

**OHIO AREA ASSEMBLY
SPRING ASSEMBLY
MAY 16, 2009**

OPENING- The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by the reading of the 12 Traditions read by Vicki and the reading of the 12 Concepts of Service and The Warranties by Allen D. Both were from District 48. Districts represented at assembly were:
4,6,7,8,9,10,12,15,16,23,24,25,26,27,28,31,32,34,38,39,45,47,48,51,and57.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE: The suggested procedure was presented by Rex M.: reminding everyone to keep Cell phones off-to stay on the topic- stick to the agenda-No side conversations- no clapping on opinions- no repeating at the microphone-show kindness to each other & to take only 2 minutes at the mic. Rex had all the GR's in attendance stand up and count off for voting purposes which came to 57 voting Gr's. (Rex graciously filled in for our chairperson Barbara W who was not present due to her staying with a close friend in the hospital) We Missed Her!

NEW GR ORIENTATION- Janice R & Sandy F. There was 18 new Group Representatives or Alternates. They were introduced to the Assembly and given a round of applause.

SECRETARY REPORT- Merri G- A motion was made to accept the minutes from the 2-day fall assembly October 18th & 19th 2008 that were mailed out to all the Group Representatives. Steve F and Karen M made motions to accept the minutes. There were a total of 68 persons in attendance. The number of group representatives voting was 57.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Steve F. and Robin R
Steve's report is from Jan. 1st thru December 31st of 2008:

Total Income for 2008	\$13619.92
Total expenses for 2008	\$13072.81
Balance and total cash on hand as of 12-31-08-	<u>\$35828.55</u>
Group donations for 2008 were	\$7779.20

Robin's Report is from Jan 1st 2009 to May 11th 2009

Total income for 2009	\$5241.27
Total Expenses for 2009	\$6448.78
Balance and total cash on hand as of 5-11-09	\$34621.04
Group donations for 2009 as of 5-11-09 is	\$2936.38

The 2009 Proposed budget is \$11571.84

DELEGATE- Sandy F- **Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future** Where to begin? That's my "**Big Question**". Several topics were discussed during the seven days I was in Virginia Beach, but other things were interesting as well. Ooooo!!!

I left Friday morning April 17th. Arrived in Norfolk, VA at noon where I met Delegates from eight other Areas in the airport. We stayed at the Wyndam on the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. After lunch, I met my conference Mentor, Rose Anna J. from Calgary, AB, Canada. Rose Anna suggested we take a walk, so out to the beach we went. Following our walk she showed me the hospitality room, where to put love gifts, and how to check the incoming mail. I registered for the Conference and received my conference notebook, badge, and carrying case. Rose Anna showed me how to put the notebook together and how to tab information so it would be in a convenient spots for reference later in the week. She had a meeting with the other Canadian Delegates, so I was on my own for the evening. After dinner, I put my conference notebook together in the hospitality room where other first year Delegates were gathered and

working on their notebooks. By this time the hospitality room was filling up with love gifts from all the Areas. It was exciting finding a spot to for the love gifts from Ohio. Then it was to bed early, since I knew long days were ahead of me.

Saturday morning was new Delegate orientation. We met the Trustees, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and the Conference Chairman and Co-Chairman. We learned the conference goals, rules, and generally how things work. I'll admit I felt like I had a leg up since Ohio had been using the Conference rules at our Assembly meetings for three years, thanks to our Immediate Past Delegate, Barbara W. Saturday afternoon was our Conference orientation and small group meeting time. I am on a Thought Force called: *Integrating Alateen into Al-Anon where no Alateen meetings exist*. After exchanging contact information, our Chairman put us to work. We put together a time line and began answering Knowledge Based Decision Making questions. Our charge is to come up with ideas. Two hours flew by. Our Thought force will meet by conference calls and e-mail. I will give an up-date at our Fall Assembly.

Later Saturday afternoon Shared Area Highlights was conducted. This is when each Area shares a celebration and a concern in one minute or less. Our written sharing could be longer. I was so proud of myself. I was under the minute. The purpose of this sharing time is to generate conversations and get ideas. I talked with members during the week about things I had heard. Some of the topics gave me ideas and these will be referred to our Action Committees.

Saturday evening was the World Service Conference Opening Dinner. I sat with Rose Anna. (She is very energetic. I had trouble keeping up with her.) After dinner all the new Delegates received their Conference pin from their Conference Mentor. I was a little emotional as Rose Anna pinned the conference pin on me. I knew with that pin came a great deal of responsibility.

Our spiritual speaker for the evening was Tom C., part of our WSO staff. After the speaker had concluded, everyone went to bed. It had been a long day and there were six more to go. Would I make it???

Sunday morning came all too soon. I'm retired; I do not get up too early these days. BUT, up I got and headed out for the day. (Each morning I did a check list as I was ready to go out the door. Notebook, office supplies, conference bag, badge, room key, glasses, tissues, and purse.) I was ready. I met Rose Anna and we went to our work space for the week. (We had assigned seats which we sat in at each session. I got to know the people who sat around me the best. There was a little time for fun.)

