

AREA WORLD SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 28th 2010

CHAIRMAN: Barbara W

My grandson was born at 10:29 a.m. on Monday August 30th, weighing in at 8 lbs. 13 oz., 21 inches long. Camden Robert is blessed to have the most fabulous parents - and we are all blessed to have him.

Dear AWSC members

Thank you for your participation (physically, or in spirit!) at our meeting on Saturday. Below (and attached) are the bullet points from our meeting. Please share this information with the Group Representatives in your District, so our Ohio Al-Anon membership is informed.

We opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Louse M. read the Traditions and Anita A-B read the Concepts and Warranties. We conduct knowledge based decision making here in Ohio. There is no more motion madness. An informed group conscience through the KBDM is done before motions are formed which allows for dialogue keeping personalities out!

Districts represented- 30 members were present representing districts: 2,4,5,6,7,9,10,14,15,24,25,26,27,31,33,39,45,48,51,57

SECRETARY'S REPORT- Merri G

Kay voted to pass the March 27th 2010 AWSC minutes and Theresa M seconded it. I want to thank those who sent reports via E-mail for easy insert into my minutes.

TREASURER REPORT- Robin R

Balance as of 12-31-09	\$35,060.89
Income after 12-31-09 was	\$10,036.64
Expense after 12-31-09 was	\$-10,533.39
Balance as of 8-13-10 is	\$34,564.14

ALTERNATE DELEGATE/NEWS LETTER: Janice R

The Summer/Fall edition of Al-A-Notes is finished and will be in the mail by Monday, August 30th. The topic this time was "How have you been able to build better relationships through service"? I received articles from all the officers, two coordinators and two Districts Happenings articles. There is still room for a few more articles so I hope to hear from more of you for the winter edition. Thanks to everyone who did contribute. I have been in contact with Newsletter editors around the country and have added several more areas to the exchange list. As of today we exchange with 30 areas and there are 27 personal subscriptions. A letter was sent to all the new Group Representatives who attended the Spring Assembly meeting last May. It detailed what would be happening and a time schedule of events. I also included a flyer for the 2-Day Fall Assembly in Cincinnati and emphasized the deadlines for registering for a room and the banquet. Thanks for your love and support,

DELEGATE'S REPORT- Sandra F-Panel 49-Ohio

At the Spring Assembly I reminded members about the fifteen year trial period for property ownership was coming to an end in 2011. At the end of the trial period for property ownership there are three possible options: **(A) Extend the trial for another period of years (B) End the trial and sell the building (C) End the trial and keep the building**

Background information can be found on the members' website. If you have questions, send them to me and I will answer them at our Fall Assembly. Please pick up your copy of the 2010 WSC Summary and sign that you have your copy. All DR's receive a free copy. Also, please check your contact information on my AWSC list from WSO. If you are not on the list, please add your information to the bottom and I will have you added to our list. I would like to remind you of the up-coming 60th Anniversary Celebration of AFG. It will be held Saturday, April 16th. Open house is 1-4 pm at the world Service Office at 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia. There is no charge for the open house. The Banquet is a ticketed event 6-10 pm. Tickets are \$50.00 each. The banquet will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center at 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach VA 23451. Order forms for the banquet tickets will be sent to the fellowship later this year.

COORDINATOR AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND CONVENTIONS

ALATEEN- Yvonne R

The Alateens and their sponsors would like to thank assembly for helping us get to and back from KOMIAC safely. KOMIAC was held in Campbellsville, Kentucky. It was very hot but we had a great time. We brought back some thank you notes and some poster boards thanking the assembly. We are starting to look at Colleges for when Ohio hosts KOM IAC 2012. We are checking Baldwin Wallace in Cleveland and Ohio Northern in Lima, Ohio and possibly a few others. The Fall Rally will be in Akron on Saturday, October 30th. There is a new team for our bus transportation, Rachael and Robyn from Columbus will now take over Charlie's position of bus transportation. I will have more information on that at two day fall. I will also have the dates for the sponsor workshop and the spring rally by that time. I know we are still working on getting everyone their AMIAS certification notice. Rex has been

quite busy. We are stilling have the alateen chat room but we are not reaching the alateens like we have anticipated so were debating whether we want to keep it open. If you have any questions please feel free to see me or Barbara. Barbara and Charlie have decided to disband the Alateen chat room in Ohio. There are still other areas that do have chat rooms available.

