

Spring 2025 Assembly meeting Minutes

The Spring Assembly meeting was held on May 17, at Just North UCC located at 2040 West Henderson Rd, Columbus 43220. Area 44 Chairperson Ann F welcomed everyone to the Hybrid Assembly meeting at 12:31 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Donna S (GR – Hudson Saturday Serenity) read the Twelve Traditions and Sharon Y (GR – Montgomery 12 step AFG) read the Twelve Concepts. Heidi W (GR – Willoughby 4th Step Saturday AFG) read all the General Warranties of Concept 12. In attendance were 56 members representing districts 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 45, 47, 48, 51 within the Ohio Area (Area 44) and one from Global Electronic Area (GEA).

Ann F reviewed the etiquette procedures (Both in room and on Zoom) pertaining to the Assembly meeting. She read the Declaration of Unity found on [page 107 of *How Al-Anon Works* \(page 247 of *Many Voices, One Journey*\)](#) along with Assembly goals which are as follows:

- Members will understand the purpose of the Assembly, relationships with the structure and be able to articulate Assembly Decisions.
- The spiritual tone of the Assembly will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect acceptable conduct by its members.
- Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Assembly members will presume goodwill.

Rose R (Area Delegate – Panel 64) reported that 10 new GRs participated in the new GR orientation - 6 on Zoom (Jennifer B, Mary Beth D, Audrona B, Sheri H, Andrea M, Hellen G) and 4 in person (Steve S, Vicki F, Diane M, Pat L)

Ann F (Area Chairperson _ Panel 64) explained the speaking and voting procedures. She also sought permission to audio tape the meeting for the purpose of recording accurate minutes in accordance with page 89 of Al-Anon Service Manual which states “Occasionally Al-Anon/Alateen meetings are audio taped by members, but as a matter of courtesy, the person doing the taping should receive permission. Al-Anon/Alateen meetings may be taped with the following suggestions: Every member is aware and approves of the taping and Anonymity is carefully preserved”. Approval was granted by show of hands by the attendees.

Sandra F (Past Delegate – Panel 49) made a motion to seat Tess C (Facilities Manager) with no vote and voice only in technical matters and Angela S (GR -Chagrin Valley Wednesday Night AFG) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by show of hands.

The following reports and motions were presented in the meeting which can be accessed in the link below under the year 2025 on Ohio Al-Anon website: <https://www.ohioal-anon.org/calendar.html>

Reports, Motion and Panel Presentation:

1. ***Fall 2024 Meeting Minutes:*** Ginny C (Past Delegate – Panel 55) asked the Secretary about the different highlighted portions in the minutes and the Secretary explained that the highlights are for quick perusal of the items discussed in the meeting. Lucy W (GR – Courage

AFG) made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes as presented. Janet P (GR – Freemont Monday AFG) seconded it. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as presented.

2. ***Alternate Delegate Report:*** Ann F read the Alternate Delegate's (Merri G) report who was unable to attend due to a prior speaking engagement in another convention. She acknowledged her challenges this year and encouraged members to contribute to the topic "how they got through a crisis using Al-Anon program" for our June Al-A Notes. Members can send their sharing to the email alternatedelegate@ohioal-anon.org or merrig.iamfree@gmail.com by June 15, 2025.
3. ***Treasurer's Report:*** Carol R (Area Treasurer – Panel 64) presented her report explaining the income, expenses and donations as of May 12, 2025. Heidi W made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Susan H (District Representative – 26) seconded it. The motion passed unanimously by consensus vote.
4. ***Delegate Report:*** Rose R presented part 1 of her report which is as follows –

Delegate Report - Spring Assembly - May 17, 2025

Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy WSC - April 24-27, 2025

As I begin to put this report together, I once again realize what a responsibility it is to be a member of the "World Wide Fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups". I was trying to decide how to start. You know what I mean? Lying in bed, from the minute I could think clearly, and going over what I would say. How I could relay to you all what I experienced this time. The friendships renewed and made. The laughter and tears. I woke up Thursday morning, after two days of actually sleeping, and read the page in A Little Time For Myself for May 1st. As usual, my Higher Power gave me my guidance to begin.....a quote from that page:

"It has been my experience that God will give you the words when the time comes, we don't get the words in advance." I just need to begin.

