

OHIO AREA FALL AWSC MEETING REPORT – AUGUST 28, 2021

Opening of Meeting and Welcome:

Serenity Prayer, Concepts and Warranties Meeting Etiquette (deferred at this time). (Theresa M. chairman) adhering to agenda, timed discussion, staying on topic, demonstrate spiritual principles, mutual respect, atmosphere of respect, courtesy, limit distractions, discipline and respect for those who prepared for the meeting. Reminders: there may be changes in the agenda.

Review of Zoom Naming Procedures For members who need to be properly named.

Approval of 2021 Spring AWSC Minutes

Motion to accept 2021 Spring AWSC Minutes made by unanimous show of hands.

Budget Report – Cheryl C., chair:

Since May the Budget Committee has met several times and we are still in a learning process, working very closely with Merri G, our Treasurer. While our financial status is currently in excellent shape, we need your help with areas that directly impact the budget planning process. Here are a few of them:

1. First, we want to remind you of the process to **submit an expense report**. Why? It is critical to both reimburse you for any out of pocket expenses in a timely manner for your wellbeing and for timely budget tracking not only for current year but for planning ahead so that there will be sufficient funds set aside. Do not delay or think you are saving us money because it is vital that enough funding is set aside so those who cannot afford to absorb costs get paid. Please see the **Ohio Al-Anon website**: go to Documents -> Forms areas for the Expense Voucher. For details on what is a "Reimbursed Expense", go to p.20 of the **Ohio Handbook** under I. section on "Reimbursed Expenses".
2. (a) A reminder to Officers/Coordinators/Special Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees regarding the **Process to request funds for Special Projects. In the Ohio Handbook** on p.19 section 4.c. "The budget committee is to have the authority to approve a maximum expense of three hundred dollars (\$300) out of the Project Fund for special projects by Area Coordinators, Thought Forces, Task Forces and Work Groups." Amounts greater than \$300 must be approved by the Assembly.

(b) Also, remember that if you are **requesting a reimbursement greater than what is budgeted** (P 2 of Treasurer's Report), it must be okayed by the Budget Committee Chairman. See Ohio Handbook p.9 #12
3. Please consider your **current projects**. Are there any costs? Do you expect them to increase or decrease? If any additional funds are needed let the budget committee know. Email me at cheryl.j.christensen@gmail.com.
4. Lastly think ahead! If you **anticipate future costs** that may be needed to move your project along such as software, equipment, training or other items, let the budget committee know as soon as this is determined so we can help facilitate requests.

Registration Committee Report: 23 attendees, including officers, coordinators and past delegates. Districts represented: 5, 6, 7, 9, 15, 17, 25, 30, 31, 45, 47, 51 and 56.

Task Force: Rotation Schedule for Hosting Two Day Fall and Ohio Area Conventions - Sandra Flenner, Chairman for the Task Force:

Discussion: This topic is Two Day Fall been discussed since 2007. This is a concern because host committees have been having to host in back to back years. It is extremely difficult to get committees together to host OAC much less having to turn around and get another committee together to host two day fall. Looking at three different options – what I want to know today is - which option are we leaning toward? All three are very possible solutions.

The Task Force is currently in discussions about the rotation schedule for the seven Al-Anon Information Service locations around Ohio. These locations include Districts of Akron, Districts of Cincinnati, Districts of Cleveland, Districts of Columbus, Districts of Toledo, and Districts of Youngstown.

Different possibilities have been discussed.

If changes are to be made, they would take effect with Panel 64 which would begin January 1, 2024 as host locations are already in conversations with possible spaces (hotels) for the events currently scheduled as listed in the Handbook. The Task Force will be devising a Survey Monkey to send to groups for input and feedback.

The Task Force has had ongoing discussion about the topic of the rotation for the locations for the Ohio area conventions and our Two-Day Fall assembly host locations. We did a Survey Monkey with key questions relating to Ohio Area Convention and Fall Assembly. Questions included ones about the locations and the rotation of hosts for the events.

We came up with three workable options.

OPTION 1

YEAR	OAC	Fall
2022	Toledo	Miami Valley
2023	International	Columbus
2024	Cincinnati	Youngstown
2025	Cleveland	Akron
2026	Miami Valley	Columbus
2027	Akron	Cleveland
2028	International	Cincinnati
2029	Youngstown	Columbus
2030	Toledo	Miami Valley
2031	Columbus	Youngstown

OPTION 2 With this option the Host committee is a Standing Committee who plan the event and the AIS locations around Ohio are not responsible for the planning The Standing Committee does the planning. Election years Fall Assembly is held in Columbus and the other years rotates around the state.

YEAR	OAC	FALL ASSEMBLY (Planned by a Standing Committee)
2022	Toledo	Miami Valley
2023	International convention – Albuquerque	Columbus
2024	Cincinnati	Cincinnati
2025	Cleveland	Cleveland
2026	Akron	Columbus
2027	Columbus	Akron
2028	International ?????	Columbus
2029	Miami Valley	Miami Valley
2030	Youngstown	Youngstown
2031	Toledo	Toledo

OPTION 3 Do a Twelve year Trial of the rotation rotating all Fall Assemblies with Columbus not always hosting Electing year Fall Assembly. This would be an eventual By-Laws(regulations) change.

YEAR	OAC	FALL
2022	Toledo	Miami Valley
2023	International (Albuquerque)	Columbus
2024	Cincinnati	Cleveland
2025	Miami Valley	Akron
2026	Columbus	Toledo
2027	Cleveland	Cincinnati
2028	International	Youngstown
2029	Akron	Miami Valley
2030	Toledo	Cleveland
2031	Youngstown	Columbus
2032	Miami Valley	Akron
2033	International	Toledo

A recommendation was made for two separate surveys – OAC and assembly being two separate groups. After much discussion, it was confirmed that rotation is a By-Laws change (Article 7 Section B) not in the Handbook. A past delegate clarifies that this AWSC body should not be making decisions that affects all the GR's. AWSC needs to approve the motion (with the KDBM) to move forward to assembly. It was determined that this task force will present a motion (probably based

on OPTION 1) at next year's Spring AWSC and (since no change was made today) Youngstown will need to host OAC again in 2022.