The meeting Sunday morning consisted of several items I remember reading about in Conference Summaries from previous years, such as Opening Message, Serenity Prayer, Conference Leadership Team's Seating Motion, Welcome, the Traditions, and voting procedure. I was grateful. This gave me the time I needed, to get settled in, and get rid of the nerves. Orientation continued through most of the morning... In the Opening Message this question was asked: "As we think spiritually, how can we use the Legacies as empowering tools rather than barriers to expand Al-Anon Family Groups into the future?" The Legacies have been used as barriers to progress, as history has shown us. Posted around the meeting room were barriers mailed prior to the Conference. In order to seek harmony, clarity, and understanding during the week, these were literally torn down. It made me think, what barriers might there be in Ohio?

Our Treasurer and Director of Business Services presented the Audit Report. They did an excellent job of presenting financial information to those of us who do not have financial backgrounds. The short version

is: the finances are taken care of very well and the accounting principles are found to be general practices found in the United States. -- Remember the skit we did a couple years ago about the different funds. I thought of that skit to help me understand the different funds mentioned in this report. (If you would like to see the Audit Report, contact me for the information.)

A big change has come to Regional Service Seminars (aka: RSS) It is now call **T.E.A.M. Together Empowering Al- Anon**

Members - It is an opportunity for Ohio and other Areas to team up with WSO to plan a service event which meets the interests of our members. T.E.A.M. can be added to an existing event and is for a smaller audience. However; it could be an event on its own. T.E.A.M. is designed for more input by the host committee and the host committee has shared responsibilities. T.E.A.M. can be hosted by one or more Areas. Ohio can decide if this is something we what to try. If we decide to try a T.E.A.M. event, we choose what topics the WSO Staff member and volunteers handle and what the host committee will be responsible for. A T.E.A.M. event would be an opportunity for AFG of Ohio to meet a WSO staff member, a WSO volunteer, and either the Executive Director, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

My question is: when do we try T.E.A.M.?T.E.A.M. information and packets will be available on the members' website.

Embrace the Legacies: Our Spiritual Bridges to Expand the Future was the Conference theme. A presentation was given on the theme and our conference goals were given. We learned how each Conference member is a bridge to other Conference members, to groups, and to the members of the fellowship. The role of each conference member was stated. Role of the Delegate: Share experiences, be a conduit of information, take the world wide view to the fellowship, and bring a Higher Power with me. Role of the Trustees: Serve and preserve the Groups, refer things to the conference, and are the visionary leaders. Role of the Executive Committee: Oversee the day to day operations of the World Service Office are the Administration of the World Service Office. Role of the Staff: Public Outreach world wide, support and develop literature, and write the Conference Summary. Conference Goals: 1) The spiritual tone of the WSC will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members.2) Conference members will understand the purpose of the conference, relationships within the structure, and be able to articulate conference decisions.

The Executive Director's 2008 Operational Report was given along with it an up-date on the Strategic Plan. I learned during this report members have trouble understanding the difference between the World Service Office and recovery. Also, The Executive Director writes some of the report, but other Staff members contribute to the contents and the Executive Director is the compiler of the information. A copy of the reports has been sent to Officers, Coordinators and District Representatives. If you would like to see the report, ask your DR or me to forward it to you via e-mail.

CALLING ALL HANDS!!! The fellowship needs our help. The Board of Trustees is asking all members to participate in a survey whose objective is to identify the abundant resources of the fellowship. Resources are not limited only to money. Abundant Resources also refers to the talents and gifts of the fellowship. We are asked to say to ourselves what can I do to help the fellowship? Do I have a specific talent I can share, knowledge in a particular area, technology skills, what abilities do I have to help carry the Al-Anon message to others? A variety of gifts and talents are needed. To participate in the survey you log on to the member's website { www.al-anon.alateen.org/members -- pass word is the name of your home group followed by afg. Click on the Survey for Members' tab. That will take you to the Unlimited

Abundant Resources Skills Inventory. Click on Submit to get to the survey. Fill it out and click on submit. A hard copy can be obtained from WSO if you are not internet connected. I have done this survey. It took about 6 minutes to complete and submit it.}

Next on the agenda was a short presentation by the E-CAL Committee. We had come to the end of our three year trial period and because of the lack of submissions and interest a motion was made to dissolve the E-Cal Committee and discontinue E-CAL. The motion carried. E-CAL has been dissolved. Reports were given about the 2010 AA International Convention in San Antonio Texas and the Al-Anon International convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2013. I will have more information about the AA convention in the fall.

Monday started with the Serenity Prayer in French. The Budget Proposal for 2009 was given. There was a lengthy discussion. Again our Treasurer, Frank R and our Director of Business Services David Z. explained financial items so members who did not have a financial background could understand it. The Budget passed. If you would like a copy of the Budget contact me, and I will send it to you.

