

**OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY
2-DAY FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 18-19, 2008**

OPENING – The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by the reading of the Traditions by Brittney B. and the Concepts of Service & Warranties by Sharon. Rex M. welcomed everyone and introductions by Districts followed. Districts represented were 2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,14,15,16,23,24,25,26,27,28,30,31,32,33,34,38,39,45,47,48,51,56,and 57.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE – The Suggested Procedure was presented by Rex M. and approved by the Assembly. Reminder: Only 1 trip and 2 minutes at the microphone per discussion.

NEW GR ORIENTATION – Barbara W. and Sandy F.- Sandy introduced the new Group Representatives and Alternates who attended the New GR Orientation meeting. The Assembly welcomed them.

OAA OFFICER REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT – Steve F. Report period – January 1, 2008 through September 20, 2008

Balance as of 01-01-08	\$35,281.44
Income	10,014.64
Expenses	<u>8,784.08</u>
Balance & Total Cash on Hand	\$36,512.00

Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Janice R. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the May Spring Assembly, with one correction, as mailed out to all Group Representatives. **REGISTRATION REPORT** – There was a total of 112 persons in attendance. There were 84 voting for 2 days, 8 voting for one day only and 20 non-voting visitors.

DELEGATE – Barbara W. Panel 46 Was Pittsburgh great in 2008? Have you read the International blog on the members' website? Are you saving money for Vancouver, British Columbia in 2013? It's not too soon to begin the passport process!

2008 WSC Summary is available. Ask your DR if you can borrow their copy, or purchase one from WSO. P-46 \$3.00

KOMIAC – A thank you letter was read from Mary Lou M., Associate Director Group Services – Alateen & Special Services

Service Manual – update your 2006-09 Service Manual by logging onto the members' website and downloading the 2008 WSC Policy Digest Changes. These changes have been formatted so members can insert them over the pages the changes occur on in the "Notes and Updates" section at the end of each book. Please take time to read the changes on the Bequests and Anonymity.

Bequests – please bring to my attention any input you have on the process for managing excess bequest funds. I need to submit these suggestions to the Finance Committee in mid December, so they can plan for the 2009 WSC.

Anonymity – Pg. 83 & 84 were changes in the Service Manual to include more detailed information concerning media & electronic communication. Watch use of full names in an email, use of company computers and send emails blind-copy, so you do not break anonymity of recipient of email.

Reserve Fund Guideline G-41 if you have not yet read this new Guideline, please check it out! It is available on the members' website. I would like Assembly to consider appointing a Thought Force to examine our Area's Finances, particularly our Reserve Funds.

Break-out session on Theme: Build Bridges – Energizing our Spiritual Quest

Personal Reflection – Considering today's technology and imagination for the future, how can we more effectively use the skills and talents of our AFG of Ohio members to energize their spiritual growth? What are the skills & talents I have already developed through my service to the fellowship? What skills and talents would I like to develop which would help me to grow spiritually?

Small group ideas – How can we, as AFG of Ohio members, expand, renew and strengthen our connections with the fellowship?

Alateen Advisory Committee 2009 Area Bid – for three years (2008-2110) the AAC will be held in 9 Areas (3 per year), with Committee members selected from the Area in which it is held. To bid, we need to provide the 2009 Assembly dates, time frames and locations; and guarantee of a meeting room at the Assembly location for 4 or more hours for the AAC meeting. WSO will pay the expenses for the meeting room. By submitting the bid form, the Area agrees to the following:

- To locate candidates (8 members max.) for AAC including:
 - 3 or 4 Alateens (age 13+) from different meetings with 2 years in Alateen (and certified AMIAS or parent/guardian who are attending Assembly to escort them to the Assembly location.
 - one transitioning (or recently transitioned) Alateen
 - two AMIAS, at least one currently an Alateen Group Sponsor, for different meetings
 - one Al-Anon member who works with young people in his/her professional life OR who is a past Area Alateen Coordinator.Resume forms will be due at the WSO no later than 90 days before the Assembly date.
- To cooperate with WSO to develop a plan for AAC members who want to attend the Assembly

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3. To work with the WSO to develop a plan regarding AAC members who do not attend Assembly (they could return home if transportation is available).

