

2019 FALL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The Fall Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20, 2019 at the Clarion Hotel – Cincinnati North, 3855 Hauck Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241. Chairperson Ginny C. opened the meeting at 12:32pm with the Serenity Prayer. Becky L., District 9 read the Twelve Traditions; Dan, Youngstown, Ohio read the Twelve Concepts and Karen S., Columbus, read the General Warranties of Service. Ginny shared “This is our Declaration of Unity” that was approved by the 1984 World Service Conference (WSC) and can be found on page 237 in Many Voices, One Journey (AFG 2011). The Declaration states that “Each member of the fellowship is a significant part of a great circle of hope. While respecting each other’s individuality, our common welfare must come first. Our recovery depends on our mutual need and an atmosphere of trust.” These are the goals of the Ohio Area Assembly: 1). Members will understand the purpose of the Assembly, relationships within the structure and be able to articulate Assembly decisions. 2). The spiritual tone of the Assembly will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect and acceptable conduct by its members. 3). Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience; Assembly members will assume goodwill.

Ginny welcomed everyone to the Two-Day Fall Assembly. The purpose of the Two-Day Fall Assembly is a business meeting of the Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) of Ohio where groups send their representatives to express a voice and vote on behalf of their group (page 68 of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021). This is the voting procedure of the AFG of Ohio: All members of AFG of Ohio shall have voice in all matters. Voting members are Group Representatives (GR’s) or those that are representing their group in Ohio. According to page 149 of the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021, “An Al-Anon or Alateen member who is also a member of A.A. is not eligible to serve as a GR. The voting procedure is listed on page three of the Handbook. A voting member has only one vote and may not vote for more than one group. A simple majority is more than 50% of the votes cast; substantial unanimity is 2/3 of the votes cast, in rare cases a ¾ majority may be called for. If a ballot vote is required, please use the ballots provided at your seat. Members will be told what kind of vote will be required before voting. Assembly etiquette was explained by Ginny C. to make the meeting run smoothly.

Upcoming Events:

Fall Alateen Sponsor’s Workshop. November 9, 2019. 10am-3:30pm. 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, OH 43220

Spring Area World Service Committee Meeting (AWSC). March 14, 2020. 10:30am-5:00pm. 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, OH 43220

Spring Assembly. May 16, 2020. 10:00am-5:00pm. 2040 West Henderson Rd., Columbus, OH 43220

2020 Ohio Area Convention. June 19-21, 2020. Hope Hotel and Conference Center (Dayton Area). 10823 Chidlaw Rd., Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433

Fall Area World Service Committee Meeting. August 22, 2020. 10:30am-5:00pm. 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, OH 43220

Introductions by District were made and the following districts were represented: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 33, 45, 47, 48, 56, 57.

Delegate Theresa M. recognized and welcomed four new Group Representatives as well as one visitor:

- Sheri B., Mt. Washington 12 Step, District 15
- Mary S., Jump Start Monday, District 15
- Linda Marie, Monday Sunshine
- Marilyn V., Berea Friday AM
- John, Mt. Orab (visitor)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 2019 Spring Assembly meeting were distributed via the AFG of Ohio website and via email. Deanna M., District 15 DR, stated that District 15 members were also in attendance. A motion was made by MaryEllen R., Hubbard Friday Night to accept the minutes as corrected. Allison G., Women's Choice AFG seconded the motion. The motion passed as amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Judy A., Treasurer.

Balance as of 12/31/2018	\$42,863.88
Income	20,602.43
Expenses	-17,640.73
Book Balance 10/12/2019	\$45,825.58
Assembly Reserves Held in Huntington Bank	
19 month CD (matures 8/11/2020)	\$10,000.00
19 month CD (matures 8/11/2020)	5,000.00
19 month CD (matures 8/11/2020)	5,000.00
Checking Account – Huntington Bank 10/12/2019	25,825.58
Total Cash on Hand	\$45,825.58

Question: Why is the secretary above so much of the budgeted amount? The expense voucher will be looked over and checked.

A motion was made by Allison G., Women's Choice AFG, to accept the Treasure's Report as presented. Report seconded by Ann F, Literature Coordinator. The motion was accepted as presented.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE AND AL-A-NOTES EDITOR REPORT

Presented by Theresa M. for Jo S., Alternate Delegate.

I have a very short report 😊

The Summer/Fall Al-A-Notes were put on our website, August 21 2019.

Seven electronic copies were sent to as part of the newsletter exchange with other areas.

Thirty-two copies were mailed to other Ohio Groups (that wanted a hard copy rather than electronic) as well as those who have purchased a subscription.

The next Al-A- Notes will be distributed in early December.

Because we are coming up on the 3rd year for the officers, we need to start thinking about the next panel. Voting will take place during Fall Assembly of 2020. This seems like a long time, but will go quickly. The next three issues of the Al-A-Notes will be featuring (in addition to District News) a summary from each of our officers and coordinators about the position they currently hold. It would be nice to hear about these positions prior to voting😊. I am asking all current officers to turn in by November 30th, a few paragraphs about their position. Some of the information could be:

How long have you had this position?

How much time does it take?

What did you learn from doing this position?

What surprised you about this position?

And anything else you think would be information you would want to have before making a decision to run for an office or coordinator position.

We had a lot of District news turned in for this last issue. Let's keep that going. This newsletter is one more way to keep groups in the loop and let them know what is happening in their area.

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Presented by Theresa M., Delegate

OPENINGS AT THE WSO

Paid positions for Al-Anon members with various lengths of service are always posted with information about the necessary qualifications and with the résumé applications. These are updated on the Employment at Al-Anon page on the World Service website both as positions are filled and become open.

As you have seen in your recent *In The Loop* mailing, there is currently an open position at the World Service Office (WSO) for a Group Services Specialist – Alateen. This job is located at the Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters World Service Office in Virginia Beach, VA. Remote location will not be considered for this position. See job description at

- [https://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/Group-Services-Specialist – Alateen](https://al-anon.org/employment-at-al-anon/Group-Services-Specialist-Alateen)

While there are paid positions, there are also always volunteer opportunities in World Service for Al-Anon members. Twice a year, reminders are sent announcing upcoming openings for At-Large Members for various committees.

- These require varying lengths of time in Active Al-Anon/Alateen membership
- Past members of Alcoholics Anonymous are not eligible

The duties and qualifications for these positions can be found under the Members heading on the WSO website at <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/> Terms begin in May for all positions and go through the April WSC (World Service Conference) meetings.

Some résumés were due at the WSO by August 15 and will be due next year by August 15.

- Executive Committee for Real Property Management (ECRPM) limited to one 3-year term
- Regional Trustee 3-year term
(We are in the US North Central Region and the next time our Area can nominate a member to stand for Regional Trustee will be in 2021)
- Trustee-at-Large 3-year term
Trustees may be appointed to serve a second term for a maximum of 6 years of service. You do NOT have to have been a past Trustee or a Delegate to serve.

Several of the résumés are due at the WSO by January 1, 2020. Members still have time to apply for any of these!

The following are appointments for one-year terms up to a maximum of 6 years.

- Audit
- Forum Editorial Advisory
- Literature
- Public Outreach

Executive Committee members serve a maximum of three one-year terms.

- Executive Committee (does NOT have to have been a Trustee though many times they are)

I encourage members who meet the qualifications to consider applying for these important volunteer positions.

85TH AA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Online registration for Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) International Convention with Al-Anon participation is open. https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/international-convention-2020

The Convention will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium.

Advanced registration for the Convention is available through April 15, 2020 for \$115.00 US per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 US per attendee.

Al-Anon participation will include a variety of sessions held during the day on Friday and Saturday. Al-Anon members are also welcome to attend the A.A. big meetings. Many attendees come early or stay late for a vacation. There are many fun things to do, so see you in Detroit!

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Having been your Delegate for two World Service Conferences (WSC), I can now read with more understanding in the WSC Summary about what actually happens at the WSC. I am also amazed at what all was done and can truly appreciate why I was both spiritually/emotionally energized AND physically exhausted afterwards.

I encourage you to look through the most recent WSC summary as it contains the organizational chart of the World Service Office (WSO) on pages 126-7; the current Bylaws of Al-Anon Group Headquarters, Inc. (pp.111-115) The amended text for Alateen is on pp.122-125 with the open Policy Committee discussion about this on pages 56-58. The descriptive changes to Concept Five in our Service Manual (P24/27) that were suggested by the Task Force are discussed on page 30 and the motion that was approved by the Conference is on page 83. Our Service Handbook P24/27 is being continually reviewed by our Trustees WSO Staff to keep it up to date and as clear as possible. (That work is never done!)

For lighter reading, Jennie and Vali's presentation on Housekeeping changes (the placement of a comma in Warranty Three) is on pages 45-46.

The spiritual leads at the opening and closing dinners and the sharings of outgoing Delegates are also less "intensive" though emotionally rewarding parts of the WSC Summary.