Next there was a presentation by the Conference Committee on Trustees (CCT). They talked about the Nominating Committee, Regional Trustees, Trustees at Large, and the Board of Trustee Officers. The Regions who elected Trustees in 2009 were listed. Then the Regions who will be electing a Trustee in 2010 were called together by Region in order to give a demonstration of the process. It was explained 2010 is the third year of a three year trial period for the Trustee election process. Ohio is part of the US North Central Region. Our Region is one of the Regions who will have a Trustee elected in 2010. Forms and instructions were handed out. Affirmations of the nominees were held for the 2009 candidates. A presentation was given on the concerns about *The Forum*. Subscriptions are down. How can we change this fact? What implications do the facts have for the future of *The Forum*? This topic will be continued. Our next topic was the discussion about the procedure for Excess Bequest Funds. A topic held over from the 2008 World Service Conference. The discussion was lengthy. Following dinner there was a time to sum up the day and do unanswered question. Motions were then presented and discussion was held. There was a recovery meeting for anyone who was interested in attending a meeting following our evening session.

Tuesday was an exciting day. We opened with the Serenity Prayer in German and got started. The discussion about protecting the Alateen traditions began. This is a topic which began in 2007 with the approval of the Alateen traditions. Then in 2008 discussion was held about giving the Alateen Traditions the same protection and status as the Al-Anon Traditions, but to do so would mean changing the Charter. The Conference determined more information was needed. A Task Force was formed and assigned this task and charged with gathering the further information. The Task Force came to the 2009 WSC with further information using the KBDM format. We would revisit this topic again during the week.

The meeting was adjourned and we loaded the buses. I was excited. Off we went to WSO. As we got off the bus, Staff members and WSO Volunteers greeted us with "Welcome Home." It gave me goose bumps. I had been on a tour of WSO once before, but it was still very exciting. Seeing the items our Co-founders used to get our fellowship started was an emotional experience for me. The office looks very much like other corporate offices, except there are a lot of triangles and triangular objects around. If we were to fly over the building and looked down, the center is our logo. The gazebo just outside the reception area is shaped in a triangle, also. On the tour we saw the archives room, conference rooms,

offices, warehouse, and shipping department. It is a big operation. 200 orders are shipped daily. Printing of pamphlets is now done off site. I especially liked seeing all the art work hanging in the halls and meeting the Staff members. The art work is illustrations of our slogans, framed, and hung in the halls. The other art work I thought was interesting was an AFG timeline hanging in the entry way. I look forward to going there again. FYI: Tours are given M-F at 2:00 pm, should you happen to be anywhere near Virginia Beach, Virginia.

After lunch we went back the hotel and resumed the agenda for the day once again. We eased back into things with a discussion on attraction and promotion which was the first of the Chosen Agenda Items. After background Information was presented, a discussion followed. {Chosen Agenda Items are selected by the Delegates for discussions that refer to items affecting Al-Anon as a whole. If you have suggestions for a topic, send it to me by October 12, 2009.} The topic of expansion or consolidation of area carried over from the previous conference. The question asked was, "Is the current World Service Conference model providing the spiritual bridge we need to expand into the future in order to meet the needs of the fellowship?" Discussion was around the future design and how diverse needs of the Areas might be affected. This discussion will carry over to one or more Conferences.

Next was the Policy Committee Meeting. I learned the Policy Committee is the Board of Trustee's Group Conscience outside of the World Service Conference. Following dinner there was a time for summing up the day and motions were presented and discussed. The outcome of these motions is: The Group Services Committee (This is not group records) and the Admissions Handbook Work Group have been disbanded on a three year trial basis. The meeting was adjourned and everyone went to the Open Board of Trustees meeting.

The Board of Trustees talked about modeling behaviors consistent with Al-Anon principles in meetings as well as outside the meetings. The Board modeled this throughout the week by showing respect for one another, being patience and understanding, doing non-judgmental listening, and following the **Knowledge Based Decision Making** process to have an informed group conscience.

Wednesday was a rainy, foggy, cold day. We did hear the thunder a couple times during the day. We opened with the Serenity Prayer in Spanish and got started. First on the agenda for the day was a presentation by the Member Contribution Thought Force. The Big Question asked was: *Embracing our Legacies, how can we help the general membership of Al-Anon understand that member and group contributions are spiritual bridges that help support the World Service Office work in order to fulfill our vision that all people affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community?* This was not a surprising, our Immediate Past Delegate reported similar information in 2008. What I heard was: the number of groups is down 28% from the 1990's and contributions are up from then, ***BUT***... contributions do not come close to the cost of services to the groups. Contributions average about \$100 per group of those groups sending a contribution; however, the average cost to provide services to a group is about \$240 per year per group. Here is an illustration: Meeting XXX has three members. There is only one pamphlet. Who gets the pamphlet? Do they cut in to three pieces? ??? Another illustration: Town Q has three groups meeting in the same location. There is a combined amount of \$1.00 in the treasury. Each group would like to have the DR visit, but it will cost \$2.40 for the DR to visit all three meetings. If there is only \$1 to pay for expenses, which meeting is visited? ??? There are 15,393 groups in our service structure with 55.85% of the groups contributing. Ohio has 44.7% of their groups contributing an average of \$76.64. While it is true the total amount of contributions is up, there is still a

big gap between what is contributed and the actual cost of services per group. I believe contributions are an investment in our future. I have to ask myself am I a member of or a visitor to my group? If I am a member, could I increase the amount I put in the basket when it is passed? I know the dollar I may put in the basket today does not have the same value it had when I started in the fellowship. If we all increase our contributions, what services could we receive? Perhaps the possibilities are endless. How can Ohio address this concern? What can Ohio do? I have referred this topic to the Group Services Action Committee for discussion. I do, however, suggest this is a conversation to have with your group. The goal of this Task Force is to increase contributions by 30% by 2012. The discussion will continue on this topic.

