



OHIO AL-A-NOTES

ISSUE ONE

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AFG of Ohio, PO Box 1024, Hudson, Ohio 44236

www.ohioal-anon.org

*Dear AFG of Ohio Members, The topic for this issue is **What's the news?** Each Officer, Coordinator, and Standing Committee Chairman was asked to give us "the news". Here is THE NEWS and updates:*

From our Delegate: Theresa M

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION -- The 2018 World Service Conference, which I will be attending, will be held in New York and includes a visit to Stepping Stones.

APPROVAL TO BE GIVEN-- Nominees for Regional Trustees, Trustees at Large, Board Officers and At-Large Member of the Executive Committee for Real Property Management will be presented for approval at the World Service Conference. The full listing along with other information is available online on the members site in the January 18, 2018 Chairman of the Board letter.

TEAM/Road Trip-- There will not be any TEAM events this year because of the International Convention, but the next "Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect" will be held at the Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport, Saturday, October 20th.

FINANCES-- The General Fund for AFG, Inc. recorded a loss for 2017 and \$189,600 was transferred from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. Literature sales were up to ~\$186,000, which translated to only a \$53,583 gross profit. Contributions were down 6%, falling short of budgeted projections by \$127,000. Forum subscriptions exceed projections by over 5% (\$14,000) but are sold at cost. End result is that we (AFG, Inc.) ended with a relatively small deficit for 2017.

POLICY UPDATES-- Lots of discussions will be happening at the World Service Conference related to Policy changes and during the open Policy Committee meeting discussion will be held by the Policy Committee about meditation meetings and Policy Committee Interim Action procedures.

WEBSITE: I hope all have had the opportunity to explore our newly designed Members link on the al-anon.org website. More details about all of this can be found on our newly designed al-anon.org website under Board of Trustees.

I am looking forward to attending and learning more as I busily prepare for my role as your representative at the 2018 World Service Conference. In Al-Anon, there IS no standing still, and I will be hitting the ground running.

FROM OUR ALTERNATE DELEGATE: Sandy F

Have you gotten a copy of the new *Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021*? If not, copies can be purchased at one of the local Al-Anon Information Service locations around Ohio. The cost is \$5.00 plus local sales tax. Changes from the previous edition have a black line in the margin next to the section.

In Ohio Area, the Alternate Delegate assists the Delegate with communication to and with Groups, helps Groups who are experiencing some difficulties. So, if you have questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Other duties include: compiles and Edits the Newsletter, and is Chairman of the Membership Outreach Action Committee. (FYI: This year all Action Committees will change members {rotation of service} as we have started a new Panel. Everyone who attends Spring Assembly in May will be given a new assignment. Call or email me if you have questions about Action Committees.)

AREA CHAIRMAN: Karen P

When I think about the many blessings I have received in life, the Al-Anon program, opportunities to be of service, my Al-Anon friends, and family are at the top of the list. The members of the program and a personal Sponsor helped to instill hope and faith into my world. My Sponsor helped nudge or sometimes even push or drag me into being of service to others and then move into service for Al-Anon above group level. For this I will always be grateful. Often, I think about how much growth and love I would have missed without the opportunity to be active at several service levels over the years.

Attending District meeting, intergroup meetings, Assembly and Area World Service Committee first as a guest with my sponsor and then getting involved made the transition into service not only comfortable but almost natural. The strong suggestion to obtain a Service Sponsor who has had experience, strength and hope to share may have been the greatest suggestion ever made for me. In the Al-Anon way we never have to do anything alone nor should we. "Talk things over and reason them out".

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to be of service. I am blessed to be given the opportunity to serve as your Chairman for Panel 58. The chance for my Higher Power to allow me to use many of my past experiences and learned skills to be of service for AFG of Ohio is a privilege. I look forward to working closely with the other elected Officers and our Al-Anon members across Ohio.

Ohio Panel 58 is just getting started. The early part of this year has been working with the officers on filling appointed positions and the transition process. Our trusted servants have been wonderful examples of how using our Al-Anon principles can make this process a lot of fun and productive.

TREASURER: Judy A

Group contributions can be sent to: *AFG of Ohio, PO Box 524, Columbiana, OH 44408-0524*
Please include your group's WSO ID Number, Group Name and District Number on all checks.

SECRETARY: Ginny C

Ending my term as Delegate for Panel 55 was bittersweet as I entered the new year. However, my Higher Power threw me a personal and professional crisis that made me thankful I was not Delegate. Finally, after about seven weeks, the crisis is getting under control and I am returning to my usual workload. Now I can focus better on my duties as Secretary.

AFG of Ohio has an official email address from which this newsletter shall be sent and our official USPS address has been established. Communications can be sent to that address. (Editor's note address is on the first page under the heading.)

ARCHIVES: Phil H

The start of a new 3-year term brings new challenges - the biggest one for me is, "Did I bite off more than I can chew?" In the past, the answer would have been, "Absolutely!" With the help of my program, I've learned that: The word "No" is a complete sentence - I don't have to volunteer for everything; That "Keep It Simple" helps me to remember that breaking down a HUGE task into much more manageable parts means I don't lose my focus; That "How Important Is It?" helps me organize those parts into a more logical order (my first thought was, "Well I guess I don't need to close the barn door after the horse ran away"); and finally, "First Things First" so I'm sure I won't be going back over and repeating the same task(s) later on. Before the program, everything was a crisis and I carried my own personal storm cloud with me. Now, those clouds are gone and the sun is shining!

LITERATURE: Jo S

There will be a commemorative edition of *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (ODAT) (B-6) available for \$15 first at the International and then until the remainder of 2018 until supplies are gone. It will have a ribbon bookmark and a front cover indicating the 50th Anniversary.