Conference poster: •During the entire Conference I was shown how when we invest in each other and accept one another's ideas, keep an open mind and use our Higher Power's guidance we preserve our Steps, Traditions and Concepts by putting them to use.

With that I will share with you all some of what occurred over the four days from 6 AM Al-Anon meetings to 8 AM - 9 PM discussions on finances, Trustees, policy updates, appeals to policy updates, Alateen Electronic Meetings, International Conventions-both AA and Al-Anon, International Coordination Committee (ICC), the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM), and task forces and work forces that were presented. I will attempt to keep it interesting because I remember how tedious and "God, please poke my eye out so they stop talking", these reports can be.

(Slide 3) This is the room where we spent 4 days reasoning things out with one another.

Funny story: on Friday night the Hotel rented the room next door to an event with a "live band".

Horns, drums....the whole gambit. By 7 PM we couldn't hear ourselves talk or think! They moved us to a room that held about 60 people. Well, there were 90 of us with mics and speakers so we were crammed in to complete the last two hours of business. Needless to say we laughed more than we discussed and Panel 64 got a great idea for our final skit for 2026.

The World Service Office (WSO) Staff, Volunteers, Board of Trustees (BOT) and Executive Committee made it possible for us to have the best communication during the voting process and have the conversations needed to make this Conference a huge success. The behind the scenes work that is accomplished is something beyond extraordinary.

As you may or may not remember, last year in my report I mentioned one of the motions that came from the Conference floor about Delegate participation on the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) for agenda development and that I was so overwhelmed I had no interest whatsoever to be involved in anything like that. This was my first example of why I have two ears and one mouth. The charge was to form a Task Force made up of the CLT and a minimum of three Delegates charged with proposing how Delegates could be selected and participate on the CLT to contribute to the WSC agenda development.

Three Work Groups were suggested. These 3 work groups will work together to set the WSC Agenda and will have Delegates chosen from the "willing to serve" questionnaires sent out annually. Once chosen, the Delegates will work with the CLT during the months stated on the handouts and set the agenda. This will be set up on a trial basis to see how things work.

This being my second year, I'm feeling a bit differently about serving on this Task Force. I will be willing to volunteer. More experience, more recovery!!

*The second and third year panels were given charges at the beginning of the Conference while the new Delegates (Panel 65) were in orientation. We had two hours to do this and I'll tell you, when I read the charge I was clueless. Just like everything else in Al-Anon, I didn't have to do it alone and by the time we were ready to present our five-minute creation, we were all ready and having fun! Although it was fun and we laughed a lot, I learned some very important points which, I know, is what the CLT had in mind. Our charge was; How do you keep your Alternate Delegate informed? I realized I fell terribly short of this charge! We talked about what our Alternate would do if we suddenly couldn't attend the Conference. How informed and prepared had we made them? In my case, Merri would have been lost and it made me understand the importance of communicating via emails monthly and having conversations about what is happening at the Delegate level. Our panel presentation showed me how **uninformed** I have kept our Alternate Delegate! We decided as a panel that the 3 key components of keeping our Alternate Delegate informed were:*

- *Engagement*
- *Communication*
- *Confidentiality*

We did a skit about uninformed and informed Alternate Delegates and while we all learned a hard lesson, we had a great laugh with the entire Conference.

Each Delegate was asked, via AFG Connects, to offer a one-line reflection on what it was like to be where we were at our Panel levels. Panel 63 was outgoing and they were asked what the past 3 years had been like, Panel 64 was asked about being in “the sweet spot” and Panel 65 was asked what was their biggest fear and what expectations they had of Conference. Panel 63 put together a small handout of everyone’s responses. Each Conference day ended with any questions or concerns we had about the business and discussions of the day and key takeaway’s from what was said and decided upon. Reflections followed. On the first day, one of the Panel 65 Delegates went up to the mic and commented on the Area Highlights Sharings. They commented that common words they saw in the handout from Panel 65 were fear, concern, fear, fear, mistakes, fear, fear, unreliable, huge responsibility, fear, expectation(you get the picture!). Panel 64 words were, at ease, open heart and mind, gratitude, in the zone, enthusiasm, goodness and strength, comfort, excitement, adventure, the “sweet spot”. Panel 63 words were new awareness, amazement, uplifting, greatest honor, overcome with emotion, opportunities for spiritual growth, energizing, enlightening, beautiful gift from my Higher Power. The very growth of my own recovery and joy of this service position is coming into view. There was so much more from this exercise but I realize I can’t share everything that happened or we’ll be here for three days! Just know that in order to feel the spirituality of the Conference in these ways, you need to be there. You can do it too. It was so very spiritual and fun our faces hurt from laughing and there were some tears also as everyone shared about each other from the exercise the Panel 63 Delegates so lovingly created.