After the morning break, we once again discussed the protection of the Alateen Traditions, following lunch we attended the Open Policy Committee meeting. Following the policy meeting I attended the **Knowledge Based Decision Making Workshop** and learned a little more about how the **KBDM** process works.

The afternoon wrapped up with the second of the Chosen Agenda Items being discussed. *How can Areas, Districts and Groups approach unhealthy meetings in a positive and productive way?* Discussion followed. While there are no quick answers, education has proved to be effective. When an explanation of the three legacies is given, groups learn The Tradition and The Concepts are as important as the Steps. This topic will continue.

After dinner we had a time to sum it up, motions and discussion. The wording of motions was an interesting process to me. The motion to adopt the Procedure for Managing Excess Bequest Funds carried after lengthy discussion. Following this the motion to protect the Alateen Traditions was read and discussed. This had been a lengthy process. The motion carried. While the votes were being counted we played games using words from recovery and words from service. These games were a lot of fun.

Thursday opened with the Serenity Prayer in Italian. We got started. It was a day for reflections on the week and unanswered questions. Thursday evening was the Closing Dinner. It was great to see Barbara and share my first conference with her. We had two speakers following dinner, Maragot M, Trustee and Jeff G. Panel 47, Georgia. After listening to them I knew Spiritual Bridges had been made during the week.

Friday morning was the Open Board of Trustees meeting where the conference proceedings were made legal. Throughout the week we heard reports and sharing's. Representatives from Germany, Italy, Mexico, and UK and Eire shared experience, strength, and hope and about AFG in their country. Staff members and WSO volunteers gave reports on International trips to India, South Africa, Turkey, and the International AI-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) in Finland. We learned we have more similarities than differences. Each Delegate from Panel 47 had the opportunity to share on the Conference theme. I listened to these sharing's with mixed feelings. While I enjoyed listening to them, I knew I would have very little time to get to know them. These Conference members were definitely "Reven". The first day of the Conference the very first Panel 47 member to share said "47's Reven". As more Panel 47 members said it, I began to wonder what 49's saying would be? During the week I asked Panel 49 Delegates to come up with a saying for our Panel. We decided on "49 Shines". All week long I marveled at how accessible the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and WSO Staff were. There was open communication between and among members. Spiritual bridges were there.

The meals all week were outstanding. Each meal I sat with different members, in order to have the opportunity to meet and chat with as many as I could. When there were breaks, I went for a short walk, just to keep my back from getting too stiff. The days it did not rain, I even went outside and walked on the bike path. Usually someone else had the same idea, so I had walking buddies. A couple evenings a few of us relaxed in the hot tub following the meetings.

I made it!!! It was a busy week, lots of reports, meetings and papers. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Forty-ninth World Service Conference. I am very proud to be your Delegate. As Always, It is - One Day AT A Time. Sandra F .Panel 49, Ohio

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Janice R- One of my duties as Alternate Delegate is to publish the Newsletter. Ohio Al-A-Notes. The first issue went out in March and the second one is due to out in July. The topic for the July issue is on anonymity. Every Group Representative and member of the AWSC receives a free copy. Group Reps I hope you are sharing this copy with your group. If you did not receive a copy, please see the Group Records Coordinator and check your records. I get my labels from her. If you have individual subscriptions and you did not get one, please see me sometime before you leave. I do the labels for the individual subscriptions. One of the benefits of being the Al-A-Notes editor is that I receive exchange copies of newsletters from states throughout the country. It is fun and helpful to see what is being done in other areas. I brought copies with me for you to take and read. I do not want them back.

On March 27-29, I attended the North Central Regional Delegate's Meeting (NCRDM) in Des Moines, IA. The primary purpose of the Regional Delegate's meeting is to share the experience, strength and hope of the Past Delegate with the new Area Delegates before going to their first World Service Conference. Another purpose is to be more informed, more unified in spirit, more knowledgeable on policy matters, and have a better understanding and knowledge of the concepts, traditions, group conscience and obedience to the unenforceable. If for some reason our Delegate cannot attend the World Service Conference I would feel a little more confident to be able to stand in for her.