ARCHIVES- Sharon B-No Report

FORUM- Shirley M-No Report

GROUP RECORDS- Judy A

Please continue to update group records within your districts. I have received information for a number of new groups in Ohio which is exciting! She prints about 18 sheets of labels with 30 on each sheet. Some our doubles due to the same person wearing more than one service hat.

LITERATURE- Ginny C

Ginny said that she was part of a Literature conference call in September. She talked about a Conf. Literature Forum and informed us about a public outreach set on Opening Our Hearts-Transforming Our Losses.

PUBLIC OUTREACH- Vicki M-Absent

Sandy reported that September is National Recovery Month. September is a time we, as members, can do a little more Public Outreach. **AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2011** has been shipped to all groups who placed orders. Also available is the new Public Outreach bookmark. Perhaps September could be an opportunity for groups to use the pamphlet *Attracting and Cooperating – A guide for Members in Public Outreach Service* as a possible meeting topic. **I encourage all members to remember to forget a piece of literature during September.**

BUDGET- Steve F-No Report

BY-LAWS & HANDBOOK-Barbara M- No Report

REVIEW AND AUDIT- Donna K-Absent

OHIO WEBSITE-MIKE K

The OHIOAL-ANON.ORG is enjoying a 12% increase in Web traffic since this time last year. Between Jan Thru July, we averaged 1,980 unique visitors each month.

The highest hit days of the week are now Monday and Tuesday. The average peak traffic of the day is around noon and 5pm The most viewed pages in order of ranking: State index page of meeting lists, Link to Columbus meetings list, Link to Cleveland meeting list, Remote area meetings, Calendar. Link to Toledo meeting list, Link to Akron meeting list and the 12steps.htm. Most of our visitors are coming in from Cincinnati and Columbus and over 63% of our visitors found our site through the WSO Web address: <http://69.90.236.54.8585/awstats/awstats.pl?config=ohioal-anon.org> We are addressing the spam problem for the volunteers who serve as contacts for the Ohio Assembly by proposing we move all the email accounts off of AOL and have them hosted directly off of our site. There is no extra charge to the Assembly to do that. Email can be accessed either through your browser or using an email program like Microsoft Outlook. After the accounts have been moved over, a spam filter can be purchased if needed. The cost for the filter is a \$40 annual fee, and will cover all the email accounts hosted on our site. Mikes Email address is: ohioalanon@aol.com.

COMPLAINCE LIASON AND AAPP- Rex M-No Report

Rex said he has no report and "no answers" which added some humor to the meeting!

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN- Phil.H

A sign in sheet is going around.

THOUGHT FORCES

1. Web or Postal for meetings minutes and /or AI-A-Notes Thought Force- Mike K

The Team members are Cheryl, Donna, Janice R, Phil H, Toni B and Mike K. / Merri G, Sandy F and Barbara W are for consulting purposes only. The core considerations are keeping it simple, how will it affect every family member and Anonymity. The role of this thought force is to explore ideas and propose action plans to the Assembly to keep things simple for Ohio Area communications while protecting the anonymity of its members. The agenda for the August meeting is to establish what we'll be presenting at the Fall Assembly on October 9/10. It has been proposed to introduce the Thought Force to the Fall Assembly by wearing distinctive name tags, and invite attendees to approach any of us and share their concerns, ideas and other feedback about how we all communicate in the Ohio AI-Anon Area. We want to announce our intention to develop and propose to the Assembly a set of guidelines for Electronic Communications that will protect the anonymity of everyone involved in sending and receiving information distributed throughout the Ohio Area. We would like to conduct a survey to find out if there are any service members in the Area who simply can not send or receive OAA communications electronically. If there are, we would then turn to those who send out communications and ask them if maintain multiple listings for postal mail addresses and electronic mail addresses are a reasonable trade-off for having an electronic option. One. One Thought Force member said that their E-mail buddy

and she live far apart and work different hours making it very inconvenient to get information. Also their library is closing in their area so even accessing the computer there is no longer an option. Some on the committee took a survey to see what other areas were doing. The subject of Anonymity is a concern for some while others do not care if their first and last names appear in the E-mail others do so we want to be able to accommodate everyone. Some members do not have a computer and are not going to buy one so we need to be sensitive to those and make sure they get their correspondence via snail mail. Since only 10% of GRs come to assembly we want to make sure that members are kept informed. Mike reminded us that we are the Thought Force not the Task Force. It was suggested that we could create a password that one would have to use on the Ohio Website before any material with names and numbers could be accessed. There was discussion about forming a survey to find out what people would want electronic or snail mail.

