

2020 FALL AWSC MEETING

OPENING OF MEETING: At 1:04 PM , a ZOOM teleconference meeting for the 2020 Fall AWSC was held on August 29, 2020. Ginny C., Chairperson welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting was opened by a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The purpose of the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) is to discuss matters pertaining to the area and to approve agenda items for the next Area Assembly (page 75 of the Service Manual). Voting: all members of the AFG of Ohio members are welcome to attend the AWSC meeting. Voting members of the AWSC are the District Representatives as well as the Officers which includes Past Delegates}, Group Coordinators, and Standing Chairmen. Voting will be a show of hands or when appropriate affirmation. Rhea L., GR read the Twelve Traditions followed by Sheri B., Public Outreach Coordinator who read the Concepts of Service. The General Warranties were read by Irena H., DR 51.

INTRODUCTIONS: The following Districts were represented at the meeting: Districts 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 24, 56, 51.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SPRING 2020 AWSC:

No additions or corrections to the minutes were voiced. A motion was made by Sheri B., Public Outreach Coordinator, to accept the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Cheryl B., DR 9. The minutes were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT (see page 6):

No additions or corrections to the Treasurer's Report were voiced. A motion was made by Louise T., DR 8, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; the motion was seconded by Phil H., DR 24. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

BUDGET REPORT (see page 9):

ALTERNATE DELEGATE AND AL-A-NOTES REPORT (see page 10):

DELEGATE'S REPORT (see page 14):

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

There were 22 people in attendance at the Fall AWSC Zoom meeting; 20 with voting privileges.

DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT CONCERNS AND SUCCESSES

COVID-19 AND GROUP MEETINGS:

Concerns and Comments:

- There is a decrease in the number of face-to face meetings. Will they come back when we are “normal” again?
- It might be that the electronic meetings will replace the face-to-face meetings.
- Workshops are being planned by District 51 for the second Saturday of each month. Each month two Traditions will be presented.
- Gratitude Night in District 51 will possibly have 100 people if social distancing is observed. The possibility exists that a ZOOM Gratitude Night may happen if the live face-to-face meeting cannot be done.
- Financial problems for both the Office in Central Ohio and the WSO (World Service Office). Groups are not sending in donations. Had to dip into the funds. We are having problems with the US Postal Service where about \$5000.00 of our money is floating about in the postal service. Our mail forwarding ends on September 1, 2020 and perhaps things will be forwarded to us. The Office is not open except for curbside delivery.
- Electronic meetings have increased in Central Ohio
 - columbusserenityafg.org
 - please keep website addresses up to date.
- Please keep ZOOM meetings going. Some are not able to come to the face-to-face meetings.
- Newcomers do come to virtual meetings. They call in and ask for groups that are meeting.
- People want face-to-face meetings.
- Cleveland Virtual Gratitude Night on November 6, 2020
 - 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm – Stepping Stones
 - 7:15 pm to 7:30 pm – Questions and Answers
 - 7:30 pm – 3 speakers from Kentucky
- District 6 (Toledo area) is struggling. Any input is appreciated. The districts have lost a lot of participation because getting the members to come is difficult.
- ZOOM meetings are going well. People really like it.
- District 8 is tired of ZOOM meetings and Conference Calls.
 - 2 meetings doing conference calls
 - 2 meetings doing face-to-face
- District 9 states it is hard to stay in contact with the GR’s. The big concern is the loss of unity in the groups and districts. We have 3 meetings that are using the ZOOM format and are sharing the cost of that format. Districts need to discuss a ZOOM format for meetings and that can we shared with the district. Individuals do not need to do that. You can have a meeting every day of the week.
- The AI-Anon mobile app has no phone options. They are worried about liability.
- This all sounds familiar...like living with an alcoholic: The uncertainty, the fear of the unknownthe fear of the future... We need to grow in our program.
- Some members are being blocked from meetings due to personality conflicts, not because they are being disrupted. Is this something we should be doing?
- For something to help newcomers and keep them coming, tell them about a Sponsorship phone meeting on WSO site. The phone number is 712-432-8773, 102584# at 9:15 am every Friday.

THOUGHT AND TASK FORCE PRESENTATIONS

A thought force is a temporary unit of people established to brainstorm ideas and to develop strategies on a single task or activity. A thought force is the thinkers, not the doers. A task force is a temporary unit of people established to work on a single defined task or activity. Task forces are the doers. (Service Manual page 71).

TASK FORCE ON ALATEEN POLICY CHANGES:

No official report at this time.

Need more AMIAS people on this task force. Volunteer: Jo S. We need AMIAS people on this task force. WSO sent suggested changes 2 ½ years ago.

THOUGHT FORCE: AWSC IMPROVEMENT: (see page 16):

Perhaps dissolve the thought force and make it a task force. We need to move forward and make it a task force. Volunteers currently are: Irena H. DR H., DR51, Ginny C., Chairperson, Joni F., member. A show of hands has determined that the Thought Force shall become a Task Force.