WSO will randomly select an Area in each region from the complete bids submitted.

Possible options for the Assembly to be discussed after chosen:

An AMIAS workshop

A Q & A discussion session on Alateen

Personal story of volunteer or staff member

I have been asked by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to serve beyond my term as Delegate on a **Thought Force** regarding the WSO's visit to Stepping Stones.

Thank You – Your confidence in me, as your Delegate, has given me gifts that were beyond my wildest dreams. I have visited places and made new friendships that I never would have experienced had you not chosen me as your Delegate. Service is the heart beat of my recovery program. I hope my service has inspired you! Stay in service, and we will meet again!

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Sandra F. Since our Spring Assembly I have been working with our groups in the lettered districts of Ohio. Changes to their contact information were forwarded to our Group Records Coordinator and WSO. I have also answered questions and assisted groups in numbered districts around Ohio.

In August I attended KOMIAC 34. It was truly amazing to watch the Alateen board not only run the meetings but conduct the events of the weekend.

October 4th was the Alateen Rally in Rocky River, OH. While there I had the opportunity to talk with some of our young members and answer questions for sponsors. It was a fun filled day and making bracelets was just one of the afternoon's highlights. A favorite part of the day is unconditional love.

The Summer issue of Al-A-Notes was published and delivered. Every sharing received was included in the edition. The publishing cost went up significantly. The order for the summer issue was for 600 copies, four pages in length. The cost was \$178.00. In comparison, the Winter issue had 675 copies, 14 pages in length at the cost of \$378.00. The final issue of Al-A-Notes for this year will be published in November. Sharings were due by October 20th.

As the Alternate Delegate, two of my responsibilities are to manage our newsletter exchange program and to manage the personal subscriptions to Al-A-Notes. Currently newsletters are being exchanged with 23 other Areas. The newsletters we have received in the process are available this weekend and have been passed out around the room. Take one of the exchange newsletters home and compare it to ours. As for personal subscriptions, there are currently 28 personal subscriptions.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Alternate Delegate for the past three years. Being able to work and share with all of you has been an outstanding experience and I look forward to being a trusted servant in the future.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

ALATEEN – Steve A. - KOMIAC 34 took place at Baldwin-Wallace College on August 1-3, 2008. The breakdown of participants are as follows: Pennsylvania: 1 Sponsor and 3 Alateen, Ontario South: 1 Sponsor, Virginia: 1 Sponsor, Indiana: 13 Sponsors and 20 Alateens, Kentucky: 14 Sponsors and 33 Alateens, Michigan: 16 Sponsors and 37 Alateens, and Ohio: 37 Sponsors and 69 Alateens. Pennsylvania brought 4 people, Ontario South 1 person, Virginia 1 person, Indiana 33 people, Kentucky 47 people, Michigan 53 people and Ohio brought 106 people. Ohio, for the 4th straight year, had the largest representation at KOMIAC. I am pleased to announce that at the weekend we were pleased to have Kristine B., Ontario South Coordinator, Peter M., Pennsylvania Coordinator and 3 Alateens as well as Mary Lou M. from WSO in attendance for the weekend. Those who made it were treated to very good food, little sleep and great program sharing by everyone. All of us were blown away by the stupendous lead on Saturday evening by Stockton C., PA Alateen. There are not enough Thank Yous to go around for everything that was donated in terms of time, money or program, however I would like to make a few special notices here: to Emily T. for picking up and dropping off Dave G (who flew in all the way from Maine) from the airport, Barbara W. for picking up Mary Lou M. from the airport as well as being her guide during the weekend, Peter who brought "Herbert" (the world's largest warm fuzzie), Greg S. who graciously purchased two group pictures for Ashley and Kaylee, Annette T. for getting us the KOMIAC booklets again this year, to all those people who donated their time during the planning sessions, to everyone who donated money, rides, running errands etc. Thank You! We had a first ever KOMIAC group picture taken and it raised \$250.00 and I think it was a big hit. The KOMIAC Board did an UNBELIEVABLE job. They were mature, wise and really worked their individual programs in their responsibilities. It was a joy to see. I received numerous comments on how well the weekend went. The Ohio Alateen State Representative is Sara M. and the Ohio Alternate State Representatives are Britney B. and Harleigh Y.

