

## Spring 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The Spring Assembly meeting was held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the North Congregational UCC located at 2040 West Henderson Rd, Columbus Ohio 43220. Area 44 chairperson Ann F welcomed everyone for the first ever Hybrid Assembly meeting at 12:30 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Sharon B (GR - Twinsburg Thursday Night AFG) read the Traditions and Christine E (DR 10) read the Concepts. Cheryl C (Handbook Committee Coordinator) read all the General Warranties of Concept 12. In attendance were 74 members representing districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 19, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 38, 39,45, 47, 48, 51 within the Ohio area (Area 44) and one from Global Electronic Area (GEA).

Ann F (Chairperson – Panel 64) reviewed the etiquette procedures pertaining to the Assembly meeting. She read the Declaration of Unity found on P107 of [How AI-Anon Works](#) along with Assembly goals which are as follows:

- Members will understand the purpose of the Assembly, relationships with the structure and be able to articulate Assembly Decisions.
- The spiritual tone of the Assembly will prevail by the demonstration of mutual respect acceptable conduct by its members.
- Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, Assembly members will presume goodwill.

Ann F also reviewed the voting procedures.

Merri G (Alternate Delegate – Panel 64) reported that 15 new GRs participated in the new GR Orientation – 5 on Zoom (Sue M, Wendy, Heidi W, Melissa, Joe) and 11 in person (Rose, Kathy L, Sharon Y, Gabriele, Nancy D, Donna S, Angela S, Christine E, Kathy W, David S).

Sandra F (Past Delegate – Panel 49) made a motion to seat Tess C (Tech helper from the church) with voice pertaining to technical aspects of the meeting and no voice or vote pertaining to AFG of Ohio Inc. Cheryl C seconded the motion which was approved by consensus.

The following reports and motions were presented in the Assembly meeting.

All the reports and motions can be found here: [Calendar \(ohioal-anon.org\)](#)

### **Reports and Motion Presentation:**

1. **Fall 2023 Assembly Minutes:** Theresa M highlighted all the corrections to the Fall 2023 Assembly Minutes and forwarded the corrections to Daisy A (Secretary – Panel 64). Sharon B made a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes and be approved with corrections. Theresa M seconded it. The motion passed and the Minutes stand as corrected. Daisy A has made all the corrections on May 20, 2024 to the Fall 2023 Assembly Minutes.
2. **Ohio AI-A Notes:** Merri G (Alt Delegate) talked about the AI-A-Notes which is Ohio area's newsletter. The first issue was published in April 2024 and made a plea to all the members to contribute to the newsletter. She urged members to write about their District happenings and/or their favorite Concept and how they have applied it to their lives. The due date to send members' sharing is August 31, 2024. Merri G can be reached at [alternatedelegate@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:alternatedelegate@ohioal-anon.org) or [newsletter@ohioal-anon.org](mailto:newsletter@ohioal-anon.org). Daisy A will then send the AI-A-Notes to all the CMA's (Current Mailing Address) sometime after August 31st.

3. **USNCRDM Report:** Merri G (Alt Delegate) presented her first experience in the 35<sup>th</sup> US North Central Regional Delegates Meeting in this report and shared how it has impacted her growth in her current role as an Alt Delegate. She shared that she was part of the “Growing Service Committee” breakout room where several strategies were discussed including forming a road show - performing to different groups and be auctioned as a sponsor. She shared that Ohio will host the 2025 USNCRDM.
4. **Year end 2023 Treasurer’s Report:** Merri G (Alt Delegate) presented the 2023 Treasurer’s Report. She explained the significance of the money donated (\$6769.00) due to the appeal letters that are sent to the groups in addition to explaining the budgeted amount and the expenses incurred in the year 2023. She also explained how the current expenses help in budget planning for the upcoming year emphasizing service is all about growth. Hernan V (GR - Solon Serenity AFG) asked about the \$5000 in the excess funds and Merri G explained that it was donated to the World Service Organization (WSO). Carol R (Treasurer – Panel 64) made a motion to accept the 2023 Year end Treasurer’s Report as presented and Theresa M seconded it. The motion passed by consensus.
5. **2024 Treasurer Report:** Carol R (Treasurer – panel 64) presented this report which reflected the current savings, income (7454.44 received through donations) and expenditure until May 3, 2024. Daisy A reminded the attendees to send any contribution to correct PO Box (in North Lima) and Shelly C (OAC Advisor and 2-day Fall Liaison) commented that members identify their group at least by the city name. Hernan V asked what the APY (Annual Percentage Yield) on the three CDs was and Ann F said it was about 5%. Jeanne W asked what the approximate contribution from the GRs on Zoom was. Ann F answered that this would be discussed later. Theresa M made a motion to accept the presented Treasurer’s report. Sharon B seconded it and the motion passed by consensus.
6. **Delegate Report:** Rose R (Delegate – panel 64) presented the report where she shared her experiences and the events that she has been part of, so far in her new role as Area 44’s delegate which is as follows:

#### **Spring Assembly Delegate Report:**

I want to begin by saying that all my fears of inadequacy and my anxiety were unfounded! Surprised? I really don’t need to be because every time I take a service position, those fears ramp up and every time they are false! What a magnificent experience I had and I know it will only get better. I have to say to never, never let anyone convince you Service is not for you or you can’t do it because that is FEAR - False Evidence Appearing Real for certain!

Today I want to share with you what happened at the **64th Annual World Service Conference (WSC)**, which was held April 18-21, 2024, at the Fountain Inn, in Virginia Beach. The Conference was attended by over 100 members, which included 68 Delegates from the US, Canada, Bermuda and Puerto Rico, the Board of Trustees, At-large members of the Executive Committee, and World Service Office (WSO) staff. The theme for this year’s Conference was, Our Pathway to Grace, Unity and Understanding. I want to thank you for all of the beautiful cards, letters, and heartwarming notes I received while I was at the Conference. It was very encouraging and exhilarating to know that you all were beside me during this four day experience. Please let your group members know how much it was appreciated! There was an overabundance of “love gifts” that everybody brought. I tried to pick up as many different ones as I could fit in my suitcase to bring back to share with you all. Please check the back table and help yourself!

My journey started at 7 AM when I left for Detroit. I actually survived the directions to the parking lot, pick up by the shuttle, tagging my luggage and getting through security! I wasn't alone as I imagined because my HP was right beside me.

I was fortunate to have reached out to the only other person on my flight via text and we met up at the boarding gate. We became S.I.S. Sisters In Service immediately! Joan K. from Kansas will be forever my partner in this next 3 year journey and I am so blessed to have met her first. Like I said - HP right beside me! Once we landed in Norfolk, we connected with other Delegates from Panel 64 and shuttled to the Hotel. After settling in my room, it was time to begin to "mingle".

I met up with a few more Delegates from Texas, West (BJ) and East (Anna) and invited myself to dinner with them. We had a wonderful sunset walk (hike!) and had an amazing dinner on the beach.

There's so much to share and because of all the information, I'm only going to highlight certain things today. We have so much cover for Assembly in all areas such as reports, motions and other important business. I will give more detail @ AWSC and Fall Assembly. Of course, if anyone has questions on the information presented please let me know and I would be more than happy to answer them to the best of my ability.

The first day of the Conference began @ 6 AM with an AI-Anon meeting which I made it a point to attend each day having been encouraged by my Service Sponsor and my Delegate Mentor, Linda H from MN North or MN nice as she likes to say. It was definitely a good thing even though it was very early. It helped me to get to know those that attended in a special way that I wouldn't have had an opportunity to do otherwise.

One of the early meetings was chaired by a wonderful person, GW. The meeting was on JOY.

Also during all 4 days of Conference the outgoing Panel 62 Delegates were sharing their experience, strength and hope with 3 minute talks. They were wonderful and a great way to break up the "business" of the long days which lasted till around 9 PM with another AI-Anon meeting @ 9:30.

Breakfast was at 7 and then off to the business of why we were all there.

I was seated at the very front by the Dais which I found out was another word for podium or "Throne".

Flags and languages from all the Countries that have AI-Anon!!

Who votes at the WSC?

68 Delegates

BOT (Board of Trustees)

Executive Committee

WSO Staff

Total of 90 Voting members

I'm going to take a moment to explain the Panel 64 label as I was very confused with it myself.

This years outgoing Panel is 62. The 68 Delegates are split up by thirds for rotation purposes. Each year, one third are first year, one third are second year and one third are third year. This is Panel 62's last year, Panel 63's second year and my first year...Panel 64.

Orientation for us “newbees” was next and the warm welcome our Panel received made us all a bit more comfortable. Many had the same concerns as me so I felt much more at ease!