THOUGHT FORCE: COOPERATION WITH AA CONVENTION:

No official report at this time. List of people who volunteered last time were: Louise W., DR 33, Julie C., GR, Merri G., DR 7, Mickie G., DR 25, Fred S., DR 5. Ginny will be supplying the contact information.

TASK FORCE: DEVELOP AND AREA WIDE PUBLIC OUTREACH POSTER, DEVELOP A BUSINESS CARD, AND BANDS FOR AL-ANON FACES ALCOHOLISM (PUBLIC OUTREACH): (see page 20):

We have decided to purchase the bands via our project fund for under \$300.00.

TASK FORCE: IMPROVING THE LINKS OF SERVICE:

No report

Looking for members

TASK FORCE: GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED GROUPS:

No report

Looking for members

TASK FORCE: CASHLESS MEANS OF PAYMENT:

No report

Looking for members

A suggestion was made that we may need a cooperate Credit Card to make our business transactions an easy transition.

TASK FORCE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POSITION:

No report

Looking for members

Charge would be to develop a job description.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

ALATEEN

No report at present time

ARCHIVES

No report at present time

FORUM

No report at present time

GROUP RECORDS (see page 21):

LITERATURE

No report at present time

PUBLIC OUTREACH (see page 22):

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

AREA ALATEEN PROCESS PERSON (AAPP) (see page 23):

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

No report at present time

New Service Profile is in the Handbook on the Website

OHIO AREA CONVENTION AND TWO-DAY FALL LIAISON (Report by Sandy F.)

Dates are currently overlapping; maybe we should try to adjust the dates, so they are not overlapping. Will be brought up as a vote at the two-day Fall Assembly with suggestion the formation of a task force of 5-7 people to adjust dates

WEBSITE:

No report at present time.

CONVENTION AND ASSEMBLY REPORT

2020 FALL ASSEMBLY

2021 OHIO AREA CONVENTION – YOUNGSTOWN (see page 24)

OLD BUSINESS

Tech Crew for Meetings

Contact Ginny if there is anyone you know that is not a GR and can help run the meeting with the Tech Crew. You will be taught what you need to do.

Karen Peterson – Trial starts on September 1, at 8:30am if you are interested in watching the court hearing. It is a Zoom meeting trial. Email Ginny if you want the link

NEW BUSINESS

Donations to WSO – A motion was made by Sandy F., Past Delegate, to donate \$2000.00 to AFG Inc from AFG of Ohio. The motion was seconded by Irena H., DR51.

Sandy F., Past Delegate made a motion to donate \$2000.00 to AFG Inc. as a donation from the AFG of Ohio. The motion was seconded by Irena H., DR 51. Motion passed; Approved 18, Disapprove 0, no abstentions. It will be sent to the Assembly for approval.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 5:03 pm the meeting was adjourned with Sandy F., Past Delegate making a motion to end the meeting; the second came from Phil H. The meeting was closed with the AI-Anon Declaration.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Panels:

- **September 7pm and September 13 7pm.**
 - There will be two panels, one on each day
 - A discussion will be held concerning what the AWSC officers actually do
 - What they do
 - How you like it.
 - How much time does it take?
 - How has it effected your recovery?

Two Day Fall Assembly, October 17-18, 2020 via ZOOM

October 17th, 2020

- 9:00 am – GR orientation
- 10 am – Workshop
- 1pm – 5pm – Assembly

7pm – Speaker – Christa A., Senior Group Services Specialist

October 18, 2020

- 9:30 am – 12:00 pm – Assembly

Save the Dates for the last weekend in June (tentative for 25,26,27) for the 2021 Ohio Area Convention

Treasurer's Report – Ohio Area Assembly
Report Period January 1, 2020 – August 29, 2020, 2020

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT
Group Donations	4,983.95
Plea Letter	809.00
Personal Donations	410.00
AL-A-Notes Subscription	3.50
TOTAL INCOME	6,206.45
EXPENSES	
RESERVE FUNDS	
Active Past Delegate Fund	
Convention Float	-279.99
Convention Reserve	
District Rep AWSC Meeting	
Equipment Fund	
Excess Fund	
OAC Fund	
Projects Fund	-300.00
Transition Fund	
Total Reserve Funds expended	-579.99
BUDGETED EXPENSES	-470.41
TOTAL EXPENSES	-1,050.40
BALANCE 12/31/2019	47,425.44
INCOME	6,206.45
EXPENSES	-1,050.40
BOOK BALANCE 8/29/2020	52,581.49
ACCOUNTING FOR FUNDS	
Assembly Reserves held in Fifth Third 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 8/29/2020	32,581.49
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	52,581.49

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy A, Treasurer, OAA, Inc. panel 58