I particularly want to call attention to pages 62-62 where the Thought Force Presentation on "Welcoming Potential Members Dealing with Drug Addition in a Family Member or Friend While Staying True to Our Primary Purpose." Though the skit is not in the WSC Summary, this is where what was performed at Spring OAA (and at the 2019 Ohio AA Convention during an Al-Anon session) came from. I hope that sharing the follow-up discussion, including suggested strategies; will continue at your groups, districts and Information Services (IS). Vali (our Executive Director and Sustaining Trustee) has sent out a message to the groups via IN THE LOOP (Announcements) to remind us that

"We are all messengers of Al-Anon's purpose and have the responsibility to accurately communicate it to avoid confusion, misperception, or dilution of our program.

The 2018 Membership Survey states that 35% of members came to our program specifically because of someone's use of drugs. The survey also showed that 78% of these members eventually came to realize that someone else's drinking had also affected their lives.

When developing and implementing public outreach activities, members are urged to keep Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions in mind. This includes reviewing the words of the Traditions in their entirety. The following summary of applicable Traditions may assist your communication efforts with members, newcomers, professionals, and the media:

- Tradition Three states that "the only requirement for [Al-Anon] membership is that there be a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend."
- Tradition Four tells us that "each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole."
- Tradition Five clarifies that we have "but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics."
- Tradition Ten tells us that "the Al-Anon Family Groups have no opinion on outside issues."

Therefore, conveying that Al-Anon is for families and friends of alcoholics and drug addicts in local- or Area-produced public outreach materials is an expansion and misrepresentation of Al-Anon's purpose (see Tradition Five). This includes but is not limited to posters, flyers, websites, etc."

SOME OTHER UPDATES/NEWS

Seattle won the Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect for 2019. The Board of Trustees have been meeting in Seattle this past week. The location for the 2020 Event will be selected and the Area will be notified sometime in November/December.

Some reminders of the July meeting of the Trustees - Chairman of the Board (COB) and updates letters (<https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/chairperson-letter-archives/>)

- The whole Board participated in a lively Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) gallery walk exercise on replacing Together Empowering Al-Anon Members (TEAM) Events, as our TEAM Events will conclude in 2019. A task force will now be created to come up with the next exciting, engaging, and energizing mode of connecting WSO Staff and Volunteers with other Al-Anon members
- The two questions we delegates were asked to discuss with are trustees were presented at Fall AWSC and will have follow-up today.
 - How are your groups/Areas dealing with a cashless society?
 - How will you, your groups, and your Area utilize the 2020 Conference theme?
- The Policy Committee voted to form a Thought Force to further consider if the policy on Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. participating in Al-Anon service applies to prior members of A.A., and how or if former members of A.A. might be defined and by whom.
- We are half-way into 2019 and contributions are trending below both budgeted and historical levels. There was a bequest in May which helped put our budget on track. But without the bequest, the budget for the remainder of the year would have been below budget amounts.
- August appeal letter has been sent. <https://al-anon.org/pdf/Aug19-Appeal.pdf> Remember this is asking individuals to consider what they can give in gratitude to the World Service Office (WSO) for what they have received from Al-Anon.
- There are many other items of note in the reports, some of which will be updated in the next COB and Updates following the October Board meeting in Seattle. Please remember to look for these at <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/>

PUBLIC OUTREACH

WSO came across the following article featuring Alateen in our Area and wanted to share it with us. Click here:

<https://www.cantonrep.com/news/20190922/inside-look-at-alateen-and-guidance-it-offers-teens>

In keeping with our policy for Public Outreach and Anonymity in public media, it may be helpful to remind members of available resources where there is a possibility that a full name may be used. There is great information on al-anon.org that offers a list of questions and answers that can be used to newspaper, TV, radio or streaming broadcasts. Click here for details: <https://al-anon.org/media-kit/media-and-interview-arrangements/>.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

As an avid reader of *The Forum* and a regular subscriber to *In the Loop*, you've probably already read all three articles about the CAL (Conference Approved Literature) process. But have you shared this information with the members of your Area? Now you can easily do so by passing on these three links to downloadable versions of the articles!

al-anon.org/blog/the-cal-process-al-anons-group-conscience-in-action/ al-anon.org/blog/can-we-use-discontinued-literature-in-meetings/.
al-anon.org/blog/who-changes-our-literature-and-why

This month the new Member Blog is focused on Conference Approved Literature! We're asking members to share their favorite non-daily reader Conference Approved Literature (CAL) book, and why. Visit <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/member-blog/> for more information.

INPUT NEEDED

This will be my last meeting to hear from the Group Representatives before I attend the 2020 World Service Conference (WSC). The Delegates will soon be asked to submit suggestions for items to be discussed at the Conference (Chosen Agenda Items -CAI's). A list of all the CAI's since 1976 will be attached to these minutes. Please put in the Ask-It Basket or email me ideas/questions that you wish to have brought up for discussion at the 2020 WSC. Remember, the theme is

Dreaming Big with 20|20 Vision
Rêver grand avec une vision 20|20
Soñar en grande con visión 20|20

Thank you for allowing me to be your Delegate on this incredible service journey.

Comments: What changes are occurring on Concept 5 regarding all-inclusive language? The motion was passed easily and the information is online.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented by Lee R., Registration Committee

We have a total in attendance of 59 people

- 59 total people in attendance
- 43 Group Representatives (GRs) – 4 of which are new
- 17 Committee people or District Representatives (DRs) that are non-voting
- We have three GRs that will only be voting today [Saturday, October 18, 2019]

As a reminder, please leave your lanyards at the Registration Desk if you do not plan on being here tomorrow [Sunday, October 19, 2019]. Please remember to sign in tomorrow.

BIG QUESTION FOR AREA ASSEMBLY

Presented by Theresa M., Delegate and Ginny C., Chairperson

“Which dream(s) would you like to accomplish in our Area?”

How will the groups in your area utilize the 20/20 Conference theme “20/20 Dream Big?” At the Fall AWSC meeting, our chairperson did a gallery walk as to what your dreams will be for various topics and we went around and wrote different suggestions. What is on the wall now is a summary of those different suggestion on those different topics.

On the 6 posters you see on the wall are all the suggestions that AWSC members came up with. You should all have three (3) red dots and what your job is to do is go around and look at the various suggestions. Place your dots on the suggestions you really want.

Results will be summed up and the top 10 or something like that will be put in the minutes or will be sent to you. Going forward we may develop Thought Forces or Task Forces that may help us accomplish these dreams.

How will you, your groups, and your Area utilize the 2020 Conference theme?

Below are the top ten choices made by the Assembly member in rank order. Number one had the highest number of dots.

1. Every Group has a GR – who attends Assemblies or sends an alternate
2. All Districts have and support having at least one Alateen Group
3. Contact schools to investigate having Alateen meeting at school
4. Professionals – especially medical students, nurses and counselors become aware and refer to AFG
5. More interactive elements (breakouts, workshops, open discussions) at both spring and fall assemblies
6. Adopt a group that isn't active within the district – meeting exchanges
7. Every library (public, school, university) has Al-Anon literature
8. AA's become more educated and aware and attend and refer family and friends to AFG
9. Electronic billboards and PSA's???
10. Bring back having a dance or other fun activity in the evening of the Two day fall.

The above can be used by coordinators in guiding any projects. We will discuss how to proceed from here at the Spring AWSC.

THOUGHT AND TASK FORCES PRESENTATIONS AND MOTIONS

In the Service Manual, page 71, is a description of the Thought and Task Forces. Thought Forces are the “thinkers,” not the doers. They come up with ideas and possibilities; a Task Force, on the other hand are the “doers;” they come up with a solution or a plan. Work groups are committees who identify a concern or a need which needs to be addressed.

Task Force: Improving the Service Profile Form(s)

Presented by Merri G., District Representative #7

Charge: To discuss and generate ideas to improve our AWSC format, encourage greater participation in the AWSC, to provide support to our trusted servants and strengthen the links of service.

Background/Framing

We are now in an electronic age and many service positions are now best carried out by members who have some experience with Information Technology – being computer and internet savvy. Examples include possessing some skills such as:

- The ability to set up/participate in Web conferences or Conference calls
- Using software, create spreadsheets, word documents; pdf's, power point presentations, etc. have increased in importance along with simply willingness to serve and a willingness to learn. Given the recent happening with loss of funds occurring in a part of the Area, perhaps it is time to change our profile for state positions including more questions about background and specific skills.

Our profile sheet was developed in the past when we mostly just asked for service experience, knowing that experience, strength and hope (ESH) would be shared from the old to the new during the transition. We have some minimum requirements for officer positions and for the AAPP, but not much else.

Other areas have “service interest documents” which more clearly define both the positions requirements and have spots to check off abilities in different aspects of the job.

