Fall 2026 AWSC Meeting Minutes

The Fall AWSC meeting was held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, via Zoom. Area 44 Chairperson Ann F welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:31 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Kim R (DR 28 & AA Liaison) read the Al-Anon Twelve Traditions and Joanna L (Alt DR 48) read the Twelve Concepts of service, and Cheryl B (Handbook Chair – Panel 64) read the General Warranties of Concept 12.

In attendance were 26 members representing districts 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 26, 30, 31, 38, 39, 47, 48, 51, 57 within the Ohio area (Area 44) and Global Electronic Area 21. The members of the AWSC meeting introduced themselves by their name, position they serve and homegroup. After the introductions, Ann F (Area 44 Chairperson) sought permission to record the session. She clarified the new date for 2027 Spring AWSC and corrected the page number reference made in the agenda for Al-Anon service manual. She read the Declaration of Unity found on page 237 from ***Many Voices One Journey*** and reinforced that we are a recommending body and not the decision-making body 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.

Ann F explained who can vote on matters (Officers, Coordinators, AIS Liaisons, District Representatives during the meeting. She also mentioned that all motions are acceptance motions only, to be sent to the Assembly for approval, which means a simple majority would be sufficient. She also explained the etiquette slides.

The following reports and motions were presented in the meeting which can be accessed in the link below under the year 2026 on our Ohio Al-Anon website:

https://www.ohioal-anon.org/documents/ARCHIVES/2026-FALL-AWSC/

Report Presentation:

1. ***Spring 2026 AWSC Meeting Minutes:*** Ann F sought for any corrections in this report. No corrections were brought up. Sandy F (Past Delegate – Panel 49) made a motion to approve the Spring 2026 AWSC Minutes as presented, and Terri N (Budget Committee Chair) seconded it. The motion passed by simple show of electronic hands.
2. ***Delegate Report:*** Rose R (Delegate – Panel 64) read her report highlighting area events and beyond. Please find the Delegate's report below:

The Chairman of the Board (COB) letter was presented on August 8th. Since I was attending the Ohio Area Convention in Dayton, I wasn't able to be present; however, I received the letter through AFG Connects.
Seven new Trustees and one new Executive Committee At-Large member were welcomed to the Board this year. The mentorship program will continue to support the new volunteers as they become familiar with their roles and responsibilities.

Trustee invitations to Regional Delegate Meetings (RDM) were clarified. Going forward, RDM's will follow the same invitation process used by Areas and other service arms when requesting Trustee participation using the form on AFG Connects. This change supports consistency throughout the fellowship and reinforces that Trustees serve the entire fellowship rather than a single Region.Trustees attending RDM's as a first-time speaker will be accompanied by an experienced WSO Volunteer mentor with the WSO covering mentor travel costs. Our next North Central Region Delegates Meeting (NCRDM) has been scheduled for March 19 through March 21, 2027 and will be hosted by Wisconsin and the UP of Michigan.

The Board approved the International Coordination Committee's recommendation to grant permission for Chile to reprint Conference Approved Literature (CAL). The topic explored by the Envisioned Future Work Group (EFWG) focused on professional language and how Al-Anon communicates with outside professionals. Discussion centered on the increasing use of the clinical term "Alcohol Use Disorder" (AUD) in professional settings and whether Al-Anon should adopt that terminology more broadly. After thoughtful consideration, the Board supported the continued use of professional language when speaking individually with therapists and other professionals or defining key words for the website, while remaining true to Al-Anon's spiritual identity and longstanding language in our published materials. It also recognized the value of using language familiar to professionals to help them discover Al-Anon.

The Strategic Leadership Team shared an important update regarding organizational capacity. Staff and Volunteers are currently supporting a significant number of projects while continuing to provide the ongoing services relied upon by the fellowship every day. After careful evaluation, consensus was reached to defer the annual process for identifying new strategic initiatives for the next two years. This pause will allow Staff and Volunteers to focus their energy on accomplishing current Board-approved strategies and projects before introducing additional commitments. The Board will also hold a special meeting to review the current strategic landscape and evaluate whether any existing Board-approved strategies can be adjusted or mediated to better align with available resources and organizational capacity.

The Board did approve funding for two special projects from the Reserve Fund.

1) Support for a SharePoint implementation. This is designed to improve document management, information sharing and operational efficiency.

2) Enhanced Human Resource support. This includes assistance with performance management, employee development and retention efforts. Both projects are intended to

strengthen the organization and improve the effectiveness of the services provided to the fellowship. The Conference Leadership Team (CLT) has the responsibility of preparing the WSC Agenda that facilitates the active voice and effective group conscience of our fellowship. At the end of 2026 WSC all attendees submitted evaluations. This input is being used to plan for next year.

