

Spring 2024 AWSC Meeting Minutes

The Spring AWSC meeting was held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at the North Congregational UCC located at 2040 West Henderson Rd, Columbus Ohio 43220. Area 44 chairperson Ann F opened the first ever hybrid AWSC meeting at 12:30 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Chris E (DR 10) read the traditions and Colleen F (DR 48) read the concepts from the zoom room. Jillian B (Alt DR 09) read all the General Warranties of Concept 12. The attendees from both in person and zoom room introduced themselves. In attendance were 5 officers (panel 64), 3 coordinators, 6 committee members, 2 Area Information Services (AIS) members, 3 past delegates, 7 District Representatives (DR), one Alternate District Representative (Alt DR) and 3 guests representing the district 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 26, 28, 30, 31, 34, 39, 47, 48, and 51 within the Ohio area (Area 44).

Past Delegate Theresa M (panel 58) made a motion that guests who are Alanon members will listen, speak but not vote and the non alanon member will just listen but not speak or vote. Irena H (DR 51) seconded the motion, and the consensus was reached to welcome everyone to the Spring 2024 AWSC Meeting.

Chairperson Ann F reviewed the statement of purpose, etiquette procedures pertaining to the AWSC meeting. She also reviewed the voting procedures.

The following reports and motions were presented in the AWSC meeting.

All the reports and motions can be found here: <https://www.ohioal-anon.org/calendar.html>

Reports and Motion Presentation:

1. **OAC 2024 Report:** Chairperson of OAC 2024, Michael B presented a brief report. He stated that currently 18 people are working towards the convention. The speakers have been lined up and fund raisers are planned for the event. Some professionals are helping to promote the event. The location and dates of the event is as follows – Holiday Inn Cincinnati, August 16 – 18. More information can be expected from him in the upcoming months. Cathy C from Akron AIS asked if the 2024 Fall AWSC was on August 17th. Ann F (chairperson) clarified that 2024 Fall AWSC will be on August 10th.
2. **Fall 2023 AWSC minutes:** Several mistakes in the minutes were brought to attention. Merri G (Alt Delegate - panel 64) pointed out that the first line under the Treasurer's report has to read BALANCE AS OF 12-31-2022 instead of 12-31-2023. Susan H (DR 26) pointed out the dates on page 10 need to be amended. Daisy A (Secretary – panel 64) will make all the changes and distribute the corrected 2023 Fall AWSC minutes via ohio alanon website. Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) made a motion to accept the Fall 2023 AWSC minutes to be amended. Kim R (DR 28, AA Liaison) seconded it. The motion passed.
3. **Year end 2023 Treasurer's Report:** Merri G (Alt Delegate) presented the 2023 Treasurer's Report. She explained the significance of the money donated (\$6769.00) due to the appeal letters that are sent to the groups in addition to explaining the budgeted amount and the expenses incurred in the year 2023. Kim R (DR 28, AA Liaison) made a motion to accept the Year end 2023 Treasurer's report to be sent for approval in the Spring Assembly. Cheryl B (AIS Youngstown) seconded it. The motion passed.
4. **Alternate Delegate Report:** Merri G (Alt Delegate) presented the report and made a plea to all the attendees to write about their favorite Conference Approved Literature (CAL) and send it to her by March 31, 2024.
5. **USNCRDM Report:** Merri G (Alt Delegate) presented her first experience in the US North Central Regional Delegates Meeting in this report and shared how it has impacted her growth in her current role as an Alt Delegate. She also shared that Ohio area has volunteered to host 2025 USNCRDM.

6. **2024 Treasurer Report:** Carol R (Treasurer – panel 64) presented this report which reflected the current savings and expenditure until February 29, 2024. She reminded the attendees to send any contribution to the correct PO Box (in North Lima) and write either the group's name or the WSO ID of the group on the memo line of the checks/money order.
Rose R (Delegate – panel 64) made a motion to accept the report and Cheryl C (Handbook Committee) seconded it. The motion passed.
7. **Delegate Report:** Rose R (Delegate – panel 64) presented the report where she shared her experiences and the events that she has been part of, so far in her new role as Area 44's delegate which is as follows:

Spring AWSC 2024 Delegate Report

Greetings Al-Anon and Alateen family,

As I begin my term as your Delegate for Panel 64 I am excited to be finally on my way to seeing what this position is all about. I remember sitting where you are and thinking that this would be an amazing opportunity for me to try some day. Guess what? This is it!!