All the newly elected Delegates that make up Panel 49 were assigned 15-minute time slots to share about themselves. Our Delegate, Sandy, shared on Saturday morning. All the Alternate Delegates were assigned to read the Traditions, Concepts or Warranties. I read the Concepts on Sunday Morning. Some of the topics that Past Delegates shared on were the Purpose of Conference/Role of the Attendees, New Delegate & Trustee Orientation, Voting Procedures, History of the Conference, the role of the Delegate, and chosen agenda items. One of our Past Delegates, Barbara W-did a presentation on Committees, Task Forces and Thought Forces.

In March, I attended the Alateen Sponsor's workshop and in April, I attended the Spring Rally. It's amazing to see how far these teens have come and the obstacles and difficulties they have overcome, and to receive "unconditional love" is something you have to experience in order to know how it feels. It has inspired me to want to do more with the teens.

The Board of Trustees has developed a questionnaire that will enable the World Service Office (WSO) to have an on-going database of our member's skills, talents or expertise. Who should fill out this survey? Any member who is willing to be one of Al-Anon's unlimited Abundant Resources, without a doubt, each one of us has special skills that we can offer. Do you have Knowledge you can share? Do you have a specialized skill? Do you have a deep understanding of the Legacies? Do you have a special talent? Do

you speak another language? Are you willing to use these abilities or any others you may have to help carry the Al-Anon message? Offering your skills as a resource will not require travel to attend meetings or long-term commitments. The information you provide will assist the WSO in gathering volunteers for specific short term projects that will help fulfill the Board of Trustee's vision: All people who are affected by someone else's drinking will find help and recovery in every community. If you would like to participate in the skills inventory, please go to the Al-Anon Members "Website (www.al-anon.org/members) log in to the site by typing your group's name followed by the letters "afg". There is an orange side bar on the left side of the page that has a list of tabs. Click on the "surveys for members" tab. This will take you to the page that lists the current surveys. Click on "Unlimited Abundant Resources Skills Inventory". This will allow you to participate in the skills inventory. If you have no access to the Internet but would like to participate in the skills inventory, please contact the WSO by mail to have a hard copy sent to you. There address is 1600 Corporate Landing Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Love in Service, Janice.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

ALATEEN:-Yvonne- I am sorry I am unable to be with you today, but I had some scheduling conflicts and I am flying home from Florida with my family. A few things I would like to address are: We had our Alateen spring rally April 18th, in Columbus and many sponsors and Alateens attended. Including the Cincinnati area who had not been with us for some time so we were excited. The Cleveland area Alateen group was the one chairing the day. They did a terrific job. We started at about 10:00 A.M. and ended about 3:30 P.M. It was a wonderful event. During the day the sponsors met for a sponsor meeting and I opened the meeting up with a discussion of whether we wanted to take two motor coaches or one motor coach and possibly three or four 15 passenger vans. After a lengthy discussion we voted on having two motor coaches. One of the main reasons is that we have a handicapped child that needs to remain in her motorized wheel chair. The other reason is that most of the sponsors do not want to drive to Terre Haute Indiana; however, we are going to have a little more expense on the motor coaches. We have \$5000 in our fund but we need probably about \$2000 to get us to KOMIAC and to have a little seed money for next year. We are asking assembly to help us out. We are also asking everyone that is riding the buses to pay \$30.00 each. One more item, at the two day fall assembly Steve and I will be sitting on the board of the Alateen Advisory Committee. That is all I have to report for now. I am sure I will have more to share at the 2 day fall assembly. A big thanks to Lisa, Brittany and Margarete for reading my minutes.

ARCHIVES- Sharon B- I am reminding all areas to please send your news letters and updates to your group history's to me. There has been some discussion with Archive Coordinators about splitting the role.

We would like to start a project to list where Archive displays are across the state. For example, in the Akron Intergroup Office there are great Archives as well as at St. Thomas Hospital In Akron. The reason for this project is so that they can be shared in your district. There has been a motion discussed about splitting the archives into two positions. The first position would be called Archive Coordinator: this would rotate every three years, the person would provide reports at assemblies, provide updates for guidelines and attend workshops by invite to explain the importance of keeping and preserving archives. They would also assist the Archivist in locating and collecting missing archive materials. The second position would be titled: Area Archivist". This would be a non rotating position. They would maintain

and preserve the Archives. They would Digitize Archives and Prepare displays at service functions and write articles for area newsletters.