We also do not currently do any background checks on positions that handle our funds, though many happened to also be AI-Anon members involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) which has required passing an FBI background check related to children's safety and felony convictions.

Motions related to this topic

Unknown – none in previous three panels

KBDM#1. What do we know about our member's or prospective member's wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

Our members wish for our trusted servants to be willing, trustworthy and capable of serving.

KBDM#2. What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

We have the talent of members to be able to devise a simple but effective process that would better help our members decide on how to fill positions.

KBDM#3. What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

There has been an incident where a formerly trusted servant abused their position to use AI-Anon funds. All positions that have the access to an AFGConnects communication are not using that service or have yet to have an email buddy that they use to access electronic communications from either WSO or Area.

KBDM#4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply. Identify both pros and cons.

- Pro: As our common welfare should come first, we have a duty to provide an easily understood process and accountability for our members.

- Con: Some otherwise qualified members may be hesitant to step up for consideration because of a lack of up-to-date skills even though they are willing to learn.

KBDM#5. What do we wish we knew, but don't?

Will more members step up for service?

Would adding the need to be AMIAS certified to stand for an officer or other position help verify being a trusted servant in a position that might have access to Assembly funds.

Do we have the funding to do more extensive background checks as needed?

Area 44 (Ohio) Al-Anon Service Profile

When considering serving at the Area level, please review eligibility requirements and the responsibilities found in the current Ohio Bylaws and the Handbook, the current relevant Guidelines (available online at the WSO Members site) and the Duties of Assembly Members found in the current version of the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual P24/27*.

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY			
Delegate _____		Secretary _____	
		Specify which ones:	
Alternate Delegate _____		Treasurer _____	
		Coordinator:	
Chairman _____			
		Standing Committee Chair:	
Years Active in Al-Anon/Alateen (dates) _____			
First Name		Last Name	
Telephone Number		Email Address	
Home Group Name and location:			
Personal Sponsor: Y N		Service Sponsor: Y N	
PRESENT AREA Service Position(s)		Dates (from...to)	

PAST AREA Service Position(s)	Dates (from...to)
PRESENT DISTRICT Service Position(s)	Dates (from...to)
PAST DISTRICT Service Position(s)	Dates (from...to)
PRESENT GROUP Service Position(s)	Dates (from...to)
PAST GROUP Service Position(s)	Dates (from...to)

All officers need to be AMIAS certified by January 1st of the year they begin their position.

Some computer experience is necessary for communication purposes for all positions.

What skills and knowledge will you bring to the Area? Please answer "Yes" or "No" and in the space provided, describe when and how you've used that skill.

Are you proficient with basic computer skills?			
• Excel	Y	N	
• PowerPoint	Y	N	
• Word	Y	N	
• Other list)			
Are you experienced in electronic communication?			
• Accessing and navigating websites?	Y	N	
• Familiar with navigating the Al-Anon website?	Y	N	
• Experience with AFG Connects?	Y	N	
• Using email and downloading attachments?	Y	N	
Are you conversant in languages other than English?		Y	N
• Which languages?			
• Reading	Y	N	
• Writing	Y	N	

• Speaking	Y	N
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Check all that apply or that you are proficient in:

- I own or have access to a computer and a printer.
- I have good internet access and connection
- I am proficient with emails and how to download attachments
- I am AMIAS certified

What do you hope to accomplish in Area service?

Describe any special skills or talents you possess (non-Al-Anon as well) that could assist you while serving in this position?

I give permission to turn this form over to Chairman after elections.

Signed: _____

Date:

Comments/Questions:

- I was surprised at the level of background level and checks and I'm uncomfortable about it. Is this a reaction to funds being embezzled? Just to be clear, I'm against it and I would never have run for office had I had to have a background check and disclosing if I had a personal and service sponsor. These are questions to me that are personal and part of anonymity. But I am curious as to: 1) What extent this is a reaction to the embezzlement and 2) Were there other things in place to prevent that from happening like having two signatures on the checks for example and to what extent other policies were considered instead of going straight to the background checks.
- The two people that can sign on the bank account are the Treasurer and the Delegate. It does not require two signatures. The account that the money was stolen from was an Alateen account which as a separate account. There was also money embezzled from the Cleveland Intergroup like more than \$80,000. This was not a small matter. It's in the courts currently.
- When I had to apply for Treasurer, I had to fill out a very simple profile. We're getting so far into electronics that a lot more people know that. Basically, I think it's really important for at least the officers, which are the Chairperson, Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Treasurer and Secretary need

to be AMIAS just so they can sit in on Alateen Meetings, do transportation or whatever. The Delegate can review my account anytime so that's a way of checking what is going on. In the works presently is that the Treasurer will be able to view the Alateen account.

- Just so you know, it is not that you have to know Excel or you have to know Power Point. It's just more of what is your background.
- Are the checks and balances being utilized? Plus, any questions you ask anybody, nothing is full proof. You can lie through your teeth and pretend and things can change. It's a lot of personal questions which have nothing to do with my position. I'm self-taught in electronics. You learn and that's how you grow.
- AMIAS certification would only be for officers not coordinators. The other reason we chose AMIAS certification is so the officers could participate in KOMIAC or other Alateen events. More than one reason we did that. Believe it or not, there was very heated discussion as to what we would require because some wanted more of a criminal background than the AMIAS certification.
- I personally knew the Al-Anon member this is involving and personally I thought she was a wonderful Al-Anon member and there would be no way whether or not I could tell was doing these things. I also wanted to say that if I wanted to run for office, my anonymity is gone. I can check whether or not I have a service sponsor or personal sponsor, but those checks and balances are what we need.
- In the years that I have been attending, I have yet to find anything in the Handbook that says you must fill out the Service Profile. It's not there, just the form. You go through and then there is this form on the page. The changes to the form, being as they are, I would be very reluctant to support without an accompanying paragraph or whatever to go into the Handbook that specifies who has to get the background checks, who is going to pay for them, how long are the background checks good for and that type of thing. I would like to see the actual Motion to see if there is going to be language to go into the Handbook to accompany the form.
- If you just look at the form it can be a little overwhelming especially if you are debating about service. I think it's important that there is reassurance, especially with the electronics, there will be somebody who will be there with you as a service provider so that anytime you reach out for help the hand is there.

Task Force: Replacing the Action Committees

Presented by Ann F., Literature Coordinator

FRAMING: Action Committees haven't worked as proposed and we want to try something different.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

At the 2018 Fall Assembly and 2019 Spring Assembly, the Fellowship Communications Action Committee has discussed the topic, "Should we keep the Action Committees as stated in the current Handbook." The conclusion was the Action Committee Plan should be stopped. A short KBDM was presented.

The Action Committees were developed "to provide a time and place where Group Representative and other members can work together to find ways to strengthen Al-Anon and Alateen. The Action Committees are to be viewed as vehicles for increasing attendance at Assemblies and increasing participation by all groups and members in the Ohio Area. We learn from each other how to carry our message of hope. From page 27, Ohio Area Handbook.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: Action Committees were initiated in 2003, with the idea of copying the structure at WSO and to better serve the area members and coordinate Public Outreach. In the Spring of 2005, after a three-year trial, they were voted to be on a permanent basis.

Unfortunately, due to constant turnover of GRs and poor attendance, little consistency could be maintained in the Action Committees for one Assembly to another. Members found it boring and not productive. Both Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Though Forces agreed unanimously to eliminate Action

Committee meetings. Members have not been consistently assigned to the same Action Committee. New GRs many times had not had a DR that oriented them to the workings of the Assembly and many times do not have a service sponsor. With our broken links of service, in the Spring GRs have arrived unprepared or have not arrived in time to attend or are still registering and late to the orientation meeting.

Furthermore, the Action Committees no longer reflect the WSO structure, as WSO has undergone some significant organization changes recently.

The initial problem that the Action Committees were designed to address continues to exist. There is low attendance at Assemblies compared to the number of registered groups in the Area. We still need to increase participation by all groups and members in the Ohio Area.

EXISTING MOTIONS THAT PERTAIN TO THIS TOPIC:

October 2001 – Motion #9. Institute new HN Action teams according to WSO structure for a 3-year trial period ends this year.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT OUR MEMBER'S OR PROSPECTIVE MEMBER'S WANTS, NEEDS, AND PREFERENCES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THIS DISCUSSION:

Comments made were "meetings were boring and worthless and we want something that works". Both Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Thought Forces agree unanimously to eliminate Action Committee meetings. Members have not been consistently assigned to the same Action Committee. New GRs many times have not had a DR that oriented them to the workings of the Assembly and many times do not have a service sponsor. With our broken links, GRs have arrived unprepared or have not arrived in time to attend or are still registering and late to the orientation meeting.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CAPACITY AND STRATEGIC POSITION OF THE ORGANIZATION RELATIVE TO THIS ISSUE?

