

2019 SPRING ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The Spring Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, May 18, 2019, at the North Congregational United Church of Christ, 2040 W Henderson Road, Columbus, 43220. Chairman Ginny C. opened the meeting at 12:35 PM with the Serenity Prayer, Barbara Mc., Past Delegate, read the Twelve Traditions; and Jo S., Alternate Delegate, read the Twelve Concepts of Service. The Warranties were read by Chris M., Circle of Hope, Wooster, OH. Ginny C., Chairman, welcomed everyone and explained the voting procedures. Ginny C., Chairman and Theresa M., Delegate, performed a rap which covered the meeting etiquette. Ginny C. read the spiritual principles behind each etiquette rule.

Introductions by Districts were made and the following Districts were represented: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 19, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 45, 47, 48, 51, 56, and 57.

Alternate Delegate, Jo S. and Delegate, Theresa M. recognized and welcomed the 11 new Group Representatives.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Ohio Area Convention: June 14th – 16th, 2019. Crowne Plaza Dublin, 600 Metro Place North, Dublin, OH 43017

AA Convention with AI-Anon Participation: August 16th – 18th, 2019. Holiday Inn Eastgate, 4501 Eastgate Boulevard, Cincinnati, OH 45245

FALL AWSC: August 24, 2019. 1pm – 5pm, 2040 West Henderson Rd. Columbus, OH 43220.

TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY: October 19th and 20th, 2019. Clarion Hotel, 3855 Hauck Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241

Fall Alateen Rally: October 26, 2019. Location to be announced.

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

MINUTES: The 2018 Fall Assembly Minutes were corrected to include 2 paragraphs that were inadvertently left out. A motion was made by Judy C., District 51, Akron to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Sandy F., Past Alternate Delegate, Hilliard, OH. The motion was passed and the minutes were accepted by an affirmation vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report presented by Judy A., Treasurer

2018 End of Year Report (January 2, 2018 to December 31, 2018)

Beginning Balance: as of January 1, 2018	\$40,673.17
Total Income:	22,108.40
Total Expenses	19,917.69
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Money in Bank	\$42,863.88
Assembly Reserve held at Fifth Third Bank	
19 month CD (Matures 5/8/19)	\$10,000.00
19 month CD (Matures 5/8/19)	5,000.00
19 month CD (Matures 5/8/19)	5,000.00
Checking Report – Huntington Bank	22,863.88
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Total Cash on Hand	\$42,863.88

Year to Date Report (January 1, 2019 – May 11, 2019)

Beginning Balance:	\$42,863.88
Income:	4,664.21
Expenses:	-2,613.20
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	\$44,914.89

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 (5/11/2019)	24,914.89
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	\$44,914.89

I have submitted the required Government reports which I have attached to this report for anyone that is interested.

1. I filed electronically the IRS required e-postcard.
2. I have filed, with the Ohio Attorney General, the charitable registration annual report,

Mary G., Triangle AFG, Brookpark, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie C., West Side Women's Saturday AM, AFG, Cleveland. The treasurer's report was accepted by an affirmation vote.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Report presented by Robin R., Akron, for Donna K., Budget Committee Chairman.

I am sorry that I cannot be with you today, due to some upcoming surgery preparations. Thank you, Robin, for handling this report for me.

The Budget Committee got together via a conference call on Sunday, March 10th, 2019, thanks to Ginny C., Delegate. We first checked to see if we were good stewards of our last year's budget and found that we were. We had a surplus of \$625.40 which we designated to Excess Funds as directed by our By-Laws.

We checked over our income which is generated through Group Donations, Plea Letter Contributions, District Donations, AI-A-Notes subscriptions, Voting Registration Money and Interest Accrued from our Reserve Funds which have been invested in CD's. We had an extra \$1,255 to work with this year. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

Next, we replenished some Reserve Fund categories that we knew need to be refilled. We added \$600 to the Acting Past Delegate Fund and increased the Equipment Fund because we know that one of the laptops and printers is aging. We had the money to ensure that the Alateens will have a bus to use to get to KOMIAC in July. We added money to the Project Fund so that smaller Districts could request funds to do Public Outreach.

Lastly, we looked at our Budget Line items and adjusted some like reducing the AI-A-Notes, Budget, and Secretary Money allotment. We saw that we needed to increase the following categories: Postage - because of return mail fees, Delegate and Alternate Delegate fees- because of upcoming meetings, Group Records, Insurance - due to a rate increase. Meeting Expenses and Travel - due to rising gas and hotel cost. So we made those adjustments.

Are there any questions or comments?

- Acting Past Delegate Reserve Fund– what do they do and why do they need funding? - They do service that requires funding (IE: traveling to meetings, travel funds, meeting expenses, presentation expenses, etc.).
- Is there money in the budget for a Group Records Coordinator computer? - Yes, there has been money in the budget for a new computer for the Group Records Coordinator. It's one of the reasons the equipment budget was increased.
- Addiction Study Institute – Public outreach to professionals started in 2009. We have been doing funding for the last few years to see about the addiction in Ohio. It is separately funded.
- Public Outreach vs. Addiction Outreach. Are they the same or different? - They are different.
- How does a small group apply for the public outreach funds? - Via the Public Outreach Coordinator but the funding approval must come from the Budget Committee according to our handbook. If it is above \$300.00, then the assembly has to approve it (page 16/44).

A motion was made by Mary Ellen R., Hubbard Friday Night AFG to accept the Budget as presented after the explanation of some line items. The motion was seconded by Julie C., West Side Women's Saturday AM, AFG, Cleveland. The motion passed by an affirmation vote.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE AND AL-A-NOTES EDITOR REPORT: Report presented by Jo S., Delegate

North Central Regional Delegates Meeting (NCRDM) – held on March 15th through March 17th.

As the new Alternate Delegate, this was my first time experiencing how the World Service Conference (WSC) works. Some of the things that stood out for me are:

Some of the tools available to me in my service position that was so helpful. For example, I was able to download (and save on my computer) the World Service Office (WSO) website. One of the past delegates did a presentation showing how easy it was to get to that website and all the information that was available there. The one item that jumped out was how easy WSO makes it for any of us to make a donation.

On the homepage, there is a list of areas you can go to; one of these is contributions. When I click on this page, it starts out with the 7th Tradition (which I love). Then you click on: I am an AI-Anon member. The next page gives you all the ways you can donate to World Service Office (WSO). You can do contributions by credit card or by a PayPal Account. Because I have a PayPal account set up, it took me under 5 minutes to set up a monthly donation to WSO. Too easy! You can also use a credit card and do a one-time payment or recurring as you want.

At this time, our area does not have this set up and donations are still mailed, but this may be something we want to look at in the future.