The Conference theme for 2024 is: "Our Path Toward Grace, Unity and Understanding."

So far I've had the opportunity to meet my Trustee and Delegate mentors. I've met my Delegate mentor at the past NCRDM's that I've had an opportunity to attend so I'm happy that I kind of know her. The Trustee mentor is someone who I've not had a chance to share with yet, but I'm sure that will be taken care of soon enough. Speaking of Trustee's, we will have an opening in the North Central Region for a Trustee in 2025. The application can be found on the WSO website: al-anon.org/trustee. Last month's In The Loop has a definition of the service position and how to apply. The deadline for 2025 is in August, however, the application must be turned in and approved by Spring Assembly on May 18 of this year as stated in our Handbook on page 18, section 13. Please take an inventory of your service experience and think about taking on this service to represent the North Central Region!

The COB (Chairperson of the Board) webinar was on February 17 and was well attended. I will have more information after I attend the WSC (World Service Conference) but the highlights I'd like to share with you are the new daily reader; A Little Time For Myself, has made 2023 the highest-grossing year ever for literature sales. It has also been an amazing asset to our CAL (Conference Approved Literature). The message to you all from WSO is one of gratitude and along with group contributions, purchases of CAL and subscriptions to the Mobile App premium content, 2023 ended very well.

Other discussions included highlights from the January 2024 Board Week such as diversity and inclusion on a group level. How our Legacies and Mission Statement represent the spiritual principle of inclusion. That when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, Al-Anon and Alateen will be there. Is there more we can do to reach out? Do we assume that others know what our program is about and are there more ways we can reach out to others?

Another interesting discussion point was "hidden norms". Items that are understood by some but not documented. As I've been involved in the service part of Al-Anon and I've been getting familiar with the Guidelines and Handbook, I see many of those items. We assume a past practice but because it's not documented new people coming in and trying to serve the fellowship are not aware of how things work and therefore are disenchanting and turned away from service.

Road Trip! You and your Board Connect:

This will take place in Columbia, SC in 2024. Save the date! October 28th. Planning has begun and more will be revealed!

The WSO Project Landscape includes the following:

- eBooks globally
- Next Generation Group Records
- Online Store Version 2.0
- Electronic Alateen Planning & Validation
- CAL Globally
- GEMS Booklet
- A.A. 2025 International Convention in Vancouver
- AI-Anon 2028 International Convention Site Selection
- Revamping the Trustee Application

2025 Visit to Stepping Stones:

In 2025 I will be gratefully attending Stepping Stones in New York. The cost of this trip is quite an additional amount as we will be holding the conference in New York and prices are much higher than in the Va. Beach area. Moving forward, the discussion will be how and do we want to continue this trip for our Delegate's once during their 3-year term. Does the membership feel it's an important part of our journey to experience our founder's home and the serenity and powerful feeling of being connected to Lois and Bill? This is a conversation we will have to have with our groups as the costs will only move to higher levels. This will be discussed at length during the Conference and hopefully I'll return with more insight. Meanwhile, please take this back to your members and get their feelings and feedback for me to use while I'm attending the Conference. Feel free to email me @ roseydago@gmail.com with any questions and/or comments on what you think.

Through the International Coordination Committee the Board has approved translations and printings of CAL in 2 additional languages. Latvia and Mongolian.

The Forum is celebrating its 70th anniversary. If you subscribe to the Forum, you may have noticed the front cover change and the past articles being reprinted. In future months you will be able to read past articles from Adult Children groups, a reprint of a cartoon entitled "Stepping Lightly" and an article about the Traditions from Inside AI-Anon before it became a part of the Forum.

Two items that I have worked on so far in preparation for the WSC are Area Highlights and the Chosen Agenda Items.

The Area Highlights is a meeting without WSO participation where the Delegates can get together before the Conference and share what is happening in our Area. With the help of my Service Sponsor, Ann F., I was able to submit a report to share. This meeting is not an official part of the WSC and is put together by three of the outgoing Delegates.