2. Reserve Fund Thought Force- Cecilia S

Charge to the Thought Force: Consideration of our current reserve fund of \$25,000+. Recommendation of how much is an ample reserve. Is the current practice of securing our Ohio Area Assembly reserve in certificates of deposit prudent? Upon recommendation of amount of ample reserve, if there is an excess, what suggestions does this Thought Force make regarding the use of excess funds? Our approach was to break down this charge into three pieces and perform at KBDM analysis on each:

- How much is an “ample reserve” is for OAA?
- How should reserve funds be organized and accessed?
- How should any excess funds to spent?

**OAA THOUGHT FORCE ON RESERVES
HOW SHOULD RESERVE FUNDS BE ORGANIZED AND ACCESSED?**

Our approach was to break down this charge into three pieces and perform at KBDM analysis on each:

- How much is a “prudent reserve” is for OAA?
- How should reserve funds be organized and accessed?
- How should excess funds to spent?

This paper addresses the second issue

TOPIC: Organize reserves into Short Term and Long Term Reserves. Let the Short Term reserves be set to be equal to the highest “reserve account” defined in the Handbook (for 2010 this would be \$3,500 based on the table below). Let the Long Term Reserves be set to the remainder of the total reserve fund as recommended by topic #1.

- **Guidelines for use of Short Term Reserves:** Use to cover unforeseen expenses (damages occurring at an OAA event) or budgeted items which go over budget (for example, a fuel surcharge on budgeted plane fare). It is not to be used on unbudgeted items because they are seen as a “good deal” or a “worthy opportunity”. Short Term expenditures must be approved by the Treasurer, the Delegate and the Budget Chairperson.
- **Guidelines for use of Long Term Reserves:** Use for significant changes in OAA circumstances or needs (such as 9/11 or a 50% drop in donations). This need would be brought for a vote to the full assembly at Spring Assembly or Two Day Fall.
- **NOTE:** The Budget Committee will inform the membership of any adjustments required to the coming year’s budget due to average expense changes.
 - If we are under: Budget committee and membership to increase reserves each year as we are able until the proper reserve amount is reached.
 - If we are over: use the new process suggested in Topic #3 to decide how to spend the funds.

❖ What We Know

- Historical Perspective : These are current set-aside funds specified in Handbook

Convention Float	3,500	Past Delegate’s Fund	1,500
Equipment Fund (cap)	3,500	Delgate expenses	1,200
2010 2-Day Fall	2,500	Scholarships	300
Coordinator’s Fund	2,500	District Rep Expenses	200
		2011 2-Day Fall Deposit	200

**OAA THOUGHT FORCE ON RESERVES
HOW MUCH IS AN AMPLE RESERVE?**

Our approach was to break down this charge into three pieces and perform at KBDM analysis on each:

- How much is a ample for OAA reserves?
- How should reserve funds be organized and accessed?
- How should excess funds to spent?

This paper addresses the first issue.

[Empty box]

TOPIC: Set aside an amount no greater than the average of the last four years expenses as a “prudent reserve” for OAA. If necessary, increases should come from each years budget excess.

❖ What We Know

- Historical Perspective: WSO Guideline G41 has prudent reserve recommendations for Area, Intergroup and Group level.
 - Recommended reserve for Area is six to 12 months operating expenses
 - Build reserve up over time until goal is reached
 - Excess funds may be used to fund special projects such as Public Outreach project.
 - Ensure some kind of approval is needed to withdraw funds from reserve.
- ♦ “There are no hard and fast rules as to what amount should be set; but some experts say that an organization should have at least three to six months worth of operating expenses in its rainy day fund.” Alexander, Aronson Finning, CPAs and Business Advisors.
- ♦ “The *minimum* operating reserve ratio at the lowest point during the year suggested by the workgroup is 25% or three months of the annual expense budget.” A whitepaper by the Nonprofit Operating Reserves Initiative Workgroup.
- ♦ Our current reserves are \$30,000; average of four years expenses are: \$17, 220
- ♦ Current budget and audit processes of State are very conservative and strong (yearly planning, motions to spend extra money, money set aside or “reserved” for upcoming expense, audit committee in place)
- ♦ Current process limits budgeting to previous year’s income; this leaves current processes unable to deal spending of any current year’s excess.
- ♦ Data for past four years is