Treasurer's Report – Merri G., OAA treasurer

Balance 1/1/2021	\$50,754.94
Income	\$ 10,450.94
Expense	(5,767.36)
Balance	\$ 55,438.52

There is a corrected report (January through May) this current report starts January 1 through August 9th. CD interest will be reported at EOY. Donation report designates plea letter amounts. Explanation:138 groups made donations (from 128 groups) because some groups donate monthly. Unanimous show of hands approves the treasurer's report.

Alternate Delegate's Report - Ann F. Alternate Delegate

Introduction: Ann F. discussed Alanotes and In The Loop (WSO) and shared a portion of the recent letter from WSO's COB Lynette K. under "Finance Committee" showing that the projected 2021 deficit has been revised. Literature sales are up and donations are down.

Report: At the invitation of our Delegate, Jo S, I was able to attend the Panel 61 update meeting. It was held via ZOOM, on August 1, 2021. The topic of the meeting was Electron Group updates. Approximately 15 Delegates attended. As each Delegate shared their experience as to how Areas are working to incorporate Electronic Family Groups into their Area structure, these ideas stood out to me.

1. Although Areas are in varying states of discussion and planning, all Areas appear to still be in the "thought" phase of this transition.
2. Some Areas have presented more detailed information to their AWSC or Assemblies (Southern California has a power point we may want to review and possible use). Other Areas are taking the question, "Do we want to include Electronic Family Groups in our Area service structure?" to their Assemblies. (In other words, it is not a "given" that Areas will accept Electronic Family Groups.) Many questions remain about tech issues, and hybrid Assemblies. Then there were many Areas somewhere between these two.
3. One Area mentioned they have formed a Work Group, since this topic will be ongoing and the Thought/Task Force structure has an end date.
4. It was reported that Electronic Family Groups are organizing, electing GRs and DRs , with the goal of having a Delegate to represent them at WSC. This would be possible if the WSC votes to include the unpaneled area into our service structure at the next WSC.
5. Many Delegates took time to mention the current conditions in their Areas, including COVID restrictions, return of face to face meetings, and hybrid experiences.

The take away was to Keep It Simple, Move Slowly. Nothing will be official until after the 2022 WSC. Local groups wanting to convert to Electronic Family Groups might want to wait for further guidance before making the change official.

And lastly, I was able to get in a plug for the Road Trip! 😊

I plan to issue the second 2021 edition of AI-Anotes before our Two Day Fall Assembly in October. Any current event information would be greatly appreciated. I will be sending out a topic and request for sharings in the near future.

Discussion included clarification for procedure to possibly include electronic meetings into part off OAA service structure (create a work group and bring the vote to assembly – it will require a by-laws change due to "geographic" wording). Ann F informs the group of the timeline: 1) between April 2021-March 2022 each geographical area (ex. Ohio) needs to discuss & decide whether or not to accept electronic groups and then how to do it (what's the process) and 2) groups will have by May 2022 to petition geographic area they wish to be associated with. At Fall assembly we need to vote: do we wish to include electronic groups into the OAA service area? If yes, we need to form a work group. It is suggestion to do a KDBM before assembly votes to inform everyone. The opposite view was stated that if assembly votes it down that is a lot of work and time that went to nothing. Another point was made that during the time it would take to investigate the matter, members

of the assembly would have time to consider the matter carefully. A member proposes a break out information session to answer many of the questions that might come up. This decision would affect the group coordinator's position (she is already receiving information) so Shelly is willing to contribute to the effort. A group is needed to put together a presentation for fall assembly. We need GR's & DR's who have experience with electronic meetings. Participation currently is low (lots of dark groups & districts). We can seek out GR participation for the work group (eventually forming a thought force) toward this effort at fall assembly. Theresa, Sandy, Ginny, Shelly, Ann and Joni are all willing. Ann will take the chair on this. The future ability to successfully do hybrid meetings is a consideration for the future.

Discussion: Participation has gone down so it is suggested that we do like WSO (2/3 pf those present). We need to do a KDBM and present for a three year trial basis (no bylaw change). Theresa volunteers to write the KDBM and unanimous show of hands approve.

Road Trip Report Fall 2021 - Theresa

Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

This full day of in-person fellowship begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Check in for badges and walk-in registration 8-9 a.m.

The Westin Cleveland Downtown 777 Saint Clair Ave., N.E. Cleveland, OH 44114

We won the drawing for this in 2019 and it was to happen on Halloween 2020!

Information will be in the September Forum and is available to on the AFG Connects Announcements. In submitting our bid, we committed to supplying information about the event and the registration to the fellowship to guarantee attendance of at least 60-100.

This is Ohio's opportunity for local AI-Anon members to meet and interact with the Trustees and the Executive Committee members to discuss items of importance to the fellowship.

Read our Regional Trustees sharing on Page 8 of the September Forum, registration info on Page 9.

Break out session topics include:

- How is Your Hybrid? - What has been your experience with a hybrid format?
- How do you stay on the balance beam? - How do you balance your work, family, service commitments?
- Bridging the gap. - How do you encourage unity between face-to-face and electronic groups to support each other?
- Together we can make it. - How can we support Alateen and encourage their participation in AI-Anon.
- Let it begin with me.- What can I do to attract membership that is more diverse?
- Extended Warranty. - How can I use the warranties in my personal recovery?

Visit al-anon.org/roadtrip for registration and more information. Register online or mail in your registration to the World Service Office (WSO) starting Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Both online and mail-in registration close Friday, October 8, 2021.

Register Online Now - Download Mail-in Registration Form

- There are no room blocks or special room rates.
- Members are responsible for their own travel arrangements.

We all understand that we live in a time of COVID 19 and ever changing situations with respect to Public Health and Safety Requirements. There is the possibility that our Road Trip sessions on Saturday will be canceled and/or restrictions placed on the number who can attend.

Please consider registering with the idea that you are donating \$30 to WSO to help cover the costs even if canceled, or you make the personal decision not to attend for your own concerns related to large indoor events.