I submitted two (2) Chosen Agenda Items but won't know if they will be discussed until the Conference. One was regarding how to attract more members to be Group Representatives (submitted from Ann F.) and the other was how to attract Alateen membership (suggested by Daisy A.)

I'm sure there is more I can report but, since this is my first trial run, have patience with me and as I've said, when I've sat where you are sitting the last thing I wanted to hear was a long Delegate report! I'll try to keep it interesting as I move down this road. A funny thing happened a few days ago that I'd like to share with you all. It made me more aware that none of us are perfect – even the WSO! I was trying to get on the AFG Connects Delegate community when I found that I had been removed from the link. I thought maybe I had been "fired" already after only 2 months. Not so. It was an error on their part. It makes me know my HP does have a sense of humor – even in my service role.

Thank you for listening and letting me serve you for the next 3 years.
With love and gratitude,
Rose Rollins
Ohio Delegate Panel 64

Additional Delegate report information
Area 44 donations from 7/1/23 through 12/31/23
Total of 156 Groups - \$15,705.41

I have the breakdown of the groups' donations if anyone would like to see where the monies were received from.

New CAL (Conference Approved Literature) coming!!!

Healing within Our Alcoholic Relationships—A Collection of Insights from Our Shared Journey (P-95) is a 48-page booklet that provides brief but powerful messages of timeless wisdom. It's perfect for newcomers as well as anyone who may need to "Keep It Simple" and get back to basics. Currently being designed and translated, it will be available this fall in English, French, and Spanish for \$4.00 US

NCR Trustee Application

WSO will be taking applications for the North Central Region Trustee. Applications must be approved by the Spring Assembly in May of this year and then forwarded to WSO for consideration by August 15, 2024. The information and application can be found on the WSO website: al-anon.org under "Board of Trustees". I have one copy with me today if anyone would like to see what is involved.

The attendees applauded the Delegate after the presentation of her report.

8. **Motion to Fund Delegate 2025 Stepping Stones Visit: (Motion 2024/05 - #1)** Currently the Ohio area pays full amount (\$2500 - \$3000) towards the delegate's trip to WSC (World Service Conference) every December. Historically, the delegate visit to Stepping Stones in New York (home of our Bill W and Lois W – the cofounder of alanon) was part of the WSC trip. From 2025, the visit to Stepping Stones will not be part of the WSC trip and the delegate will be responsible for the expenses to visit Stepping Stones if they choose to.
Sandra F – past delegate (panel 49) proposed to pay up to \$1000 in addition to the full amount towards Delegate's trip to WSC which includes the trip to Stepping Stones in New York. Discussion followed the motion. Kim R (DR 28, AA Liaison) asked the approximate cost for the trip to Stepping Stones and Cheryl B (AIS Youngstown) asked if the WSO is planning to hold WSC at least once in New York during the 3 year term of a delegate. As of now, Sandra F and Rose R clarified that they do not have enough information. We will have more data after Rose R's visit to the WSC which will be held in April 2024. Irena H (Forum Coordinator) commented that she had had the privilege of visiting Stepping stones several times and that it would be a profound experience for the delegate and that Alanon started in Akron not in New York.
Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) made **a motion to fully fund the delegate's visit to Stepping Stones with the budget estimate of \$1000**. Chris E (DR 10) seconded it. The motion passed to the Spring Assembly for more deliberations and approval.
9. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm for a short break.
10. **AAPP Report:** After a 10-minute break the meeting began and Irene B (AAPP) presented her report from the zoom room.
11. **Motion for Increased Funding for AMIAS Packet Review: (Motion 2024/05 - #2)** The task force on AMIAS packet review has been working with changes from the Attorney and were planning to

present to Spring Assembly. But the WSO recently responded with some additional changes and needs, so the task force will work to have the revised packet changes to present at Fall AWSC and Fall Assembly. Since the project has expanded, **a motion for additional \$1000 for the Attorney fees was presented by Irene B (AAPP)**. Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) seconded it. The motion passed to the Spring Assembly for approval.