There was so much to take in and since at this time, I am a non-voting member, I was able to sit and absorb it all. The other thing I would like to share is something we talk about a lot and that is US Mail vs electronic. The future is electronic and our trusted servants in the future will need to have knowledge of that technology.

AI-A-Notes - The Spring edition of the AI-A-Notes was sent out in April and has been posted to the website. I did get some sharings – Thank you. The next edition will be going out in August and the deadline for submissions will be July 15, 2019. This is a great way to share what is going on in your district and see what else is happening as well.

There is a notebook on the table where I placed some newsletters from other areas. Feel free to take a look; it is very interesting to see what other areas are doing.

2019 DELEGATES REPORT: Report presented by Theresa M., Delegate

This spring Assembly I am going to do things differently. So that we can have more of a dialogue, I will be asking members to engage in some discussions during the course of my report – which probably means I will not be able to do the entire report with the power point portion. The entire report will be on the website.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE 2019 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE (WSC)

I will start with several quotes that I have taken from the 2018 International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) Summary which I encourage all to read on Al-Anon.org.

Rosie M., Trustee-at-Large and Chairperson of the International Coordination Committee in her opening remarks said. “Our common bond, described in our Third Tradition, reflects that we are affected by someone else’s drinking. Al-Anon is a unique fellowship that unites members of different backgrounds, races, and walks of life in an inspiring endeavor. We may speak different languages, but we are united by that common bond, and, therefore, we are connected from the heart.”

She ended with a quote from page 167 of Lois Remembers (B-7): “We get something at these huge, unique gatherings that cannot be gained in any other way. The combined emotional impact of so many people believing and striving for the same ideals is felt by everyone and brings a rich kind of joy.”

This years’ experience brought me that “rich kind of joy” and was filled with demonstrations of our spiritual principles of **unity, respect, participation and harmony, mutual trust, service, and responsibility.**

As the result of decisions made from additional discussion and information gathered at the 68th World Service Conference (WSC), our 69th greatest group conscience and business meeting became our first ever Trilingual World Service Conference. The professional French and Spanish translators performed an excellent and much needed service to several of our Delegates and our International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM) representative from Mexico. While it took a little while to get use to the background murmur of the simultaneous interpretation that was occurring, it ended up helping many of us feel more spiritually connected to the principles of participation, unity, respect and dignity.

I don’t know what WSC was like in the past, but in my two years, we have been invited to listen in on Board Meetings. This year we were invited to listen to two open Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings (including the annual meeting at the end of conference) and one Open Policy Board Meeting. We were invited to participate in the discussions of the Electronic Meeting Working Group (EMWG), Policy and Handbook Changes as well as the Board’s Mega Issue. We also participated in two Chosen Agenda Item (CAI) breakout groups and one full World Service Conference (WSC).

FINANCIAL MATTERS

I want to do a very quick summary of what I took from the financial reports. For those of you who wish more detail, I can email complete printouts of the 2018 Audit and printouts of the Audit and Budget Presentations that we received at the World Service Conference (WSC) from our Director of Finance and Operations (Niketa). Financial details of WSC can be read in each of the WSC summaries as well as the full Audit Reports and Tax information on Al-Anon.org under the Members>WSO >Financial Information <https://Al-Anon.org/for-members/wso/financial-information/>

To summarize all that was accomplished last year:

- Strong year for literature sales
- Contributions consistent with prior years.
- Successful International Al-Anon Convention
- New literature introduced during the year
- Resources were allocated to technology and innovation
- Hosted the International Al-Anon General Service Meeting (IAGSM)

Of note: The independent auditor issued an “unmodified” opinion for our 2018 financials which is the highest opinion possible.

Four times a year your Group’s Current Mailing Address (CMA) receives a **Quarterly Appeal Letter** which lists all that your abundant giving has provided to keep our fellowship moving forward. Shown on

the second page of the letter is how WSO serves each of us and our groups in many ways: This cost to the WSO in 2018 was \$292.39 per group.

2018 Contributions to WSO: Total service structure and individual giving was slightly less than the \$2,000,000 that was budgeted for in 2018, though it was still one of our best years. In Ohio, 57.9% of the groups donated with an average donation of \$ 101.89. (This includes the appeal letter donations). This amount was less than last year, but because of an increase in individual and structure contributions, Ohio did contribute a total of \$ 6106 more than last year.

The **Finance Committee** (P-24/27, World Service Manual pp205-206) is charged with “seeing that our World Service Organization (WSO) operation remains financially sound, always aligning the use of our money with the spiritual principles of our program” The budget communicates in financial terms our spiritual principles, priorities and dreams for the next year and into the future in accordance with the Board’s Strategic Plan.

WSO’S 2019 Deficit Budget.

It is termed a deficit budget because projected expenses are more than projected revenue in spite of the 4% transfer from the **Reserve Fund**

Income:

Our largest sources of revenue are literature sales and contributions. Literatures sales are projected to be smaller than last year when we introduced our newest book. *If every group would increase their donation by \$8, we would reach our budgeted 2019 contributions of \$2,050,000.* Let’s think about our spiritual principles such as **responsibility, trust, abundance, and unity**. Let’s discuss this in our Group Business Meetings, making use of a previous WSC handout – “Spirituality in Group Finances” as well as the pages on Group Finances/Budget (pp55-56) in P-24/27.

Other income is from the sale of the Forum and transfers from our investments and as needed from our Reserve Fund. As a reminder, we keep an ample reserve to cover up to one year of operating expenses should we fall on hard times and any special projects approved by the Board of Trustees.
Warranty One in P24/27

Our Director of Finance and Operations (Niketa) reports to the Finance Committee and At-Large Members of the Executive Committee each month. She reports directly to the full Board at each of the quarterly Board Meetings.

- The reserve account (and relevant market conditions) are included in each report
- Our market portfolio is one of moderate risk with respect to growth and income and contains nothing related to the alcohol industry.

Expenses:

Expenses are all those related to carrying out our message of help and hope to those affected by someone’s alcoholism (that is, those items that enhance our programs and goals, and address strategic plan initiatives), and include all the operating costs of having the clearing house World Service Office (WSO): salaries/benefits; printing and postage, occupancy, office services/expense; travel and meetings, Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Overall expenses have been budgeted to increase because of interpretation services at the WSC, strategic plan initiatives including creation of a mobile app, advanced meeting search, improving the translation backlog, increased travel and meetings.

Quick Finance Update: While literature sales remain higher than expected during this first quarter of the year, contributions are down. Please remember that it is our members giving in gratitude and abundance that provides for the functioning of the WSO.