FORUM- Shirley M- I joined in a Forum conference call on May 4th with Bob S., director of communications, and Julie M., communications manager from WSO. Bob opened the conference call by asking: how do we utilize the forum? How important is the magazine to the Fellowship? In the last two months the subscriptions have been declining. This is the first time in over 35 years that the circulation has been under 20,000. Twenty years ago there were 60,000 subscriptions. Five years ago there were 26,000. Today there are only 19,300 subscriptions. 90% of the Al-Anon members never see the Forum. The director's vision is: To use the Forum as a personal recovery tool and to use it as part of our meetings for topics and discussions. Some Forum coordinators see the Forum only as an outreach tool. At the present time, if there is only one copy per group, there are not enough copies for a discussion in a meeting. If it were possible to have two more personal copies per group, it would make a powerful force. As a fellowship we are investing in the magazine. At the present time, only 5% of our membership reads the Forum. As coordinators, do you think the Forum should be a more important part of our fellowship or do you want to keep it business as usual and ignore the fact that subscriptions are declining? The AA Grapevine has increased its circulation by over 6000 copies by going to full-color. What ideas do you have to turn things around? We have had suggestions from callers: Has it been considered to stop sending free copies to all of the groups? 20% say that they have stopped their personal subscriptions because the group received a free copy. It was also suggested to make the content of the Forum to include a wider range of members. Another word's something for everyone, no matter what stage of recovery one is in. Other suggestions were to make the magazine more visible and challenge GR's to suggest chairing a meeting using the Forum. Do writing workshops to show people how to submit a sharing to the Forum. The Forum receives over 12,000 sharing's in a year. Old Forums can be put with the newcomer's packets. Challenge Forum coordinators to partner with GR's to make the magazine more visible in their area. We are only reaching about 100 people at assembly. If GR's took back the information to their groups to encourage purchasing a Forum not only for their own personal use but to use at meetings to encourage people to use the Forum, instead of the daily readers for meeting topics. It was suggested to make a copy of the order form on an 8x11 sheet of paper to enlarge it and display at meetings. Try to make the Forum a focal point of recovery at meetings, and not just a meeting in our pockets. The question was asked whether this is something the Forum was promoting or did this come from WSO. Bob said this was his idea, so the Forum doesn't disappear because of declining subscriptions. Some younger members would like to see the magazine go online. Some longtime members would miss reading the Forum as a magazine because it has been a very important part of their recovery. The Forum is not meant to be a moneymaker for WSO but it is a way of sharing our experiences, strength and hope by the sharing's submitted by Al-Anon members. Yours in service, Shirley M.

GROUP RECORDS- Judy A- I met with 18 New GR's and explained the Al-Anon registration process including the group records change forms. I would like to remind everyone to check that I have the correct information for your group. If there are any changes, please make the changes by filling out a change form so I can make the changes. Respectfully yours, Judy A.

LITERATURE- Ginny C- Since I began as coordinator, I have participated in a conference call with other state coordinators and passed on literature information from WSO. For example, there are two skits and several workshops designed to peak interest in the most recent books: Discovering Choices and

opening our Hearts: Transforming our Losses. WSO regularly distributes literature projects which help WSO develop these workshops. One recently was done on the book IN All Our Affairs.

Two new projects have just come out. The first is on How Al-Anon Works for Families and Friends of Alcoholics and forms are due by July 15th, 2009. The second topic is Alateen- Hope for Children of Alcoholics and forms are due October 15th 2009. Other information- ECAL has ended due to a lack of interest. Please read the "CAL corner" in your monthly Forum. If you have any ideas on using As We Understood in a workshop, please pass them onto your WSO. WSO has responded to two controversial questions regarding the literature. First, Al-Anon does not have any "promises" or "gifts". The second one is only allowed to reprint a few sentences to a paragraph of Al-Anon literature and that is with requesting permission. The forms are available on the WSO website. Third, the use of gender specific references to a Higher Power in CAL is due to the fact the literature is based on personal sharings of our members and Al-Anon adoted the same language as Alcoholics Anonymous. If you would like a more detailed response to these issues, E-mail me at vfclark_1@msn.com. By Ginny C.

PUBLIC OUTREACH – Vicky M- Your new public outreach coordinator is off to a slow start but one slogan in the program is Progress not perfection. There have been two conference calls I have been a part of. We have had a Dear Abby announcement that ran in the newspaper on Sunday April 19th 2009. There have been radio airplays in English, French and Spanish. We have been shown how to have a news release put into the paper. We will be shown how to have a news release put into the paper. We will be ordering Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism for the fall. I will be taking additional information to our public outreach coordinator back to Akron. We have a DVD to view thanks to Sandy. Vicky wanted to make sure everyone knew that the reason the faces on the DVD are shown is because they are actors. Everyone is encouraged when they see the DVD on television to please write the time you see it and what station and give it to me so that I can write a letter of thanks. You can also call the WSO 800 number and leave the information with them.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET- Steve F-Excess funds: 2008 Budget-\$11,149.00- 2008 Expected funds needed- \$10,697.97. The difference is \$451.03 which a motion was adopted to except the new budget for 2009 which was \$11571.84. Steve and Joe motioned to pass the new budget for 2009.

BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK-Barbara M- Hand Books are only printed every three years. The By-laws will be printing again in 2010.

OHIO WEBSITE- Mike K.-The OHIOAL-ANON.ORG site was moved to a new Web hosting company on April 14th 2009 called (Parcom Internet Services- 2009 Economy Plus Plan.) The cost is \$49.50 a year. Domain Registration was renewed for two years at \$19.80. Web traffic report highlights are as follows: Average of 1,000 unique visitors per month. Highest hits are in the middle of each week- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. The Peak traffic is from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The Least traffic is 3am to 8am. Most viewed pages in order of ranking: 1.Alalist.html)state index page of area meetings.2.Toledo.htm(Toledo area meetings)(last updated 11-07-2008.3.Cleveland.htm(re-direct link to Cleveland AFG Web site).4. Remote.htm (remote area meetings)(last updated 5-6-09.5.Columbusredir.htm(re-direct link to Columbus AFG Web site)6.Calendar.htm(Calendar of events in

the state)6.Cincyredir.htm(re-direct link to Cincinnati AFG Web site)7.12steps.htm. You can E-mail Mike at ohioalanon@aol.com.

