

Spring 2025 AWSC Meeting Minutes

The Spring AWSC meeting was held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the North Congregational UCC located at 2040 West Henderson Rd, Columbus Ohio 43220. Area 44 Chairperson Ann F welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting at 12:32 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Regina F (DR 38) read the Alateen Twelve Traditions and Sydney P (Archives Coordinator; Co-chair of OAC 2025) read the Concepts and General Warranties of Concept 12. In attendance were 30 members representing districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 26, 28, 30, 31, 38, 39, 45, 47, 51 within the Ohio area (Area 44) and Global Electronic Area.

After the introduction of each member, Ann F (Area 44 Chairperson) read the Declaration of Unity found on page 237 from *Many Voices One Journey* along with the AWSC goals which are as follows:

- Members will understand the purpose of the AWSC, relationships with the structure and be able to articulate AWSC Decisions.
- The spiritual tone of the AWSC 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, AWSC members will presume goodwill.

Sue M (Registration Chair) reported that there were 16 in person members and 14 Zoom members in attendance for the 2025 Spring AWSC meeting.

Ann F reviewed the etiquette for the AWSC meeting and explained who can vote on matters (Officers, Coordinators, AIS Liaisons, District Representatives and Alternate District Representatives) during the meeting. She also *sought permission to audio tape the meeting* for the purpose of recording accurate minutes in accordance with the page 89 of AI-Anon Service Manual which states “Occasionally AI-Anon/Alateen meetings are audio taped by members, but as a matter of courtesy, the person doing the taping should receive permission. AI-Anon/Alateen meetings may be taped with the following suggestions: Every member is aware and approves of the taping and Anonymity is carefully preserved”.

Sydney P made a motion to seat Tess C (Tech helper from the church) with voice pertaining to technical aspects of the meeting and no voice or vote pertaining to AFG of Ohio Inc. Sandra F (Past Delegate – Panel 49) seconded the motion which was voted by show of hands. Motion passed.

The following reports and motions were presented in the meeting which can be accessed in the link below under the year 2024 on our Ohio AI-Anon website:

<https://www.ohioal-anon.org/documents/ARCHIVES/2025-SPRING-AWSC/>

Report Presentation:

1. **Fall 2024 AWSC Meeting Minutes:** Ann F sought for any corrections in this report. No corrections were brought up. Sandra F made a motion to Approve the Fall 2024 AWSC Minutes as presented, and Terri N (DR 6 and Budget Committee Chair) seconded it. The motion passed by simple show of hands.
2. **Delegate Report:** Rose R (Delegate – Panel 64) presented her report highlighting all the events she has been part of in our area and beyond. Please find the Delegate's report below:

Warm and grateful greetings family.

January 2025 was Board Week at the World Service Office and I have some updates from the Policy and Finance Committees as well as the Conference Leadership Team (CLT).

First the Panel 65 Delegates were welcomed. It's their turn to be "newbies" and my Panel 64 to be the experienced ones. If I ever needed my Higher Powers help, it's now!!

The Board Meeting started on January 14th and the Board spent two days interviewing before determining which Trustee nominees to put forward to the World Service Conference (WSC) for affirmation. The affirmation process usually takes about 2 1/2 hours during the Conference and the Delegates from all three panels were presented with the option to do this virtually. This was so the Delegates can have a little more time for rest and fellowship while at the Conference. We all voted unanimously to do it that way unfortunately, it is taking place on March 29th, which is why I am not able to attend in person with you all today.

At this time, I'd like to mention that our North Central Region is in need of a Regional Trustee for the remaining 2 years of a 3 year term. Is there anyone here or maybe someone you can think of who has been an active member of Al-Anon Family Groups for at least 10 years, has served beyond the group level, and has a passion for the Al-Anon program? I urge those of you who feel the need to serve to go to the WSO website and search for the Board of Trustees. There you will find the role description and qualifications for this service position. There is an Area Process which needs to be brought to the Spring Assembly in May for approval. Applications will need to be submitted by August of 2025.