WELCOMING POTENTIAL NEWCOMERS SKIT

This was presented by a task force at World Service Conference (WSC). I found it to be a good portrayal of how we need to be aware of a newcomer’s autonomy and dignity when they come to a meeting. I have found that in my Southwest corner of Ohio that some members on the answering service

are telling potential newcomers that they may not attend a closed meeting because of their loved one's heroin addiction. It is up to the individual to decide whether they want what Al-Anon has to offer. We explain that we focus on the solution and not the problem at meetings. I would like this to start a discussion on how your meetings and local answering services respond to such suffering people. In the Policy Committee update in the April COB letter:

There was a follow-up to a policy discussion in January 2018 finding that the terminology "Open/Closed" was not consistent with our spiritual principles of confidentiality and anonymity, nor welcoming to newcomers. The Executive Committee approved a motion to use the wording "Families and Friends only" and "Families, Friends, and Observers welcome" to replace "Closed" and "Open," respectively, to identify meeting attendees on the AFG Electronic Meeting Registration/Update Form. The change in wording was to be used on a trial basis for six months prior to making a recommendation to the Board regarding implementation of this change on the Group Records forms. After review of materials and discussion, the Policy Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees "to end the trial and update the language permanently on both the Electronic Meeting Registration/Update form and Group Records forms." This recommendation was accepted by the Board.

The following items were brought up during the discussion following the SKIT:

- 40-50% of people who came into Al-Anon for a drug addiction and then later found out they had an alcohol problem too.
- It "compromises" meetings when you add "addict" to the meeting.
- Al-Anon is about your own recovery.
- We need to be open-minded and get the meetings to focus on us.
- I needed to be here [Al-Anon] before I met the alcoholic/addict.
- Often the drug of choice is "more"
- Open vs Closed Meetings – Some people are being told they can't go to a closed meeting if they don't have a friend or a family member that is an alcoholic.
- We can't be all things to all people. We have to try to keep the program pure.
- I came to Al-Anon because of an addiction issue and then I found out that I should stay because of alcohol problem.
- You come to Al-Anon for yourself, not because of the alcohol or a drug.
- History: Lois and Anne didn't just deal with alcohol; they dealt with alcohol and drugs both of which Bill and Bob's had problems with.
- Newcomers come when they need to come.
- Newcomers come to stop the pain.
- Children and drug use:
 - ? drug intolerance
 - Nar-Anon not present
- Not necessary to mention why we are here.
- Need acceptance:
 - All newcomers are welcome with unconditional love.

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CHOSEN AGENDA ITEMS (CAL):

These were items chosen by the Conference Leadership Team after submission from Delegates, Trustees and WSO Staff. Out of 94 voting Conference members, 73 (17 from Panel 57, 20 from Panel 58, 18 from Panel 59, 12 Trustees, 2 At-Large Executive Committee members, and 4 Staff members) voted to discuss two topics in breakout sessions.

- **Electronic/Virtual Meetings**

How can we step out of our comfort zone—in this case face-to-face District and Area business meetings—and incorporate electronic participation?

- **Encouraging Service**

Back to Basics—Supporting Group Growth: The group is fundamental; it is the basic unit of our fellowship. What are some ways we can support group growth?

How to encourage service in your Area: How can we encourage older and newer members in our Areas to participate in service?

What are some ways we can increase new member participation?

How can we address the issue of gaps in the links of service?

The following topic for discussion by the whole conference was chosen by the Board of Trustees (BOT's) as it continues to frequently come up in correspondence with the World Service Office (WSO).

- **Topic: Whether or not a group that has a period of meditation or quiet time as part of its format is following the Legacies.**

Does a group violate the Traditions when it includes meditation as part of its meeting format? Is holding a period of meditation as part of the meeting format an appropriate exercise of group autonomy through its group conscience? What can a group do to assist and advise newcomers should a group use meditation during their meeting?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2019 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect: Doubletree Hotel at Seattle SEATAC on Saturday, October 19. Information to attend will appear "In the Loop" and on the member's website in the future.
- 2020 Road Trip will be October 31st. Do we want to try again?! Deadline for application Sept 13,2019
- 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous; July 2-5, 2020 Detroit, Michigan
- 2023 International AI-Anon Convention – Albuquerque, New Mexico
- TEAM Events – See Chairman of the Board Letter – 5 left: 2 in Canada, one SC, one NY, one PA. There will be no more TEAM Events scheduled for 2020 as the Board is evaluating if this is the best way to continue to have effective interaction with members.

POLICY COMMITTEE "...it is the responsibility of the World Service Office (WSO) Policy Committee to make statements that interpret and encourage use of the Traditions and Concepts. After approval by the Board of Trustees and the World Service Conference, these statements are set forth in the Policy Digest." *P24/27 p 83*

After review of material sent both before the Conference and during presentations at Conference, and then with some additional changes made, motions were made and approved to accept the revisions to statements on Concept 5 and Alateen Policy. These were made for clarification with no change in interpretation of policy. They will appear online in the Handbook when final style and edit have been done.

Please continue to read about Policy Updates that will be listed in each Quarterly Report. There is a review of the decisions made and a discussion of further things to be reviewed and changed in the April 2019 Policy Update at al-non.org Members> Board of Trustees.

BYLAWS for AFG Headquarters, Inc. These have been revised as per changes in federal law, reviewed by legal counsel and are now in effect. Note the spelling is now without a hyphen. They will be in the 2018 WSC Summary. Read more about this in the April 2019 Policy update on al-non.org.

MEGA ISSUE

Once again, the Board of Trustees (BOT) used the DeBono Hat method to start a discussion of a Hybrid WSC (which is defined as a "live" in-person event at a physical location with a "virtual" online component). No decision has been made – this was just the start of a conference wide discussion to gather information on possibilities, pros and cons.

ELECTRONIC MEETING WORKD GROUP (EMWG)

A letter (reviewed by legal counsel) is being sent to non-registered electronic meetings that will invite these meetings to register with the World Service Office (WSO) so they can continue using the AI-Anon name or logo. There will be a social media guideline coming this year keeping the WSO sites as the only public site for public comment - stressing our principles of confidentiality and anonymity.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT THE WORLD SERVICE OFFICE (WSO)

In addition to implementing Asana, a new software program, organizational changes have been implemented at the WSO since January that is believed to be critical to achieving the vision for AFG, Inc. Historically, the WSO was organized hierarchically, which created a small funnel through which all decisions needed to flow. While previous organizational structure changes “flattened” decision-making somewhat, Staff determined there was more to do. Since January, our senior leadership Staff teams have been restructured to delegate specific decision-making responsibility and authority as described in Concept Two. There are now three leadership teams:

The Staff Management Team whose purpose is to:

- Manage Staff to enable the WSO to execute the Strategic Plan Strategies and action plans as committed to the Executive Committee and Board; and
- Oversee the Performance Evaluation process and Staff communications, e.g. planning the agenda for monthly Staff Meetings, etc.