After orientation was Sharing Area Highlights, and the opening luncheon where our Delegate Mentor’s pin the new incoming Delegates. It was an honor and a very emotional experience to receive my Delegate pin.

There were 8 motions voted on and carried out at Conference this year. Motion #1 was approval for seating and voting, Motion #4 was approval of the 2023 Audit Report, Motion #5 was approval of the 2024 Finance Report and Motion #7 was approval of the 2023 Annual Report. These motions are explainable by their description. The motions mentioned throughout my report are the remaining ones carried and discussed. I’ve tried to add some of my notes taken during the motion discussions for them.

How does a new piece of CAL (Conference Approved Literature) occur?

Suggestions come in often to the WSO for new pieces constantly and are stored in a database. When a minimum number is received the Literature Committee (which I get to be a part of this year) discusses if this topic needs to be brought to WSC for consideration. After extensive discussion at the WSC the idea will be brought to a vote.

Staff is in the final stages of publication for the new booklet *Healing Within Our Alcoholic Relationships* approved in 2021. This booklet will be released in the Fall of this year at a cost of \$4 each.

In 2024, the WSO will finalize and launch the guides for collecting member sharings for the new piece on sponsorship approved by the 2023 WSC. Look for requests for member sharings online, In The Loop and The Forum.

#### **MOTION # 2: Finances in Al-Anon recovery piece. - CARRIED**

(27) To approve the creation of a piece of literature, possibly a pamphlet or booklet, about our relationship with finances in Al-Anon recovery. **Yes (84) No (4) Abstain (2) Void (0)**

**Al-Anon literature states that the disease of alcoholism impacts us physically, emotionally, spiritually and financially.**

**While topics of personal and group finances are discussed throughout Al-Anon’s Three Legacies, Al-Anon does not have a single piece of CAL exploring our relationship with finances in recovery.**

**Financial responsibility is often not taught in alcoholic homes, but it can be learned.**

**How do we create a good, solid foundation for contributing to our financial welfare within our home, group, District and Area?**

**Member’s experience, strength and hope helps other members.**

**This piece of literature received Conceptual Approval**

#### **MOTION #3: Choosing a Group’s Name—improve the clarity of the wording.-CARRIED**

(28) To accept the revisions made to the “Choosing a Group’s Name” section of the “Policy Digest” in accordance with the changes recommended by the Policy Committee and adopted by the Board of Trustees. **Yes (81) No (6) Abstain (3) Void (0)**

*As a part of the bi-weekly meeting of the Staff Policy Implementation Round Table (SPIRiT), its members review any new group registrations containing names which AFG Records Staff is concerned may not adhere to Al-Anon policy. If SPIRiT agrees there is a concern with a group name request, a letter is sent to the member who submitted the registration informing them the concerns raised as to how the name did not adhere to Al-Anon Policy, Traditions, or Concepts. SPIRiT brought the topic to the Policy Committee because Staff had seen a growth in the volume of names which were:*

- *considered potentially not welcoming to the newcomer,*
- *reflected affiliation, and/or*
- *focused more on identifying differences than similarities and Al-Anon principles*

*The language being changed is found in the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual at the bottom of page 85-86.*

CAI (Chosen Agenda Items) – First one discussed

Membership and Unity of Purpose. When is something diverting us from our purpose or spiritual aim? We discussed ways to keep Al-Anon focused including chairing meetings on Al-Anon tools, the importance of Sponsorship, and avoiding outside influences. To protect and encourage group conscience meetings. What spiritual principles must Al-Anon strengthen or even rediscover to fulfill its primary purpose? Kindness, open mindedness and understanding where the newcomer is coming from. Asking the newcomer to help with the meeting, offering our numbers instead of waiting for them to ask. Keeping the focus on our principles of recovery.

Day 2 of Conference

#### **MOTION #8: Delegate Participation on CLT - CARRIED**

**To form a task force of the Conference Leadership Team and a minimum of three Delegates charged with proposing how Delegates could be selected and participate on CLT to contribute to WSC agenda development. Yes (84) No (2) Abstain (4) Void (0)**

**Until now, Delegates have not been a part of the CLT**

*The agenda for the World Service Conference is set by the Conference Leadership Team (CLT), which is made up of Trustees and WSO Executive Staff, just as the agenda for this Spring Assembly is discussed and set by your Area Officers and District Representatives (DR's). Some Delegates want a broader voice on what is discussed at the Conference and want Delegates included in the agenda process.*

After the discussion, it was decided to form a task force with the CLT and a minimum of 3 Delegates charged with how Delegates could be selected and participate on the CLT to contribute to the WSC agenda.