The Ohio Fall Rally took place on October 4th. There were about 10 Sponsors and about 30 Alateens in attendance. It was a very relaxing day. An Alateen from Way of life (Westerville, OH) came for the first time and Brooke is looking forward to the Spring Rally next year. Two dates for 2009 are as follows: 2009 Sponsors Workshop is March 28th and the Spring Rally will be April 25th.

I want to thank all the Assemblies (over the years) for the opportunity to serve as the Ohio Alateen Coordinator for the last nine years. I have had opportunities to work my program and to share my serenity, strength and hope that would never had been available to me had I not stepped up and followed Barbara R. around ten years ago. I have learned from this process and gained a new perspective on the program not only from the many Sponsors and Coordinators, but from the numerous Alateens I have talked to and spent time with over the years. Thank you all.

ARCHIVES – Shirley M. Not much to report. I have been busy getting everything updated and put into its proper place to pass along to the next person who has this position. I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve at the State level as your Archives Coordinator. It has been an honor and a privilege.

FORUM – Toni B. - There was a Forum Coordinators Conference Call on June 6-26, 2008. I'm sorry to say I missed it. A breakdown of what was discussed:

1. 13,750 groups in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and Bermuda each receive a free copy of the Forum.
2. The Forum is mailed to the CMA (Current Mailing Address) of each registered group.
3. The Forum is a powerful tool to strengthen Al-Anon unity among members. The Forum needs to become better integrated into our meetings and better recognized as an important tool for individual recovery.
4. The primary purpose is recovery. It is the only opportunity for WSO to communicate with members at the group level each month

We continue to have Ohioans sharings printed in the Forum. Our own Barbara W. had a wonderful article in the August issue. We have had numerous one timers printed. Keep up the good work. There was a drawing for three new groups to receive a yearly subscription to the Forum. I would like to thank the Assembly for allowing me to serve as Forum Coordinator for the past 5 years. Thank you for your trust in me.

GROUP RECORDS – Karen M. - I have prepared a new AWSC list and it is printed on lime green paper. If there are any corrections please let me know. It is important that all District Representatives check the notebooks available and go over the changes. There are 3 notebooks available for easy cross-referencing. Make any and all changes that you are aware of and return them to the box marked "Place Corrections Here" If you do not know the information, please take it with you and correct it and return it to me as soon as possible. It came to my attention after the last AWSC meeting that some of you could not find your group in the city listed. It is only marked in bold print at the top of each page. It doesn't print the city in bold print if it is in the middle of the page.

I am hoping that I can stress the importance of copying WSO and the State Group Records Coordinator of any and all changes pertaining to your individual groups. That included sending a group records change form to the State Coordinator when a new group is registering. Alateen is Al-Anon. I need to be informed when a new Alateen group is registered or has any changes.

I received a mailing in July with a stack of Alateen changes, updates and new groups. The note included was "Karen, I am sending this to you in case you don't already have them". I was very disappointed to find that 8 Alateen groups that have been registered with WSO as far back as 2006 had never been sent to me to add to the Group Records. That means that they have not been included in Assembly reports at Assembly. It seems to me that there is a serious flaw in the process. I was disappointed that it went unnoticed that they weren't in OAA books. There were also many Sponsor and CMA changes that were almost a year old. I truly feel that the Alateens have been cheated out of updated records. Group Records cannot refer an Alateen to a meeting that is not in the database. At this date we have 545 registered groups. 53 of which are Alateen. I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you these past three years. I feel that I have gotten to know you all so much better. It is nice to have all of your names be familiar to me when I hear them. It has been a pleasure watching Al-Anon and Alateen grow over the past three years.

