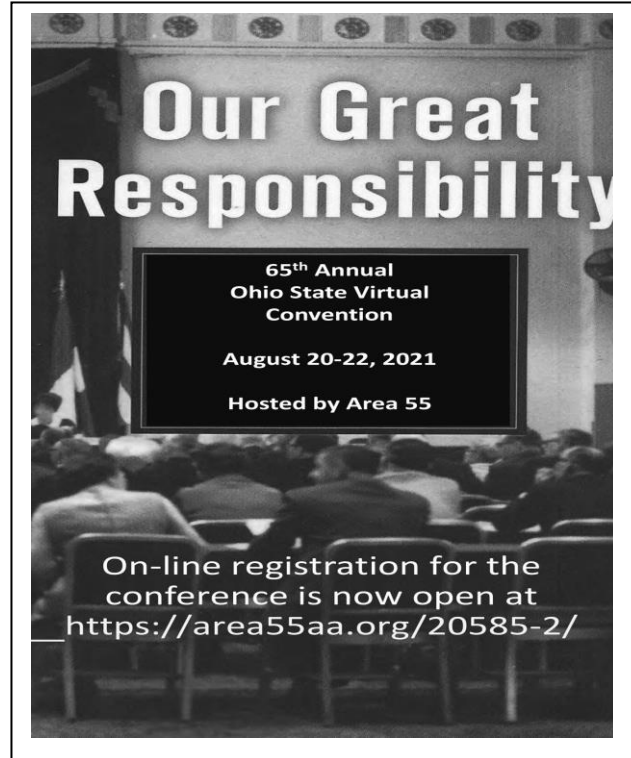
- Date – June 26, 2021 for 1 day only from 8:30 AM – 9:00 PM.
- Theme – Stepping Stones to Recovery...Celebrating 70 Years of Finding Healing & Hope
- An Announcement to post on the AFG of Ohio webpage to publicize the Conv., which would include links for Registration, PayPal, Agenda and Raffle Items.
- Drafting a Google Form for Registration which will include individual preferences for Breakout Sessions to determine the number of breakout rooms needed and the Zoom technical assistance required.
- Decision to use PayPal to collect a small registration fee and Raffle donations to cover basic Conv. costs since this is not a for-profit Area event.
- Developing a Program Agenda and offering an Agenda link detailing the speaker & session options.
- Drafting an email for Shelly to send to all DRs to identify Zoom savvy members in their Districts as tech support staff to assist with breakout rooms, presentation of materials/videos, and to insure a safe, smooth functioning Conv. environment and to protect our members' anonymity.
- Raffle item(s) are permissible online and I am determining the best virtual approach to offering them.
- Inclusion of optional WSO audio resources documenting the history of Al-Anon as well as a Stepping Stones virtual tour/presentation.
- Additional activities to enhance the celebration of Al-Anon's 70th Anniversary this year.

The Committee continues to meet every Sunday evening until we have completed the planning for the 2021 Conv. I am most appreciative for their enthusiasm, honesty, diversity, and the wealth of ideas offered to make it a good recovery experience for all.

OHIO AA CONVENTION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION:

Cecilia reports on the AA convention slot for an Al-Anon lead at 2:15 Betty H. Harrisburg followed by a break where they will insert an Alateen panel coordinated by Rose R.

The date is August 21st (Ohio State AA Convention with Al-Anon Participation) and registration is already up.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Calendar page www.ohioal-anon.org will have details and registration information

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| June 25, 2021 | Virtual Day of World Service Conference Sharing (ZOOM) |
| JUNE 26, 2021 OAC | Ohio Area Convention (ZOOM) |
| JULY 24-25, 2021 | KOMIAC - KY, OH, MI, IN Alateen Convention (ZOOM) |
| AUGUST 20-22, 2021 | Ohio STATE AA CONVENTION (ZOOM) |
| AUGUST 28, 2021 | FALL AWSC (ZOOM) |
| OCTOBER 16, 2021 | FALL ASSEMBLY – details TBD (ZOOM) |
| OCTOBER 23, 2021 | Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect in? Cleveland- details TBD |

Motion to adjourn made by Phil H. Friday Night AFG Springfield – second by Patty D. Westside Women’s Weekday in Bay Village. We adjourned with Al-Anon declaration.

Attendance Log submitted on May 16, 2021 by Theresa M. (from Zoom registration): 77 registered members, 11 no shows, 52 voting members, and 14 non-voting members.