The 2027 World Service Conference (WSC) will be held on Tuesday, April 13 through Saturday, April 17, 2027, at the Newport News Marriott at City Center Hotel, Newport News, VA. The Board approved the Finance Committee recommendation to set the estimated Full Cost for Delegate participation in the 2027 WSC at $3,300, with an Equalized Expense amount of $2,310, representing 70% of the Full Cost.

The CLT reviewed the theme phrases and words suggested by Conference members for the 2027 WSC theme. It was then sent to the Board of Trustees for their approval. The approved theme will be shared later this year since the 2026 Theme, 75 Years, One Purpose applies from January 1, 2026, until December 31, 2026.

Revenue (Income) for the month of June 2026 consists mainly of literature sales and contributions. Other sources include magazine sales, mobile app subscriptions and investment gains and losses. Literature sales for June were $236,373, while contributions for June were $247,853. Both were below budgeted expectations.

The change in net assets, revenues less expenses, results in a June YTD operating deficit of ($131,709). Concerns discussed in recent COB letters regarding ongoing declines in literature sales continue into this past quarter, and now contributions have softened as well over the last couple of months. Bequests are helping so far in our performance this year, but we remain behind budget through June even with these bequests. With overall soft literature sales, the revised 2026 budget projects lower revenues for the year: $6,625,614, a reduction of more than $350,000. Expenses for the year are essentially the same as in the original budget which now results in a deficit of ($358,390) for the year with the reduced revenue. The Finance Committee reviewed the details of the revised budget and recommended to the Board of Trustees that they approve the revised budget, which they did in this July meeting.

Throughout this year, it has been discussed how two of our key spiritual principles, hope and trust, are captured in our budget. While we trust that members will come through with increased purchases of Conference Approved Literature and contributions to fund the services requested, we as leaders must do the footwork to continue to spread the message about the needs of the organization. Tradition Seven forever rings true. I have talked to some members that believe the World Service Office is in the business of making money. This has never been further from the truth. AFG, Inc. is in the business of always being there when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help from the effects of the disease of alcoholism. Our Groups are the sole beneficiaries of their service. We as members have a say in everything that happens at the WSO and that's why it's so important to step into Service at all levels: Officers, Coordinators, Committee Chairs, Members of committees, District Reps and Group Reps. This Fall we will hold elections and all service positions will be open for the incoming Panel 67 members. Take the step to have a voice for your group and get involved. Your recovery will soar. I guarantee it!

The Policy Committee meets quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. Each year the study of Steps, Traditions and Concepts are facilitated. This year, Concepts Five through Eight are set for one hour study sessions that are designed to foster the application of spiritual principles within our Policy Committee discussions. As part of the new WSO Volunteer orientation, a session was held to provide an overview of the Policy Committee's purpose and composition and members' responsibilities. As there are a significant number of new WSO Volunteers on board this year, the committee decided to revisit policy guidelines and perhaps include some new perspectives. It's important to know that changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as our circumstances and growth require, since anticipating every specific situation would be impossible. There are Thought and Task Forces currently in progress and the committee will report to the membership when any of these work groups are prepared to present.

As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any Al-Anon member, meeting, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.

Road Trip - Preparations are well under way for the upcoming event! It will take place in Rosemont, IL near Chicago on Saturday, October 24, 2026 from 8 AM - 5 PM. Registration fee is $35 and room rates vary from $159 + tax per night plus parking. I'm excited to be attending with quite a few Delegates from my Panel. More information can be found on the AFG website Along with registration information.

International Al-Anon Convention 2028 in Minneapolis, MN is coming too! It will be here before we know it as time seems to fly quickly. Dates are July 20 - 23, 2028. More info will be coming.

Be sure and start saving to attend this awesome event with Al-Anon members all over the world!

As I get ready to wind up Summer and head into the last months of my service as a Delegate, I'm forever grateful for the experience and growth to my recovery. I am still learning and intend to continue to serve as an Alateen Sponsor and stand for Chairperson in the Fall. We are moving into new areas such as the Electronic Alateen process, an incoming Panel of new Officers and Coordinators and Committee members. Let's all embrace the wonderful experience of service and learning together, presuming good will and discussing with the Legacies the future of the Al-Anon fellowship.

With love in Service,

Rose Rollins / Panel 64 Delegate

Members applauded the Delegate after her presentation. Sydney P (Archives Coordinator – Panel 64) asked questions regarding the usage of the term AUD (Alcohol Use Disorder) with professionals and Kim R questioned if the Trustees could be from any part of the country instead of the single region. Rose R explained that the term AUD can be used with professionals to help them discover Al-Anon and it appears that the WSC is moving toward all Trustees at Large and eliminating the Regional Trustees. All Trustees (both at Large and Regional) represent Al-Anon as a whole.