RESERVES, BUDGET AND EXPENSES

January 1, 2020 to August 29, 2020

Assemble Funds	Balance 12-31-2019	Budget Adjustment	Income	Expenses	Balance
Active Past Delegates Fund	600.00	0	0	0	600.00
Convention Float	4,000.00	0	0	-279.99	3,720.01
Convention Reserves	3,646.37	0	0	0	3,646.37
District Rep AWSC Meeting	315.00	035.00	0	0	350.00
Equipment Fund	39.50.	690.00	0	0	729.50
Excess Funds	1,917.52	4,988.00	0	-0	6,905.52
OAC Fund	470.00	0	0	0	470.00
Project Fund	1,542.48	1,000.00	0	-300.00	2,242.48
Transition Fund	8.28	200.00	0	0	208.28
SUBTOTAL OF NON-BUDGET ITEMS	12,539.15	6,913.00	0	-579.99	18,872.16

BUDGET ITEMS	2020 BUDGET	EXPENSE	BUDGET BALANCE
AA Convention Hospitality	200.00	0	200.00
Al-A-Notes	300.00	-110.00	190.00
Alateen Coordinator	350.00	0	350.00
Alternate Delegate	25.00	0	25.00
Archives Coordinator	50.00	0	50.00
Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)	100.00	0	100.00
Budget Committee	25.00	0	25.00
Chairman	25.00	0	25.00
Delegate	100.00	0	100.00
Delegate Equal Fund	2,500.00	0	2,500.00
Del/Alt NCRDM & Delegate OAC	1,000.00	0	1,000.00
Forum Coordinator	10.00	0	10.00
Group Records Coordinator	150.00	0	150.00
Group Rep Orientation	50.00	0	50.00
Handbook and By-laws Committee	200.00	0	200.00
Liability & Crime Insurance	890.00	0	890.00
Literature Coordinator	10.00	0	10.00
Meeting Expenses	3,500.00	-128.61	3,371.39
Postage	500.00	-67.80	432.20
Public Outreach Coordinator	10.00	0	10.00
Review Committee	25.00		25.00
Secretary	150.00	0	150.00
Travel Expenses	2,054.00	0	2,054.00
Treasurer	250.00	-164.00	86.00
Two-Day Fall & Convention Liaison	10.00	0	10.00
Two-Day Hospitality	300.00	0	300.00
Website setup and maintenance	100.00	0	100.00
SUBTOTAL OF BUDGET ITEMS	12,884.00	470.41	12,413.59

DONATIONS BY DISTRICTS
January 1, 2020 – August 29, 2020

District Number	Number of Donations	# of Appeal Donations	Appeal \$ Donation	Group \$ Donations	Total \$ Donations	# of Groups Donating
01	2	0	0	65.00	65.00	2
02	1	0	0	25.00	25.00	1
03	0	1	25.00	0	25.00	1
04	7	0	0	220.00	220.00	3
05	0	2	75.00	0	75.00	2
06	0	0	0	0	0	0
07	1	1	50.00	60.00	110.00	2
08	0	1	25.00	0	25.00	1
09	4	1	50.00	81.00	131.00	4
10	4	0	0	160.00	160.00	3
11	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	2	0	0	100.00	100.00	2
13	0	1	20.00	0	20.00	1
14	7	1	50.00	305.00	355.00	8
15	18	0	0	862.31	862.31	11
16	2	0	0	10.99	10.99	1
17	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	5	0	0	195.00	195.00	5
24	7	1	10.00	147.95	157.95	4
25	2	1	100.00	200.00	300.00	3
26	7	1	25.00	406.45	431.45	4
27	4	0	0	218.98	218.98	4
28	10	2	14.00	428.00	442.00	9
29	0	1	50.00	0	50.00	1
30	3	1	20.00	100.00	120.00	3
31	6	0	0	352.69	352.69	6
32	3	1	50.00	100.00	150.00	2
33	3	3	70.00	51.25	121.25	4
34	1	1	15.00	34.08	49.08	2
37	0	0	0	0	0	0
38	1	1	15.00	50.00	65.00	2
39	0	1	20.00	0	20.00	1
41	0	0	0	0	0	0
43	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	3	0	0	175.00	175.00	3
47	2	2	50.00	150.00	200.00	3
48	1	1	50.00	50.00	100.00	1
51	6	0	0	300.00	300.00	4
56	0	1	25.00	0	25.00	1
57	4	0	0	135.25	135.25	3
TOTAL	116	26	809.00	4,983.95	5,792.95	107

Hi everyone

My original report said that nothing new had happened. Surprise, about a month ago our Delegate, Theresa sent me an email.

Our World Service Office was going to refund part of the money for the April Conference that was abruptly canceled in March due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. They would keep a part of our payment because they had already paid some of the expense and could not get a cancellation nor refund.

What do we do with the refund?

We were given 3 suggestions.

- 1). Have the money returned.
- 2). Leave it at World Service for the 2021 WSO Conference.
- 3). Donate it to WSO. As a gift!

I prayed about this and talked to several people.