For those who wish to include visits to other Venues during your time in NE Ohio

A list of places in Akron related to our history will be provided. Some of these include

- Dr Bob's house
- The Gatehouse
- The cemetery
- The Mayflower Hotel

- The hospital
 - The AA Intergroup Office
- Irena H. has offered to do a tour of the first three for those interested.

Please let Irena (Literature Coordinator) and Ginny (Past Delegate) know if you would be interested (both are listed on our AWSC roster). You may also email me and I will pass on the information.

Group Records Report – Shelly C.

As of August 28, 2021 according to the Ohio Database there are:

- 401 active groups
- 119 inactive groups
- 592 meetings listed
 - 453 active meetings
 - o 103 beginners meetings
 - o 350 AFG meetings

There are 7 meetings in No Mail Status:

- Courage to Change Niles OH District 09
- Corryville AFG, Cincinnati District 14
- New Beginnings , Gallipolis District 18
- Paradise AFG, Cuyahoga Falls District 25
- Friday Freedom for Pastoral Ldrshp District 45
- Rainsboro Sat Am District 17
- Courage to Be Me, Barberton District 51
-

6 meetings in Bounced Email Status

- Mondays in Westerville District 26
- Let it Begin With Me, Dayton District 57
- Step by Step, Lancaster District 33
- Jardin de Esperanza District 28
- Faith Hope and Love, Cleveland District 05

1 meeting report Not Meeting
Uniontown AFG

District 48

In addition there are:

- 69 meetings that have no current CMA email address
- Out of 406 active groups only 242 have a GR

Please encourage your GRs to go to the ohioal-anon.org website to submit a GR1 for any changes to their group status. By using the Ohio form it assures that the information comes to me rather than WSO, removing a layer of double work. There is a new form, G39, to be used if the status of your group in regard to the TEMPORARY electronic (Zoom or conference call) information has changed. This will be used to update the information in the WSO website and does not get passed on to any local or AIS information centers. Those records are updated separately. If possible, please put a note on the door of the physical meeting location to direct those who may try to attend your meeting. Include new location or zoom information. Many groups are reported as “Reported Not Meeting” to WSO by folks finding no one at a published location. When this information is received, attempts are made by both WSO and the Area Group Records Coordinator to contact the group and verify current information. In June, 2021 WSO updated their procedure for handling AI-Anon Groups Reported Not Meeting. I can share the details with anyone who is interested, but for 96 days several attempts are made to correct this information. After 96 days WSO will put the group in the Inactive status. Of course, this information can be corrected whenever new information is received.

As a DR, you have read only access through AFG Connects to the group records for all groups in your district. If you have questions on how to access that information please let me know and I will help you. I highly encourage you to periodically review this information to ensure you know the current status for each group.

Keeping information current and accurate is a real challenge right now and will most likely continue for some time. The key will be communication. I have received many updates from the AISs and it is greatly appreciated. You all are doing a great job trying to juggle tennis balls!!!

Discussion: AAPP updates the Alateens. AIS's do not have access to the WSO database. If groups are informing their AIS only, the information is not getting passed onto WSO. Does the group records person from intergroup level report to the area? No. That person should inform the area and world service, but groups should be working through their DR. The group records coordinator states 1) there is no connection between intergroup records coordinators and the state unless they reach out to the state, and 2) prefers if state receives the information initially, then WSO is updated also. The best way for groups to disseminate accurate information across all levels is to 1) keep their local AIS informed of any changes , and 2) fill out the GR-1 form and submit to grouprecords@ohioal-anon.org.

Question: does any DR need to see how to run a report of their groups? (will be answered after AA Task Force).

Task Force: Cooperation with AA Convention - By-Laws Motion Ann F.

Discussion:

Topic:

To discuss and generate some ideas regarding improving cooperation with the Ohio A.A. Convention, and its planning committee. To propose and clarify the roles and responsibilities of Al-Anon members participating in an A.A. Convention. Develop a three-year A.A.-Al-Anon liaison position description if deemed appropriate. Provide proposed Handbook wording changes (similar to OAC guidelines) to the AWSC and Assembly through a KBDM.

FRAMING:

During the Fall 2019 Two Day Fall Assembly, Theresa M., Delegate, brought up under new business that we need to encourage all districts, intergroups and maybe individual groups to improve connections between Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. (AFG of Ohio) and A.A. An elected or an appointed contact between A.A. and Al-Anon at different levels: intergroup, district, and Area may be needed to coordinate this. We would be able to participate in the A.A. conventions more fully. A suggestion was made that the liaison would take a position for 3 years as opposed to one year so that the A.A.'s know who to contact. The discussion followed that we need something in our handbook, a guideline, to say how the cooperation works. A Thought Force was formed.

The Thought Force: Cooperation with A.A. Convention prepared a KBDM for the Two-Day Fall Assembly 2020. They made five different points. a.) Being involved early in the Convention planning process allows for clearer definition of responsibilities particularly in regard to financial matters. b.) Having clear links of service allow for this early participation to take place. c.) Clearly defining the role of Al-Anon in making the connection with A.A. to provide convention support. d.) Clarifying the Handbook budget amount of \$200, specifying either what it is intended for, or preferably leaving it up to the local committee to determine, would be helpful. e.) Finally, and perhaps most importantly, fully participating in an A.A. Convention fosters growth in Al-Anon as expressed in our 6th Tradition and may facilitate more communication and cooperation between our groups, allowing for a more integrated Convention.

After a discussion at the Assembly, a consensus of GR's present voted to move this to a Task force to clarify how AFG of Ohio cooperates with the yearly Ohio A.A. convention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

Historical perspective:

The Al-Anon WSO Guideline, G-7, "Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an A.A. Convention" describes the guidelines and procedures for participation in an A.A. Event.

Existing Motions that appertain to this topic:

From: Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc.,

Section XV, Ohio Alcoholics Anonymous Conference, October 2020, page 22.

"A. Committee: The Delegate shall appoint a liaison to the Ohio State AA Conference who resides near the conference location. The Delegate shall be a member of the planning committee for this event. Local Al-Anon Family Group members shall make up the planning committee for this event. (motion # 2008/10-#08)

B. Funds: Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates to the host committee the sum of \$200.00 towards the expenses of the Ohio State AA Conference. (Motion #2008/10-#09)”

What do we know about our member’s or prospective member’s wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

Concept 4 - Participation is the key to harmony. From WSO Guideline G-7:

“Al-Anon, almost from its beginning, has participated in A.A. events. Such participation often led to the growth of Al-Anon, the added success of the A.A. convention, and an enhanced spirit of cooperation between both fellowships.