3. ***Alternate Delegate Report:*** Merri G presented her report and encouraged members to apply for the Alternate Delegate position in the upcoming election for panel 67. She also sought sharing from the members for the second issue of 2026 Al-A-Notes on the topic, "Why the members volunteered to take a service position and how their home life changed as a result?". The sharing can be sent to Merri G at merrig.iamfree@gmail.com or alternatedelegate@ohioal-anon.org.

   Members applauded her virtually after her presentation.

4. ***YTD 2026 Treasurer report:*** Carol R presented the Year-to-Date 2026 report. Joanne K asked how the contributions from bequests will appear in the Treasurer's report. Carol R explained that she would include bequests as a separate line item and would not merge it with personal donations. Sydney P and Rose R asked the members to look at the back of the plea letter for such donations. Kim R wondered why the number of donations made in her area is not equal to the number of groups in her district. Carol R explained that number of donations is greater than the number of groups as a group might donate more than once to the Ohio area. Cheryl B made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Joanna L seconded it and the motion passed successfully.

5. ***Registration Report:*** Registration Committee chair Sue M reported that there were 26 members in attendance out of which 25 were eligible to vote.

6. ***Quorum Thought Force KBDM:*** Ann F explained Ohio area bylaws quorum requirement which stipulates 50 Group Representatives (GRs) be present to make any changes to the Bylaws. During the covid -19 pandemic there has been a reduction of GR participation in our Assembly meetings. Hence, our area have been operating on a handbook motion that was approved for a 5-year trial period which ends in October 2026. Theresa M (Past Delegate – panel 58) presented the thought force findings which investigated the other area practices with respect to quorum requirement and sought recommendations from the members to proceed after Oct 2026. Discussion followed regarding using either 2/3 of the voting members present or registered, to serve as the quorum requirement.

   Ann F requested members to form a task force and come up with a motion to be sent out before September 14th as this would be a By-Law motion. Theresa M, Carol R and Rose R volunteered to be in the task force. The Task Force will determine the motion wording.

   Meeting resumed after a short break at 2:02 pm.

7. ***District 28 & AA Liaison Report:*** Kim R reported that the 70th AA conference with Al-Anon participation themed "Our Great Responsibility" was held successfully on August 14-16, 2026, at Cherry Valley Lodge in Graville, Ohio. She also expressed her gratitude for all the experiences derived from being an AA Liaison position. She also reported that district 28 is alive and well with 7 + active meetings.

8. ***KBDM on Contributions to AFG Inc.:*** Anne S presented the KBDM (Knowledge Based Decision Making) thought force report to identify the circumstances for donations to AFG Inc. from the Ohio area. Cecelia S commented that this should be part of budgeting process. Ann F explained that this KBDM was forwarded to the budget committee based on the recommendations from the thought force. Members applauded Anne S and the thought force committee members for their hard work.

9. ***Budget Committee Report:*** Terri N presented her report and expressed her sincere gratitude for her experience and growth in budget committee chair position. She also presented the motion based on the recommendations from the thought force to donate to AFG Inc. Several members commented on the wording of the motion. Carol R (Area Treasurer – panel 64) explained that Assembly Reserve Funds and Budget Line Items are expenses following which Theresa M recommended to include the word Expenses in the motion. Joanna L made a motion to update the motion with the word Expenses and send it to Fall Assembly for approval. Sydney P seconded it. The motion will be sent to Fall Assembly as corrected. Ann F confirmed Daisy A's question which is if the Ohio area would only donate once per year. Kim R enquired if there was a traditional process to come up with funds for donation to AFG Inc. Ann F answered that there is a process.

10. ***Area Group Records Coordinator Report:*** Nancy S (AGRC – Panel 64) presented her report highlighting several groups which have no CMA listed and 20 groups with bounced mail status. She encouraged the DR's (District Representatives) present to motivate their GR's to update their group information. Kim R enquired how to get information about the groups in her district. Ann F and Rose R explained the process.

11. ***Handbook Style and Edit Updates:*** Ann F talked about the two edits that were done in the handbook which are as follows: Our service manual have used the word chairperson instead of chairman. Our handbook and bylaws have been changed with chairperson in alignment with the service manual.

    There was a motion made in 2023 to include a paypal account to the convention account. The motion expired and it has been removed from the handbook.

    Daisy A and Sydney P commented that change from chairman to chairperson should be announced in the Fall Assembly.

12. ***Handbook Committee Report:*** Cheryl B presented 2 comprehensive motions regarding Area Officers' responsibilities and Ohio Area Convention duties which are as follows:

    Revise Handbook Section XVII – Ohio Area Convention as follows:
    Article B – policy DELETE Items #7 and #8. Then ADD new item #7 as follows: Alateens must complete registration to attend OAC, but no registration fee will be charged. (Motion 2026/10-#11). Then renumber former #9 to #8.

    Article F – Duties of Convention Committee – ADD new item #5 as follows: Ensure that all Alateen participants are always in the care of an AMIAS throughout the convention (Motion 2026/10-#11).