We have creative and willing members who wish to use their talents to serve the area in meaningful ways. We believe our members will be more motivated when they can choose their areas of interest and participation.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CURRENT REALITIES AND EVOLVING DYNAMICS THAT RELEVANT TO THIS DISCUSSION?

Strong sentiment regarding the desire to eliminate these committees. The idea of freeing up time for workshops or skits seems popular among those who have expressed an opinion. With the availability of phone meetings and email, thought or task forces could do most of their work outside of assembly time or time could be freed up during assembly for face to face meetings.

WHAT ARE THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CHOICES (PROS AND CONS)? This INCLUDES CONSIDERATION OF HOW THE LEGACIES APPLY. IDENTIFY BOTH PROS AND CONS.

- Cons of eliminating Action Committees
 - o Action Committees were developed for a specific purpose.
 - o They were approved by the Assembly and added to the Handbook, to be in place permanently. Keeping them is required by the Handbook, unless the Assembly approves removing them.
- Pros of eliminating Action Committees:
 - o We feel that by eliminating them, time will be freed up for other more interesting and productive activities.
 - o This could include time for workshops, skits, or thought and task force meetings.
 - o Time would also be available for DR discussions/meetings.

- o We believe that offering other options, it will increase interest and participation, which was the purpose of the original Action Committees.

WHAT WE WISH WE KNEW, BUT DON'T?

Will our attendance and participation increase with a change to something other than Action Committees? We currently don't know specifically if there will be a direct replacement the Action Committees, or how our Ohio Area Assembly (OAA) will evolve in the future.

QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATION

No timing at the mic

NEED FOR A MOTION?

Yes. Motion to dissolve Action Committees and remove all references to them in the Handbook.

Comments/Questions:

- Sounds like this is a housecleaning project and that not having a committee that isn't working is an okay thing.
- I do feel that things need to be changed; however, you are suggesting that things be considered off the Assembly (i.e., time on the phone etc.) or some other way. That has already been done and it doesn't work, nobody communicated.
- What is the updated WSO structure as far as Action Committees go?
- At the back of the 2019 World Service Conference Summary is the new WSO structure. The Action Committees are different now that the new WSO structure is in place.
- Although we did discuss this at two Assemblies, the majority of this work was done via telephone conference calls. It can work to do it outside of the Assembly.

Task Force: Developing a Procedure for Selecting a Regional Trustee

Presented by Theresa M., Delegate

Background:

Ohio currently does not have a process for selecting a candidate for Regional Trustee.

An Ohio member interested in standing for the US North Central Regional Trustee submits an application online directly to the WSO only after approval from their Area and notification by the Delegate to the WSO. The current Resume Form along with the Duties and Qualifications is available on the members portion of the WSO website. <https://al-anon.org/for-members/board-of-trustees/wso-volunteers/board-of-trustees/>

The form states “**A Regional Trustee (RT) must live within the Region of their election. The résumé form is submitted through the applicant’s Area selection procedure.**”

While other Areas have formalized a process, Ohio does not have one named or described in either its By-Laws or Handbook. In the recent past, when a member was interested, they presented their qualifications to the Assembly before the application deadline for permission to submit their resume to the WSO.

Different Areas have developed different process. In some, a committee of various AWSC members first reviews and then presents to AWSC and/or Assembly the candidates that meet the WSO requirements

and their approval. Some Areas have created a timeline within their structure for how prospective candidates make their desire to apply known. Others, just ask to have candidates announce their desires to run and present their qualifications before the submission deadline for a vote by the Area Assembly to select and give approval for a single candidate to submit an application.

A Thought Force KBDM on the topic was presented at the Spring 2019 Assembly. A Task Force was assigned after the presentation.

KBDM QUESTION #1: What do we know about our member's or prospective member's wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?
Many members wish to better understand the structure of Al-Anon and their roles and responsibilities in it.

KBDM QUESTION #2: What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?
We have many members who may meet the qualifications and recent past delegates who are aware of the need and can support applicants.

KBDM QUESTION #3: What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?
Participation is down at all service levels, and the Area as a whole has not been active in educating and recruiting our members for service

KBDM QUESTION #4: What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply. Identify both pros and cons.

Pro:

- Having a written process in place that can be referred to may make it possible to bring eligible candidates out of the woodwork.
- Members would be able to approach eligible candidates in a timely manner.
- Have a process in place demonstrates that the Area is showing Unity, Responsibility and Mutual Trust

Con: add new item to our Handbook.

KBDM QUESTION #5: What do we wish we knew, but don't?
Will having a written process really increase members knowledge of the need to be involved in selecting a Regional Trustee candidate.

Suggestion of Committee: to Add to the appropriate spot in the Handbook

Process for Selecting a Candidate for Regional Trustee

Every three years, the Ohio Area has the opportunity to select a candidate for Regional Trustee. Interested members will present the World Service Office (WSO) current application (available on the WSO website or from the Delegate) at the Assembly which is prior to the WSO deadline for submission, currently the Spring Assembly of that year's deadline. It is the responsibility of current and past AWSC members to contact suitable candidates to stand for this position.

Comments/Questions:

- Submissions must be filled out by August 15, 2020 for Regional Trustees.

- Anyone in any region can submit a resume for Regional Trustee. What is the relationship and interaction with the other Regions?
- All Regional Trustees represent AI-Anon as a whole. They have no specific obligation to bring anything back to the Area. They are part of the WSC and all the various committees. It is really nice to have one because it is a voice. Positions are not being filled at World Service for Trustee. We are responsible for how we have our World Service. Part of that is finding candidates to submit.
- At the Regional Delegate's Meeting, the Regional Delegate speaks and goes over what is latest with the Trustees and the Executive Committee. They are a resource to any Delegate in the Region.
- Connie, Kirkland Tuesday: Has our Assembly ever reached out to these other areas to see what they have done to formalize a process? That is what was done here with Theresa M. There is not one process that the different Areas use to select a Regional Trustee.

MOTIONS

Motion 2019-10/01

MADE BY: Theresa M. Delegate

SECONDED BY: Cheryl B., Representative for District 9

MOTION: Process for selecting a candidate for Regional Trustee

Every three (3) years the Ohio Area has an opportunity to select a candidate for Regional Trustee (RT). Interested members will present the WSO a current application available on the WSO website or from the Delegate at the Assembly which is prior to the WSO deadline for submission; currently the Spring Assembly of that year's deadline. It is the responsibility of the current and past AWSC members to contact suitable candidates to stand for this position.

The voting was for 42, against 0, abstentions 1. The motion passed.

Motion 2019-10/02

MADE BY: Task Force: Replacing the Action Committees

SECONDED BY: Karen S., Alternate GR, Hope for Today, Thursday

MOTION: Dissolving the Action Committees as recommended by the Task Force. Move that the Action Committees be dissolved.

The voting was for 42, against 1, abstentions 0. The motion passed.

Motion 2019-10/03

MADE BY: Task Force: Replacing the Action Committees

SECONDED BY: Phil H., District 24 Representative

MOTION: We move that all references to the Action Committee be removed from the Handbook. This includes:

- Page 15, Action Committees
- Page 16, Budget #4
- Page 19, under Addiction Studies
- Page 20, Schedule
- Page 21, Duties of the Host Districts

- Page 27 and 28, entire pages
- Page 34, index

Comment: Phil H., Representative for District 24: The list may not be all inclusive; if there are more reference, the Handbook Committee will take them out so we do not have to come back and re-vote on the issue.

The voting was for 43, against 0, abstentions 0. The motion passed

Service Profile Motion:

Motion will read as follows: 1) The following Service Profile will replace the Service Profile found on page 26 of 44 in the October 2018 Ohio Handbook of General and Working Committee Procedures of the AFG, Inc. 2) On page 4 of 44 in the October 2018 Ohio Handbook of General and Working Committee Procedures of the AFG of Ohio Inc., add under officers of the Ohio Area Assembly after except as specified amended herein the Al-Anon/Alateen shall govern all officers. All officers other than Past Delegates must be AMAIS certified by January 1st of the year they begin their positions.

Proposed changes:

- I would like something to be added that you don't have to be proficient in those skills and someone would be available to help.
- Suggestion to send it back to the committee; it doesn't appear that the form meets the charge or the goals that were set out.
- I would like to see this sent back to the Task Force with the charge to add specific language for the Handbook to implement the Profile Form. On the motion to amend the requirement for all officer's positions, this was not even brought up at the AWSC for a vote so I believe it be totally out of order. Members stated that this was discussed after some members had left the room..
- Jeff D., District 45: Background checks are a solid piece of information that needs to be done.
- Facing the fear factor. It asks for a listing of things you have done; all we did is put that in a block form. In part this was taken from the application if you were applying for a Trustee or some of the other positions at WSO. These are the questions that WSO is asking; are you qualified and are you willing to learn?
- Get a signature so your DR or GR can speak for you on the form. I like the idea of a background check and getting a recommendation of someone who knows you. Also, there should be 2 check writers on the check.