I am recommending that we take option #2.

Leave the money at WSO for use toward the 2021 Conference.

That way we are not showing money coming in in September of 2020, just to turn around in January of 2021 to send it back to WSO.

I liked option #3, also, because donations are WAY DOWN for WSO. We are in good shape financially right now!

I decided to let the new Budget Committee decide because we are also WAY DOWN with donations, because we are not having face to face meetings and the future of our meetings and donations is very uncertain right now!

Are there any questions or comments?

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kaltenbach, Budget Chair

Alternate Delegate Report for Fall AWSC 2020

August 29, 2020

The Winter Ala-a-Notes were put on our website, January 5, 2020 and the Spring Al-A-Notes were posted on April 10, 2020.

Seven electronic copies were sent to as part of the newsletter exchange with other areas. (Winter 2020). Five electronic copies were sent in Spring of 2020.

In our first distribution for 2020, 24 copies were mailed to other AFG's (that wanted a hard copy rather than electronic) as well as those who have purchased a subscription. Only 5 of these were subscriptions. There were not any new subscriptions and several ended and were not renewed. We lost 6 subscriptions. For the Spring 2020 Edition, we still mailed out 5 subscriptions and 1 copy to the archives.

The task force for the future of Al-a- Notes exchanges was completed and closed at the Summer Assembly last month. Al-a- Notes will continue with no price increase for subscriptions. As for exchanges with other areas, this will be sent electronically going forward.

Did you know that your group can subscribe to Al-a- Notes? The difference between the subscription and the online version is the subscription has updated information for all AWSC members. This is a great way for your group members to know who to contact if they have a question. Another plus would be for groups that do not have a DR, you would be able to see if there was another DR that you could reach out to!

More information on this will be in the next issue of Al-A- Notes.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSIONS AND COMMUNICATION TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR. There is a new e-mail address (thank you Mike!) for the newsletter. It is:

newsletter@ohioal-anon.org

This will help to ensure that newsletter information is getting to the correct person (as positions change). Please use this new e-mail going forward for all newsletter business. Thank you!

To date, all of the Officers have submitted information about their positions, so as we get closer to elections for the new panel, we will have information about the positions that will be open this Fall for the next panel. I would ask that the coordinators now submit the following information about their position:

How long have you been in this position?

How much time does it take?

What did you learn from doing this position?

What surprised you about this position?

--- And anything else you think would be information you would want to have before deciding to run for a coordinator position.

We had a lot of district news turned in for this last issue, and it was quite different from what we are used to! Since the start of this pandemic, the fellowship has had to stop having face to face meetings and the creativity that has come out of this has been so encouraging. WSO has always had phone and electronic meetings, but in addition to what they have, electronic meetings (many of them temporary) have sprung up all over the area. We all miss meeting face to face, but some of the electronic meetings have been amazing and most importantly they give Al-Anon the means to keep reaching out to those in need! The Spring edition of Al-A-Notes was filled with YOUR suggestions on how we can still “meet” and work our program. District 51 and 25 in Portage and Summit Counties even did an electronic workshop! All areas stepped up to the challenge in these somewhat difficult times.

Job Opportunity at WSO- description is attached

Please see the attached position description for a summary of the job duties and position requirements for the Magazine Editor role. The Magazine Editor ensures that Al-Anon magazines have content that supports the strategic goals and spiritual principles of Al Anon Family Groups. The Editor also implements promotional activities for The Forum and Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism. This position requires five or more years of membership and service in Al-Anon. To apply for this position, please forward your resume and cover letter to HumanRes@al-anon.org.

Take care and thank you for all that you do!

Jo S

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Magazine Editor

Reports to: Associate Director—Literature

Grade Level: 7

Job Brief: The Magazine Editor ensures that Al-Anon magazines have content that supports the strategic goals and spiritual principles of Al-Anon Family Groups. The Editor also implements promotional activities for *The Forum* and *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

- Monitors and evaluates existing processes and procedures and makes recommendations for new ways to improve their implementation.
- Participates actively in Staff meetings to ensure the best thinking is always available.
- Mentors Area *Forum* Coordinators to assist them in making the monthly magazine a part of every member's recovery.
- Selects sharings submitted by members for monthly *The Forum* magazine.
- Works with Associate Directors to determine additional content for announcements and "Inside Al-Anon Family Groups" articles for *The Forum* magazine.
- Cooperates with Associate Director—Public Outreach Professionals, who selects content submitted by professionals for *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA)* magazine.
- Cooperates with Associate Director—Digital Strategy to prepare schedule for timely, insightful, quality monthly and annual magazines.
- Utilizes editorial techniques to convert membership and professional submissions into attractive magazine articles without losing individuality of expression.
- Manages intake and processing of submissions for *The Forum* and *AFA* from all sources: letters, e-mails, and on-line.
- Coordinates multiple proof-reading reviews of *The Forum* and *AFA* magazines to maintain quality control.
- Manages the production schedules for *The Forum* and *AFA* magazines to meet all deadlines.
- Selects material from *The Forum* to be translated for bimonthly *Le lien* and *en accion* magazines.
- Supplies and edits content to market *The Forum* and *AFA* magazines in newsletters, WSO websites, and other media.
- Provides reports and timely updates of departmental activities and interdepartmental communications.
- Arranges web-conferencing calls with and provides updates and other support to Area Forum Coordinators through AFG Connects and other communications methods.
- Arranges and provides proposed agenda for quarterly Forum Editorial Advisory Committee (FEAC) web-conferencing calls as well as other support to FEAC Chairperson.
- Serves as a voting member of FEAC.
- Supervises the Editorial Quality Specialist.
- Other duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- Ability to read, analyze, and interpret periodical literature
- Ability to respond to common inquiries or concerns from customers