The Strategic Leadership Team whose purpose is to:

- Deliver the strategic priorities of AFG, Inc. as defined by the Goals and Objectives established by the Board, defining annually the highest priority Strategies based on the approved Strategic Plan; and
- Make necessary organizational recommendations to achieve the priorities.

The Staff Policy Implementation Round Table whose purpose is to:

- Triage problems related to application of AI-Anon’s policy, referring matters to the Policy Committee when necessary; and
- Determine necessary revisions to and additional WSO Service materials required.

These changes were made after consultation with the Executive Committee and the Board. They have allowed the WSO Staff to increase throughput as necessary to meet the expectations of the Board and our fellowship.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The World Service Office (WSO) is currently seeking a member with five years in AI-Anon who also has professional Spanish Copy Editor/Translator experience to work remotely on a part-time contract basis for the WSO. Information is available on the AI-Anon.org website under “Employment” at the bottom of the page.

<https://AI-Anon.org/employment-at-AI-Anon/>

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA):

WSO will be replacing Jack & Samantha with the new PSAs soon.

One version was built using the previous formats featuring a 40-something white female concerned about their spouse's drinking (which is aligned with the most common newcomer demographic according to the 2018 Membership Survey). We refer to this version as the **Champion**.

The other version is using questions from the three 20-Questions with a wider range of images to display our diversity – the **Challenger**.

Both English versions have different phone number and special web addresses to allow WSO to determine which version is more successful in generating visits to our WSO websites and calls to the toll-free meeting line.

The broadcast quality PSAs will be distributed directly to many radio and TV stations in early August. Area PO Coordinators will be receiving the distribution list in the next couple weeks once it's finalized. And members can use the non-broadcast quality version at District Meetings, AIS meetings, special events, and show to schools, broadcast outlets, etc. Contact our PO Coordinator (or myself) for the mp4 files.

Approaching a station not on the list is considered "cold calling." This may be outside some people's comfort zone, but it is a necessary element to help broaden awareness of our program. The steps would look something like this:

- Search online for radio and TV stations in your locality
- Get the station name, address and phone number
- Call the station and ask for the contact information of the person responsible for playing PSAs
- Ask to setup a short meeting with them to introduce them to Al-Anon and to play the PSAs for them
- Ask them if they would play the PSAs
- If yes, then get the best email address and complete the PSA request on al-anon.org
<https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/outreach-to-the-publicmedia/psa-requests/>

Again, I would like to thank the Assembly for allowing me to participate in this vital part of our worldwide fellowship.

A motion was made to accept Theresa's full Delegate's report in the minutes by Sabreena E., Friday night AFG, Springfield and was seconded by Mickie G., Happiness and Acceptance, AFG, Akron. An affirmation vote was accepted and the Delegate's report was placed in the minutes in its entirety.

DISCUSSION ON ENCOURAGING SERVICE:

- How can we encourage older and newer members in our AREAS to participate in Service?
 - Ask them.
 - Service Workshops/Personal Connections
 - Stop ignoring that Al-Anon is a life and death situation
 - Service Workshops – make it fun. Invite them and they pick them up for the meeting.
 - Remind old members to teach younger members.
 - Approach others for service.
- What are some ways we can increase new member participation?
 - Share the load
 - Teach them how to do things.
- How can we address the issue of gaps in the links of service?
 - Give positive reports from the assembly
 - Get accurate email addresses

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Lee R., Registration Committee Chairman
Spring Assembly, May 19, 2019

Attendance: Voting GR's	52
Includes 11 new GR's	
Others	20
Total	72

Total Dollars (52x5.00)	\$260.00
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Motion was made by Sabreena E., Keep it Simple AFG, Akron, to accept the registration as counted; Mickie G., Happiness and Acceptance AFG, Akron, seconded the motion.

THOUGHT AND TASK FORCE PRESENTATIONS:

Thought Force: Whether to keep Action Committees as stated in the current Handbook; if no what is the suggestion to do instead? (Fellowship Outreach) Presented by Ann F., Genoa Giving and Getting AFG,

Framing: Action Committees haven't worked and we want to try something different.

Background Information:

What we know: Action Committees have not served the purpose of strengthening AI-Anon, increasing attendance and participation,

Historical Perspective:

Existing Motions that pertain to this topic: None

What do we know about our members or prospective member's wants, needs and preferences that are relevant to this discussion: Boring and worthless. Need something that works.

What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of organization relative to this issue? Not applicable.

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion? Not applicable

What do we wish we knew but don't? Length of time action committees have existed.

Need for a motion? Form a Task Force to revise the Handbook regarding discontinuing the Action Committees and suggest option for Assemblies in the future

Task Force: Develop an Area wide public outreach poster, develop a business card, and bands for AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism. (Public Outreach): Presented by Mickie G., Happiness and Acceptance AFG, Akron for Kay

Since the fall of 2018 the Task Force has been working on and developing ideas for a public outreach poster to distribute in the Ohio Area.

We have narrowed the ideas down to three ideas. These ideas will be given to our graphic artist to electronically design.

This part of the project will be completed by August 2019

Task Force: The future of AI-A-Notes Newsletter Exchanges and Subscriptions. Presented by Jo S., Alternate Delegate and AI-A-Notes Editor

Jo S. is the chairperson but there are no committee members at present. Jo has asked that any volunteers come forth. It will be just a Task force of Electronic vs. Mail for the Exchanges and Subscriptions. The following members volunteered: Sabreena E., Keep it Simple, Akron, Fred S., Cleveland Family of Choice AFG, and Diane M., Tiffin Tuesday Night AFG.

Thought Force: Improving/Changing the AWSC Meeting Theresa M. is the chairperson, The following volunteered: Cheryl B., Niles Wednesday Night AFG, Joni F., The New Beginnings AFG, Portsmouth and Jo S., Alternate Delegate.

Thought Force: Addressing the possible updating of our Ohio Service Profile Presented by Theresa M., Delegate

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 a simple 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 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 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 funding to do more extensive background checks as needed. 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?

(As Delegate I do not see much participation on the AFG Connects by Ohio Trusted Servants – this does not mean they are not reading the correspondence, but I do not see questions posted or answers to questions given)

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: We are responsible for how we choose to set up our assembly functions – to provide the best service for all of our members in accountable, easily understood process

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?

Thought Force: Developing a Process for Selecting a Candidate for Regional Trustee; Presented by Theresa M.

Framing:

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 member’s portion of the WSO website.

<https://AI-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.**”

Background:

Each Area is invited to name a candidate for their Regional Trustee every three years. Ohio is a member of the US North Central Region (IA, IL-N, IL-S, IN, MI, MS-N, MS-S, OH, WI & UPI) which underwent the process in 2018 for selecting candidates for 2019 US North Central Regional Trustee and will be doing so again in 2021 for 2022, 2024 for 2025, 2027 for 2028 . . .etc.