YEAR	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE	PLEA LETTER DONATIONS
2009	16,300	17,100	(800)	8,300
2008	13,600	13,100	546	8,000
2007	13,200	13,500	(300)	6,600
2006	21,400	25,300	(3,900)	9,200

**OAA THOUGHT FORCE ON RESERVES
HOW SHOULD EXCESS FUNDS BE SPENT?**

This KBDM addresses the third item. Our approach was to break down the THOUGHT FORCE charge into three pieces and perform a KBDM analysis on each:

- How much is a “prudent reserve” is for OAA?
- How should reserve funds be organized and accessed?
- How should excess funds be spent?

This KBDM addresses the third item.

TOPIC: Recommend that the excess funds (\$13,000 – see below for calculation) be held in reserve to fund the Alateen Ohio Transportation when both

- a) regular OAA income does not permit this expenditure and
- b) Ohio Alateen requests it.

Also recommend that a mechanism be established for Action Committees projects to be evaluated, approved and prioritized. Note that in the future, once budget items, short term reserves and long term reserves are funded, OAA will be compelled at year end to plan for spend of excess money; the reserve funds are “not to exceed” recommended numbers.

❖ What We Know

- Historical Perspective
 - This situation occurs now when we are adjusting our budgeting practice.
 - This situation will also occur as the four year average results in lowering of numbers (which will probably happen when 2006 rolls off of the list).
 - No significant money has been spent on special projects in many years.
 - Issues brought for general vote without an agreed upon approval steps and approvals tend to incite controversy.
- KOMIAC is on track to self-fund transportation in approximately 15 years.
Existing motions that pertain to this topic

- Discuss Fall 2010: Add to Area budget \$2,000 for Ohio KOMIAC transportation. Members have voted to support this for past few years.
What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences?
 - Membership supports Alateen in general and specifically has approved support for Ohio Transportation in the past
- Membership wants clear assurances when proposals involve larger amounts of money; current "put a motion on the agenda" tend not to be approved
What do we know about our capacity, resources

Current Reserve	\$ 30,000
Less Proposed Short Term Reserve	-3,500
Less Proposed Long Term Reserve	-13,500
Excess	\$ 13,000

- ❖ What are implications of our choices?
 - PRO
 - Steward our money in a manner that promotes our primary mission to reach out to family and friends of alcoholics, rather than build a nest egg.
 - Continues our support of Alateen endeavors.
 - Will strengthen ties between Ohio Alateen and OAA, encourage Alateens to move on to become Alateen sponsors.
 - CON
 - Does not support Action Committee endeavors
- ❖ What we wish we knew, but don't
 - How do other areas approve spend of larger sums of money?

2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY AND CONVENTIONS

2-DAY FALL ASSEMBLY- Districts of Cincinnati-Theresa M

Please remind all GRs and DRs if they plan on attending the banquet at 2-Day Fall to please send in the banquet form with their money by September 11th. Forms will be in the Ohio AI-A-Notes but are also accessible on our Ohio Website. It will be at the Holiday Inn I-275 Cincinnati 3855 Hauck Rd Cincinnati Ohio 45241. Please make sure you make your room reservations by September 9th.

2-DAY FALL AND CONVENTION/CONFERENCE LIASON- Karen M

I want to thank all Committee Members for their service for the Ohio Area Convention and 2-Day Fall Conferences. Due to my recovery from knee replacement surgery, I would like to apologize for any moments or times that I was unavailable to advise over the past 6 months. Your cooperation in keeping the Assembly informed of your plans for these events was invaluable. Cooperation is the key to unity and a successful event. The 2-Day Fall will be hosted by Cincinnati on October 9-10, 2010. Please remember to make every effort to meet your deadlines so that the Committee has an accurate count and in order for you to get the best rates. The District of Columbus will be hosting the 2-Day Fall in 2011, and the District of Dayton in 2012. The Ohio Area Convention will be hosted by the District of Dayton in 2011, and the District of Youngstown in 2012.