2024 Membership Survey Results

al-anon.org/surveyresults

One of the main goals of the surveys taken tri-annually, is to share w/professionals so the message of hope can be shared with those who don’t know about Al-Anon. From June to July 2024, 15,375 Al-Anon members responded anonymously to this survey. Members reported an overall improvement in their quality of life through participation in Al-Anon; increased length of time in the program and outside treatment led to even greater improvement. This survey can be found on the Al-Anon website and members are urged to communicate the results to professionals through the Public Outreach committees in your area.

One idea for this survey is to make some copies and take it to the health fairs you attend.

The new 2026-2029 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual will be out shortly after the 2026 year begins. There will be a few wording changes in the Policies area of this new version. One of them was discussed last year at the Fall Assembly. This was the “Choosing a Group’s Name” policy.

Since 2010 this discussion has been going on and if we were to look in the past Conference Summaries, we would find that it goes back even further. At one point the Group Records Change Form (GR-1) contained a “Group Focus” field for groups to identify any members of “similar life situations” they were seeking to attract.

The 2010 WSC approved the new “Membership and Groups” Policy Digest text, including the new “Choosing a Group’s Name” language: “The WSO will review proposed group names for adherence to Al-Anon principles.”

Conversations ensued from 2010 - 2023 regarding whether or not special focus groups were divisive within the fellowship or not. Some changes were made over the years to help with, and determine ways to keep with traditions when naming and changing the names of groups. In 2022, the WSO staff observed a trend related to groups identifying themselves with a specific participant focus...(and) the recent trend has significantly expanded to sometimes suggesting either an affiliation or a non-Al-Anon related focus. This led to the Policy change that was voted on last year at the 2024 WSC that was presented to you. During the time between the Chairman of the Board (COB) letter and the Highlights of the 2024 WSC document, the WSO Staff sent questions to the Policy Committee as to how implementation of the new Policy would be done. In July 2024 the BOT decided to have the discussion of implementation of the policy be one of the Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) at the 2025 WSC. In August 2024 Staff began the new implementation approach approved by the Policy Committee when groups register and when groups submit a change to their name. After the 2024 World Service Conference Summary was posted with the "Choosing a Group's Name" Policy discussion on p19, WSO began receiving group and member appeals to the new Policy. In addition to the appeals, WSO also received a few member letters of appreciation. It's very important to note that several Al-Anon international structures who are bound by the Policies contained in the Policy Digest expressed gratitude for the 2024 WSC decision, which aligned with group name procedures they have long maintained. These international structures confirmed their meetings are well attended by members of all designations. (As global electronic groups expanded across the world, the fact that these group names included designations generated questions and some controversy in structures that did not support designations as part of their geographic group names.)

At the October 2024 meeting, the Policy Committee considered and discussed the member appeals in the spirit of Concept Five, "The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and insure that they be heard."

Members' appeals were reviewed and forwarded on to the Delegates for discussion at the 2025 WSC.

During the "Clearing the Air" and designated time for discussion of this topic, I learned so much about principles above personalities and sharing through our Higher Power's guidance. Much was acknowledged from the Policy Committee about how the policy and the implementation of the policy was confusing. Delegates were unsure of how to vote on the implementation of this policy while not being able to discuss with their Areas. As a result, the motion approved by the 2025 WSC called for a temporary suspension of the implementation of the 2024 WSC approved "Choosing a Group's Name" Policy as relates to identifiers in group names. The 2026 WSC will decide how to proceed based on Area feedback. The motion wording is below:

"Allow group names to continue to include identifiers such as those currently listed on page 28 of the 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24-27) v4 (a) including "men, women, parents, adult children, young adults other gender identification/sexual orientation, etc. with the understanding that in keeping with Traditions Three and Five the groups will welcome anyone affected by someone else's drinking" until the 2026 World Service Conference to allow WSC Structure Areas to discuss the implementation of the 2024 WSC-approved "Choosing a Group's Name" Policy.