The Board discussions were as follows:

1. A better definition of "service beyond the group level:" During the Board meeting members became aware that it was using the phrase "service beyond the group level" on its applications without a consistent definition. The topic was added to the agenda in January and after further discussion it was determined that this phrase is not defined in the current 2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24-27) v4. What was hoped to be a relatively short conversation confirming common understanding turned instead into a thoughtful discussion reflecting a diversity of perspectives. As a result, the Board reached a consensus to ask the nominating committee to define the service requirements necessary for each position so that the term "beyond the group level" can be replaced by specifics in the requirements section of each of its applications.
2. Past A.A. Membership requirement for WSO service: The Policy Committee recommended that the Board revisit the requirement that applicants "cannot have ever been" rather than "are not" members of A.A., as the policy states. After considering key themes, such as the original intention of the Policy and the spiritual principle that each member decides for themselves whether they are a member of Al-Anon or A.A., the Board reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the Policy Committee group conscience by deciding to revise its requirement related to A.A. membership on its applications to read "Cannot be an Al-Anon member who is a member of A.A." (Keep in mind, this is only to serve as WSO volunteers and At Large committee members.)
3. Road Trip! Announcement: The Road Trip will take place October 25th, 2025 in Omaha, NE. Hotel information and more details to follow.
4. A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon participation is taking place July 4-6, 2025 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Area Welcome Committee is in place and actively seeking members registered to attend who are interested in helping onsite. More news will be shared in the coming months about opportunities for members of Al-Anon who register to be of service.
5. The Envisioned Future Work Group (EFWG) brought forward the topic "fellowship and what it looks like" after noting the observation some members shared about fellowship in the program, including informal gatherings before or after meetings, that seems to be missing or at least not as prominent as it once was. Thoughtful questions led to a discussion regarding what the fellowship will look like in the future. What are the barriers? What are the opportunities? How can this crucial connection and community between members be maintained and flourish in the digital age?
6. 2025 WSO Projects Landscape:
 - WSO Core Systems Overhaul
 - Electronic Alateen Validation & Implementation Planning

- eBooks Globally-WSC & International Structures
- WSO Risk Mitigation Strategy
- 2025 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon Participation
- CAL Globally (Two Scenarios)
- 2026-2029 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)
- Refresh Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Magazine
- 2028 Al-Anon International Convention with A.A. Participation
- Passing It On (Initial Planning)
- AFG, Inc. Branding Guideline for Trusted Servants
- Outreach to Professionals - Young People

As you can see, the dedicated staff at WSO will be busy this year as they complete these tasks along with the ongoing operations work and fellowship support performed every day.

As I mentioned in my report at the 2-Day Fall Assembly, the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) has been meeting since July 2024 to develop a plan for Delegates to contribute to the development of the WSC Agenda. This Task Force will be presenting their ideas to the 2025 WSC.

The Public Outreach Committee continues to be busy looking for ways to reach the families and friends of alcoholics and those who work with them. The committee currently has two work groups, which complete regular reviews of social media statements and submissions for the Public Outreach Toolkit. Additionally, the committee has several task forces evaluating new materials needed for public outreach.

This seems like a good place to announce the new Public Outreach Toolkit to Professionals for Alateen! I attended the presentation on February 12th via Zoom for this new piece of outreach. It can be found on the WSO website under; Members, Public Outreach Toolkit and then scroll down to “Public Outreach to Professionals – Alateen. Check it out! It's free and awesome information for Health Fairs or any platform where we can reach out to Counselors and any other professionals that work with our kids.

Financially the period ending 12/31/24 was very good once more. Revenue actuals compared to the budget were above average. Literature sales netted \$2,929,412, Contributions were \$3,022,844 with Other income of \$400,869. A total of \$6,353,125.

Expense totals were \$5,891,481 leaving a net increase of \$461,644.

YTD Literature sales were slightly above budget by \$75,892 (3%). The new pamphlet Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships (P-95) sold over 38,000 copies by the year-end inventory cut off. The holiday book bundle, consisting of Blueprint for Progress: Al-Anon's Fourth Step Inventory (Revised) (P-91), Reaching for Personal Freedom: Living the Legacies (P-92) and Paths to Recovery Workbook: A Companion for Studying Al-Anon's Steps, Traditions and Concepts (P-94), sold 2,219 copies (1,971 English, 211 Spanish, and 37 French).

Members continue to respond to the message about consistent donations with our YTD contributions being above budgeted expectations by \$379,144 (14%)

Our Ohio Area total donations were \$16,978 from January 2024 - June 2024. A total of 176 Groups donated.

The Policy Committee meets quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting and had a few updates on future projects:

1. The “2024-2025 Concept Study Task Force” presented the third installment of the Policy Committee Concept Study which has offered Policy Committee members the opportunity to study the Concepts together throughout this year. It has been an impactful way for the committee members to launch Policy discussions in a spiritual, legacy-based direction.
2. “Thought Force: Dilution of the Al-Anon Program Policy Digest Text Review.” This Thought Force has been charged with bringing a discussion to the Policy Committee reviewing the “Dilution of the Al-Anon Program” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” on page 135, specifically 1) “Labels” 2) “Professional Involvement”, 3) “Drugs/Narcotics/Prescription Medications.” The Policy Committee was provided with an extensive KDBM as a basis of the discussion. Members were encouraged to identify the

spiritual principles as well as the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service as they relate to each of the three sections.