The *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* has information on Regional Trustees and their place in the service structure:

“The Board of Trustees is composed of seven to 21 volunteer members: one sustaining member (the Executive Director), Trustees at Large and **Regional Trustees.**” *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, P-24/27, p. 158*

“The Trustees, along with the members of the Executive Committee, direct the business operations of the World Service Office, observing the By-Laws of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. They are concerned with guarding the legal rights of the Al-Anon fellowship against those who may try to profit from our ever-growing public acceptance; with protecting our principles from distortion and dilution; and in general, with acting as the chief service arm of the World Service Conference. The Board serves as guardian of our Twelve Traditions, our Twelve Concepts of Service and the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter. The role of the Board is explained in the descriptive text of Concept Seven (“The Trustees have legal rights while the rights of the Conference are traditional”)” *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual, P-24/27, p. 169*

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.

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.

-Members want qualified candidates, but more people than we are currently aware of could be qualified.

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 about all the various possibilities for service at the world service level.

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. *Concept 4: Participation is the key to harmony*
- Members would be able to approach eligible candidates in a timely manner. *Concept 9: Good personal leadership is a necessity. In the field of world service, the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.*

- Have a process in place demonstrates that the Area is showing Unity, Responsibility and Mutual Trust

Con: None noted.

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

-Will having a written process really increase member's knowledge of the need to be involved in selecting a Regional Trustee candidate?

-Will it increase the number of willing and qualified candidates?

ASSIGN NEW THOUGHT AND TASK FORCES

What to do to encourage groups who are isolated in Ohio Area to get connected and participated has been moved to a Task Force. The Membership Outreach Committee will continue to work on the Task Force. Jo S., Alternate Delegate will chair. Volunteers: Sara M., Alateen Coordinator, Rhea L., Sabreena E., Karen D., Jules M., and Deana M..

Should we keep the Action Committees as stated in the current Handbook; if no what is the suggestion to do instead has been moved to a Task Force. The Fellowship Communications Action Committee will continue to work on the Task Force.

The future of AI-A-Notes has been moved to a Task Force.

Service Profile has been moved to a Task Force. If interested, contact Theresa M., Delegate.

Volunteers: Barbara Mc., Past Delegate, Mary C., Monday Night AFG, Copley, and Ginny C., Chairman.

Procedure for Selecting a RT candidate has been changed to a Task Force. If interested contact Theresa M., Delegate

Volunteers: Barbara M., Past Delegate and Ginny C., Chairman

Task Force needed for Alateen Policy Changes: Chairperson – Sharon B. Volunteers: Sara M.

COORDINATOR REPORTS:

ALATEEN: Report presented by Sara M., Alateen Coordinator

Recent events:

Sponsor workshop: April 13, Westlake, Ohio. Great attendance! Split the group for the beginning portion to allow new/prospective AMIAS to ask questions and go over paper work more in depth while allowing existing AMIAS to discuss current group issues, bank account, etc.

Rally: April 27; Columbus, Ohio. There was a small turnout for the teens; their numbers continuing to struggle. Rocky River Group hosted the Rally and all enjoyed. Sponsors discussed renewal paperwork and KOMIAC group issues. They also discussed Founder's Day presence and possible presence at Ohio area convention.

Upcoming:

Founders Day—Alateen presence on Saturday only, June 8 2019

KOMIAC: July 26–28 2019, Adrien Michigan. We will likely only need 1 bus due to low numbers (maybe a smaller size bus as Toledo plans to drive). We are still waiting on registration packets, and received minutes for last three months in 5/13/19.

Other news: Tina L, Past Alateen Coordinator switched over bank account allowing for us to transfer "ownership" of account to current positions of Alateen Coordinator (Sara M), AAPP (Sharon B.), and designated Transportation (Gary J). Next step is to go into Huntington to sign new signature card and switch over online banking info. Plan is to send out quarterly statements to all AMIAS and treasurer. Also all signers will have access to account info, ability to set up text/email alerts and view account online. The online sign-in info will also be given to Ohio Area Treasurer.

—Continued investigation with Karen P. regarding funds from account; active warrant issued. We continue to wait to hear back from insurance company regarding ability to regain funds.

New Items from World Service related to Alateen Service. Will need a task force. See attached item.

Alateen appreciates all AI-Anon's support and donations over the years and encouraged you as individuals and groups to always remember our youngest members of the program when making decisions and considering donations.

ARCHIVES: Presented by Phil H., Archives Coordinator

My thanks to Theresa for this item from the World Service Conference:

Archives are giving high priority to digitally transferring materials into the cloud. Cloud storage improves search ability, expands capacity, and offers greater data redundancy, reducing the risk of any loss. Cloud storage preserves the material, expands capacity, and improves search ability.

The "Most Meaningful Friendship" sharing, which appeared in the Lois W. memorial issue of the March 1989 issue of The Forum, has been posted in the Archives tab of the WSO website folder. The story was written by Hildegard V., Past Forum Editor. This article supplements other historical materials about AI-Anon and our co-founders that are available online for free as downloadable PDF files. Members now have this article as well as PDF files of AI-Anon's Cofounders (P-87, SP-87, and FP-87) and the AI-Anon, Then and Now (AR-2, SAR-2, and FAR-2) pamphlets available as handouts when showing AI-Anon's two historical videos, Lois's Story and Lois W. and the Pioneers to the fellowship.

Work on sorting and collating of the archives continues. All Assembly and Convention materials are now done, again with a lot of duplicates, triplicates & more being eliminated, reducing the actual size of our archives.

Thoughts:

1. What is the cloud and is it secure?
2. The cloud is only as secure as the protection on it.
3. The ability to do it is a big job. It's a big job to scan

FORUM: Presented by Sandy F. for Alison G., Forum Coordinator

Every month The Forum has a new edition, the stories can grab ahold of me, move me, gives me hope day and night. It can easily be folded up and taken with you. If something has moved you, write it down and send it to The Forum.