I realize that this may be a lot of information to grasp but I feel it's so very important for me to hear what our members feel about how these identifiers, added to the group name, helps attract newcomers.

Information shared with us from the WSO Staff was, in speaking with those registering groups with names containing identifiers, Staff was regularly told the group will not welcome or even accept those who do not match the identification. The WSO website has been simplified on both the al-anon.org meeting searches to make these searches easily accessible. Lastly newcomers and even long-standing members have shared and demonstrated that they do not understand they are welcome at meetings with group names or participant designations with which they do not identify.

Without being there it is impossible to tell you how passionate some Delegates were with their Area's concerns regarding the implementation of the policy. Most of the groups were adult children groups that have been in existence for 20+ years and were afraid of having to change their names. The Policy Committee Chairperson reinforced that it was never the intention of the

Policy Committee to one day direct the WSO Staff to enforce this Policy on existing groups - EVER!

The other changes include updates to both the "Local Services" and "Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions" sections of the Digest of Al-Anon/Alateen Policies" section.

Some areas were discussed and approved at the 2024 WSC:

- *"Naming a Service" was rewritten as "Al-Anon Information Services (AISs) or Intergroups," considering both WSC's and international structures use the term.*
- *"Answering Services" and "Information Services (Intergroups)" were removed, as they were determined to be procedure rather than policy.*
- *"Employees in Al-Anon Services" became "Service Participation by Employees in Al-Anon Services" with minor edits.*
- *"Autonoy of Groups" became "Meeting List Publishing" with some text modified and new paragraphs added.*

In July of 2024 the Task Force and Policy Committee, after minor edits, recommended the revised content and placement within the Policy Digest be brought to the 2025 WSC for consideration. The motion was carried by 88 yes and 2 no.

The "Meeting List Publishing" is of interest to Ohio because in our Handbook, pages 32-37, Section XVII, we have an Area Do Not List Policy. This Policy can be submitted to WSO for review and if WSO agrees to support the Policy the group will not be listed on the WSO website.

I recommend that Group Representatives go over the Policy and at a later date, if you decide we want to, we can discuss sending our Policy to WSO for review. It's important to know that we added this Policy in 2016 and as of this date, I have not received any word on any group meeting the criteria of being removed from any District schedules.

Electronic Alateen Validation & Implementation Planning

- *In 2020 the BOT approved the strategic plan strategy*
- *In 2021 the project team worked with International Structures to understand Global legal implications*
- *In 2023 feedback from WSC for Electronic Alateen Validation Implementation Planning (EAVIP) was approved*
- *In 2024 WSC reviewed the conceptual framework*

Implementation Planning

AFG Records tracking

- *Tracking system for additional certification that will be necessary*

Develop training modules

- *Update current training modules to include electronic information*
- *Create training materials on how to implement the WSC EASBR*

Rollout

- *Build a communication rollout plan to implement the WCS EASBR for our structure*

Continued timeline is:

- *2025 WSC had discussion and feedback about rollout and timeline*
- *2025-2026 Area discussions*
- *2026 WSC will vote on motions brought to WSC*
- *July 1, 2026 rollout of electronic Alateen groups!!!*

As you can see, this is in the planning stages and each Area will need to approve the process to have Electronic Alateen meetings. The Area does not have to approve this process in order for one of their Alateens to participate in an EAG; however, the Alateen member would have to go through the interview process of the State they want to attend the meeting in.

I will report more at the Fall Assembly where we will need to decide if our Area is interested in doing this.

Financial discussions are always difficult to explain but necessary for transparency. AFG, Inc. (WSO) had another good year thanks to Literature sales and group donations.

The total revenue for 2024 was \$6,796,472

Gross Literature sales were \$3,888,585

Contributions for 2024 were \$3,022,843 which was a \$106,445 increase from 2023. Most of the contributions came from the groups - 42% followed by individuals - 15%

Some program accomplishments in 2024 were the new pamphlet, Healing within Our Alcoholic Relationships (P-95), was introduced and sold 40,603 copies. We hosted the 2024 International General Services Meeting (IGSAM) in Virginia Beach. Additionally, we conducted the triennial membership survey and launched a new Alateen public outreach tool.