3. Choosing a Group's Name Policy Appeals Discussion. Following the 2024 WSC decision to approve the amended text to the "Choosing a Group Name" Policy, the World Service Office (WSO) Staff began discussing how to implement the Policy as adopted. Consistent with their carefully defined service authority and responsibility, Staff presented their suggestions for implementation to the Policy Committee for review at its July 2024 meeting. Committee members considered suggestions related to new group registrations, existing group updates obtaining new names, and existing groups more broadly. After thoughtful discussion, the Policy Committee confirmed the suggested implementation for new group registrations and existing group updates containing new names was in alignment with the new policy and supported Staff going forward with implementing the approach. The Policy Committee also confirmed that the Policy approved by the 2024 WSC applied to both new and existing groups; however, it agreed that further conversation with the WSC was required before any action was taken toward applying the new Policy to existing groups. Shortly after the COB letter and Policy Committee update was posted, the WSO and Policy Committee began to receive multiple member appeals to this new Policy. After consideration and in the continuing spirit of Concept Five, "The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and ensure that they be heard", the Policy Committee concluded at that meeting that the appeals needed to be brought to the 2025 WSC as it was the decision-making authority which approved the Policy in 2024. This will be discussed in April when I attend the Conference so I am asking you all to go back to your Groups and get me your feedback on how members feel. Please get your concerns/comments to me before April 10th and I will be sure to voice them on the Conference floor during discussion of this issue. I sent a submission for Area Highlights to the Delegate Committee for presentation before the WSC. This is a gathering of all the Delegates before the Conference begins where we can share our Area's accomplishments and struggles. I sent a copy of this to AWSC Officers and District Representatives.

Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) were received from WSO to vote on by April 6, 2025.

There were 31 left after combinations of like items. I worked on the CAI Task Force to combine these after communication with the Delegates who submitted them. I will break them down for you via email if there is a particular one you would like me to vote for. My total number of votes is capped at 8 and I can vote 2 times for one CAI to show a preference.

1. Service participation, preserving fellowship on a group and Area level, avoiding dominance and using Conference Approved Literature (CAL) in the electronic / hybrid age. (Combination of 8 CAI's)
2. Seventh Tradition in the Electronic Hybrid Age. (Stand alone)
3. Executive Director 10 Year cap. (Combination of 5 CAI's)
4. Gendered Language in our Legacies. (Combination of 5 CAI's)
5. How to best preserve /manage historical archives in the digital age. (Stand alone)
6. Choosing a Group's Name Policy. (Combination of 3 CAI's)
7. AA Members' participation in service beyond the group level. (Combined 2 CAI's)
8. Keeping pace with technology for websites across the WSC areas. (Combined 2 CAI's)
9. Rotation of service in Alateen (Stand alone)
10. How can improve communication on AFG Connects at all service Levels? (Stand alone)
11. Improving communication between WSO and members relating to Alateen growth (Stand alone)
12. Attracting younger (20-40 age groups) Al-Anon members. (Combined 3 CAI's)
13. Adult children are Alateen adults, we are identified with the literature of Alateen more than that of Al-Anon. (Stand alone)
14. Qualifications for Area Officers other than Delegate that would allow optimal participation of willing and trusted servants. (Stand alone)
15. Explaining and resolving discrepancies regarding anonymity in the Service Manual Policy section. (Stand alone)

16. Use of religious terms within Al-Anon Family Groups. (Combined 3 CAI's)
17. Balancing autonomy and consistent policies without "policing". (Stand alone)
18. Obedience to the unenforceable. (Stand alone)
19. Is there a need to address Mental Illness in Al-Anon meetings or in CAL? (Stand alone)
20. Removal/replacement of underperforming Area Officers. (Stand alone)
21. Housing of Transgender Alateens @ Assemblies and Conferences. (Stand alone)
22. Conceptual approval for a new piece of literature focusing on siblings of alcoholics. (Stand alone)
23. Recommendation that Delegates be able to bring major policy discussions to their Areas prior to WSC. (Stand alone)
24. Where do Al-Anon groups go for funds when insurance is needed for their meeting space? (Stand alone)
25. What does it mean to be a "fellowship of equals?". (Stand alone)
26. Strengthening cooperation between Al-Anon and AA. (Stand alone)
27. Public outreach utilizing modern media platforms while still meeting copyright laws, anonymity and honoring Tradition Eleven. (Combined 2 CAI's)
28. Develop a disaster-preparedness plan for the WSO to protect our resources. (Stand alone)
29. Expand the WSO beyond 50 employees. (Stand alone)
30. Access to translated CAL. (Combined 2 CAI's)
31. How to better connect Al-Anon Information Services (AIS) and Literature Distribution Centers (LDC) in our Links of Service? (Stand alone)

With everything starting to arrive in my emails, I can see WSC will be very busy and full again this year. I'm looking forward to it much more than last year because I know what to expect. I pray that I can bring back all the information in a way that encourages service and creates excitement for our program and Legacies. Only in this way can we offer hope to all those still suffering from this disease.