LITERATURE – Lee R. – Our newest book "*Discovering Choices*" was released at the International Convention in July. I hope all of you will take the opportunity to add this newest book to your personal collection. WSO has asked us to fill out a mini review sheet after reading the book. This is your opportunity to tell them what you think. They value your opinion.

WSO received 30 submissions for the Sample Chapter project using "*The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage*". These will be posted on line from October to December. Two groups in my area participated in this project and received a letter from Tom thanking them for their effort.

The sample chapter topics and questions from "Opening our Hearts, Transforming our Lives" are now currently on-line through September.

The newest printing of "*How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics*" will contain a new chapter on the Concepts. It will help us learn how to apply these to our personal lives as well as to our service lives. It will also include a revision on the Traditions.

From April to June only 132 members clicked on the **Find meeting topics inspired by...** link on the English language section of the sample chapter. This is a new resource so encourage members to use it. www.al-anon.org/members

You can view the results of the e-CAL contest by clicking on the member's web site. WSO received 26 submissions and used a point system to find the winners. The winners are also posted in the September issue of the Forum.

If at any time you have questions about our literature feel free to email WSO at www.al-anon.org and put "attn. Tom" in the subject line.

PUBLIC OUTREACH – Kay B. - No report. See Spring Assembly minutes for a report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET – Cheryl V. –The budget was presented and approved at the Spring Assembly meeting. For the new G.R.s, I have a few copies of the explanation pages of the budget line items and Assembly accounts. (these are on the Treasurer's report). There is a new Reserve Fund Guideline from WSO available on line. It explains how a reserve account came to be and how it applies to state, district and the group. The number is G-41. Please remember if you are going to be over budget you need to get prior approval. I want to thank you for allowing me to be the Budget chairman. It has been a very interesting position and I've learned a lot.

BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK – Jill C. - By-Laws and Handbook changes were required because of the motions passed at the Spring 2008 Assembly meeting. To save on cost, I have brought complete copies of the By-Laws for everyone. I have only brought complete copies of the Handbook for the new G.R.s. For those who have their copies, I have brought just the 3 (2 sided) pages that had changes made on them. All the other pages remained the same. Please exchange the new pages for the old ones in your Handbook. Thank you for allowing me to serve our beautiful fellowship in this manner

COMPLIANCE/AMIAS – Barb M.- 170 adult members have gone through the AMIAS process. Everything is going smoothly.

OHIO WEBSITE – Dennis K. - The web site is up and running with no major changes since the last Assembly. The web-hosting fee has been paid through May of next year. I would like to remind you that the contacts page gives people the ability to send an email to any officer or coordinator. The real email address does not show on the web site. When the new panel of officers and coordinators is elected, they should give their email address to the web master so that emails sent to their position can be relayed to their real email address. If there is no email address for an officer or coordinator, a decision should be made as to who get it. I would recommend the Delegate of Chairman.

I have told you that it is my intention to give up the position as the web master at the end of the year. I have found a replacement for me. He is a member of my home group and does web development for a living and is technically competent. I will be recommending him to the new Chairman. There have been 55,679 total hits so far this year.

REVIEW AND AUDIT – Donna K. - My committee and I reviewed all the donation checks to verify that the amount and District information were correctly assigned. Next, we reviewed all the vouchers and verified that they were assigned correctly. Then we reviewed the bank statements to verify that the deposits and checks corresponded with Steve F. After a few corrections we balanced with the Treasurer with the exception of \$.50.