- Ability to write articles for publication that conform to prescribed style and format
- Ability to effectively present information to top management and public groups
- Ability to respond effectively to communication related to *The Forum* and *AFA* in a timely, AI-Anon/Alateen sensitive manner
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions
- High degree of initiative
- Strong organizational skills
- Effective communication (both verbal and written)
- Ability to efficiently prioritize and manage projects
- Interpersonal skills that foster an enthusiastic team-orientated culture within the organization as a whole.
- Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, proportions, and percentages
- Intermediate level skills in standard Microsoft Office Suite software
- Ability to learn and use AI-Anon's database tools
- Familiarity with social media and other Internet applications as they pertain to job-related duties and requirements

Education and/or Experience:

- Bachelor's degree from four-year college or university in English, journalism, communications, or related field; or four years or more related experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum of five years of continuous and active AI-Anon/Alateen membership required.

Physical Demands:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to express or exchange ideas by means of the spoken word. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 10 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision.

Work Environment:

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job in an office environment. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Work Location:

This job is located at AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters' World Service Office in Virginia Beach, VA.

Point of Contact to Apply:

Please contact Human Resources if you would like to apply or if you have any questions about this position. Resumes and cover letters can be emailed to HumanRes@al-anon.org.

2020 Fall AWSC Delegate Report

Meetings in the time of COVID:

I encourage discussions with our groups and our members on how we can best connect with each other during this time of social distancing. What options do we have in Ohio to ensure that as many members and those looking for us can connect to the gifts of our program and participate in our discussions?

First, I'll try to sum up the various ways meetings are occurring.

- Any group that is registered at WSO for Ohio as a face to face meeting that is now meeting electronically on a temporary basis is still a member of AFG of Ohio, Inc and the GR (or proxy) still has a vote.
- Any new group that registers and plans to be face to face (has a location that they will be able to use at some point but is now meeting temporarily on an electronic platform) is still a member of the AREA and has the opportunity (responsibility!) to send a GR or proxy to Assembly.
- Only if you are registered as an electronic meeting on the WSO site are you then *not* a member of an Area. That is a totally separate registration. You are no longer considered a Group and are no longer are represented by an Area in the WSC structure.
- My current understanding is that meetings can also be held on the new mobile app, but they will also not be a part of any AREA and are treated as all the other permanent electronic meetings.

So, if your group's face to face meeting is now meeting temporarily on an electronic basis – the various (not exclusive) options are:

- Passing that information by word of mouth, phone calls or emails to your members.
- Sharing that information with whatever answering service or local website you use (including whether or not your group is open to observers or just for friends and family)
- Registering with WSO as a temporary electronic meeting (same day and time, but now using an electronic platform) which will put that information up on the WSO meeting website. The group decides whether how to “get there” is also posted or how/whom to contact to get the information for any URL or password or phone number.
 - <https://al-anon.org/for-members/group-resources/group-records/>
 - <https://form.jotform.com/20100629180414>
 - Being on the WSO website makes it more available to members looking for a meeting from anywhere – and gives the group a chance to connect with members from other Areas and from other parts of the world.
- Your group makes its choice of how to proceed by having a group conscience to discuss the options and listening to every member's feeling on what choice or choices seem best for themselves and for the group - and for Al-Anon as a whole (autonomy!).

The Al-Anon Family Group Mobile App

Watch the app launch video, read more information, and find links to download the Al-Anon Family Groups app from iTunes and Google Play, visit al-anon.org/mobileapp.