It is through the application of our Traditions that this spirit of cooperation is encouraged. Tradition Six states that: “. . . Although a separate entity, we should always cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous.” The basic ingredients for a successful convention, as in all our service work, can be found in the application of all our Traditions: unity, reliance on our Higher Power, and the need to place principles above personalities.”

What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

AFG of Ohio, Inc. has provided a contact and a budgeted amount of money for the annual Ohio AA convention since 2008, per Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. (October 2020, page 22).

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

- A.A. requires all convention attendees, including speakers, to register and pay the registration fee.
- There is a need for clarification of the as to use of the funds donated for the A.A. Convention.
- It has been 13 years (2008) since \$200 was allocated to the committee, and we believe this needs to be increased.
- The connection or link of service, between A.A. and Al-Anon appears to be broken. This, combined with the broken links from local groups, with missing GR’s, and DR’s, have made the communication from A.A. to the Area difficult or non-existent.
- With the evolving shift to virtual meetings and conventions, Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. desires to remain flexible and resilient in these changing times. It is our hope to always maintain and foster our relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous.

What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply. Identify both pros and cons.

Pros:

We believe these changes will show our spiritual principles of simplicity, efficiency, respectful collaboration and consideration by:

- a. Providing year to year continuity in how Al-Anon interacts and cooperates with the AA Convention.
- b. Providing consistent support and guidelines for each local committee to follow.
- c. Allowing for more advanced planning with each AA Region.

Cons:

We will be creating an additional Area position which may be difficult to fill.

What do we wish we knew, but don’t?

We don’t have prior experience with this position. We don’t know if this will improve our connection with A.A.

We also don’t know how having an Area A.A. Liaison position will help the local Al-Anon Committee Chairperson for the A.A. Convention.

Our recommendation is to proceed with the following:

A. Create a new position titled, Area AA Liaison. This would be a 3-year appointed Special Standing Committee Chair, and listed as such in our Handbook, Section XI - Special Standing Committees, (October 2020, page 15) as #8.

Duties and responsibilities, (page 16, as #8, October 2020).

- Establish and maintain contact with the Delegates of the four AA Areas (53, 54, 55, 56).
- Assist the AI-Anon Area Delegate in appointing a local AI-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention.
- Serve on the AI-Anon Committee planning for the AA Convention.
- Provide the local AI-Anon Committee Chairperson for each AA convention with the tools and information (i.e. Guideline G-7) necessary for the planning committee.
- Report to AWSC and the Area Assembly with timely AA information.
- Facilitate AI-Anon cooperation as requested by AA.
- Extend invitation to AA to participate in Ohio Area Convention (OAC).

B. Revise Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., October 2020, page 22, to read:

Section XV - Ohio State AA Convention

1. Committee: The Area AA Liaison shall assist the Area Delegate to appoint a local AI-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention. The local Chairperson shall reside near the A.A. Convention location and will recruit other AI-Anon members to make up the local AI-Anon planning committee for this event.
2. The Area Delegate and Area AA Liaison shall be members of the local AI-Anon planning committee for this event.
3. Funds: AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates up to \$400 to the local AI-Anon planning committee. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the committee and may include such items as a hospitality room (rent and/or supplies), speakers registration fees or expenses, publicity and outreach expenses, or other expenses as approved by the local committee.

Presented By: Cooperation with AA Task Force

WORDING OF SPECIFIC MOTION TO BE MADE:

Add as #8, under Article VI - Committees, Section B, Special Standing Committees the title, Area A.A. Liaison. (Page 6, October 2020, By-Laws)

WORDING OF SPECIFIC MOTION TO BE MADE:

1. Under Section XI - Special Standing Committees, A., of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures For AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., add as #8, the title, Area A.A. Liaison.
2. Under Section XI - Special Standing Committees, B. Descriptions of Committees and guidelines, as #8, add:
 - Establish and maintain contact with the Delegates of the four AA Areas (53, 54, 55, 56).
 - Assist the AI-Anon Area Delegate in appointing a local AI-Anon Committee Chair- person for each State AA Convention.
 - Serve on the AI-Anon Committee planning for the AA Convention.
 - Provide the local AI-Anon Committee Chairperson for each AA convention with the tools and information (i.e. Guideline G-7) necessary for the planning commit- tee.
 - Report to AWSC and the Area Assembly with timely AA information.
 - Facilitate AI-Anon cooperation as requested by AA.
 - Extend invitation to AA to participate in Ohio Area Convention (OAC).
3. To revise Section XV of the Handbook of General and Committee Working Procedures for AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., October 2020, page 22, to read:

Section XV - Ohio State AA Convention

1. Committee: The Area AA Liaison shall assist the Area Delegate to appoint a local AI-Anon Committee Chairperson for each State AA Convention. The local Chairperson shall reside near the A.A. Convention location and will recruit other AI-Anon members to make up the local AI-Anon planning committee for this event.
2. The Area Delegate and Area AA Liaison shall be members of the local AI- Anon planning committee for this event.

Funds: AI-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc. donates up to \$400 to the local AI-Anon planning committee. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the committee and may include such items as a hospitality room (rent and/or supplies), speakers registration fees or expenses, publicity and outreach expenses, or other expenses as approved by the local committee.

Two motions 1) creating a new standing committee position for AA liaison, 2) is a job description which both require a by-law change. We need 50 GR's (what is referred to as a "quorum") in order to vote on that change. At Spring Assembly last year we did have 50 GR's at the start of the Assembly, but by the time we got to the vote, participants had left and we no longer had a quorum. We will be presenting those two motions again at Fall Assembly (fingers crossed) that we have 50 GR's to vote. The only concern that came up at Spring Assembly was a question about the wisdom of creating yet another standing committee position when participation in general is so low. The task force was concerned and discussed this, but ultimately agreed that having this position was the best way to have continued cooperation with AA. We will present the same motion at Fall Assembly as we did in Spring.