GROUP RECORDS: Presented by Shelly C., Group Records Coordinator

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

611 Meetings listed

- 472 Active meetings
 - 87 Beginners meetings
 - 385 AFG meetings
- 106 Inactive meetings

In Area 44 (Ohio Database) there are:

4 meetings in No Mail Status

- Chardon Care And Share AFG District 45
- Zollinger Road AFG District 31
- Carry The Message AFG
- District 28
- 4th Step Journey AFG District 34

3 meetings in Bounced Email status

- Paths to Recovery AFG District 5
- Monday Night AFG (Sandusky AIS) District 12
- Monday Middy AFG District 33

3 meetings reported not meeting

- Recovery Too AFG (Miami Valley AIS) District 23
- Tools for Recovery District 25
- Me Too Women's ACOC District 38

23 meetings marked for deletion

In addition there are:

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

LITERATURE: Presented by Ann F., Literature Coordinator

- ***Just for Tonight Bookmark (M-81)*** was introduced in March and has already gone into a second printing. The bookmark, like *Just for Today (M-12)* is ten cents each. An insert order form was included in the April issue of *The Forum*. Please send us your review of the bookmark and encourage others to do so as well. Then we can share what you've said about it with the fellowship through *The Forum*, *In the Loop*, and other WSO newsletters on our website.
- ***Intimacy in Alcoholic Relationships*** is now available in English, French, and Spanish. If your Area includes French- and Spanish- speaking groups, please let us know.
- **"CAL Corner" Topics:** This department is featured each month in *The Forum* magazine. It contains members' sharings on how a particular piece of literature has enhanced their recovery. The April articles feature *Hope & Understanding for Parents & Grandparents (P-94)*. May's celebrating the 40th anniversary of *Understanding Ourselves & Alcoholism (P-48)* and June's focus is on *Opening our Hearts, Transforming our Losses*.
- **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)*, *Hope and Understanding for Parents & Grandparents (P-94)* ... *In All Our Affairs (B-15)*, *Living for Today in Alateen* and *As We Understood ...* Please see the writing guide in "CAL Corner" in the Guidelines and Procedures folder under the "Library" folders in the Literature Coordinator Community.
- **Writing about CAL for Area Newsletters:** Please use your Area newsletter to share what your members are doing to spread the word about CAL or to publish their reviews of various CAL books and pamphlets.

2020 Calendar Quotations: WSO provides CAL quotations that service arms are able to use in fundraising calendars without needing to seek written permission for them. In March the WSO posted 20 quotations for use in the 2020 calendars on the Announcements community of AFG Connects. If service arms submit reprint permission requests for use in calendars, they will be asked to send from the 20 quotations instead.

Trilingual Service Manual: After a thorough review of the remaining effort required to complete major revision to the "Handbook" section of the Service Manual, starting with the 2017 WSC approved "Handbook" changes, and to incorporate the changes approved by the 2019 World Service Conference within the "Concepts", "Handbook," and "Policy Digest" sections, **WSO will deliver the trilingual Version Two (2) Service Manual online on November 25th**

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Presented by Sandy F for Kay J.
The "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2019" publication is still available. Orders will be shipped as they are received, and you can expedite your processing by ordering on-line at: www.Al-Anon.org/orderafa.

Results of the 2018 Al-Anon Membership Survey Summary are now available as a free PDF on the WSO website:

<https://Al-Anon.org/pdf/Membership-Survey.pdf>.

There are two versions of the new 2019 Public Service Announcements (PSA's) - one is of broadcast quality and will be sent to radio and TV stations on the distribution list, which unfortunately is not yet available. The second version is of lower quality, but would be suitable for viewing and sharing during group meetings and/or district gathering/events.

The Fact Sheet for Professionals has been revised and may be ordered in hard copy or accessed as free PDF files in electronic format in the Resources for Professional page of the WSO website: Al-Anon.org/resources-for-professionals

Theresa M. had the English Versions of the two new Public Service Announcements (PSA's) played for the Assembly and shared the some information about them.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON (AAPP): Presented by Sharon B

Here is the status of the Area Alateen Process in Ohio as of October 6, 2018:

- 25 Active Alateen Groups in Ohio. This is up 3 since Fall Assembly.
- 73 Al-Anon member involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) – Certified through 2019. That is up 7 since Fall Assembly.
- A list of each has been sent to the Ohio Alateen Coordinator for reference.
- A reminder that the PO BOX for submitting applications is PO BOX 984 Twinsburg, OH 44087

I recently attended a conference call/webinar training AAPPs on the recertification process of AMIAS and Alateen Groups. Recertification is required for AMIAS and Alateen Groups based on a 2003 Alateen Motion that was passed.

AMIAS RECERTIFICATION 2019

Anyone who was processed as an AMIAS after 12/31/2018 will not be included in this year's recertification and is valid until 6/30/2020.

I will be sending an email to all current AMIAS to let them know the steps required to recertify. At this time 26 AMIAS have sent their recertifications and 47 are still remaining, (I received 20 in the mail today with only 27 remaining due by 6/1.)

I have received several requests for AMIAS to have the list of all AMIAS in the state so that they can connect. I cannot provide this, and neither can anyone in our OH Area without all AMIAS agreeing to this in advance. This is because we are still required to provide anonymity.

ALATEEN GROUP RECERTIFICATION 2019

WSO will be mailing the Group Recertification out to the Group CMA (Current Mailing Address) in early April with Instructions. Even if there are no changes, please complete the form and return it to ensure accuracy.

RECOMMENDED UPDATES to our AMIAS Application Packet from WSO Group Records.

I have a list of recommended changes to make to our AMIAS Application Packet. The packet is an addendum to the Handbook. I have a copy of those recommended changes for everyone's review.

Finally, I have a print out of details for each District, Group and AMIAS if you wanted to verify with me for accuracy. You can reach me via my email sharonbserenity@yahoo.com or aapp@ohioAI-Anon.org

I apologize for any delays in response over the last few months, a great deal of personal and professional activity impacted my response time. I am grateful for a program where perfection is not required.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Presented by Phil H., Archives Coordinator for Buff N.
All changes passed at the 2018 Two-Day Fall Assembly have been incorporated into the Bylaws and Handbook.
Three references to "Compliance Liaison," "Compliance Committee" have been deleted and replaced with "Area Chairman," as those changes were specified in previous amendments.
One reference to "Guidelines Committee" was deleted and replaced with "Handbook Committee Chairman."
My thanks to Phil for presenting this report for me. I'm a bit "under the weather," with a cold. I plan on seeing all of you at the Two Day Fall Assembly.

OHIO AREA CONVENTION AND TWO DAY FALL LIASON: - Presented by Sandy F.

- Clarion Hotel on Hauck Rd. in Cincinnati
- October 19-20 with rooms being reserved for Friday Night.
- \$103.69 + tax per night
 - Make reservations directly with the Hotel
 - Continental Breakfast included
 - 1-4 per room
- Banquet is buffet - \$30.00
 - Reservations required
 - Vegan and gluten free choices are available
 - Make checks out to: GCIS and needs mailed by 9/21.

OAC 2020

- District of Miami Valley
- In progress

Fall Assembly 2020

- District of Columbus
- In progress
- Election of officers and coordinators for Panel 61

OAC 2021

- District of Youngstown

Fall Assembly 2021

- District of Miami Valley

Thought Force: Perhaps a thought force is needed to address possible changes to schedule.

WEBSITE Presented by Mike K., Website Coordinator
The report is attached to the end of the minutes.