Based on the discussion, this motion will be sent back to the Task Force to discuss some of the comments and questions and we will present it at the AWSC.

Area Position Jeopardy

Hosted by Alison G., Forum Coordinator

A spirited game of "Service Positions Jeopardy" was hosted by Allison G., with Al-Anon members "asking questions" to the answers about the Service Positions. The conference room was divided into two sections with each section competing against each other. The team with the most correct answers would be the winner. The competition was neck and neck with one team edging out the other by a small margin. Jeopardy was a fun break from the meeting but was still very informative and educational.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

Alateen

Presented by Sara M., Alateen Coordinator

Recent events:

- KOMIAC—Adrian Michigan July 27–29
 - o Bus: 29 people on the bus from Cleveland and Akron area groups including 24 teens. Toledo (5 sponsors—some travelled in on Saturday and 5 teens and Dayton—2 sponsors 1 teen drove themselves and Cincinnati—1 sponsor and 2 teens with Kentucky bus.
 - o Approximately 220 people's will have exact numbers after their final meeting hopefully)
 - o Next year will be in Ohio
 - o Estimated costs from 2 years ago are at 35,000 and from this year numbers from dorms and food are at about 24,000

- **Outreach**

- Founders Day
 - Speakers have attended anniversaries and Cleveland area picnic, conferences, etc. Upcoming speaking engagements at areas gratitude nights and anniversaries—thanks for including us!!
 - Catch Court Franklin County (Human Trafficking Specialized Court) family day.
- Literature, spoke about Al-Anon and Alateen (8/13/19 and 8/16/19)

- **Upcoming:**

- Rally: October 26, 2019 Clague cabin 1500 Clague Rd Westlake OH; Toledo to host. We will be voting on either Bowling Green or Baldwin Wallace for 2020 KOMIAC. Gary has contacted colleges and obtained costs and info. More information to come.
- Sponsor workshop: November 9, 2019 in Columbus OH at the North Congregational UCC Church 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220 10:00am - 3:00pm
- TBA KOMIAC planning meetings and college visits

- **Bank Account:** Effectively switched to Sara M. (Coordinator), Gary J. (Transportation person), and Sharon B (AAPP). Will need to be updated with new AAPP.

- Current balance: \$12,208.99 minus \$2000 (owed to Cleveland Alateen account for buses to KOMIAC which they paid for from their account) minus \$1500 which is temporarily placed in there until KOMIAC Inc account is opened for Ohio KOMIAC. Making the total \$8,708.90 (after pay outs).

- o 8/27/2019 \$7953 (insurance claim)
 - o 8/1/19 \$1500 (KOMIAC seed money)
 - o 7/16/19 \$2000 (bus)
 - o 6/26/19 \$445 (previously in account was being held in Cleveland Area Account)
 - o 6/20/19 \$99 (Cleveland area donation)

- The insurance claim was approved: \$7953 after deductible was taken out thank you everyone who assisted with this

- **Deposits:**

- o 6/6/19 \$25 (donation)

Needed:

- Please consider becoming AAPP to assist with certifying AMIAS and keeping Alateen in Ohio

- Continued AMIAS certification and participation—feel free to talk to me about the process this weekend
- Attendance continued to be low please encourage young members to attend and include area Alateen's in your area by inviting them to speak at a group meeting, anniversary, or localevent

Thank you everyone for supporting Alateen with words of encouragement, donations, by becoming AMIAS and bringing teens to meetings. This couldn't be done without you #itworksifyouworkit

Questions/Comments:

What was the deductible for the insurance? \$500.00.

Archives

Presented by Phil H., Archives Coordinator

Another huge step has been accomplished – the financial records. Corporate requirements are to retain ALL financial documents (deposit slips, vouchers, bank statements, spreadsheets, etc.) for a period of seven years. After seven years, ONLY the “books” need to be retained. Those can be account ledgers or computer spreadsheets, provided they have the complete financial information for the accounting year.

My shredder almost went on strike, but it survived. Now, it's on to the “miscellaneous” items. Those will take longer but I'm still hoping to have the entire process completed by the end of this panel.

I'm going to be working with Mike K. on the website where there is a laundry list of flyers and things, we have had up there and get them into folders for different parts of the state. We are trying to preserve the history of AFG of Ohio but not make it so daunting that somebody else isn't going to want to do it.

Forum

Presented by Allison G., Forum Coordinator

The Forum's Unsung Heroes: The FEAC

Readers of *The Forum* often ask how the decision to publish an article is made and by whom. And, while there are a number of people who work to produce the magazine every month, one of the most important elements is something most people have never heard of—the *Forum* Editorial Advisory Committee (or FEAC). The people on this Committee volunteer to review 50 sharings for *The Forum* each month. As one member put it, “Many Al-Anon members acknowledge not feeling like they had a voice before coming to the program, but with this project, they can share their journeys in a most meaningful way.”

First, the FEAC volunteers look to see whether the sharing is topical—whether it reflects some aspect of the Al-Anon program. They score each one and comment on their reason for scoring it as they did. Out of three possible scores, a score of 1 means the sharing is excellent and is suitable for publication. A 2 is still positive, but not as strong as a 1. A 4, on the other hand, means that the sharing is not appropriate for publication. There are several reasons why an article may not be publishable. For example, a sharing that focuses only on other types of addiction, such as drugs, rather than alcohol, is probably not acceptable. Or, it may be too directive, or in the words of one of the Committee members, too “teachy/preachy.” In other words, the author writes with a tone of directing the readers as to what they

should do, think, or feel. Further, sharings that focus heavily on the alcoholic loved one and those that focus only on the problems associated with the disease are not likely to receive positive scores. If a reading gets more than one 4 score, it is deemed ineligible for publication. What's comforting to know, though, is that even one of these sharings may contain a small excerpt that is publishable in the "One 'Quote' at a Time" department or for the back-flap quote.

Moreover, though, sharings that reflect *hope* are the most likely to receive high marks. After all, isn't that why so many people "Keep Coming Back" to meetings? Then, the editing team uses the Committee's input to determine what goes in the magazine. Finally, the Committee members meet via phone conference four times a year to discuss the magazine and how effectively they feel it is working. I am extremely grateful for this band of behind-the-scenes warriors. Further, the fact that they do this service work on a voluntary basis shows the commitment of each of the five members. Without them, this monthly instrument of hope and help for the friends and families of alcoholics would not be possible.

By Mark S., Magazine Editor

The Forum, August 2019

The Forum

- **THE BEST OF THE FORUM (working title):** The Board of Trustees has decided not to proceed with a printed version of this project. The project remains in development, and members are still encouraged to submit additional suggestions of what they consider the best of *Forum* articles, especially from
- **“CAL Corner” Topics:** This department is featured each month in *The Forum* magazine. It contains members’ sharings on how a particular piece of our literature has enhanced their recovery. August’s articles celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Alcoholism, a Merry-Go-Round Named Denial* (P-3). September’s focus is on *Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents* (P-94), and October’s will be on *...In All Our Affairs* (B-15).
- **Sharings needed for “CAL Corner”:** We always need more sharings about how CAL has helped members with their recovery. Please urge members to write about *Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*(B-33), *As We Understood...* (B-11), the *Just for Today* (M-12) and *Just for Tonight* (M-81) Bookmarks, and *Blueprint for Progress* (P-5 and P-91). The writing guideline for “CAL Corner” can be found online at www.al-anon.org in the Members Area.

How do I send my sharing or see the writing guidelines?

- <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature-resources/send-your-sharings/>

How do I get a group or personal subscription to *The Forum*?

- <https://ecom-al-anon.org/ICommerce/subscriptions/ICommerce/Extension/GroupSubscription.aspx>

How can I read *The Forum* online?

- <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/magazine/forum-magazine-stories/>

What should I tell my group?

- Please let members know that we are consistently losing subscriptions to *The Forum* and that some members rely on *The Forum* as their only contact with Al-Anon Family Groups. We are here to help each other, it's a “we” program, not a “me” program. By helping others, we help ourselves. Subscribe, send in a sharing, or simply tell other members about *The Forum*. Everything helps, and thank you for your service.

Al-Anon Forum Rap

By Allison G., Area Forum Coordinator

ALRIGHT STOP.

Put down your pens and listen.

The Forum's back with a brand-new edition

Stories grab a hold of me tightly

Give me hope, daily and nightly

Will it ever stop?

Yo, I don't know

Send in your shares

And it will grow

To the extreme we rock the Steps like Lois

Helping each other even if they don't know us

WRITE...

Down your thoughts and feelings

The Forum wants your stories up to the ceilings

Hopeful, when I read a good topic

Fold it up, keep it in my pocket

Love it and need it

You hear me say

This hits the bullseye every day

If there is a problem

Yo, this solves it

Read it, get hooked, your mind evolves a bit...