Article H – Convention Secretary – REWORD item #2 as follows: "Will enlist the assistance of the Area Delegate and the Ohio Area AA Liaison to extend invitations to the Al-Anon Delegate in adjacent states and the Ohio Area AA Delegates, respectively, to participate in the OAC at their own expense. (Motion 2026/10-#11).

Article J – Program Committee – DELETE Item #4-E Rap Sessions. Then reword Item #8 as follows: "Secure appropriate gifts or thank you notes for speakers." (Motion 2026/10-#11).

Members asked the handbook committee chair to replace the word "states" to "areas" in Article H and replace the phrase "in the care of" to "under the care of AMIAS/Parents or Guardians" in Article F. The chair agreed to the changes and the motion was seconded by Daisy A to be passed to the Fall Assembly.

Revise Handbook section VII – Job Descriptions & Responsibilities – Area Officers as follows:

Article A – Delegate – Delete Item #9 as duplicate; then combine and restate Item #4 as follows: "... share further with any Group or Districts who request it at their expense". Then also include former Item #9 – "if a Group or District requests a report in person by the Delegate, then the cost of the expense is borne by the metropolitan locale. (Motion 2025/10 - #7, Motion 2026/10 -#12).

Add NEW Delegate Responsibilities – Item #9 as follows: "Extends an invitation to Al-Anon Delegates in adjacent states to participate in Ohio Area Convention (OAC) at their expense. (Motion 2026/10 -#12)

Revise Section VII – Article C – Area Chairperson as follows: DELETE entire Item #7 ".... Provides copies pf approved motions..." & move Article D – Area Secretary as NEW Item #8 as follows: "Retains copies and maintains the log of approved motions and provides copies to Area Chaiperson and Handbook Committee Chair. (Motion 2026/10 -#12). Then renumber former Item #8 as Item #9 for Secretary.

Sandy F seconded the motion to be passed to the Fall Assembly. The motion carried over. Sydney P enquired if the handbook committee will revise OAC pages based on the recommendations from the OAC 2025 committee. Cheryl B announced that more changes will come soon. Ann F mentioned that the current handbook committee did not have enough expertise in the financial matters pertaining to OAC. Sandy F recommended forming a working group and seeking members from the Fall Assembly along with the current members.

The meeting resumed at 3:32 pm after a short break.

13. ***Area Alateen Process Person Report:*** Irene B (AAPP) presented her report highlighting the major changes that need to be made if the Ohio area opts in for Electronic Alateen Groups. An Alateen member spoke about her experiences in a hybrid Alateen group which would not function after Oct 2027 if the Ohio area does not opt for Electronic Alateen groups. Irene B suggested forming a thought force to investigate the feasibility of having an Electronic Alateen group and present the KBDM in the Fall Assembly and forming a Task force to work on the changes. Rose R, Theresa M, Irene B, Aralynn C and 2 other members have agreed to be in the thought force.

14. ***OAC Advisor and 2-Day Fall Report:*** Shelly C reported that OAC 2026 was successfully held in Bergamo Center in Dayton Ohio, Fall 2026 OAA to be held in Columbus Ohio, OAC 2027 to be held in Akron/Canton. Joanna L (Co-chair of OAC 2027) informed that OAC 2027 will be held on August 20-22 at Holiday Inn Belden Village in Canton. She reported that the preparations are underway for the convention.

15. ***<u>Archives Coordinator Report:</u>*** Sydney P asked the members if the Area Secretary can submit the panel 64 materials in a drive or should it be mandatorily on paper? The group agreed to both formats.

16. ***<u>Public Outreach Coordinator (POC)Report:</u>*** Cherryl C (POC Chair) presented her report and thanked everyone for their support and said more needs to be done with respect to Public Outreach in our area. She urged members to reach out to the local POC and then the WSO (World Service Organization).

17. ***<u>2-Day Fall Assembly Report:</u>*** Sandy F gave specifics about registration and banquet for the 2026 2-Day Fall Assembly. Flyer can be found here: https://www.ohioal-anon.org/documents/ARCHIVES/2026-FALL-ASSEMBLY/2026-Fall-Assembly-Flyer.pdf.

Ann F reminded everyone that elections for the panel 67 will be held in the upcoming 2-Day Fall Assembly and urged members to send their service profiles to her by September 1st, 2026.

Sandy F made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Merri G seconded it. Meeting ended with the Al-Anon Declaration at 4:32 pm.

Dates to Remember:

- 2-Day Fall Assembly: October 17-18, 2026, in Dublin Ohio
- North Central Regional Delegates meeting (NCRDM) – March 19-21, 2027
- Spring 2027 AWSC – March 27, 2027
- World Service Conference (WSC) – April 13- 17, 2027

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: _____August 25, 2026___________.

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