REVIEW AND AUDIT-Donna K- A request has been made for Assembly to change the handbook on the Review committee's job description. I have not audited any of the Two Day Fall financial Reports. The December 2008 Treasure's report was originally out of balance by \$7.25, but we found a missed Al-A-Note subscription which accounted for \$6.75 of it. I suggested that Steve add the \$.50 to his treasurer total so that we would balance.

COMPLIANCE & AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON REPORT: Rex Mc-I continue to receive AMIAS forms. We need to have them completed before July 1st 2009. I must sign packets from WSO prior to that date. There is a problem with some using the Al-Anon forms to submit Alateen information. These need to be mailed back and resubmitted. It has been discussed to put new and renewal on AMIAS forms either with a check box or a circle one on bottom of form. Hopefully on renewals, I can start receiving them electronically. I met with Barbara M early this year and received two boxes of paper work which I have looked at some and still have more to go through. I have some Compliance items that were renewed. Another meeting might be needed with Barbara M to make sure things are in order.

2-DAY FALL AND CONVENTION LIASON-Respectfully Submitted by Karen M

I have been working closely with the Ohio Area Convention committee and am here to tell you they are working hard to give us all a memorable experience this June. They have done all they can to keep the convention affordable and enjoyable. The committee works very well together and has made sure they have kept our Chairperson and Delegate as well as I informed of all details. Now it is time for us to do our part and spread the word and get our registration in. The 2-Day Fall committee has been very busy gathering proposals and looking at sites. I have never gone over so many proposals in my life. I'm sure whatever decision they come to will be perfect.

It is a wonderful experience to work with committees that keep everybody concerned in the loop. I thank them all for their hard work on our behalf. The 2010 OAA 2-Day Fall will be hosted by Cincinnati and the 2011 2-Day Fall will be hosted by Columbus.

CONVENTIONS and 2-Day Fall Meetings

2009-2-Day Fall Assembly-October 10-11-Sheila C & Alice W- Our Two-Day Fall Committee is working hard on preparations for the assembly in October. The Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel will be the site for our event, and all GR's will be receiving the flyer for this event along with their copy of the minutes of the Assembly meeting held on May 16th in Columbus. Also, our AFG of Ohio chairman, Barbara Wright, has advised us that Ohio has been selected, by random hat drawing at WSO, to host the Alateen Advisory Committee meeting. They will have their meeting simultaneously with ours. Four Areas in our North Central Region submitted bids for the AAC, and the WSO has selected our fall Assembly for their meeting. Mary Lou M., Associate Director - Alateen, will attend, as will a member of the Board of Trustees. Our Ohio sponsors and Alateens were selected from their profiles submitted last Fall. You can E-mail me at sheila@healthlaw.com with any questions.

2009- Ohio Area Convention- June 19th-20th & 21st-Ginny C.-Districts of Akron/Canton-Please sign up and or pass on the information in your groups. We currently only have 17 registered. Hospitality needs some help so we are asking for donations today which we did by passing around a basket. We passed our

more registration fliers. We also are asking GR's to go and ask their groups for donations for hospitality and encourage people to come to the Ohio Area Convention.

2009-Ohio State AA Convention- AFG Participation Report: Chair Person: Amy H. Committee: Sandy F, Jane, Amy, Sue, P. (Solutions Al-Anon Family groups. Central Ohio AFG has formed a committee to plan the Al-Anon portion of the Ohio State AA Service Convention to be held July 10th -12th, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Worthington. Members of this committee have been attending the AA planning meetings. Plans are moving forward and will include three Al-Anon meetings of varied format and an Al-Anon speaker on Saturday afternoon (Our esteemed chair Barbara W). Arrangements will be made for an Al-Anon hospitality room with support from AFG of Ohio. Along with multiple opportunities for recovery, there is a dance on Saturday night. This is a great event to share with your Al-Anon and AA friends. Come and join us! You can reach me at 614-266-2393 or E-mail me at ahonsberger@att.net. Thank you, Amy H.

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Outreach-Karen M- Guidelines on Reserve Fund which covers WSO to the District Group How much is an excess? 3-6 months is suggested. We need to get a DR for all districts. You will not get any information without one. We talked about how to get a DR and a GR. If a group does not support a GR can the District contribute according to guidelines? YES-They Can. Ohio Area Convention Guidelines: Discussion of Motions We discussed keeping it centralized and affordable and having a host committee from all over area. We need to consider walk-ins. Walk-ins only have the advantage when it is close to their home. We want to find a way to keep the attendance up. We discussed the possibility of making the Convention a one day. We need to move forward because what we are doing isn't working any more. The Committee decided to let the 2010 committee proceed with their planning for their conference.