Task Force: Information Technology Position – Cecilia S. chair

Discussion: This task force was formed to describe in detail a possible paid area technology position (include the website and a team of technology volunteers). Strategically, technology is becoming increasingly important to AI-Anon and websites can do so much more than simple lists of meetings. Viewing what is being done externally using technology at the WSO level, Ohio area needs to respond. Reliance on the continued willingness of two long time volunteers can potentially cause burn-out. Both the seventh and eighth Traditions illustrate our ability to pay for this information technology service for Ohio area and to create a paid position. The task force got bogged down with lengthy details and ultimately decided to focus on a clearly understandable high level job description and would leave all the technological details to a policies & procedures manual. That would separate and keep things simple. The manual will be "technology neutral" meaning it would keep things generic and applicable to future technological changes. The IT Chair's responsibility is "to provide for" things like strategic planning and recommendations to the board– specifically it will not be expected that the "IT Chair" will do all this by themselves, but rather that they may delegate, use consultants & volunteers depending on their level of expertise or skill set in a given area. The task force did not attempt to get specific with outside resource recommendations, that would vary depending on the person who ultimately takes this position, what their skill set is, and what are the skill sets of the willing volunteers. It is highly recommended that that IT chair will be able to back up the website work. Cons include out of pocket expenses and the challenge of change itself. For the IT duties, the description has four areas: technology tools, website, equipment & miscellaneous. Question: does assembly want to vote to establish this position? Do we need to gather specific information on the cost of outsourcing some of these services? Clarification: the first goal is to find a volunteer, if a volunteer is not found, second step would be to hire someone. We probably couldn't afford to hire a person to cover all the duties of this entire position and we don't need to do that. Only the technological areas would need to be outsourced. Area could 1) create this position on a trial basis, or 2) create this position using a by-law change. Are we at the point to have a proposed motion? This is what we lack to take this to assembly. A unanimous hand showing approved sending a suggested motion on to assembly. Theresa & Cecilia will identify areas of the handbook that pertain to this change, so Ginny (handbook chair) will be involved in creating the motion.

KNOWLEDGE BASED DECISION MAKING

Topic: Information Technology Chair Job Description

- To develop a job description for the Information Technology Chair for the Handbook.
- To examine what the specific duties would be
- Determine if there is a need to have a paid position as well as a team of people to oversee both AWSC and Assembly Meetings

FRAMING: BACKGROUND INFORMATION: What we know:

Historical perspective: As shown below, IT

Section XI A – 7 Special Standing Committee of Web Master is listed

Section XI B – 7 Web Master Description and Guidelines

A committee will be put together, comprised of members from all of the Host Districts in Ohio, to formulate a plan to develop an Area website that will contain meeting lists, Al-Anon Information Service office addresses and phone numbers and any other information which will help provide up-to-date information to members of Al-Anon and others. (motion 2001/10 - # 4)

Section IX J Website

1. A budget item of three-hundred dollars (\$300.00) to be approved to establish the website for www.ohioal-anon.org. This money will go towards the coverage of expenses, such as web hosting fees and domain name registration. (motion 2002/05 - # 6)

2. In addition, establish a domain name of www.ohioalanon.org to be linked to the current website, www.ohioal-anon.org. (motion 2016/11 - # 06)

SECTION XIV – EXPENSES & MOTIONS In addition to the Delegate’s Equalized Expense fund, as described in the Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual, the Area Treasurer will be responsible for the following, per Budget Committee recommendations:

Part E-3

8. Establish a one-thousand, five-hundred-dollar (\$1,500.00) Equipment Fund for maintenance, repair, and eventual replacement of equipment. (motion 1994/03 - # 2)

a. Add five percent (5%) annually in the budget, based on previous year income.

b. Cap the Equipment Fund at three-thousand, five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00). (motion 2003/05 - # 5)

Note:

The Ohio Convention details makes no mention of IT

The Ohio Spring Assembly and Two Day Fall make no mention of IT details although historically IT provides onsite support of equipment, projection, and other technical areas

Existing Motions that appertain to this topic: None

What do we know about our member’s or prospective member’s wants, needs, and preferences that are relevant to this discussion?

Currently scope of the Web Master in the Handbook focusses on listing meetings online and “any other information which will help such as service office addresses”.

Our member’s needs are best seen in the areas in which the website has expanded:

Area handbook

current and archived AWSC Minutes

current and archived Delegate Reports

current and archived Al-A-Notes

forms to subscribe to Al-A-Note

WSO Guidelines (including 14 links to allow easy access to specific guidelines)

The entire Service Manual plus links to brochures and pamphlets related to service,

Links Public Outreach resources, GR packets, service forms

The website also offers the ability to make contributions online (in both US\$ and CA\$)

The website contains a newcomers page filled with information, plus links to other pages for: spouse/partner, child, parent, sibling, grandchild in home, friend.

The opening page contains links for: more information, a self-quiz and a special section for teens Additionally, while the Treasurer reimburses current webmaster for equipment expenses, there is quite a bit of Area-owed equipment including: laptops, printers, projectors and power connections.

Additionally there are software licenses residing on both Area hardware and member hardware which need to tracked, renewed and controlled.

The webmaster maintains a list of generic email addresses so that mail can be sent to generic “secretary” address which then forwards mail to specific person

The website includes an area calendar with the ability to add an event to calendar right from the webpage.

The management of all of these areas of technology – both responding to requests and making suggestions for use of new technology - is quite a responsibility in and of itself.

Support of these areas is another burden of responsibility.

What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of the organization relative to this issue?

The strategic position of the Area

- Considering internal matters, recent technology and social environment changes have sparked a revolutionized in the ability of people from across the area to participate in meetings together in committees, convention and assemblies.
- Considering external matters, the reach of Ohio AI-Anon now easily goes beyond our state borders and surrounding areas and includes banks, etc.
- Keep in mind that the ways in which technology connects our Area, the districts within our Area, WSO, and financial institutions will continue to evolve – in many cases by entities outside of our control (WSO, banks, etc)
- The way in which our members will connect to us will also evolve – younger members use Facebook, Instagram, etc. How can these capabilities be leveraged and controlled? Think about new apps for smart phones. Who would have foreseen an AI-Anon app?