The investments in the Reserve Fund fluctuate based on stock market conditions. 2024 saw improvements in the market, as it had positive returns during the year. The Reserve Fund earned \$753,778 in investment income.

Revenue forecasts and contribution goals are set for 2025 along with literature sale goals although with no new literature coming out this year, a decrease in literature sales is expected.

Cost per group is \$337.53 - That's \$28.13 per month

Some services provided to our groups.

All the above information and breakdown of group costs can be found in the 2024 Annual Report found on the al-anon.org website

Excess Funds Discussion

Reserve Funds in excess of WSO One Year's Operating Expense (2024)

Special Projects:

Core Systems Overhaul \$200,000 (estimate) Association Management and Accounting Systems

- *Group and trusted servants records*
- *Online store and inventory availability*
- *Meeting structures*
- *AFG Connects*
- *Finance system*
- *This overhaul will also address the shipping costs of literature such as weight of packages and shipping points which may lower shipping costs for individuals.*

Professional Outreach - Young People (aged 13-25) (\$100,000) estimate

- *PSA's on podcasts*
- *More exhibits*
- *Advertisements in trade magazines*
- *LinkedIn ad to educators*

Passing it On (more discussion to follow) \$200,000 (estimate)

Already spent - \$124,000 (approx) new office equipment, van and consultants for software update (2023 excess funds)

Chosen Agenda Items (CAI)

Chosen Agenda Item #1

Service Participation in the Electronic Hybrid Age

CAI:

Is electronic meeting dominance resulting in loss of fellowship and participation; is face-to-face meeting participation the only avenue for moving toward service commitment participation?

RATIONAL:

While virtual meetings originally helped overcome obstacles for pandemic AI-Anon recovery, possible drawbacks emerged such as a burgeoning breakdown in quality fellowship, retention of members, continued long-term recovery, mutual aid, and reduction in spontaneous interaction among members which may ultimately lead to lessening service commitment participation. Is Zoom meeting incorporation helping or hurting?

KEY TAKE-AWAY:

Let's be creative! Are there opportunities to use online meetings for online workshops, holiday meeting marathons, group step studies or fellowship?

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CAL can be mailed to newcomers if they're willing to put their address in the chat for you. We need to make connections to keep the recovery active and alive. Fellowship can be fun virtually if we use our imagination. The meeting room can be left open after the meeting to invite fellowship. What are your ideas?

Chosen Agenda Item #2

Attracting and retaining AI-Anon members in the 20- to 40-year-old range

RATIONAL:

The 2021 Membership Survey reported the average age of members to be 62.5 years. On average members attended their first meeting at 44.1 years old. How do we not only attract members in the 20- to 40-year-old range to meetings but also encourage them to keep coming back when the current members of the meeting are older.

K

Key Take-Away: Young people are online and PSA's on apps are more eye-catching than surveys. They appreciate being treated as "equals" not "kids". Welcome Alateens to our meetings as members. Early meetings may be a deterrent. Allowing young mothers to bring kids to meetings.

(Slide 13)Upcoming Events!!!!

(Slide 14) AA International with AI-Anon participation

(Slide 15 and 16) Road Trip

(Slide 17) 75th Golden Celebration

(Slide 18) Al-Anon International 2028 Convention w/AA Participation!!

Minneapolis, MN / July 20-22, 2028

2 Hotels attached to the Convention Center plus additional hotels

4 hour flight from any area

Before closing for the first half of my report here's a picture of our North Central Region Delegates (Slide 19) and your Panel 64 - In Service We Soar (Slide 20) - We look much better being silly than anything don't you think?

We took a break and returned at 2:22 pm. The Delegate resumed part 2 of her report.

Definitely my favorite part of the Conference so far for the past 2 years has been the

ICC (International Coordination Committee) report.