Love to you all and gratitude for this opportunity to serve,
 Rose Rollins
 Ohio Delegate
 Panel 64 In Service We Soar!

The attendees applauded the Delegate after the presentation of her report. Sandra F distributed addressed envelopes to be sent to Rose R during the WSC (World Service Conference) in April.

3. **Alternate Delegate Report:** Merri G (Alternate Delegate – Panel 64) presented her report and urged members to share their message of experience, strength and hope on the topic, "How they have used Al-Anon program to get through a crisis in their life" and send it to her (alternatedelegate@ohioal-anon.org) by April 30th.

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

4. **End of Year Treasurer Report (2024):** Carol R (Treasurer – Panel 64) presented the 2024 End of Year Report. Discussion followed the presentation. Ginny C (Past Delegate – Panel 55) and Sandra F questioned the amount of \$ 399 pertaining to NCRDM in the report. Ann F explained that Findlay Inn refunded \$350 and Rose R received \$49 refund from Illinois South NCRDM. Carol R acknowledged that there is a discrepancy of \$957.48 (\$53699.57 – \$52742.09) which needs to be figured out sooner. She also stated that the discrepancy started after May 18· 2024. Chris E (DR 10) offered to help Carol R. Ginny C pointed out there is a N missing in Al- A Notes on page 1 of the EOY report. Cecelia asked if we could hire an expert to look over the reports and ledgers. Kim R (DR 28 and AA Liaison) suggested a CPA who is also Central Ohio Treasurer might be able to help Carol R. Sandy F suggested if the discrepancy exists between Jan 2025 and May 2025, we

can think of hiring a professional to help with the ledgers. Terri N made a motion to accept the EOY Treasurer's Report as presented, and Regina F seconded it. By simple show of hands, the motion passed.

5. **Year to Date (YTD) Treasurer's Report:** Carol R presented the YTD report for the period Jan 1, 2025 – Feb 28, 2025. Discussion followed the presentation. Daisy A (Area Secretary – Panel 64) pointed out an error in line number 4 of the report (\$29027.76). It should be \$28711.17 ($22715.54 + 6953.82 - 958.19 = 28711.17$). Several questions were asked by the participants regarding the discrepancy found in page 1 of the YTD report ($61227.67 - 60166.91 = \$1060.76$). After a while Cheryl B (AIS – Youngstown and Handbook Committee Chair) made a motion to accept the YTD report as presented and not approve it pending review which was agreed to be accomplished in a timely manner. Cecelia S (Tech coordinator) seconded it. The motion passed by simple show of hands. There was one opposition (Irena H – DR 51), and the chairperson asked for the minority view. Irena H was concerned about the deadline of the review of YTD report.

The session resumed 2:43 pm after a short break.

6. **Area Alateen Coordinator Report:** Ann F read the report on behalf of Lauren B (Area Alateen Coordinator). 2025 KOMIAC (Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana Alateen Conference) will be held on July 25 – 27th at the University of Dayton (Ohio). The planning meetings for KOMIAC are underway.
7. **AAPP Report:** Irene B (AAPP -Area Alateen Process Person) presented her report highlighting a total of 63 AMIAS were processed so far and the newly introduced Electronic Signature forms has been a tremendous benefit to the 2025 AMIAS Recertification process. The attendees applauded AAPP after the presentation of her report.
8. **Budget Report:** Terri N presented the Budget report and the proposed budget for the year 2025. Daisy A requested clarification of assigning funds to the Secretary and AAPP's PO boxes. Terri N explained that the committee decided to assign additional funds to the PO boxes.
9. **Area Group Records Coordinator Report:** Nancy S (AGRC – Panel 64) presented her report and highlighted that the online group records update is much quicker than traditional paper form updates. Discussion followed the presentation of the report regarding Annual update form which will contain a QR code to make quick updates. Linda L (DR 14) asked if CMA (Current Mailing Address) is a public contact. Ann F explained it is not and asked the members to not give any personal information under the Notes Section while updating group records.
10. **Website Thought Force KBDM Report:** Cecelia S presented her detailed report of KBDM on the Thought force which highlighted the strategic position that Ohio area has found itself in the recent years due to offering Hybrid sessions which dramatically increases the electronic file sharing amongst its members. Discussion followed the report presentation where the purpose of the website was questioned by Cheryl B. Cecelia explained that the website is not only to reach out to new members but also to store/archive files that are presented in the Area meetings. Irene B suggested that google folder is another way to store files. Regina F, Ginny C and Sydney P sought clarification of the next steps. Sandy F clarified that this report be sent to the Spring Assembly and then a task force can be formed to proceed with the next steps.