The capabilities of IT in the Ohio Area: the current area is maintained by handful of people – primarily two.

What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics that are relevant to this discussion?

The responsibilities and capabilities of IT in the Ohio Area has grown organically (a little bit at a time) and explosively.

We run the risk of burning out these resources and / or having what we've built begin to break. Many organizations and even businesses exist for which website links do not work, posted information is outdated, licenses expire and inventory is lost.

We run the very real risk of losing IT environment if one or two people are no longer able to carry the load. Important to have systems documentation and cross training so our investment in the technology is not lost.

What are the ethical implications of our choices (pro and cons)? This includes consideration of how the Legacies apply. Identify both pros and cons.

Traditions 7: Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

COMMENT: We would never expect one member to shoulder excess responsibility for a group – whether it be related to finances, group leadership, or meeting set-up, etc. Do we want to continue in an environment where one or two people provide IT support for all of Area 44?

Tradition 8: AI-Anon Twelfth Step work should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

COMMENT: Clearly this is an area where “special workers” could be employed if approved by the Area.

Concept 10: Service responsibility is balanced by carefully defined service authority and double-headed management is avoided.

COMMENT: It is important that the handbook definition of website responsibilities match reality.

WHAT IS OFFERED BY THIS TASK FORCE:

A new definition of an IT Technology Chair:

- The definition is written to be understandable by the average member.
- The definition is as “technology-independent” as possible. That is, we refer to email (not gmail) and office tools such as spreadsheets (not Excel)
- The definition includes providing strategic direction and recommendations to Area 44.
- The definition describes the Chair as “providing for” rather than doing. This allows the Chair to delegate duties where applicable. The Chair’s job is to see that responsibilities are met.
- The definition is kept at a high level with these divisions:
 - o Introduction
 - o Requirements
 - o List of Duties
 - Technology Tools

- Website
- Equipment
- Miscellaneous
- The definition refers to a Technical Procedures Manual which will hold all of the technical details relevant to the Area's IT.

There is no recommendation regarding the use of outside resources on a pay-for-service basis. It would be the job of the IT Chair to make such recommendations to the Area for any such arrangement. Also, the need to hire resources will depend on the skills and availability of member or volunteer resources as well as the development of technology itself.

PROS:

- High level definition provides umbrella of duties, is understandable and covers all the bases.
- High level definition includes items such as strategic planning and recommendations to the Area
- Generic responsibilities ensure that handbook will not go out of date when technology changes.
- The IT Chair's responsibility to "provides for" grants authority to delegate where appropriate.
- Any use of outside resources would be decided by the Area.
- The use of outside resources could
 - o ensure responsibilities are better met
 - o increase expertise
 - o provide backup to existing resources (that is people)

CONS:

- Effort to organize efforts in a new way requires time and effort which at this point places a burden on already strained resources.
- Delegation of duties may involve out-of-pocket cost.

Plans and recommendations made by the IT Chair will change how this area is viewed and managed by Area 44, and change is hard.

What do we wish we knew, but don't?

In this area more than others, we are affected

- by changes outside of our control: development of technology (and the ways our membership and other sick and suffering use technology)
- by changes in WSO, its app and the way in which group records are maintained
- by changes in business partners such financial institutions through which we can receive donations.

The goal of the proposed Area Position Guideline is outline a position providing leadership and expertise. This will allow us to leverage technology to fulfill our responsibility as stated in our Declaration.

INTRODUCTION

The Area Information Technology (IT) Chair is responsible for implementing and managing technology resources for the benefit the Area. This includes:

- Provide strategic direction and recommendations to Area 44 regarding technology; serve as advisor to Area volunteers.
- Arrange for design/build/maintenance of the Area's Website including content management
 - Arrange for selection, deployment and support of a software toolset used to support Area-level business
 - Arrange for management of technology hardware
 - Arrange for education, encouragement and technical support to other AWSC members, AI-Anon members and AI-Anon/Alateen groups within the Area to facilitate the use of the Area's resources.
 - Arrange for the development of technical procedures manual to contain detail information to necessary to maintain Area software and hardware assets. This manual is to be a living document, updated and kept current as changes occur.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Computer with Internet access.
2. Ability to arrange the resources required to support software and hardware with an emphasis on WILLINGNESS TO LEARN.
3. Ability to arrange training of technical and non-technical users.

4. Ability to manage Area hardware and software assets.
5. Working knowledge of AI-Anon principles and Traditions, especially related to anonymity, service and leadership.

LIST OF DUTIES

TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

1. Arrange for the selection, implementation and support of tools which best support Area business processes,
2. Particularly arrange for support AWSC and Area Assemblies by
 - a. Attending all meetings and ensure equipment necessary for these meetings is set up and ready.
 - b. Providing for coordination and training to AWSC and Conference Committee on the technology use and best practices.
 - c. Encourage information exchange among users
3. Arrange for protection of admin login credentials for all technology tools, providing documentation internally as appropriate for backup.
4. Ensure the toolsets are maintained and managed. Significant changes to toolset should be brought before AWSC.
5. Such tools currently include but are not limited to: website hosting and maintenance, domain names renewal, email accounts, virtual meeting software, content management and office tools (spreadsheet, word processing) and the Google Apps Suite (Google Docs, Google Calendar and Google Forms).

WEBSITE

6. Arrange for management of Web site design through implementation and support.
7. Seek to ease maintenance of frequently changing data through content management when possible.
8. Recommend and follow principles of posting content on public website in line with WSO and Area Guidelines. Content may include but is not limited to Area calendar, list of meetings, member resources and group records.
9. Arrange for stability of website.

EQUIPMENT

10. Arrange for the selection, implementation and support of hardware which best support Area business processes.
11. Arrange for asset management procedures which protect Area hardware investments.
12. Ensure hardware is maintained and managed. Significant changes to hardware should be brought before AWSC including selection, storage.
13. Arrange for hardware set up, training, use and tear down.