DAY TWO

At 9:00am on October 20, 2019, the meeting was opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer followed by announcements.

UPDATES FROM THOUGHT AND TASK FORCES

New Thought Force on Cashless option for Payments

Presented by Theresa M., Delegate

Based on discussions at the AWSC and among the officers, a new Thought Force will be formed. The topic is having Cashless Options for Payments.

How are your groups/areas dealing with a cashless society? This was the question that we Delegates were asked to bring to our Areas. At the Fall AWSC, there were many forms of cash transfers that were mentioned (PayPal, Venmo, Debit Cards/Credit Cards). The WSO already takes a personal credit card or PayPal account to purchase literature or give a donation. At a follow-up officers' meetings, we discussed what had been mentioned and quickly realized we needed more information. We realized that the basic questions that needed to be asked and answered are:

- What would the pros and cons be in how we would collect appeal donations or, registration money for OAC, registration for Ohio Area Assembly (OAA), Appeal letters, and Group Donations.
- What system could we use to do this and what could be tried on a trial basis.
- We are looking for people who would be willing to explore and find the answers to these and other questions.
- Is there any interest in doing that and who would like to do that?
 - o Allison G., Forum Coordinator
 - o Sheri – GR, Cincinnati, Mt. Washington 12 Steps
 - o Marilyn V. – GR, Berea Friday AM
 - o Fred S. – DR 5
 - o Mike K.- Website

Sherri will be the Chairperson for this Thought Force. Please make sure all information is given to Carmen I., Secretary, for the minutes.

Task Force: What to do to encourage groups who are isolated in the Ohio Area to get connected and participate. Need more members which would include phone calls and emails.

- Jo S., Alternate Delegate – Chairperson for the Task Force
- Cheryl B., Hubbard Friday Night
- Sheri, Mt. Washington 12 Steps – swbogardus@gmail.com

Please give contact information to Carmen I., Secretary and we will pass it on to Jo S.

Task Force: To develop an Area Wide Public Outreach poster, business cards, and bands. Perhaps we need to wait until we have a Public Outreach Coordinator because that would be the clear person to Chair this Task Force. If you are interested, please think about it; we may need to re-start with new members. If you were on the Task Force, please let us know.

Task Force: The future of Al-A-Notes newsletter exchanges and subscriptions.

- Jo S., Alternate Delegate – Chairperson for this Task Force
- Jo has been unable to meet due to illness and time constraints.

Thought Force: Improving/Changing the AWSC meetings. No report at present time but we will have a report by AWSC.

- Theresa M., Delegate – Chairperson for this Thought Force.
- Joni F., Member-At-Large, Portsmouth
- Cheryl B., Friday Night Hubbard
- Ginny C., Chairman

Thought Force: Registration. Considering other options for registration for Assemblies which include payment issues. Repeatedly over the years, I have heard complaints about the Registration Fee for all who vote. Basically, the money goes to defray the cost of the room. We need to look into what others are doing. Perhaps look into a flat Registration Fee whether you are voting or not. Other areas don't charge a fee. That would be something a Thought Force could look into for what Ohio would like to do. I do know that it does help out to have the Registration Fee money. Anyone interested in being on that Thought Force, contact Ginny C who will be writing the Charge for this Thought Force.

- Karen S., Hope for Today, Thursday Night, Worthington,

- Eleanor T., Sunday Serenity.
- Please get your contact information to Carmen I., Secretary.

COORDINATOR'S REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Group Records

Presented by Shelly C., Group Records Coordinator

As of October 15, 2019, according to the Ohio Database there are:

403 active groups

601 meetings listed

- 472 active meetings
 - o 93 beginners' meetings
 - o 372 AFG meetings
 - o 122 inactive meetings

In Area 44 (Ohio Database) there are:

3 meetings in No Mail Status

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| • Brecksville Wednesday | District 1 |
| • Pleasant Ridge AFG | District 15 |
| • New Beginnings | District 18 |

No meetings in Bounced Email Status

1 meeting report Not Meeting

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Me Too Women's Adult Children AFG | District 38 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

No meetings marked for deletion

In addition, there are:

- 77 meetings that have no current email address
- 168 meetings without a GR

Comments/Questions:

Is it appropriate for the DR to confirm the group details that the WSO has when visiting the group? Yes

In the guidelines for DR it says, "do become familiar with the WSO online Group Records which is available to DRs as read-only and regularly provides groups with group detail reports to verify accuracy. Do urge groups in your district to follow the area process and to promptly return the group's annual update sheets sent out by the WSO. Do Encourage groups to provide an email address for the group to assure delivery of the monthly WSO newsletter and group emails."

Literature

Presented by Ann F., Literature Coordinator

NEW DAILY READER: An Al-Anon member who is a freelance professional writer/editor has been contracted for the NEW DAILY READER (working title). The writer/editor's first responsibility is to read all 1,500-plus sharings submitted so far and submit a report on the findings. The Literature Committee is scheduled to begin reviewing sharings on May 1, 2020. The plan is to have the book introduced at the 2023 International Al-Anon Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico."

☐ **Alateen Newcomer Packet (K-18)** has been converted into a booklet. The new booklet offers a more aesthetically pleasing product and provides better ease of use. The price has increased from \$1.40 to \$1.75

☐ **2020 CAL Catalog (S-15)**: The English version of this free service tool is now available and can make great handouts at Assemblies to remind everyone of the wide variety of material available. It will be included as an insert in the September issue of *The Forum* and is also available as a free download at alanon.org/cal-catalog.

☐ **Writing about CAL for Area Newsletters**: Please use your Area newsletter to share how local members are spreading the word about CAL or to publish their reviews of various CAL.

☐ **Just for Tonight Bookmark (M-81)**: Our latest piece of CAL, introduced this March, is doing very well—so much so that as of the end of June, we had printed 350,000 copies of it.

☐ **Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships (B-33)**: Hard to believe, but this book is now over a year old. Please continue to encourage members and groups in your Area to read this book.

Public Outreach

Presented by Theresa M., Delegate and Ginny C., Chairperson

Currently we do not have a Public Outreach Coordinator. I brought *Facts Sheets for Professionals* which was newly redone in the past year. It will now not need continually updated. I made business cards to give to newcomers in the Cincinnati area that have local Ohio and the WSO website information as well as your name and contact information. I copied this idea from similar cards that were given as Love Gifts at the World Service Conference (WSC) which is done as a way to welcome newcomers. Hopefully we can do this in our Area and our groups. There have been some great ideas shared on the AFGConnects. Making post card types of posters and hanging them in coffee shops, grocery stores, laundromats; anywhere young people tend to meet, in an attempt to get the word out about Al-Anon. No permission is needed to use images from the WSO website.

ELECTION OF PUBLIC OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Candidate Sheri B's from Cincinnati, OH resume highlights: Sheri has two homegroups: she is the GR for the Mt. Washington 12 Step and Jump Start Monday Group both part of District 5.

Election Process: Barbara M., Past Delegate, Panel 36 was the election chairperson: Voting was by paper ballot and the GR's stood up to be counted. Sheri B. was elected as Public Outreach Coordinator.

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AAPP

No report

BUDGET REPORT

Reported by Ginny C., for Donna K., Budget Chairman

Good afternoon everyone. The new computers have been purchased as far as I know. I hope they are working well for the Secretary and Group Records Coordinator.

Thank you for your attention.

Questions/Comments: I wanted to make sure our Budget person is doing an annual audit of the books.

Answer: Our review committee already does that at least once a year; perhaps quarterly. We do checks and balances and we are spot on.

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Presented by Ginny C., Chairperson, for Robin R. Review Committee Chairperson

No report given by Robin R.

Ginny read from the Handbook on page 14, "The Review Committee consists of three (3) people including the chairman, none from the metropolitan locale of the Treasurer, Reviews and Audits Treasurer's book, convention and Two-Day Fall Assembly financial reports annually and reports to the Assembly as to whether they are found to be in good order, accurate, and complete."

Comments/Questions:

- I understand our description but I'm wondering in the case of our Assembly books to have that reviewed and reported on in our Spring Assembly which is May. It is better to catch mistakes early on rather than carry that into the year. I would like to finish out by May and know that the records are accurate. This is one of our checks and balances.
- I really wanted my first year of Treasurer to be reviewed because I really wanted to make sure I was doing it correctly. Next year will be my last year of being Treasurer and I will be more than willing to help anyone who follows me. Before I can turn my books over to her/him, I have to have them reviewed. My goal is to get the end of the year done. Turn in all expense by December so the books can be complete by the end of the year. I want to be reviewed at the end of the year. I want to be held accountable for what I did.
- I serve as the Central Ohio Treasurer and I did the books. It was a really big deal but I had a comfort knowing there was someone else with me. It's done and it's in the mail to Robin. The safeguards are not restraints they are supports. It's a growing and learning thing.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

Presented by Phil H. for Buff N., Handbook Committee Chair

All motions passed at the Fall Assembly last year have been incorporated into the Handbook and By-Laws. Updated copies are available on the Area website. Refresh browser to get the most recent handbook. The newest will be October 2019 for the Handbook. There are no changes to the Bylaws.