Group Services-Lee R- Does Ohio need to review the process for AMIAS? If so, what documents or forms need to be changed to make it easier to understand? Do we need a check box labeled New or Renewal? Could the signatures be in a better order? We cannot change top ½ because it comes from WSO. A committee was formed to look at the form for change. The committee volunteers were Rex M, Steve F, Jo S and Rita. They will report back at the fall assembly.

Public Outreach- Irene B – Vicki was not able to attend so Rose R from District 6 acted as our Alternate Chair. We all introduced ourselves. A list was distributed for names of contact information, including Email and phone numbers. We discussed the difference between Intergroup and district meetings and the communication between the two. Members shared what their POC committees were doing in their areas. Some shared how they send speakers monthly to treatment centers either through speaker lists or group commitments. Others have PSA contracts to local TV and radio stations. Some donate books to local libraries after they check on the internet to see what books the library does not have. Other areas have given contact cards to the Police officers to hand out during calls. Some GR's have handed out the 2009 Faces Alcoholism to doctors offices. Other groups have developed a speakers list to be used for the district and POC. This list is updated yearly. Some Districts call treatment centers to sign up for monthly commitments to share the Al-Anon message of hope. Posters have been sent to Libraries and public places with tear off strips with local Al-Anon group contacts. They talked about reminding groups to put a stamp of local Al-Anon contact information on all literature before distributing it to the public. Our group

discussed forming a YAHOO group to stay connected to each other and to share information. Scott B will connect with Vicki on precious Yahoo group pages. If not active, he will create a new POC Yahoo Group page linked with an E-mail system. Scott shared the WSO information and handed out folders on the Best of Public Outreach. It contained 1, discussed how to Pages, 2, Pod Casts, 3. How to develop a data base with professionals, 4, It contained standard letters for contacting different professional groups. September is National Recovery Month. Scott asked us to enter contact information. We also discussed that because the Columbus area is growing that there is a greater need to communicate with other groups perhaps not in the same district but close in proximity. Someone suggested getting out to those meetings to make a connection.

Fellowship Communication- Barbara M- Barbara M opened and chaired the meeting and Ginny C volunteered to be the recorder. We discussed a number of suggestions for increasing the use of all the literature especially the Forum and the News Letters. Last year's committee made up the meeting Resource Materials. Shirley our Forum coordinator pointed out that the Forum has less than 20,000 subscriptions. Mike our Website coordinator suggested a communication section on the Ohio Area Website. We discussed way to reach those without E-mail or internet access. Ginny our Literature coordinator reported on the current chapter projects, workshops and skits from WSO. Andrea suggested a business card that gives the Ohio Website address and what is available on the website. Arlene suggested using a laptop to do an informational meeting on how to find what is on the internet. Anyone interested can contact Barbara M at mccybergal@hotmail.com.

MOTIONS

Motion 09-01: Turned in by Harleigh Y and Hailey T requesting from AFG Of Ohio's excess funds: To make a one time donation of \$2000 to the KOMIAC bus fund to help offset the cost of the 2009 KOMIAC bus. (Alateen Committee)--**PASSED**

NEW BUSINESS:

It has been suggested that the by-laws and handbook be changed to add a detailed description of each service positions job

The Archive coordinator suggested that we divide this service position into two positions. One would be permanent which would keep the archives in one place. If this motion was ever considered there would have to be some legal papers drawn up that would state clearly that if anything should happen to the permanent archivist that the information stored would be turned over to the State of Ohio to preserve our Al-Anon history. Before this motion can be brought before assembly it has to be approved at the AWSC meeting in September. The other Archivist position would rotate every three years but would gather the information and report it and then hand it over after term to the permanent Archivist. There was talk about digitizing the Archives to save on space.

There is a request to assembly to change the handbook on the Review Committee. Please change the job description because this service position has not audited the financial reports for the 2-Day Fall Assembly. Sincerely, Donna K

OLD BUSINESS:

There was a plea to encourage members to talk up the Al-Anon Convention in June. With your commuter registration, you have access to all the meetings on Friday thru Sunday and the Saturday night Barbecue dinner.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug.29, 2009- Area World Service Committee Meeting-2040 West Henderson Rd Columbus, OH 12:30pm. Bring a peanut free lunch.

October 10-11, 2009- 2-Day Fall Assembly-Marriott Airport Hotel- Hosted by the Districts Of Cleveland-Information enclosed.

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

**In Love,
Merri G. Secretary.**

ATTENTION ALL GROUP REPRESENTATIVES: PLEASE SHARE THESE MINUTES WITH YOUR GROUP. YOU ARE THE ELECTED VOICE FOR EVERY MEMBER IN YOUR GROUP AND A VERY IMPORTANT LIFE-LINE TO AFG OF OHIO AND AL-ANON WORLD-WIDE.

NOTE: PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY FOR THE 2 DAY FALL ASSEMBLY. ATTACHED IS THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO REGISTER. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!