- What it is:

- A social app for AI-Anon members to connect with one another to share our experience, strength, and hope
- A new platform for electronic meetings
- A way to connect with your AI-Anon family in private chats
- A place to create and update a digital AI-Anon journal
- A place to stay informed on the latest information from the World Service Office (WSO)
- A place to purchase additional content such as a daily member sharing
- What it is not:
 - A face-to-face meeting list

Reduced shipping costs from WSO

- for a limited time - \$5 for orders under \$50 shipped to US, Bermuda and Puerto Rico

Job opening at WSO- Magazine Editor

The job of Magazine Editor-

- ensures that AI-Anon magazines have content that supports the strategic goals and spiritual principles of AI Anon Family Groups.
- implements promotional activities for *The Forum* and *AI-Anon Faces Alcoholism*.
- requires five or more years of membership and service in AI-Anon.
- To apply for this position, please forward your resume and cover letter to HumanRes@al-anon.org
- For more information, click on "Employment" on www.al-anon.org (bottom of each web page)

Send your questions and comments to Delegate@ohioal-anon.org

Respectfully submitted, 8/22/2020
Theresa M, Delegate, Panel 58, Ohio

Thought Force: AWSC Improvement

TOPIC/CHARGE: To discuss and generate ideas to improve our Area World Service Committee (AWSC) format, encourage greater participation in the AWSC, to provide support to our trusted servants and strengthen the links of service.

FRAMING: Attendance has been sporadic at AWSC and we have recently had problems filling positions at the officer and coordinator level as well as having groups not electing or providing for District Representatives. A discussion took place at the Spring AWSC 2019 on “How can we make the AWSC fun and interesting?”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This is how the AWSC is described in the *2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P24/27) pp155-156.*

The primary function of the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) is to plan for the general improvement of both the Assembly and the groups. Voting members of this committee are usually the officers of the Assembly, the DRs, Coordinators of services (such as Alateen, Archives, Public Outreach [Public Information, Cooperating with the Professional Community, and Institutions], Literature, Group Records, The Forum, or Newsletter) and liaison members from any Information Services (Intergroups). The chairman of Al-Anon activities at an A.A. area convention or chairman of Area Al-Anon and Alateen conventions should also participate in AWSC meetings.

These meetings, called and chaired by the Area Chairman, may be held at stated intervals to hear and discuss the Delegate's report, to consider Area matters, to suggest items of interest for the Area newsletter, all with the purpose of informing and unifying the groups in the Area. To equalize travel expenses, successive meetings may be held in various localities within the Area.

As we are now in a new normal requiring safety precautions because of a global pandemic, we now have a chance to think outside of the box in how we conduct our meetings.

It is likely that for the next year, all Area meetings – which includes the AWSC – will meet virtually and communicate electronically as needed in between.

So what do we know about our members needs and wants and what suggestions do we have on how to best meet them.

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 our meetings to be organized, informative and a setting for discovering more about how Al-Anon works in our business meetings as well as in our personal recovery.

Thought Force: AWSC Improvement

- Our members desire to receive time-sensitive information in a way that they can easily communicate to their groups.
- Our members want a meeting that supplies inspiration, ideas and opportunities on how to address group and district issues while sharing information provided by the Delegate and Coordinators.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CAPACITY AND STRATEGIC POSITION OF THE ORGANIZATION RELATIVE TO THIS ISSUE?

- We have many members who are willing and eager to serve and lead in sharing how to carry our message of help and hope.
- AWSC offers a place for long-time members to provide encouragement and support to newer members and to members assuming new positions.
- AWSC is a venue for its members to work together and to share information to foster greater unity.
- AWSC provides a forum to see our three legacies in action as we practice the principles in our program.
- Service in AWSC encourages sharing of this new knowledge and understanding of our Three Legacies with our districts and local groups.
- Service in AWSC helps our trusted servants grow in their recovery.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CURRENT REALITIES AND EVOLVING DYNAMICS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THIS DISCUSSION?

It has been difficult to schedule a time for a New DR orientation. As a result:

- It is not clear that all who can access their AFG Connects have done so. This includes Officers, District Reps and Coordinators.
- Our members are currently coming into AWSC with little information beforehand about what will be taking place as well as the process and procedure of the meeting.
- It is now possible to communicate by email, free phone conferences, and with web conferencing. We have now experienced using ZOOM for the spring AWSC as well as the July Assembly with success.

WHAT ARE THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CHOICES (PRO AND CONS)? THIS INCLUDES CONSIDERATION OF HOW THE LEGACIES APPLY.

- How can everyone attending the AWSC feel welcome and included in the proceedings of our service levels and less like an observer whether we meet in person or over electronic platforms. Concept Four – Participation is the key to harmony. Warranty Two where no one member has unqualified authority over another.

What is the best way to educate and ensure that both qualified and willing members step up to fulfill the responsibilities of their positions? Concept Nine – good personal leadership at all

Thought Force: AWSC Improvement

personal levels - pp196-199 in *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual P24/27*; Rotation of leadership gives all members the privilege of serving - p59 in *P24/27Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*.

WHAT DO WE WISH WE KNEW, BUT DON'T?

