

Welcome to Fall Ohio Area Assembly. I am Ann Ferguson, and just about a month ago I became your Ohio Area Delegate, for Panel 61.

Prior to becoming your Delegate, I was your Alternate Delegate and Al-A-Notes newsletter editor.

World Service Office (WSO) Update

I hope all of you are subscribed to our World Service newsletter, In the Loop. If not, I strongly recommend that each of you, and all group members sign up. The sign up is on the alanon.org website, under the Members tab.

That being said, everyone who was signed up should have received an email in August from our Chairman of the Board (COB) of Trustees, Lynette K.

You can take the time to read this yourself, but I wanted to take a couple of minutes and review the finance update from Lynette's letter. And I quote:

“Finance Update:

The Board approved the Revised 2021 Budget. Even though expenses continue to be cut wherever possible, the Revised 2021 Budget has a \$233,753 deficit. Although year-to-date literature sales are above the YTD budget by \$86,831, literature sales have still not returned to pre-pandemic numbers. Year-to-date contributions are below budgeted expectations by \$111,557. We continue to need members' contributions in order to meet the Revised Budget! (Please see the Finance Update attached to this letter.)”

This shortfall is a direct result of significantly decreased donations over what was expected for 2021.

I urge you to take this information back to your groups. If you are meeting in person, consider passing an envelope for personal donations to WSO. If you are still meeting electronically, perhaps consider setting up a PayPal or VENMO account, or asking for donations to be mailed to your group treasurer. As an individual you can go to the Contributions tab on the alanon.org website and donate via credit card, or PayPal.

Job Openings

Two positions are available at WSO Headquarters in Virginia Beach, Virginia. They are Agile Project Manager and Copy Editor. Neither position will be considered for remote employment.

Information of these openings is on the WSO al-anon.org website, Under Employment.

Electronic Meetings to AI-Anon Family Groups - Ohio Area Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG)

At the invitation of our Past Delegate, Jo S, I was able to attend the Panel 61 update meeting as your Alternate Delegate. It was held via ZOOM, on August 1, 2021. The topic of the meeting was Electronic Group updates. Approximately 15 Delegates attended. Each Delegate shared their experience as to how their Areas are working to incorporate Electronic Family Groups into their Area structure.

Our Ohio Area has had a Work Group focused on presenting this information to Assembly and what needs to happen to move forward.

Definitions/Acronyms

WSO - World Service Office
WSC - World Service Conference
AFG - AI-Anon Family Group

Prior to 2021 WSC:

EM - Electronic meeting
PEM - Permanent Electronic Meeting

After 2021 WSC:

EG - Electronic Group

Electronic Groups Structure Questions

Things to consider for Ohio Area service structure with respect to Electronic Groups. These require informed group consciences probably best done with KBDM process as in our Handbook.

Background:

At the 2021 World Service Conference, (WSC), Electronic Meetings were recognized as AI-Anon Family Groups. A motion was passed to remove the Electronic Meetings section, page 88-89 from our Service Manual.

The following relates to **permanent registered groups which meet only electronically**. (Groups meeting temporarily via Zoom, conference call, or hybrid are NOT permanent electronic groups)

If recognized at the 2022 WSC, a newly Paneled electronic Area will be formed to include these Electronic Family Groups .

Once that happens, EG's may then request to move into other Areas and Districts.

At this point, the Ohio Area will have the opportunity to welcome these EG's into our Area.

Before EG's can be included into our service structure, our Area will need to decided if and how we can include them in a way they can fully participate.

AREA

Do we wish to include EG's in our structure?

- 1) **Yes** – Will require a change in our ByLaws. Article III-Section A, Policy 5. Territorial Definition: Ohio Area Assembly participation is limited to groups meeting with the boundaries of the State of Ohio.
- 2) **No**
- 3) **Not at this time**. Consider at a future time.

If we move forward with welcoming EG's, considerations will need to be made regarding the Area providing a format and requirements for participation.

Only after EG's become part of Ohio Area, can Districts and Area Information Services (AIS) invite them into their service structure. The same decisions being discussed at the Area level will need to be made at the District and AIS level.

Group Representatives are responsible for making all of these decisions .

AI-A-Notes

The Fall Edition of AI-A-Notes was published in September, following our AWSC meeting. It was sent to all AWSC members, current GR's and CMA's, by email and is on the Ohio Area website. Subscription copies were mailed via snail mail

Yours in service,

Ann F
Ohio Area Delegate
Panel 61