CONVENTIONS AND 2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY

OHIO AA CONVENTION 2008 – Barbara B. It was an honor to serve as Chairperson for Al-Anon participation at the AA convention on July 25-27, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Westlake, OH. It was a pleasure to work with the AA service committee and represent our mutual concerns in both our programs and service work. Perhaps due to the high cost of fuel this year, the attendance was not as expected. There were 298 total registrations; of this there were 21 Al-Anon pre-registrations and 10 walk-in registrations. There were several double winners in attendance at the Al-Anon meetings. We had 4 Al-Anon speakers. Their leads were both personal and service related. We also showed both the videos available through WSO – *Lois' Story and Lois and the Pioneers*. A literature table was also available. Although the Al-Anon planning committee was small, all who helped did a wonderful job. The date for the 2009 AA Convention is July 10th – 12th at the Worthington Holiday Inn. More information will be available at the Spring Assembly.

OHIO AREA CONVENTION – 2009- Mickie G. The Al-Anon Ohio Area Convention will be at Oberlin College on June 19-21, 2009. There will be various packages available. The cost will be approx. \$125.00 including food. Just about everything is handicapped accessible.

OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY TWO-DAY FALL 2008 – Amy H. The 2-Day Fall Assembly was held at the Ramada Plaza, 4900 Sinclair Rd., Columbus, OH. The room rate was \$90.00 tax included (1-4 persons). The banquet was \$25.00. Choices were Chicken, Beef and Vegetarian Pasta choices. The fee for the use of the hospitality room will be waived if conference attendees book at least 50 rooms. The Hospitality room rate is \$125.00 per night. By using the services of the hotel, you are supporting AFG of Ohio in covering the cost of the Assembly.

OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY TWO-DAY FALL 2009 – Districts of Cleveland – More information will be available at the Spring Assembly.

ACTION COMMITTEES

FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH – Lee gave a short description of what we had accomplished in the past 3 years. We passed out the remaining 5 folders we had left to the new 5 G.R.s present. It was decided that since the folders were such a hit, we would expand on the idea and add pamphlets to them including the “Lois W” pamphlet. We decided to keep with the idea of using more of our CAL (Conference Approved Literature) at our meetings and less of our Daily Readers.

The committee decided that we would make an additional 50 folders for 1 Day Assembly for those groups who may have misplaced folders and for new G.R.s to take back to their groups. Every committee member will bring 5 pieces of literature and some will bring old Forums and / or sharing sheets to encourage members to share. It was also discussed that we will have an instruction sheet for instituting a writing work shop for your group. We will have labels that state “Meeting Resource Information” to put on the front of the folder so the groups will be able to locate it easier.

GROUP SERVICES – Discussion on how to improve group services – reaching out to Al-Anon home groups. ***Areas of Concern:*** 1.) Recruiting G.R.s – how do we attract Al-Anon members to become a GR. 2.) Not enough DRs in Cleveland area. How do we effectively communicate this important need? 3.) Retention of Al-Anon members at home group meetings. ***Suggested Solutions:*** 1.) Group Conscience meeting to educate members on G.R.s and DRs. 2.) Share information from Assembly meetings in small bites, allowing group to ask questions and digest information. 3.) Use a few minutes of meeting time to show and teach members on Service positions and Service work. 4.) Create a pamphlet/statement that includes explanation of Service work to be included in the opening or closing reading for the group meeting. 5.) Include a cover letter. This cover letter will include the purpose of the “Statement” to be added to opening or closing of the group meeting. These are only suggestions to be voted on by each home group.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH – We had a discussion about the guidelines for the Ohio Area Convention (OAC). The committee worked during the summer to develop a list of suggested changes. The following are the recommendations Membership Outreach is making: 1.) We recommend that the Ohio Area Convention be held on the same weekend, not to begin before 2010 on a three-year trial basis. 2.) We recommend that the Ohio Area

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH CON'T.

Convention be held in the same Central location not to begin before 2010 on a three-year trial basis. These recommendations will be taken to the AWSC meeting in March of 2009.