- *Formed in 1978*
- *Avenue of Communication*
- *Helps preserve worldwide unity*
- *Advisory to BOT*
- *Coordinates the IAGSM (International Al-Anon General Services Meeting)*
- *Reviews activities of WSO for International Structures*
- *Processes First-time requests to reprint CAL*
- *Guides structures in forming GSO (Group Service Office)*

The ICC consists of:

- *Chairman - WSO Volunteer*
- *Co-Chairman - WSO Volunteer*
- *Two IAGSM (International Al-Anon Group Service Meeting) US and Canada*
- *WSO Staff - Executive Director, Director of Programming and International Services Manager*

The Stages of International Development are:

- *Collection of Al-Anon Groups*
- *Area Information Services (AIS)*
- *Evolving Structures*
- *Group Service Office (GSO)*

International Structures by example of development

Collection of Groups - China and Zimbabwe

AIS's - Turkey and Hungary

Evolving Structures - Iran and Lithuania

GSO's - Australia and Mexico

This past year the visits to Mongolia, South Korea, India and China (Virtual because of travel restrictions) were absolutely amazing. The communications with these countries, regardless of the language barriers, were so emotional when Sara and Stacy presented them to us.

The total number of groups within the WSC structure is 13,246. The number of groups within the international structure is 9,196.

World Service Conference Global Responsibility is:

- *WSC is designated as the senior Conference for all AI-Anon*
- *WSC Policy decisions affect on members and structures world wide*
- *ICC responsibility to share the voice of the International Structures at WSC*
- *WSC members responsibility to demonstrate Tradition One-Unity as a global consideration.*

2024 CAL Translation and Reprints

- *Danish, Greek, Russian, Korean, Hindi & Tamil, Italian, Hungarian and Bulgarian*

First Time Translation

- *Mongolian and Latvian*

Stacy and Sara were presented with a traditional Mongolian Deel. These were made individually for both, stitched and fitted (much to Sara's dismay) to fit perfectly. The detail and love that went into these articles of clothing tell us how much our International Team meant to them. There were 200+ members that attended the Mongolian gathering!

The comments from this visit were so beneficial for those who don't have the blessings of our literature and freedoms to go to meetings in person and virtually as we do. To be able to spread the message of Hope to these countries is truly so important.

Single Process Trustee Selection

Our Trustee application is undergoing an overhaul to become a more simple process. It's very detailed and WSO Staff is thinking maybe that's one of the issues with so many vacant spots in both the Regional and At Large Trustee positions.

There are 3 separate options that are being presented and will need to be discussed at Fall Assembly (once I understand them better) so I can bring your feed back to 2026 WSC. Anyone who is interested in knowing more, please let me know. Otherwise, more will be revealed...

Annual Report presentation

Some highlights of the Annual Report on what has been accomplished since January 1, 2025:

- *ICC initiated two programs for International voices to be heard.*
- *Commenced the process for registering our trademark in China*

- *EBook platform consolidator / criteria for GSO's to receive profits for purchase Intimacy In Alcoholic Relationships will be the roll-out book / 6 month trial / in May-will be announced on In The Loop - look for it. If it works, the plan is to roll out 3 books per month!*
- *New HR Director was hired in December - a Health program for Staff*
- *S38 / The guide to ensure any gift bequeathed to WSO can be accepted*
- *Global Electronic Meeting Search (GEMS)-updated to assure different language members can find a meeting*
- *Added a new option for Hybrid meetings / a form specifically for groups*
- *Added new forms for annual group updates*
- *No longer using X (Twitter) No longer efficient for WSO to use / platforms currently on are Facebook, Instagram, UTube and LinkedIn.*
- *4 conferences are planned for attendance for PO making the total 7 attended so far*
- *Updating AFA this year / will be looking for member contributions*

First line communication staff members have noticed that the same emails are going to numerous staffers. Please only send one email and have patience. Staff will make sure your questions are answered.

Invitations for Staff to visit an Area are always welcome (I will bring this up under New Business)

New addition of the Service Manual is due out early next year

Sponsorship and Finance sharings are still needed / Get Busy!

And last, the Stepping Stones experience. I was amazed at the grounds and the items in both Lois and Bill's home and in Bill's cottage. It was said that Lois saved everything and I believe she really did! It would have taken at least 4 or 5 more trips to see it all. What I did get to see was wonderful! (Slide 19-20)

Being able to sit behind both desks that produced ours and AA Literature was truly an experience that I couldn't have imagined.