MISCELLANEOUS

11. Attend all AWSC meetings and Area Assemblies and present brief written and oral reports on:
 - a. performance and status of hardware and software.
 - b. performance of website with an eye toward increasing usage.
 - c. Provide update on current projects.
 - d. Provide ideas for how to use technology to support and grow the Area Web site use statistics.
12. Participate in budget process; keep accurate records and provide receipts. Follow Area policy on covered expenses.
13. Transfer all asset access and records to successor, being a Service Sponsor.

Cecilia S. IT chair will develop a job description that may be a paid position.

Task Force: Alateen Policy Changes - Ginny C. chair

While the Task Force has completed its discussions. The Handbook Chair needs to make the suggested style and edits in both the Handbook and By Laws. Legal counsel needs to review them. Finally, WSO needs to review the final product.

Task Force: Insurance Renewal – Ginny C. Chair

The task force members have been meeting together to help with the process of completing the insurance application. It has not yet been submitted.

Task Force: Meeting Improvement - Ginny C. Chair

We have been meeting and coming up with ideas for a skit and song for the Fall Assembly.

Task Force: Handbook – Ginny C. Chair

Handbook-The changes were made to the Handbook to incorporate the motions passed at the Spring Assembly. The changed Handbook should be posted on the website soon.

Alateen Coordinator Report – Sara M (absent so report given by Donna G.)

Alateen survey is in September and it is a tight window. Alateens need a permission slip signed by parents. Once that get into WSO Alateens receive the survey. If over 18 that is not needed. KOMIAC was cancelled due to one of the groups. Next year it is in Indiana – July 29, 30 & 31st. Fall Rally may be virtual this year. There is a discussion about having identification cards for Alateen sponsors – a type of business card. Two questions: are sponsors objecting to the card? How do members find Alateen information (in person or Zoom)? Sponsors may put out emails or phone numbers, but it is not legal to publish Zoom info for Alateen meetings. The Ohio website does not show meetings but links users to the WSO Alateen meeting list. It is up to sponsors of the Alateen groups to keep their information updated with Carmen (AAPP). What happened in a large number of areas is their AAPP's did not complete their records and they lost their ability temporarily to have to have Alateen meetings, until the whole behavior requirements are rewritten through council, sent to WSO who reviews it, sends it back to the area and the area votes to use them. They are trying to move that forward as quickly as possible but thanks to Carmen, ours done on time and done correctly. The permanent Alateen electronic meetings (created by WSO) were moved to the app on a temporary trial basis. Does anyone at this meeting know if you have to register your teen through the WSO to participate in the Alateen meetings on the app? The Alateen chat that was on the website was not user friendly – teens typed in their responses and waited for sponsors to view what they had written and write back. With the new app, they are very strict overseeing who can they let come in and who can speak, with two AMIAS on each meeting.

Ohio Alateen/KOMIAC Account

- No deposits or withdrawals since last report. Current balance \$10,955.95
- Ohio Alateen Will be making a payment of \$596.96 to Indiana Alateen for KOMIAC 2022. This is the amount of the check Michigan initially passed to us to host KOMIAC (2020 and then 2021), but we did not have an in person KOMIAC and Ohio decided to cover all the Zoom expenses needed for KOMIAC planning and the Zoom KOMIAC 2020. Zoom expenses were donated by individual members via the use of their zoom accounts and therefore not taken out of the account. An exchange will be planned to exchange the check and KOMIAC planning materials with the Coordinator from Indiana.

KOMIAC

- KOMIAC 2021 was cancelled due to lack of participation and interest. Planning meetings were held from January 2021 through June 2021 before officially deciding to cancel the conference. Thanks to all who assisted in the efforts to carry out this venture.

Problems in Alateen

- Kentucky's official Alateen status has been temporarily removed due to failure to properly register AMIAS and Groups by the AAPP. The Area is in the process of remedying the situation and plans to be recertified ASAP and available for KOMIAC 2022.
- Alateen participation continues to be low. We are hoping with return to in person meetings and continued outreach and support from the Alanon and A.A. community we can regrow meetings and reach teens around Ohio.

Be on the Look Out

- Sponsor Fall Workshop 2021 - Will be virtual, information to come. Likely end of October/Early November
- Fall Rally - TBD, in discussion with AMIAS about interest and feasibility of hosting in person rally.

Thank you for your continued support of Alateen.

Archive Coordinator – Darla H. no report

Forum Coordinator – Cathy C.

Subscriptions are down and they are always looking for sharings. The Road trip is in the September Forum.

Literature Coordinator – Irena H. no report

Tom C. associate director of literature at the WSO (tom@al-anon.org) requests sharings for CAL Corner in the Forum in particular Guide to the Family of the Alcoholic P-7 (60th year in print), Lois Remembers B-7, and Hope and Understanding For Parents and Grandparents (P-94). Tom requested before 9/13/21 (shares can be sent anytime on any CAL and will be stored for future use).

Public Outreach Coordinator Report - Sheri B.

Discussion: PSA's came out yesterday.

The goal of Public Outreach for 2021 has been to help districts and groups meet the professional communities where they are.

- **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.
- **A new WSO Initiative** announced earlier this year, is developing new customizable materials for use by all areas across North America. The WSO is working with the Areas to identify best practices and needs and actively develop new resources rather than solely serving as a reviewer and approver of our own initiatives.
- **The 2020-2021 PSA campaign** was very successful. The campaign resulted in 116,153 airplays at Nielsen tracked stations across North America, and an additional 35880 stations not tracked by Nielsen.
 - o A list of the Nielsen tracked stations that aired the PSAs is attached. I was unable to get the final figures for the 2019-20 campaign, but do know that airplays more than doubled.
 - o The WSO's 2021-2022 campaign will leverage the Questions PSAs that you can view here <https://al-anon.org/media-kit/public-service-announcements/>, plus a new Benefits of AlAnon Recovery PSA that is not yet posted to the site.
- **Steps we can take.** The COVID-19 pandemic continues to make it more difficult for professionals and potential newcomers to access information and meetings. To help fill that gap, groups can
 - o Make sure your meeting information is updated and available at the district and WSO level and welcome students and professionals to your open meetings to allow them to observe and learn about Al-Anon so they can refer the people they serve.