PUBLIC OUTREACH – A list of activities accomplished or contemplated are: billboards (Akron/Canton area noticed more call to the answering service) – signs on busses (Dayton area is looking into this). \$150.00 per sign, not done yet. Areas around Ohio shared their activities and ideas to raise money for these activities. A gratitude night for the District Al-Anon office with a potluck dinner with donations of prizes and baskets which brought roadside signage of the billboard with the non-gender, non-age specific picture of the Crying House which reads “If your home is unhappy because someone drinks to much, we can help you.” Al-Anon/Alateen Families for families and friends of problem drinkers. Canton held a spaghetti dinner to earn money for a TV ad showing Internet addresses. Still the tradition question remained: How do we bring people in by attraction? Smaller ways individual groups can help include sending delegations to present a Meeting on Wheels, placing Forums in dentist, doctor and social service offices, placing posters in libraries and churches, being present with a booth at health fairs, asking to be a part of Children’s Mental Health Awareness month, distributing little M-1 brochures or business cards to law enforcement offices to give to victims of domestic violence, putting spot announcements on local college radio stations and newcomer packets including the Forum in Police Departments. The WSO has 60 second PSAs. Purchase subscriptions of the Forum for Doctors and Dentist offices and prisons. Take meeting schedules to mental health organizations and put them in church bulletins

Alateen started in California from young people attending Al-Anon with adults and deciding for themselves “We need our own meeting” Our children should be brought with us, no choice. Schools have the problem of anonymity and informed consent. One school had a day on Community Issues and an Alateen spoke for ½ hour in front of the entire Junior class. An adult Al-Anon described a typical alcoholic home, just to plant the seed.

Remaining problems: Local cable TV has free 15 word scrolling announcement, but they must be renewed weekly. Loss of insurance coverage has caused referrals to Al-Anon groups to drop. Dr. Phil’s show needs Al-Anon and doesn’t get it. “Intervention” on A&E never mentions Al-Anon. It’s up to us to follow the direction of our 12th step.

Regional Service Seminar – Caroline D. and Carol P. were chosen in the drawing to attend a Regional Service Seminar (RSS).

Thought Force – Barbara W. suggested that the Assembly form a “Thought Force” to examine our Reserve Accounts.

Transitioning of Officers & Coordinators is to be done at the convenience of the people involve.

2013 Cruise – There will be a cruise to Alaska following the next International Al-Anon/Alateen Convention in Vancouver British Columbia, CANADA

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COORDINATORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
2009 – 2011

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Delegate – Sandra F. | Alternate Delegate – Janice R. | Chairman – Barbara W. |
| Secretary – Merri G. | Treasurer – Robin R. | Group Records – Judy A. |
| Forum – Shirley M. | Literature – Ginny C. | Alateen– Yvonne R. |
| Archives – Sharon B. | Public Outreach – Vicki M. | Budget – Steve F. |
| Audit & Review – Donna K. | Handbook/By-laws - (still need someone) | 2-Day Fall/OAC Liaison – (still need someone) |
| Website – (still need someone) | | |

MOTIONS

Motion #08-08 I move to change page 24 under Outside Conferences – under the word committee to read: 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
Sandra F. **PASSED**

Motion #08-09 I move to change page 24 under Outside Conferences - under Funds to read: Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates the sum of \$200.00 towards expenses of the Ohio State AA Conference to the host committee.
Sandra F. **PASSED**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 03/21/09 Area World Service Committee (AWSC) – Columbus
- 03/28/09 Alateen Sponsors Workshop
- 04/25/09 Alateen Spring Rally
- 05/16/09 Ohio Area Assembly (OAA)– Columbus
- 06/19-21/09 – Ohio Area Convention (OAC) – Oberlin College
- 08/29/09 – Area World Service Committee (AWSC) - Columbus

MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN.
WE CLOSED WITH THE AL-ANON DECLARATION “LET IT BEGIN WITH ME”

Love In Service

Janice R., Secretary

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Secretary for the past three years. It has truly has been an honor and a privilege. With your understanding and patience, I look forward to the next three years, ONE DAY AT A TIME.