Ohio Area Convention (OAC) and Two-Day Fall Liaison

Presented by Theresa M. for Sandy F., OAC and Two-Day Fall Liaison Chair

The 2019 Ohio Area Convention is history. It was a fun filled weekend of workshops, speakers, fellowship and fun.

However, it did present the committee with some challenges. The biggest challenge the committee was presented with was the number of registrations and bed nights booked three weeks out from the event. Because of the low number of registrations and banquets reservations received by the deadline and the low number of hotel rooms booked, the committee went to the venue and renegotiated the contract

The renegotiation, while not ideal meeting spaces for us, turned out to be okay.

From this experience I have learned to keep the numbers low when talking to a possible event space for food and beverage and number of rooms in the room block, and talk about meeting space requirements.

Now on to Fall Assembly 2019, I have been working with the hotel staff to finalize details for this weekend.

The 2020 Ohio Area Convention will be hosted by the Districts of Miami Valley. I toured the venue with the committee and have been working with them as requested. My recommendation to members is to call the hotel ahead of time and ask about the business across the street because GPSs do not know about Wright Patterson Airforce Base and may try to take you through the middle of the base to get to the hotel. Which, as you can imagine, does not work to well?

The 2020 Fall Assembly is to be hosted by the Districts of Columbus. Currently there are no plans as for a venue; however, possibilities have been toured. Finding a suitable affordable space is a challenge as next year's OSU Football schedule and annual House Congress have to be taken into consideration. The location for the event will be announced in the Winter 2020 edition of AI-A-Notes.

Looking ahead to the OAC 2021, I have started working with the District of Youngstown, who will be the host for this event.

If we look at the schedule in the Handbook of all of these, I have mentioned we can see it has host committee planning events back to back. This is not ideal and can be a challenge to hosting districts. I will speak with the Area Chairman and Area Officers later this year about this topic and ask about changing the rotation of host committees.

Website

Presented by Mike K, Webmaster

- There was a significant drop in traffic in 2008 – dropped in June and July.
- In August 2018, traffic doubled and continues to increase in 2019/
- Most visited web pages: Welcome Page
- In 2019, mobile device visitors continue to increase while desktop and tablet users have decreased.
- The most popular download was the 2019 Fall Assembly Flyer – over 37 downloads, followed by the Ohio Handbook and Bylaws.
- Most of the traffic comes on Monday and Tuesday.
- Most browser used is Google Chrome.
- People are finding us mostly on Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

CONVENTION AND ASSEMBLY REPORTS

2019 OHIO AREA CONVENTION (OAC) – DUBLIN, OH

Presented by Lori M.

Humble Beginnings:

- Was not initially supported by COAFG Intergroup – large numbers of abstentions which shows the need for better information, understanding of expectations and experience to be shared going forward.
- Changed from a 'Day of Recovery' to OAC in November 2018 and managed to pull it together by June 2019 – amazing!!!

Lessons Learned:

- Programming planned and published prior
- Marketing distributed to more than local community.
- Involvement of Alateen, AA and Service organizations/commitments
- Transparency concerning communications and fiscal responsibilities throughout.
- Importance of Diversity.
- Power of great Leads, entertainment
- Limit Literature availability
- Opportunities for Al-Anon community involvement – workshops, crafting, raffle, basket donations, volunteers' opportunities within prior to and during convention.
- Diversity of meetings – skype, email, locations/times
- Create procedures and double headed accountability concerning cash, checklist.

OAC Fiscal Summary

See attached report at end of the minutes.

Our input:

- Thank you for the opportunity to share our local Al-Anon community.
- Recommendations for balance of funds include:
 - o \$761 of group funds stay at COAFG
 - o Addition startup funds for next year's OAC
 - o Balance split between COAFG (3/4 of the attendees), Ohio World.
- Respect that of historical experience, the good of the overall organization, but hope that the hard work of the local community will be acknowledged – as it every community who supports their OAC.
- A big Thank you for those who attended...for those who helped (workshops, leads), and especially those kept us in prayer as we did the work.

Questions/Comments:

- Karen S, Columbus, COAFG treasurer stated that the corrected balance is about \$2200.00 after expenses.
- Pat Dolan, Tuesday Morning AFG. What was the attendance? Total attendance was 150
- Sabreena, Akron: The diversity of meeting was done via phone calls, change the venue, co-team in every slot.

2020 OHIO AREA CONVENTION (OAC) – DAYTON, OH

Presented by Phil H. for Lori W.

Theme is: 2020 A Vision for Recovery

Dates will be: June 19-21, 2020

Location: Hope Hotel in Fairborn Ohio

Possible times: June 19 3pm to June 21 noon

Chairperson- Lori W.

Project summary: This convention is running smoothly & very productively. All committees are being run effectively. All committee chairs are willing to listen & cooperate with one another for an even running convention. I believe every committee is right on track with their progress.

Treasurer- Nancy A.

Project summary: The checking account is being run through our MVAIS account. Nancy has provided a draft budget for this convention.

INCOME

Registration \$30 x 150 = 4500

Banquet \$30 x 75 = \$2250 - all going to the cost of the banquet

Ways & Means = \$400 (projected)

Basket raffle= \$600 (projected)

Total Income 7750

EXPENSES:

FIXED EXPENSES:

Banquet: \$2250

Hotel meeting rooms: \$360

Total \$ 2610

VARIABLE EXPENSES: To be determined - Approximately \$5140 available

Speakers & Panels

Motel/Transportation (Mileage)

Hospitality Room

Printing

Publicity

Secretary- Lori W.

Project summary: There have been 8 meetings held up to this date; all committees have been provided a copy of their guidelines & responsibilities. There will be a chair meeting held at end of October to go over any details & possible duplicate tasks assigned. These guidelines are being updated as more information is obtained from previous conventions, incorporating good & bad feedback.

Program- Darlene S.

Project summary: Program has made a lot of progress. They have decided on most leads and all breakout sessions. Program has been given AA liaison information & will be working to get any participation started.

Publicity- Lori W.

Project summary: A save the date flyer has been made. It has been sent to all of Ohio areas. This convention is using its relative closeness to Air Force Museum as an appeal to attendees to come & attend. A more inclusive save the date will be sent out in a couple months as agenda is finalized. An updated flyer will be made & sent out with more detailed information as next step in publicity.

Registration- Holly W.

Project Summary: Our registration chair had to resign for health reasons. Holly W. a registration volunteer has agreed to take over as chair. Registration will open up possible by end of the year. Holly will be looking into online registration & PayPal as options combined with paper registrations.

Hospitality - Jean & Jenace

Project summary: Hospitality has presented several ideas i.e.: greeters/welcome hugs, expanded hours, down time activities. Hospitality is working out food & beverage ideas compliant with hotel facilities & guidelines. Hospitality & entertainment was a combined committee. It has been decided to separate these committees.

Literature- Kim B & Rebecca P.

Project summary: Literatures chairs will be contacting Cincinnati to inquire about consignment. Literature will also be looking for donations. Literature will be working with Ways & Means to work on spacing, cash out & hour issues.

Entertainment- No chair.

Project summary: We do not have a chair for this committee and we are currently trying to recruit someone as quickly as possible. As a group we do believe a dance would be great entertainment and would like to make that happen.

Ways & Means- Barb B. & Pam G.

Project summary: Ways & Means by far has the most volunteers. We have a lot of crafters & artists in our area. Ways & Means had their first meeting in September called Craftapalooza, it was a success. Craftapalooza II is set for end of October.

Overall this 2020 convention is running at an appropriate pace. We are using Al-Anon guidelines as tools & incorporating past reports as enhancements to develop a positive and well-developed convention.

Chair contact information: Lori W. 2020-convention@ohioal-anon.org

2020 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY – COLUMBUS (elections)

No report

OLD BUSINESS

Al-Anon Liaison to AA Convention

Presented by Theresa M., Delegate

I love working with members of either program that are dedicated to their program and do service work to better both their lives and the lives around them. The AA Convention with Al-Anon participation was held in Cincinnati this year and it was a wonderful spiritual experience. We did a pretty good job. We owe AA a debt of gratitude because their program came about because some drunks found a way of life that we wanted also. I encourage all district intergroups and maybe individual groups at times that there are connections between us and AA. An elected or an appointed contact between AA and Al-Anon at different levels: intergroup, district, and state. We would be able to participate in these conventions more fully. A suggestion that the liaison would take a position for 3 years as opposed to one year. That way the AA's know who to contact.