CONVENTION AND ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Road Trip: A motion was made to submit an application for the 2020 Road Trip by Sandy F., Heal A Non, Hilliard and Phil H., Friday Night AFG, Springfield, seconded the motion. The motion passed via an affirmation vote.

2018 TWO DAY FALL ASSEMBLY REPORT – CLEVELAND: Presented by Julie C., Westside Woman's Saturday AM AFG, Cleveland

The 2 day Fall Assembly was held at the Hilton Double Tree in Independence Ohio on October 13-14, 2018.

My Team consisted of: Debbie B. who provided her hospitality expertise and was the primary hostess during the weekend, and Miranda P. and Judy M. who assisted Friday evening. Jan S. who assisted Friday evening and was my backup Saturday while I attended a wedding, and was the "pit-bull" who held the hotel to their commitments. Connie H. who provided publicity and signs, and Betty M, who attended the food tasting with me. Merri G. in charge of banquet records and tickets, Sara M., Acting GR for West Side Women's Sat while I briefly attended a wedding (cleared thru & by officers prior to Assembly) Sandy F., Ohio Assembly Chair Person who provided her experience and signed the BEO's (work orders) with the hotel for the food and audio visual equipment

This location was bid on and selected by Jan S. with input from Phil H. and Sandy F., after submitting our meeting requirements to Destination Cleveland. Arrangements were finalized and a contract was signed on our behalf by Buff N., Assembly Chairperson at the time and Jan S. Event orders were prepared by the Hotel and signed by Sandy F., who was the Interim Assembly Chairperson at the time of the 2018 2-Day Fall Assembly,

In January 2018, I met with our contact from the Hilton Double Tree and was given a tour of the facility, which was very nice. At that time, I also set up a tasting for April 2018 to determine what our menu would be and if we wanted to have a buffet or banquet style dinner for Saturday evening. We decided to go with a banquet.

Meeting Space: We had adequate space for meetings and for Saturday evening speaker and banquet. Some re-arranging was necessary for the banquet, but the hotel staff was great about getting things set up the way we asked. We also had a separate auditorium space for the new GR meeting. The hotel did not provide A/V equipment but had a contractor who provided exclusive service. We were handed a very large bill (\$1200) at the end of the event. Perhaps this bill could be reduced by looking at the cost of wireless versus wired mics; or the possibility of purchasing A/V equipment? Did we need the full range of equipment for Sunday that we used on Saturday?

Guest rooms: 40 rooms were booked for this event. For the most part we had positive feedback about the guestrooms. One negative thing was that hotel Reservations erroneously told our members (including myself) that our room block was full, when it was not. Because of their error, the hotel did not hold us to filling the minimum number of rooms in our contract. The hotel could not tell us which members had been turned away so we could not contact you, and it was only through your comments at the meeting that we found out who some of you were. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Banquet: We offered a nice mix of foods on the menu, including vegan and gluten free options. There was positive feedback on the food and service. We sold 47 banquets, under the number needed to reach the \$2000.00 Food & Beverage minimum in our contract, making it necessary to buy some expensive break food from the hotel to make up the difference. It should be communicated to the GR's the importance of supporting the banquet & Saturday night speaker to their home groups. The banquet helps support the cost of the meeting room; otherwise we must buy break food from the hotel to make up the difference, which is not the best use of Assembly funds. Too, attending the banquet is an opportunity for other members to see and hear about service work as well as enjoy the fellowship of members from out of town.

Hospitality Room: I had the adjoining suite attached to the hospitality suite and had a terrific committee to help me out. I practiced "Keep it Simple" by purchasing large quantities of limited food and drink items, primarily from Cosco. I stayed under the \$300.00 budget. It is preferable for key hospitality people to stay overnight both Friday and Saturday. I personally had to commute due to pet commitments but managed to have that coffee up & running by 6am. It was tiring for all of us. We all agreed to advise the next group to make it easier on themselves and stay at the hotel if possible. Any leftover perishable items were brought to Sunday night Lyndhurst Anniversary meeting. Nonperishables were transferred to Merri G for Gratitude night in Cleveland held on November 2, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Liaison. This was the first time I've EVER undertaken anything of this nature and it was quite the learning experience. I am deeply grateful that we are a WE program and especially grateful to Jan S., Merri G., Sandy F., and Sara M., for their time, patience and expertise. I literally could not have pulled this off without them.

2019 CONVENTION REPORT – COLUMBUS: Presented by Lorie M., Courage to Change AFG,
Columbus Co-chair

Ohio Area Convention

June 14-16, 2019

Everyone is Welcome!!

ALL Ohio Area Convention with AA participation

Alateen's are strongly encouraged to attend (no cost for registration if accompanied by an adult)

Something for everyone:

- Diversity
- Fellowship/Friendships
- Fun
- Discovery
- Growth
- Knowledge

Convention Theme: In to Me, I SEE (intimacy)

The details:

Friday, June 14th - Sunday June 16th

Dublin Crown Plaza

- Room Rate of \$109 – call hotel directly for booking

Registration is Open now

- Registration forms available – print or electronic
- \$30.00 for entire weekend (until 5/24, then \$40)
- Fabulous Banquet on Saturday evening – choice of Gluten free, Vegetarian or Chicken, only \$30.00

Flyers also available to share with groups

What Can I expect?

Friday: Chris M., longtime member of the fellowship from Gahanna, Ohio will be performing original music featuring: the12 Steps of recovery – original songs aligned with the steps

- ▶ Chris recorded the songs on CD, and gives away copies at performances. He is hoping to back into the studio in 2019 to record full-band versions of the songs
- ▶ Will be performing at Founders Day on Sat 6/6

Workshops

* Diverse leaders, Great Recovery & Growth for ALL

- Problems & Solutions
- Recognizing our Spiritual Awakenings
- Fearless & Free
- Presume Good Will (positive conflict resolution)
- Boundaries not bandages

▶ * Meetings (formal & informal) * Surprises FELLOWSHIP Self-Discovery FUN!!!
Can you think of better way to spend the day???

▶ Amazing Speakers/Leads:

Saturday:

- AA: Jean S. (New Albany)
- Al-Anon: Barbara W. (Columbus) following banquet

Sunday:

- Al-Anon: Theresa M. (Cincinnati)

How can you help make this year's convention a success?

Join the FUN - ATTEND!

Submit registration – conference, banquet, and/or room reservations ASAP

Contribute – in programming, donations, volunteering

- * Raffle Baskets
- * Hospitality

Things to look forward to:

- ▶ Great Speakers
- ▶ Fellowship
- ▶ Marketplace
 - Ways and Means
 - Raffle Baskets
 - Conference Approved Literature
- ▶ Knowledge/Insights/Personal Growth

Please feel free to pick up flyers and registration forms (paper or electronic)

- Questions??
- Co-Chair: Kim R, Lorie M
- Registration: Barbara K, Sue S
- Programming: Sandy F, Alison G

2019 AA STATE CONVENTION WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION: Presented by Cheryl C.

The 2019 AA State Convention with Al-Anon participation will be August 16-18 in Cincinnati, OH. Cheryl C. and Ruth G. are co-chairmen. The preparations are just beginning. We need ideas for panel, hospitality, etc. The theme for the convention is: Invitation to Fellowship: A Permanent Haven for all Alcoholics.