1. If the Area assigned mentors to new DRs, would DR's be more active in AWSC?
2. Would assigning generic emails (@ohioal-anon.org) for all DR's increase communication, networking and loving interchange between DR's and the groups?
3. If we change the format, timing, the number or the length of our AWSC meeting to be able to include
 - a. Breakout sessions to facilitate small group discussions or activities.
 - b. Electronic ask-it basket to answer questions DR's beforehand.
 - c. Small group question and answer sessions.will we get greater participation?
4. Would AWSC hybrid meetings (i.e. with reports submitted beforehand by email before the actual meeting) meet AWSC needs?
5. Could some regular items that need approval and/or to be taken to OAA (previous minutes, Treasurer report, Review report, Budget Committee report) take place in timed email discussions so that in a ZOOM meeting the vote could occur with minimal extra time for question or discussion?
6. Would having an electronic meeting for New DR Orientation help them learn what the job entails? (in addition to DRs learning how to access the group records and relevant documents)
7. Will having a more efficient format (see questions 4 & 5) allow more opportunities for breakout sessions for workshops, discussions during the meeting such as
 - assigning thought or task force to investigate the how to teach members to do conference calls through different services,
 - making available a handout on how to hold a conference call for all DRs and place handout in the DR packets,
 - setting up a task force to investigate costs of web conferencing?
8. Would providing a knowledgeable technical team to assist trusted servants in performing their position enable more members to consider service? (Tradition 7 : self –supporting)
9. How can we support current districts who do not have representations at the AWSC? Would creation of a position to welcome new groups and existing groups without a DR help explain the links of service and the advantage of having a DR increase participation at AWSC? (see #1)

Pros for maximizing email use and electronic meeting platforms

Thought Force: AWSC Improvement

- Brings us into the current reality of how to hold meetings
- Will allow participation by those with travel or medical issues
- Keeps us in touch with the changing world and participation in service by millennials
- May decrease meeting costs and free up funds for other items
- Allows more time for questions and discussions in AWSC meetings

Cons of electronic meetings

- Importance of face-to-face meeting for recovery (*Many Voices, One Journey*, p136-7)
- Lack of reliable internet or phone service will preclude some members from participating
- Needs a new committee of committed tech people to teach members how to use the virtual meeting format and to help manage any virtual sessions
- More record keeping requirements – webmaster updating generic emails

Respectfully submitted: Theresa M, Jo S, Cheryl B, Joni F, Ginny C

Public Outreach Taskforce Update – AWSC Meeting August 29, 2020

The taskforce was charged with developing:

- Public Outreach Poster
- Public Outreach Printable Contact Cards
- Public Outreach Bands for the new Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism Magazines

Final drafts for WSO approval:

- Poster. We eliminated the mother and daughter in the bottle. That version was not liked as much as the “When you don’t know where to turn” version. There will background images for this.



- Printable contact cards

<p>Worried about someone's drinking?</p> <p>Find hope and help in Al-Anon</p> <p>visit www.ohioal-anon.org</p>	<p>Contact me:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>AL-ANON / ALATEEN <small>Hope and help for families and friends of alcoholics</small></p>
<p>Not everyone trapped by alcoholism is an alcoholic.</p> <p>Find hope and help in Al-Anon</p> <p>visit www.ohioal-anon.org</p>	<p>Contact me:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>AL-ANON / ALATEEN <small>Hope and help for families and friends of alcoholics</small></p>
<p>Has someone's drinking affected your life?</p> <p>Find hope and help in Al-Anon</p> <p>visit www.ohioal-anon.org</p>	<p>Contact me:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>AL-ANON / ALATEEN <small>Hope and help for families and friends of alcoholics</small></p>

- Bands for AFA Magazine (two versions now available):

- For Distribution to Al-Anon Groups (Existing version in use by other Areas in the US & CA):

Take a 12th Step
Share the Al-Anon Message of Hope
Share AFAs with therapists, counselors, clergy,
EAPs and other's in your Area

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) is a great tool to introduce Al-Anon to people who are unfamiliar with us and to inform professionals that Al-Anon is a valuable resource for individuals that have been affected by alcoholism.

- For Distribution to Professionals and Offices (New version developed just for our Area):

Share the Al-Anon Message of Hope
AlAnon provides support to anyone affected by the drinking of a relative or friend.
Learn more and order more at
www.ohioal-anon.org

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA) is a tool to help individuals consider if their lives are affected by someone's drinking and find help and hope in a fellowship of others with similar experiences.
Please consider sharing these with
the individuals you support

As of August 22, 2020, according to the Ohio Database there are:

408 active groups

588 meetings listed

- 464 active meetings
 - 93 beginners meetings
 - 371 AFG meetings
 - 114 inactive groups

In Area 44 (Ohio Database) there are:

6 meetings in No Mail Status

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Corryville AFG | District 14 |
| • Paradise AFG | District 25 |
| • New Beginnings | District 18 |
| • Carry the Message | District 28 |
| • Sunday Night AFG | District 31 |
| • Friday Freedom for Pastoral Ldrshp | District 45 |

4 meetings in Bounced Email Status

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| • Mondays in Westerville | District 26 |
| • Choices Thursday Gahana | District 28 |
| • Southeast AFG | District 33 |
| • Ada Adult Children Hope Group | District 41 |

1 meeting report Not Meeting

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| • Me Too Women's Adult Children AFG | District 38 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

In addition there are:

- 69 meetings that have no current email address
- 186 meetings without a GR

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Cassidy

Area Group Records Coordinator

Public Outreach Update - AWSC Meeting August 29, 2020

As mentioned last month, the goal of Public Outreach for the remainder of 2020 is to help districts and groups meet the professional communities where they are.