GROUP RECORDS: Carmen I

Editor's Note: Group records changes can be sent to her. New AWSC contact sheets will be available at the AWSC meeting in March and Assembly in May.

ALATEEN: (Position is open)

Thinking about becoming an Alateen Sponsor, then the Sponsors Workshop [April 7th] is where to get your questions answered about Alateen Sponsorship. This day is also a time for current Sponsors to get new ideas and have question answered. AMIAS Certification is not required for this event.

The Spring Alateen Rally [April 28th] will be held in Columbus at Ascension Lutheran Church. All Alateen members and Alateen Sponsors are invited to attend this fun fill event. AMIAS certification is required.

Alateen Sponsors: this is a reminder—your recertification is due NOW! Send it to the AAPP.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Kay J

Our founder Lois W, in her book "Lois Remembers," stated: "To act as if AA and Al-Anon were secret societies only increases the idea of shame . . . I believe it to be one of the responsibilities of our Fellowships to try to remove this stigma. . . . If AA and Al-Anon groups do not let the public know of our presence by some means, we block ourselves off from people in need."

What steps could we, in Ohio Area, take to ensure loving, compassionate outreach to "those still suffering?" One idea recently being suggested is for each Al-Anon Area and/or District to solicit members willing to participate in a Public Outreach Speakers Bureau. Those speakers would then be available to carry our message to community groups, churches, schools, prisons, wherever the need may be evident or interest is expressed.

More than an alternate meeting closer, our Declaration is a pledge which states: "*Let It Begin with Me- When anyone anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and - Let It Begin with Me.*"

DISTRICT DOINGS ----

Districts of Toledo

Greetings from Districts 6, 10 and 30, Districts of Toledo! We are starting 2018 with three new District Representatives. Shelly C (District 6), Mary K (District 30) and Lindsay B (District 10) are looking forward to the next three years of service to our Districts.

December was a busy month for our Entertainment Committee who hosted the Children's Christmas party and a holiday luncheon. Attendance at the children's party was down from previous years but the luncheon was a huge success. Members are looking forward to more such luncheons. Food and fellowship were enjoyed and our programs were tested by Al-Anon trivia. Yours in service, Shelly C DR District 6

Districts of Cleveland: Karen P.

The Greater Cleveland Al-Anon Family Groups have had both a Intergroup and a Meeting of Districts since 1960. The Meeting of Districts has been a combined District meeting for all Greater Cleveland Districts. The Greater Cleveland Intergroup has maintained a LDC / AIS physical Office.

Starting January 2017, the two entities began a study group to discuss the possibility of merging to encourage unity, combine efforts in hope of providing a stronger link of service and to update to the WSO guidelines which were written after these groups were formed. The Study group met regularly to discuss the

pros and cons of this idea. A survey was presented to all the groups in the Greater Cleveland Districts. Those who responded encouraged the merger. A location for this possible merged group to meet was investigated and agreed on. The end of 2017 Meeting of District voted for a year trial and then the Intergroup voted in favor of this trial.

January 19, 2018 the first meeting of this merged group took place. The decision had been made to hold this meeting at Rosary Hall part of St Vincent's Medical Center on 22nd St in Cleveland. Rosary Hall was the original meeting site for the Meeting of Districts and the Cleveland Intergroup. A surprise visitor joined us for this meeting. Phil H from Springfield, OH drove up to be a part of this meeting. Phil had attended many of the study group meetings to share his knowledge of non-profit business and share the Al-Anon current guidelines without prejudice.

There will be a period of transition as with any major changes. The hope is to have more members to work together for the greater good of Greater Cleveland Al-Anon as a whole. With Higher Power's help, one monthly meeting to share important Al-Anon information and business, the hope is more groups will send a representative to share their group's voice.

Districts of Columbus: Districts 26, 28, 31, 32, & 33

The AIS Office held an open house for other business with offices within the same location. The building is occupied mostly by professionals serving the needs of families affected by substance abuse problems. The Second Annual Open House for this group is in the planning stage. Open House for members will be in September.

Districts of Dayton: MVAIS - Districts 23, 24, 27, 37, 41 & 57 – Phil H

Miami Valley AIS (Districts of Dayton) was recently notified that a major health fair in Dayton that we've participated in for several years has been canceled by its sponsor. This event drew over 5,000 people to it and was a wonderful opportunity for us to "spread the word" about Al-Anon. However, when one door closes, another door opens. We've received a return invitation to the Clark State Community College Health Fair 2018, scheduled for April 4. We were fortunate to participate in this last year (we were a last minute substitute) and many people, including professionals, came by our space. We're looking forward to another good turnout for this event.

We're, also, into the early planning for the AFG of Ohio Area Convention that will be hosted by MVAIS in 2020. Everyone is excited to have this event returning to the Miami Valley area and people are stepping forward to work on this event already!



Celebrating One Day at a Time



There is still time to register and make hotel reservation for the 2018 International Convention to be held in Baltimore, MD. July 6th -8th. A day of connecting is planned for July 5th. Go to www.al-anon.org for registration and more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- AWSC-- March 24th** North Congregational UCC, 2040 West Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220
- ALATAEEN SPONSORS WORKSHOP – APRIL 7TH** 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, OH 43220
- ALATEEN RALLY- April 28th** Ascension Luthern Church, 1479 Morse Road, Columbus, OH 43229
- SPRING ASSEMBLY- May 19th** 2040 W. Henderson Road, Columbus, OH 43220
- AWSC – August 11th** 2040 w. Henderson Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220
- FALL ASSEMBLY - October 13th -14th**, Double Tree, 6200 Quarry lane, Independence, OH 44131