The Delegates who planned this trip (I'm at a loss to remember all of their names) did a magnificent job. Vans for travel, box lunches and the guides made the trip a once in a lifetime experience for me.

This Conference was most definitely a huge step for me in my recovery of how to accept different opinions, get closer to others and to be grateful for the gift of love from each and every participant that attended. As I close this report and we attempt to sing the Panel 63's ending song of their skit, I'd like to read page 134 from A Little Time for Myself. It really captures what this trip and experience was all about for me.

These were just a few of the cards and letters I received while I was at Conference. I had an email card from some Alateens and AMIAS that was also very special. Again, thank you so much for having faith in me - much more than I have in myself some days.

With love in Service and Gratitude for you all,

Rose Rollins / Ohio Delegate

Panel 64 - In Service we Soar!!!

At the end of the presentation, the members applauded the Delegate. Sandy F, Steve S (GR - Choices Thursday Gahanna AFG) asked a question regarding Group Name update policy. Rose R explained that the Group Name should be welcoming to everyone, and the new Group names should adhere to the new Group name policy. Cindy D (GR – HOW to Recover AFG) asked what the \$200,000 expenditure was about. Rose R explained it was for the Core Systems Overhaul – Association management and Accounting Systems. Victor K (Mt Washington 12 Step AFG) asked about the platforms that will be used by WSO going forward. Rose R mentioned the following platforms will be used - Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn but not X (formerly called Twitter). Rose R also encouraged members to reach out to her with any ideas or views regarding any issues pertaining to the Ohio area. She can be reached at delegate@ohioal-anon.org.

5. **Registration Report:** Sue M (Registration Committee Chair – Panel 64) reported that there were 35 in person members with 25 voters and 21 members on Zoom with 19 voters for the Spring 2025 Assembly meeting.

6. **Thought Force Report on Electing vs Appointing Coordinators:** Sandra F, a representative of the thought force which comprises of the following members (Theresa M, Barbara M, Ginny C, Sandra F) talked about the difficulty in electing coordinators during the election year. Historically, during the Fall Assembly in the last year of every panel an election is held to elect Officers and Coordinators for the upcoming panel. The Ohio Area has always elected all members for each panel which is very time consuming. Therefore, the above thought force proposed if appointing just the coordinators (Alateen, Archive, Area Group Records, Forum, Literature, Public Outreach, AAPP) would help in time reduction during the election process. Discussion regarding this topic was held during the Fall 2024 Assembly as well. The thought force wishes to move forward with this idea by collecting input from the AWSC and GRs via a survey. Vicki F (GR- Southeast AFG), being a new GR asked about the responsibilities of a coordinator. Sandra F explained that a coordinator receives information from WSO and sends it out to the area along with other duties explained in our Al-Anon/Alateen manual. Various members voiced their concerns regarding the appointment of coordinators which are as follows:
 - Chris E (DR 10) asked if there was an advantage to this approach. If so, what were they.
 - Nancy S (AGRC – Panel 64) wondered if this approach would steal the opportunity from someone who is moved to serve.
 - Linda L (DR – 14) wondered if this approach would be fair and preserve the choice of serving for the members who are interested in serving.

Ginny C explained that the primary goal is time reduction and echoed Linda’s concern. Daisy A (Area Secretary – Panel 64) summarized the central idea of the thought force which is as follows – With the goal of reducing time in the election year of each panel, the thought force is seeking inputs from the AWSC members and GRs to come up with a fair process of appointing Area Coordinators. The following ideas need to be defined by the thought force –

- 1) Who are the eligible members for these positions? (Define)
- 2) Who will appoint these coordinators (Will there be a committee or one person)?
- 3) What will the selection criteria be? If too many volunteers have similar resumes how will the selection transpire?
- 4) Other questions when they arise.

Sandra F remarked finally that a survey will be sent soon to gather input.