- **Monthly public outreach updates** are being emailed monthly to all on the AWSC Roster. If you want to be added to the distro, please email me at swbogardus@gmail.com.
- **Outreach to state-level professional organizations** is continuing to gather information on how they are 'meeting' with and serving their members to get and share ideas for providing Al-Anon information.
- **Public outreach website enhancements** are being outlined. I'll be working with Michael to make updates to our site. If you have ideas, please email me at swbogardus@gmail.com.
- **A monthly public outreach call** is being planned to keep us connected and help us explore and develop ideas to achieve our public outreach dreams:
 - Professionals – especially medical students, nurses and counselors become aware and refer to AFG
 - Electronic billboards and PSA's
 - AA's become more educated and aware and attend and refer family and friends to AFG
- **New outreach materials** have been updated based on feedback received during our July meeting and will be shared in the Public Outreach Taskforce update.
- **The 2020 edition of the PSA campaign** appears to have been delayed. I'll share information on the media outlets to which PSAs have been sent in Ohio as soon as I receive it. In the meantime, I recently shared a list of the stations that received PSAs last year and provided suggestions for requesting PSAs to be played by radio and TV stations and movie theatres in your areas. PSAs can be requested by stations at: <https://al-anon.org/for-members/public-outreach/outreach-to-the-publicmedia/psa-requests>
- **September is National Recovery Month.** This gives us an important talking point to reference when contacting TV and radio stations and movie theatres to request the airing of PSAs, and a timely reason to drop off bookmarks and AFA booklets at schools, libraries, hospitals, police and fire stations, barbers and beauty shops and other locations at which individuals impacted by someone's drinking could find them.

AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) Report

As of August 25, 2020, there are:

- 23 Active Alateen Groups
- 14 Inactive Alateen Groups
 - 4 groups have been recently inactivataaed due to no AMIAS available for meetings

All AMIAS and Alateen groups have been recertified for WSO which has a deadline of August 31, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Irvin
AAPP

Report to Fall AWSC – Aug. 29, 2020

2021 OHIO AREA CONVENTION (Hosted by Youngstown Districts)

Cheryl B. (chair) and Sarah C. (co-chair) were researching viable locations for the 2021 OAC and recruiting chairpersons and volunteers for the various convention committees prior to the onset of the Corona Virus pandemic in March. The OAA Convention Liaison reported at the Spring Assembly (held in August) that the 2020 Convention had been cancelled due to COVID-19 and that the 2021 Convention would be hosted by Youngstown Districts. We immediately resumed our contacts and planning and are in the process of carefully contracting with Holiday Inn-Boardman for suitable facilities and meeting space in the hopes that we will be able to hold an in-person Convention in June of 2021. We have been in regular communication with Sandy F., the OAC/2-Day Fall Liaison, via telephone and Zoom for guidance and assistance. Most of the Convention officer positions and committee chairs had been selected by the time of the COVID-19 shutdown, and our Ways & Means volunteers were eager to get started on several items for sale, etc. Time is short, but we are determined to offer the Al-Anon fellowship a convention opportunity. If health conditions are such in 2021 that there are government mandates regulating the number of people who can congregate or continued social distancing, we will then attempt to offer a modified convention via the Zoom platform with dial-in access as well for those without a computer. If such mandates are in place, the hotel will cancel our contract and refund our deposits. However, if we alone choose to cancel, then deposits would be forfeited. While 2021 appears like the great unknown, we are thinking positively while keeping our numbers reasonable; and the hotel is working diligently with us as we all face the unforeseeable future both this fall/winter and next spring/summer. We have chosen to “**Act As If**” and consider several different options to offer our members a rewarding recovery experience. Your Youngstown Districts planning committee promises to have a weekend....no matter what format it may take!! More information will be available by our Spring Assembly, whether it is virtual or face-to-face. So please encourage your group members to **SAVE THE DATES** and mark their calendars. It was most unfortunate that we had to miss this year's 2020 Convention after all the hard work of the Dayton planning committee, but we will pull together all available resources and virtual knowledge to assure that AFG of Ohio does not miss out on this annual event again. Please keep us in your prayers as we move forward carefully but surely. Hope to see you next June in Youngstown celebrating recovery!! In the meantime, we send you elbow bumps, high 5's, air hugs and cyber greetings....because TOGETHER WE GET BETTER.

Respectfully submitted ~ Cheryl B., DR #9 and Sarah C., DR #4 (Youngstown Districts Hosts for 2021 OAC)