*****MOTIONS:**

- Phil H. made a motion that the Action Committee Reports from this morning need to be forwarded to Carmen via e-mail and placed at the end of the minutes due to time restraints. The motion was seconded by Julie C., Westside Women's Saturday AM AFG, Cleveland. The motion was passed with an affirmation vote.
- Sandy F., Heal A Non, Hilliard read the following motion:" The Public Outreach Action Committee moves to purchase 500 copies of *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* to be distributed to members at the 2019 Fall Assembly." The motion was seconded. An affirmation vote was taken and the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Yvonne G. .Montgomery Pfeiffer Road Adult Children AFG, Montgomery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Julie C., Westside Women's Saturday AM AFG, Cleveland seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 5:37pm. The meeting closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GROUP SERVICE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Prepared and submitted by Phil H., Friday Night AFG, Springfield

Topic: Could we use Electronic Media (Zoom, free conference call or other) to orient new DR's and GR's to their service role before attendance at first AWSC or Assembly to help increase comfort with participation in service? What are some of the pros and cons with doing this?

Conference Call: can log in, but you don't really know who is participating. World Service Office (WSO) Conference calls are more strictly controlled to include a moderator. How could you set that up at a time for everyone and who would moderate?

Zoom – faces on screen could be an anonymity concern.

Alternate GR or Alternate DR – attending as an Alternate can help a lot because you get the “orientation” ahead of time; however, can groups/districts cover expenses for alternates?

Webinars: Good possibility but how do you regulate who sees them if they are simply on the internet? Go through Area website with a special password?

How do you get the word out to the groups?

Can protect anonymity by recording voice only?

Be especially useful for “younger” members who are tech savvy.
Older members might be more resistant.

Consensus: Webinars that new DR's and GR's can view ahead of time seem to be the best.

Thought Force: What to do to encourage groups who are isolated in Ohio Area to get connected and participate. (Membership Outreach Action Committee) - Chaired by Jo S., Presented by Jules, Mt. Orab AFG, Mount Orab.

From 2018 Fall Assembly:

- How did you feel at your first meeting?
 - This can indicate health of a group
- Want to reach groups and feel “a part of” the area

Issues:

- Anonymity problems?
- How do small towns see problems?

Ideas:

- DR can visit
 - What if no DR?
- Email group/area business
 - Do they have an active CMA?

Don't Know:

- Anonymity Concerns
- Capacity/Strategic Position
 - Need CMA, GR, DR email
 - Group Records Person has GR's listed
- Adopt a city or group – go 1 time per month
- Know some groups are more active

Current State/Area Concerns:

- South of Toledo
- Along river in Cincinnati
- Athens Area

Financial:

- Group → District → Delegate Area

Personal Outreach

- Road Trip to a meeting
- Pen Pal

Ohio

- Has 435 meetings
- Why are they not coming
 - Do they know about us
 - Did they have a bad experience

Public Outreach:

- Reach out to isolated groups
- AI-A-Notes sharings

Personal Standpoint:

- Issues – distance to a meeting
- Be positive for people to see a different perspective
- Distance issues
- Low numbers
- Phone or face to face would be better
- Reported feeling “adopting” a group would be better

Pros:

- Personal Reach out
- Give them a vote

Cons:

- Cell and internet service is very sketchy at best in the rural areas – and it is expensive.

Conclusion:

- Need a task force in order to answer unknowns – why people aren't coming, what groups know or don't know, possibility of “adopting groups,” road trips, phone, mail outreach

Ask them to be on a task force

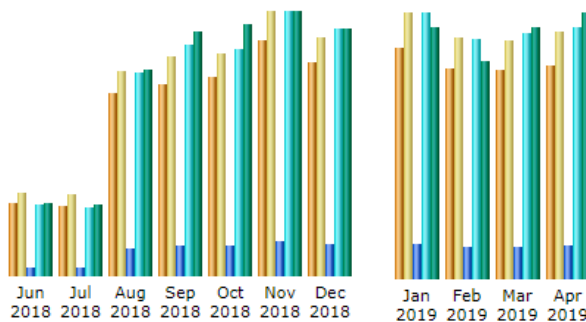
SPRING ASSEMBLY WEB REPORT – May 18, 2019

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. 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).

The most visited page is the meeting page. The second most visited page is our welcome page. (see Figure 2). We believe visitors are bookmarking our meeting page and going straight to it instead of through our Welcome page.

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%.

Figure 1.



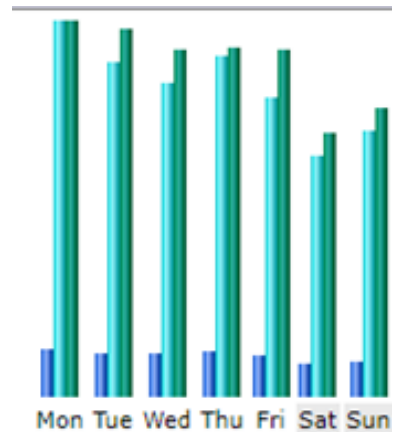
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages
Jun 2018	349	400	672
Jul 2018	334	388	694
Aug 2018	877	984	2,206
Sep 2018	922	1,053	2,431
Oct 2018	956	1,071	2,450
Nov 2018	1,132	1,269	2,795
Dec 2018	1,026	1,144	2,518
Jan 2019	1,335	1,534	3,254
Feb 2019	1,215	1,390	3,027
Mar 2019	1,208	1,380	3,103
Apr 2019	1,230	1,431	3,194

The most popular downloaded file this year is the Handbook – over 91 downloads. The next is the 2019 OAA Area Convention Flyer at 65 downloads. Interestingly, we had 49 downloads of the 2018 Spring Assembly Minutes since January of this year.

Figure 2.

Page	Pageviews
/alalist.html	1,371
/	623
/meeting_search_tool.html	276
/documents.html	182
/calendar.html	179
/area_information_services.html	74
/contactus.html	57
/12steps.html	41
/12traditions.html	32
/alateen_about.html	32

Weekly Trend



Type of Browsers Used

- 45.6% Google Chrome
- 36.8% Safari
- 06.9% Firefox
- 05.1% MS Internet Explorer

Remaining browser vary.

How Are Visitors Finding Us?

1. Google
2. Bing
3. Yahoo
4. DuckDuckGo
5. AOL
6. Nation
6. ASK.COM