OHIO AREA AL-ANON/ALATEEN CONVENTION 2011- Ed W.

Bill G is the Co-Chairman who suggested having a "Volunteer Coordinator", responsible for helping to get more volunteers to help out with the Committee planning. The committee is leaning towards having it at the Hilton Garden Inn . Tentative dates are June 3-5 or June 17-19. The theme of the convention will be "Sixty Years of Winners". If you are interested in volunteering at please contact Ed W at ewoods5@woh.rr.com. His phone number is 937-371-0282. They are still looking for a Ways and Means Chair and a Treasurer Chair. One person has volunteered to help the Treasurer chair.

2010 OHIO 54th STATE AA SERVICE CONVENTION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION:- Rose R

There were 141 people present to hear the morning lead. There were 550 people at the convention. It was a wonderful time for all those who went.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

There is a Al-Anon Workshop on September 11th 2010 at Belmont United Methodist Church 2701 S Smithville Rd in Dayton, Ohio. The theme: My Program, My Recovery. The time is 10:00 am-3:00 PM. The lead is Doris G who will have 33 years in Al-Anon that week of the workshop. Bring a Dessert or Salad to share. The panel discussion will be: What would you change about Al-Anon?

Gratitude Night in Cleveland Ohio is scheduled for Friday November the 12th. We have a couple coming from Roaming Shores Ohio who will be a recovery delight! The location is St. Malachi Church on Washington Ave in Cleveland Ohio. Doors open at 6:00 and Leads are at 8:00.

North Ridgeville Thursday Caring Al-Anon is sponsoring a Workshop. Located at the First Congregational United Church of Christ at 36363 Center Ridge Rd in North Ridgeville Ohio 44039. Reg. Fee is \$10.00. Fee included Workshop admission, Continental Breakfast, Beverages and afternoon dessert. Date is Saturday November 6th from 9:00 a.m to 3:30 p.m.

Al-Anon Auction in Cleveland is October 17th 2010 located at Mayfield Village Community Room 6621 Wilson Mills Rd. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.-Dinner at 3:00 p.m. Auction at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9 which includes dinner ,admission and tickets for the auction.

OLD BUSINESS

Sandy presented purchase information for the projector and will purchase before 2-day fall. We discussed consideration of an annual contribution to KOMIAC transportation fund eliminating annual motions. More Info. at assembly.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara opened up a dialogue of what members thought we could do to get GRs to assembly's and to pass it on to the next person. Barbara brought up an interesting point. When you volunteer to do a service position it is only a 6 meetings commitment. In the meeting opening, it suggests that a new comer attend at least six meetings before deciding on whether Al-anon is for them. Louise from District 33 expressed concern about Al-Anon meetings not registered in her area. Phil suggested that in his area he found that they combined Al-Anon and AA meeting together using AA literature.

Only about 10% of GRs show up at Assembly. Some suggested that perhaps the funds we have in reserve could be used to help GR;s get to assembly especially with the economy being so poor. Some said that GRs do not see a need to come since their DR is coming. Barbara said that we need to remind GRs that they are the only ones that can vote for motions. DRs cannot vote unless they are also a GR. Barbara asked if anyone has had any success in getting new GRs. Some commented that their groups do not want to hear about service and some groups only allow a few minutes for announcements. One person said that when they chair they have a topic centered around service so at least people will be informed. There was some comments about sharing one's own experience on how service has helped change their lives which may be enough for someone to step up and take a service position on the state level.

DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET Our 2-Day Fall Assembly is October 9 & 10 2010 in Cincinnati

Fall Alateen Rally – Saturday, Oct. 30 in Akron, Ohio

Spring AWSC – March 12, 2011 – 12:30 p.m. North Church of Christ, 2040 W. Henderson Rd., Columbus, Ohio

Spring Assembly – May 14, 2011 – 12:30 p.m. (Action committees meet at 11:00), same location as above

Fall AWSC – August 27, 2011 – 12:30 P.M. same location as above

Fall Assembly – October 8-9, 2011

Barbara asked for a motion to adjourn our meeting. It was unanimous to adjourn .We closed with the Serenity Prayer followed by the Al-Anon Declaration: **Let it begin with me, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon/Alateen always be there and it begin with me.**

Respectfully Submitted , Merri G(Ohio State Secretary)