11. **OAC Advisor and 2-Day Fall Report:** Ann F read the report on behalf of Shelly C. The report highlighted the plans for OAC 2025 is coming along well and it is not too late to start preparing for 2026 OAC to be hosted by Miami Valley Districts. Daisy A pointed out the date for 2025 OAC was incorrect and needs to be changed from Aug 2-4 to Aug 1-3, 2025.
12. **Fall 2025 Assembly Report:** Daisy A read the Fall Assembly report on behalf of Colleen F (DR 48). The report highlighted that the venue of Fall 2025 Assembly has been finalized, and the plans are underway.
13. **Archives and OAC 2025 Report:** Sydney P presented her report and strongly agreed with Cecelia that all the archives need to be digitalized to serve the AI-Anon members. She also reported that the plans for OAC 2025 are coming along really well and that the early registration will end on May 31, 2025. She also acknowledged a typo (March 4 instead of May 4) for the crafting day. She also welcomed the participation of the Miami Valley district representatives in the committee meetings of OAC 2025 if they choose to.
14. **Audit and Review Report:** Terri N presented the report on behalf of Steve (Review committee chair) which explained the process carried out by the review committee members.
15. **Handbook Committee Report:** Cheryl B presented her report and asked about the process to distribute Bylaws and handbooks to the new GRs during Assembly meetings. Daisy A suggested the trainers (Delegate, Alternate Delegate) could print the Bylaws and Handbooks to distribute to the new GRs and get compensated from the Handbook budget of \$400.
16. **District 8 Report:** Ann F read Louise T's (DR 8) report on the happenings in District 8.
17. **District 10 Report:** Chris E presented her report and emphasized she is working to keep the groups in District 10 connected to each other and the District of Toledo.
18. **District 30 Report:** Karen P presented her report and shared her experience of utilizing the countless tools of AI-Anon for a hopeful life.
19. **District 28 & AA Liaison Report:** Kim R presented her report which highlighted the upcoming 69th AA convention to be held in Toledo Ohio with AI-Anon participation. She encouraged members to participate in myriad of fun events during the convention. She also reported that the Central Ohio's groups are surveyed to set future goals. Cheryl B asked if we could get an AI-Anon contact on the AA convention flyer. Ann F explained that it is not generally advisable to have AI-Anon personal information on AA websites or their flyers.
20. **USNCRDM Report:** Sandy F presented a report on the US north Central Regional Delegates Meeting which was held in Ohio at the Findlay Inn in Findlay, OH (March 14-16, 2025). She reported it was a great success with the participation of 34 members which included 8 current Delegates, 2 new Delegates and 4 AWSOC members and the theme this year was "Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy".

New Business:

- Ann F asked the participants if we could host the Fall AWSC via Zoom only as the attendance was 16 – 14 in favor of Zoom at this meeting. Discussion followed the question. Sydney P made a motion to host the Fall 2025 AWSC meeting via Zoom only after enumerating the reasons to do so. Chris E agreed and added that the attendance could increase if the AWSC was on Zoom only. 17 members supported the motion. It passed unanimously. The process of registration and other details will be determined later.
- Theresa M (Past Delegate – Panel 58) suggested that Mike K (current Webmaster) might be willing to train members to work on the current Ohio Al-Anon website until a new system is finalized.
- Ann F also urged members to consider volunteering for Public Outreach Coordinator and Web coordinator for the Ohio Area.

Sydney P made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan H (DR 26) seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm with Al-Anon Declaration.

Dates to Remember

- May 17, 2025: Spring Assembly, Just Church, Columbus Ohio
- July 25 – 27, 2025: KOMIAC, University of Dayton, Ohio
- August 1- 3, 2025: OAC Independence, Ohio
- August 8-10, 2025: AA Convention, Toledo Ohio
- October 18-19, 2025: 2- Day Fall Assembly, Belden Village, Canton Ohio

Respectfully Submitted,
Daisy A
Area Secretary – Panel 64

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

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