Note that Meeting Type designations of Open and Closed proved to be confusing to both members and newcomers. The Board of Trustees modified the language at their April 2019 meeting to replace Meeting Type with Meeting Attendees, replace Open with Families, Friends, and Observers Welcome, and replace Closed with Families and Friends Only. Please update your meeting lists to update this language as needed.

- o Contact movie theatres, colleges, school districts, community organizations, and other non-media related groups to publish our PSAs. (available at <https://al-anon.org/media-kit/public-service-announcements/>)
- o Email electronic materials to professionals and organizations. Materials can be downloaded at no cost at:
 - <https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/literature/downloadable-items/>
 - <https://ecommm.al-anon.org/ICommerce/Shop/ICommerce/Store/StoreLayouts/Home.aspx>
- o Mail or drop off (with permission) print materials where appropriate. The WSO is continuing to offer reduced shipping rates of \$5 for individual orders of up to \$50 to make it more economical for districts and groups to order and share literature in their communities.
- o Use our printable wraps to distribute Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to professionals or groups in your district. Copies are attached.
- o Adapt our public outreach posters for use locally.
- o Use our printable contact cards to share their contact information with newcomers or professionals

Please call or email me for copies of materials or with any questions or outreach ideas:

Sheri Bogardus

Public Outreach Coordinator

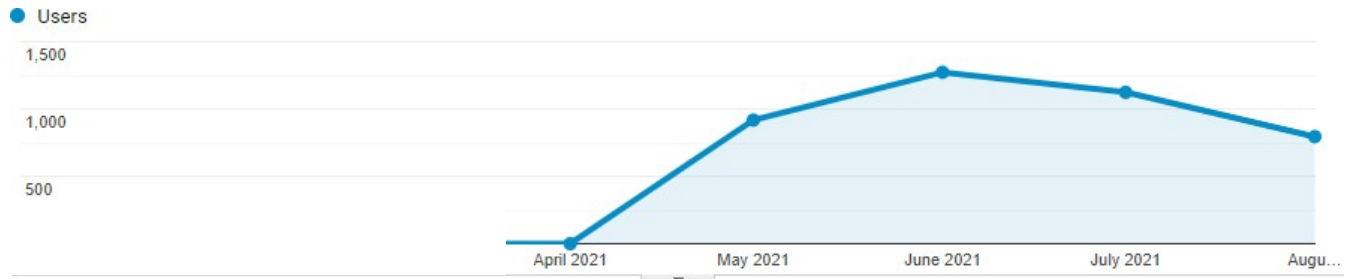
publicoutreach@ohioal-anon.org

513-252-4703

FALL AWSC WEB REPORT – Aug 28, 2021

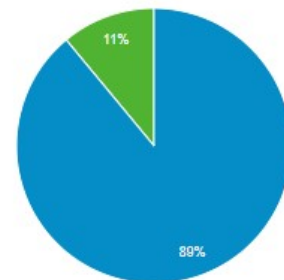
RECAP: Back in May’s Assembly, we reported that the website was successfully transferred to our new web hosting vendor Dreamhost with minimal interruption. Web stats from our new web hosting vendor started coming in April of this year. Below, you’ll notice there was no activity prior to April. That is because April was when Dreamhost started tracking.

The statistics (below) represent web site activity in the last 90 days on our new web hosting platform

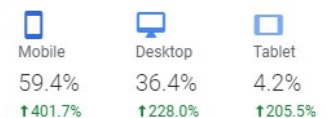
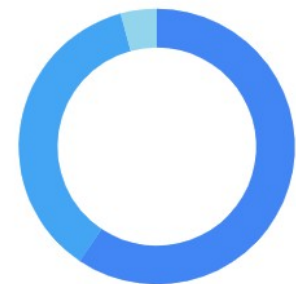


<p>Users</p> <p>4,084</p>	<p>New Users</p> <p>4,074</p>
<p>Sessions</p> <p>5,053</p>	<p>Number of Sessions per User</p> <p>1.24</p>
<p>Pageviews</p> <p>10,207</p>	<p>Pages / Session</p> <p>2.02</p>
<p>Avg. Session Duration</p> <p>00:01:25</p>	<p>Bounce Rate</p> <p>53.97%</p>

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



Sessions by device



Page	Pageviews
/alalist.html	2,987
/	2,297
/calendar.html	716
/meeting_search_tool.html	549
/contactus.html	210
/documents.html	193
/area_information_services.html	152
/index.html	131
/12steps.html	116
/alateen_about.html	91

Operating System	Users	% Users
1. iOS	1,565	38.32%
2. Windows	1,044	25.56%
3. Android	996	24.39%
4. Macintosh	385	9.43%
5. Linux	32	0.78%
6. Chrome OS	31	0.76%
7. (not set)	30	0.73%
8. Xbox	1	0.02%

Web Committee Report by:
 - Mike K. webmaster@ohioal-anon.org
 - Phil H. al-anondaytonoh@live.com

Stats by Google Analytics

Area Alateen Process Person – Carmen I.

Coordinator was absent and report was not read.

Review Committee - Terry

Merri and I and two new volunteers are going to get together sometime in this next year. Excited!

Announcement: Two Day Fall October 16 & 17 on Zoom

Discussion: Thoughts about making two day fall one day? Ann F. Members are for it overall however a past delegate informs that this decision needs to be voted on by all the GR's. Last year it was a Two Day Fall was on Zoom on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. GR trainings occur before the assemblies. An optimistic view is suggested.

Question: does any DR need to see how to run a report of their groups? Carol and Chris need to see. Shelly asked Rosie to show. Instructions on how DR's may access a list of their groups through AFG Connects: 1) access AFG Connects District Representatives through your email, 2) sign in if you're not – type in user name – if you forget it email & they send it to you – password same thing. 3) Drop down box – choose your community – post blog to your community. 4) If you want to log out, go up and do so. 4) If a DR can't get in, contact WSO.

How to read a thread – AFG Connects District Representative email – view what others have written. Library – GR Guidelines, How to get into online group records, etc. Why a DR would want to see this information: to see all your GR's and contact them. If you want the list, you need to sign into Group Records. Both Log-ins (AFG Connects & Group Record) are the same.

Motion to adjourn Ann F – Ginny C seconds
AI-Anon Declaration