Questions/Comments:

- I understand exactly what Theresa is talking about and I actually think there is a little more to it than that. We need something in our handbook, a guideline, to say how this thing works. I think we need a Thought Force to put this thing together.
- Ann F., Literature Coordinator – is the Chair for this Thought Force.
 - o Louise W., DR 33
 - o Tammy L. Genoa Giving and Getting - GR
 - o Julie C., Westside Women's – GR
 - o Merrie G., Triangle Group, Cleveland, OH
 - o Mickie G., Akron, DR 25
 - o Fred S., Cleveland, GR for Family of Choice, DR 5

NEW BUSINESS

Process for inviting WSO Staff or Volunteers (Trustee/Executive Committee) to Area Events.
Presented by Theresa M., Delegate

The Board of Trustees has allotted a limited amount of money to supplement or pay for travel of WSO staff and volunteers to attend Area Assemblies or events (excluding conventions). If your Area would like such a visitor, the Area must make the following decisions:

- When is the event, and what amount of time will be allocated to the visitor for presentations, workshops and/or personal sharing?
- What particular presentations or workshops are requested?
- What expenses of the trip will your Area pay? (Obviously, those Areas that can afford to underwrite the trip leave money for those who cannot.)

Please allow a minimum of six months for advance planning in order to ensure that your event can receive a visitor. In order not to create misunderstandings, please do not contact staff or volunteers personally.

After the above decisions have been agreed to by the Area, fax, call, or e-mail the WSO Administration Department with your request, including:

- Whether you are seeking a staff member or volunteer.
- The dates and times when the participation will be scheduled as the staff or volunteer may not be able to attend the entire event.
- What presentation or participation is being requested.

Be specific about what expenses the Area will be responsible for so that those expenses can be included in the confirmation letter. You may request a specific Trustee or staff member, but the final determination will be made by either the Executive Director (staff) or Chairperson of the Board (volunteers).

Once the WSO receives the information, the Executive Director or Chairperson of the Board will look at the presentations requested or the purpose of the event and assign the person who would best fit the Area's requirements. Attempts are made to spread the travel requirements around so individuals are picked on the basis of travel schedules and abilities.

Once the staff member or volunteer has confirmed, a follow-up letter will be sent to the Area **contact** with a copy to the Area Delegate (Area event) or Chairperson (Area Assembly). The assigned staff member or volunteer will then coordinate all travel plans directly with the Area within the cost and time limitations agreed.

We hope this answers your questions and that more Areas will be able to have WSO visitors in the coming years. If you need additional information, please contact the World Service Office Administration Department.

Questions/Comments:

When do you want to do this: Choices are: Spring Assembly, Possibly Fall Assembly,

- Since Fall is our elections, wouldn't get more participation in the assembly.
- Probably work better at our Convention instead of the Assembly because otherwise you are putting a speaker into your business meeting.

- I was thinking that the convention would be better where people have not necessarily ever been in service.

We want a speaker from the WSO for the 2021 OAC

Theresa to get more information and we will vote on it at the AWSC

On page 17 of the Handbook, under the Ohio Area Convention it says: To allow in regular budget funds a yearly drawing (funds permitting) to subsidize 2 qualified AWSC members or GRs to attend an OAC or International Convention. Qualifications: AWSC member to have attended 3 out of 4 meeting of the current, Group Representative to have attendance at two of 3 previous assembly meetings."

- Winners:
 - o Shelly C., Group Records Coordinator
 - o Sabreena, Keep it Simple, Akron
 - o Other prizes were drawn and given out.

Motion to adjourn made by Allison G., Seconded by Connie A.

The meeting was closed by 11:30 am with the Al-Anon Declaration

OAC Fiscal Summary:

Attendees:

Pre-Registered:	108
Walk-In:	42
Total Convention Attendees:	150

Banquet Meals: 60

INCOME

Seed Money	\$2000.00
Meeting Donations	\$761.00
Registration	\$6710.00
Ways & Means	\$345.00
Hospitality (jar)	\$84.00
Raffle Baskets	\$646.00
TOTAL	\$10,546.00

EXPENSES:

Seed Money	\$2000.00	already issued back
Hotel	\$2854.00	Meeting Rooms, Food **no hotel room commitments
Registration	\$309.85	Lanyards, design/print
Committee	\$265.32	Hotel room for committee
Programming	\$124.00	Supplies for programs
Hospitality	\$264.10	Snacks, Meals, beverages (Fri-Sun)
TOTAL	\$5819.36	

Misc Expenses

Literature sales	\$276.25	processed by COAFG
Operating cash	\$310.00	returned to COAFG
Comp Meals/Registration – not collected (Barbara W, Jean S, Chris M)		
Taper	\$0.00	no update on outcome (profit/loss)
Crown Plaza	\$0.00	not held to signed contract due to room changes

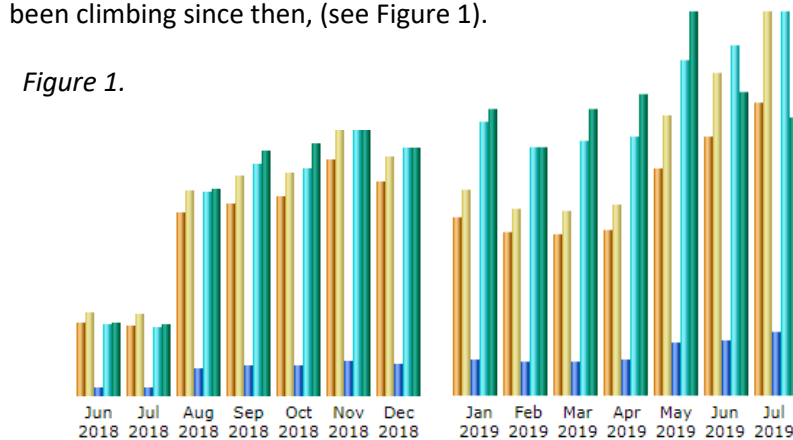
BREAKDOWN:

Income	\$10546.00
Less Expenses	\$5819.36
Balance to be distributed	\$4,726.64

FALL ASSEMBLY WEB REPORT – Oct 19, 2019

We reported last year a drop in visitors to our website after WSO published their meeting search tool. That drop continued through June and July of 2018. However, around August of last year, the number of unique visits to our site suddenly doubled, and has been climbing since then, (see Figure 1).

Figure 1.



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages
Jun 2018	349	400	672
Jul 2018	334	388	694
Aug 2018	877	984	2,206
Sep 2018	922	1,053	2,431
Oct 2018	956	1,071	2,450
Nov 2018	1,132	1,269	2,795
Dec 2018	1,026	1,144	2,518
Jan 2019	1,335	1,534	3,254
Feb 2019	1,215	1,390	3,027
Mar 2019	1,208	1,380	3,103
Apr 2019	1,230	1,431	3,194
May 2019	1,700	2,098	4,868
Jun 2019	1,937	2,424	5,113
Jul 2019	2,201	2,871	5,747
Aug 2019	2,044	2,716	5,437
Sep 2019	2,188	2,843	5,868

The most visited page is the welcome page (see figure 2). Last Spring, the most visited page was the meeting page, which is now second. This indicates new visitors are arriving, and getting to the meeting page without bookmarking.

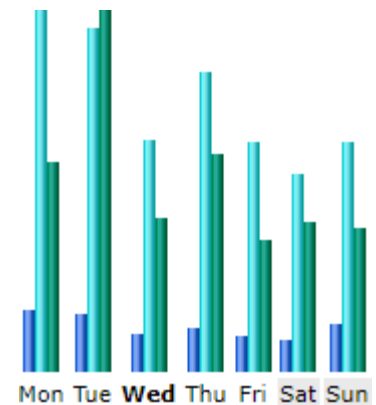
Mobile visitors also continue to increase while desktop and tablet users decreased. Last year, we had 56.5% of our traffic come from cell phones. This year, we're seeing 57.3%.

The most popular downloaded files October are the 2019 Fall Assembly flyer, with 37 downloads, the Ohio Handbook 24 downloads, and By-Laws 24 downloads. (as of this report).

Figure 2.

/	1,106
/alalist.html	792
/assets/web/assets/mobirise-icons/mobirise-icons.ttf	383
/assets/socicon/fonts/socicon.woff	312
/meeting_search_tool.html	201
/calendar.html	83
/contactus.html	73
/documents.html	55

Weekly Trend



Type of Browsers Used

46.2% Google Chrome
29.5% Safari
10.1% MS Internet Explorer
6.7% Firefox

Remaining browsers vary.

How Are Visitors Finding Us?

1. Google
2. Bing
3. Yahoo
4. DuckDuckGo
5. Yahoo!
6. AT&T Search
7. AOL.com

Web Committee Report by:

- Mike K. webmaster@ohioal-anon.org
- Phil H. archives@ohioal-anon.org

Stats by AWSTATS
and Google Analytics