12. **Report on KBDM on USNCRDM:** Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) presented the need for sending delegates both past and present to USNCRDM and what it is all about.
13. **Motion for USNCRDM reimbursement changes: (Motion 2024/05 - #3)** Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) stated that the current policy in Ohio is for the Area to pay expenses for the current Delegate each year, the Alternate Delegate for one year of the 3-year term, and to subsidize the past Delegates who wish to attend to a maximum of \$300. However, a task force comprised of current and past delegates found that \$300 dollars no longer covers the registration, meal plan, banquet and hotel cost much less travel expenses. Therefore, **a motion was made to increase the annual cap fund for the past delegates to attend the USNCRDM up to \$500 subject to annual review by the Budget committee and the probable number of past delegates planning to attend in addition to fully fund the Alternate Delegate's expenses each year of their 3-year term.** Discussion pursued this motion proposal. Daisy A (secretary – panel 64) asked how many past delegates usually attend this meeting and Kim R (DR 28, AA Liaison) asked what is done in this meeting. Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) answered that 4 past delegates usually attend and Ginny C explained how the past delegates prepare the current and alternate delegates to participate in WSC and perform their duties effectively, else it could be very overwhelming. Cheryl C (Handbook committee) proposed to change the words four state meeting under the proposed changes on page 3 to 2 AWSC and 2 Assembly meetings. Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) suggested we use Ohio area instead of the state of Ohio. Cheryl C seconded the motion. It is passed to the Spring Assembly for approval.
14. **Review and Budget Committee Report:** Terri N (Budget committee) presented the 2023 Review committee report and the 2024 Budget committee report. Sue M (Registration committee – panel 64) asked if the funds towards USNCRDM have been accounted for in the budget. Ann F (chairperson – panel 64) explained that it has been included in the 2024 budget and Ginny C (past delegate – panel 55) explained that anyone who needs money for projects can apply during the Assembly meetings. Cheryl C (Handbook Committee) seconded the budget for 2024.
15. **Handbook Committee Report:** Cheryl C presented the report along with two motions.
16. **Motion 1 – handbook committee (Motion 2024/05 - #4):** Update the October 2023 - HANDBOOK OF General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., SECTION XIV – EXPENSES & MOTIONS, D. Budget (pages 19 & 21), to remove D.1, a. and b. on p. 19. Then to reword D. 9 on p. 21 to say, **“Develop an Ample Reserve of approximately one year’s operating expense, to be securely invested by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Budget Committee. The Ample Reserve amount will be reviewed annually by the Budget Committee.”** Discussion pursued this motion proposal. Daisy A (secretary – panel 64) asked why the word secure was included – Merri G explained that the money cannot be taken away if it is in CDs. Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) asked if we need to include officers also to get the approval. Terri N (Budget Committee) and Daisy A said too many approvals would delay the decisions that need to be made in a timely manner especially with roll over due dates pertaining CDs. Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) seconded the motion. The motion passed to the Spring Assembly for approval.
17. **Motion 2 – handbook committee (Motion 2024/05 - #5):** Update the October 2023 - HANDBOOK OF General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., SECTION XI – SPECIAL STANDING COMMITTEES, B.4 (page 17) to increase the Registration

Committee from 2 to 3 members. Susan H (DR 26) asked if these changes would be made conspicuous. Ann F (chairperson – panel 64) answered that the changes are highlighted. Chris E Seconded it. The motion passed to the Spring Assembly for approval.