7. **Thought Force Report on Website:** Cecelia S presented the report for replacing Mike K (current webmaster) with a consultant for our Ohio area website. The thought force looked for consultants who have experience with different twelve steps groups and give support to a variety of platforms. Cecelia remarked that the area should move ahead to a task force. Discussion pursued the remarks by Cecelia. Chris E asked if the migration cost was one time and the variable cost is maintenance costs. Carris J commented that she is not familiar with Ionus. Carol R pointed out that it is a typo and should be IONOS. Heidi W wondered about the state of our website if anything Mike K is unable to perform his duties for any reason. Kari J (Proxy to GR – Westside Womens Saturday AM AFG) asked about the timeframe for the taskforce. Ann F explained that task force would need to present its work in the Fall 2025 Assembly. Sandra F made a motion to appoint a task force. Chris E seconded it. The motion passed and the members for the task force are as follows – Cecelia S, Robin R, Mary C, Theresa A, Daisy A, Chris E, Carol R, Mike K. Ann F also encouraged more members to consider joining the task force.
8. **Alateen Coordinator Report:** Ann F presented the report on behalf of Lauren B (Area Alateen Coordinator) highlighted that Ohio Area will host the KOMIAC this summer.

We took a break and were back in session at 3:50 pm.

9. **AAPP Report:** Angela S read the Area Alateen Process Person's report on behalf of Irene B (AAPP). The members applauded Irene B for her diligence and her service to the area.
10. **Area Group Records Coordinator Report:** Nancy S presented the report and urged members to contact her in sorting out the groups with No Mail status, bounced Mail status and Not Meeting status. The members applauded Nancy S for her dedicated service to the Ohio area.
11. **Budget Committee Report:** Terri N (Budget Committee Chair) presented the report. She mentioned that a few changes have been made in the 2025 budget, especially the funds towards Stepping Stones visit for Area Delegate has been removed and allocations have been made for the postboxes of Area Secretary and AAPP. Sandra F wondered if the funds for Stepping Stones would be intact for all 3 years of this panel. Ann F and Terri N promised that they would check the minutes from the previous Assembly meetings regarding this issue.

Theresa A made a motion to approve the budget and Mary C (GR – Sunday Serenity Discussion Downtown AFG) seconded it. The motion passed.

Ann F skipped the presentation of Handbook Committee report and District 26 report. She also urged the members to report if they noticed any changes in handbook or by-laws to Cheryl B (Handbook Coordinator).

12. **AA Liaison and District 28 Report:** Daisy A read AA Liaison and District 28 report on behalf of Kim R. The report highlighted the 69th AA conference with Al-Anon participation and urged members to register. The members applauded Kim R's service to our area.

13. **2-Day Fall Assembly Report:** Lucy W read the report on behalf of Colleen F/ Shelly C and urged members to register for the event. The report also highlighted that Rose R is looking into the possibility of inviting Heather S to either a workshop or present a program on Public Outreach.

14. **2025 OAC Report:** Sydney P (Archivist and Co-Chair of 2025 OAC) presented the report highlighting various events that are planned for the Ohio Area Convention. She also urged members to register to avail the early bird registration discounts by May 31, 2025.

Old Business:

Sandra F thanked all the members for their support to send the past and present Delegates to the USNCRDM (US North Central Regional Delegates Meeting) which was held in Ohio this year.

New Business:

1. **Motion 2025/05 - #1:** Sandy F made a motion to invite Heather Smith (Associate Director of Public Outreach at WSO) to be a speaker or do a workshop in our 2-Day Fall Assembly if funds are available. Discussion pursued. Robin R asked if her talk/workshop will be during the day or in the evening. Ann F answered that it will be on Saturday during the day. Daisy A asked if we could just fly her on Saturday instead of the entire weekend. Theresa M (Past Delegate – Panel 58) suggested that money in the project fund can be used to fly her. Theresa M seconded the motion. Motion passed by a majority show of hands. However, there was 1 abstention.

Ann F announced that the Fall 2025 AWSC will be held on August 23rd via Zoom only.

Rose R made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Diane M (GR – Grove City Wednesday night AFG) seconded it. We adjourned the meeting at 4:37 pm with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Dates to Remember:

- June 6-8: Founder's Day, Akron Ohio
- July 3-6, 2025: AA International Convention, Vancouver, Canada
- July 25-27, 2025: KOMIAC, University of Dayton

- August 1,2, & 3, 2025: Ohio Al-Anon Convention (OAC) - Independence, OH
- August 8,9, &10, 2025: AA Convention - Toledo, OH
- August 23, 2025: AWSC - zoom only
- October 18&19, 2025: 2 Day Fall Assembly, Holiday Inn, Canton, OH

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: ___May 20, 2025_____

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