18. **Alateen Coordinator Report:** Rose R (Delegate – panel 64) presented the report on behalf of Lauren B (Alateen Coordinator). The dwindling number of Alateen members was highlighted and the steps to improve are underway. May 4th will be the Alateen Spring Rally.
19. **Literature Coordinator Report:** Ann F (chairperson – panel 64) presented the report on behalf of Sharon B (Literature Coordinator). Many exciting events are planned by the coordinator and will be shared by her in the Spring Assembly.
20. **AA Liaison Report:** Kim R (AA Liaison) presented her report. AA conference will take place between Aug 23-25, 2024, in Independence, Ohio.
21. **2024 Fall Assembly Report:** Ann F presented this report on behalf of Shelly C. The 2 day Fall Assembly will be held In Findlay Ohio between Oct 12 - 13, 2024.
22. **Archives Report:** Sydney P (Archives Coordinator) presented her report. The archives have been moved from Columbus to Cleveland.
23. **OAC 2025 Report:** Sydney P presented this report. OAC 2025 will be hosted in Cleveland between August 1- 3, 2025.
24. **Motion to invite outside speaker: (Motion 2024/03 - #6)** Sydney P presented a motion to invite an Alanon speaker who resides outside of Ohio and/or adjoining states. Betty M (DR 34) seconded it. Susan H (DR 26) asked about the expenses to host this speaker. Terri N (Budget committee) asked if the conference will be affordable. Sydney P answered that the conference will pay for itself as the planning committee is devising fund raisers and that a free room will be given to this speaker as a complimentary gift on account of booking many rooms. Several views were voiced regarding the wording in the report that preceded the motion which is as follows - “popular and well-respected Al-anon speaker which we hope will grow the OAC in numbers and breadth”. Karen P (DR 30) was wondering how this motion already has a person who seconded it. Sydney P answered all the questions. Voting pursued after all the explanations. Voting count: 10 – 7 in the room and 3 – 3 in the zoom room. Motion passed 13 – 10 in favor.
25. **DR 6 Report:** Terri N presented the report and shared that she had been to an Alateen anniversary and how powerful the speakers stories were.
26. **DR 26 Report:** Susan H presented her report and that she is reviewing the guidelines for Central Ohio and Bylaws of Ohio.
27. **DR 28 Report:** Kim R presented the report and said that she is trying to start the intergroup office again.
28. **DR 39 Report:** Janet P presented the report and talked about the Winter workshop that is held annually in January which has been happening for 23 years.
29. **DR 51 Report:** Irena H presented the report and said that she has been conducting monthly workshops on various CAL topics for the past 4 years. The details of the workshop can be found in the Akron Alanon website. She also has attended a zoom meeting with a Forum representative from the WSO and is in the planning mode to conduct writing workshops to encourage writing among alanon members.
30. **Cleveland Area Report:** Sydney P presented the report and stated that District 8 (Lorain County) held a 12 step week-end in January with over 100 attending. District 7 Cleveland Area) is holding a one-day service workshop on June 1 at the Independence Library. Merri G wishes to know ideas from other districts so that she can implement them in her district.
31. Rose R talked about the new DR orientation – 12 DR, 1 Alt DR and 6 new DR participated in the orientation.

OLD Business: Ann F (chairperson – panel 64) would like the Technology Coordinator position (3-year term) to be added in our Handbook. The interim Technology coordinator Cecelia explained that she is exploring firms to help with the Ohio alanon website. Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) made a motion to add the job title “Technology Coordinator” to the Handbook. Sydney P (Archives Coordinator) seconded it. The motion passed to the Spring Assembly for approval.

NEW Business:

- Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) talked about a thought force that is working on moving from elected coordinators to appointed coordinators. The rationale behind this move is to minimize the time spent in Fall Assembly in conducting the election and also Ohio is one of the few areas that is still electing coordinators. She also said that the thought force is contacting the entire NC Regions to get more information about this move.
- Ann F (chairperson – panel 64) said that the current POC (Public Outreach Coordinator) has resigned, and we need to elect a new one. All the attendees were asked to inform them of this in their groups and look for a possible candidate for this role. She also congratulated the past POC for her marvelous contributions to this position.
- Ann F would like proposals for making all AWSC meetings online due to overwhelming requests from the AWSC members.
- Ann F invited all the tech people to contribute towards the HYBRID Spring Assembly which is to be held on May 18, 2024. Merri G talked about paypal account which can be used to collect registration fees from all voting members and Cecelia briefly outlines the basic things needed to run a hybrid meeting like checking chats while the meeting is in progress and so on.
- Irena H (DR 51) and several zoom members thanked the zoom component of the AWSC meeting.
- Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Everyone seconded it.
- We closed the meeting with the Alanon Declaration at 5:01 pm.

Dates to Remember

- May 18, 2024: Spring Assembly, Columbus
- August 10, 2024: Fall AWSC, Columbus
- August 16 – 18, 2024: OAC Cincinnati
- August 23 – 25, 2024: AA Conference, Cleveland
- October 12-13, 2024: 2 day Fall Assembly, Findlay

Respectfully Submitted,

Daisy A

Area Secretary – panel 64

The minutes of this meeting were distributed via the Ohio Area website, due notice being sent to every registered group, on: _____

The minutes of this meeting were then presented for approval on: _____.