In 1978 the ICC (International Coordination Committee) was formed as an avenue of communication to support international growth and to perpetuate worldwide unity of Al-Anon and Alateen. We have translated CAL in 37 distinct languages! One of the responsibilities of the ICC is to consider requests from international structures to translate and print literature.

First-time translation and reprint permission:

- Bulgaria
- Latvia

- Mongolia
- Romania
- Thailand
- Paraguay (Spanish)
- Kuwait is just starting the process

Countries usually start with the pamphlets and build from there. One point made during the presentation is how a lone member from the Dominican Republic requested CAL and Al-Anon information. When they were contacted again the group had grown to 10 people. I found this committee to be an amazing service tool and who knows? Maybe someday.....

Statement of activities 2023 vs 2022

Next came the Auditor's report and I must say Niketa W. made it very interesting. It may be because she loves her job and not many people ask her to make presentations.

Our new daily reader sold almost one million dollars in the first 6 months. A record for any piece of Al-Anon literature. We had a 60% increase in net assets mostly because of this and also group contributions. Our area's total contributions were \$15,705. I have a list of the breakdown of Districts and can let you know how much your District donated. You can email me if you are interested in that amount. I also have a download of the full financial report for 2022 and 2023 that can be emailed to you if you would like to see that.

The Stepping Stones conversation was spirited and positive. Due to rising costs of holding WSC in the New York area there are plans to decide how to continue to visit our Founders home site and continue to try and keep costs at a minimum.

Questions posed were;

- Do the groups in our area believe it's important for the Delegates to visit Stepping Stones?
- If so, how does it benefit your Area?

After discussions WSO will access all comments shared

One of the Delegates had this information to share:

Holding Conference in New York resulted in a net Conference cost to the WSO operating budget of \$110,708 in 2022. Holding Conference in Va.Beach resulted in a net Conference cost of \$45,333 in 2023. The net Conference costs each year to host the WSC are paid from the WSO General Fund. The remaining costs to host the WSC are paid by the Areas. The gap between the cost of hosting the event in New York and Va. Beach post-pandemic is continuing to increase, and initial estimates for 2025 suggest it will do so again.

Using the figures provided, in 2022 \$110,000 compared to Va.Beach \$45,000 in 2023 is a difference of about \$65,000. Since it is once every 3 years, a way to fund this trip could be: Delegates equalized expenses;  $\$65,000 / 68 \text{ Areas} = \$956 / 3 \text{ years} = \$318 / 365 \text{ days} = \$.87 \text{ a day per area}$ . I believe more will be known after next year's WSC as we will have a better awareness of the costs of a Conference in the New York area.

Area Support Electronic Groups

- 56 geographic WSC structure Areas now support electronic groups
- The majority have integrated electronic groups into geographic areas
- Remaining 11 are in progress of developing their Area procedures

#### Current challenges

- Groups temporarily meeting online are registering new meetings instead of changing their meeting location which is all that's needed
- If your group is temporarily meeting online and decides to go back to in-person/hybrid, a simple group change with the location from online to your physical location.
- If your group is a temporary online meeting and decides to go PEG ( Permanent Electronic Group) it needs to be registered with WSO under a new name
- If the group does not choose, they will become an unregistered group
- If a group meets one day in-person and another day virtually, do they have to make a choice of one or the other? Yes unless they register each group separately
- Target Date: 6 month-1 year after notification to WSO the Area is accepting PEG's, temporary electronic groups need to decide to go back to in-person/ hybrid or become PEG

#### International Convention Updates

##### 2023 Attendees

- 3387 AI-Anon
- 47 Alateen
- 293 AA
- 57 Guest (7 professionals)
- 3776 in person
- 741 virtual
- 4517 total registered ( 1400 attended Trail Blazers Breakfast)

#### AA International Convention 2025

"90 Years-Language of the Heart

Vancouver, BC July 3-6, 2025

- 90 years AA celebration
- Registration opens September 2024 \$160
- AI-Anon will have meetings and workshops in English, Spanish and French

#### 2028 AI-Anon International Convention

- 14 Bids were accepted
- 400 volunteers are needed
- Bids will be reviewed soon and May 23rd 3 cities will be selected
- Visits to the three cities in June
- October a selection will be made
- Announcement may be made at 2025 WSC or before!

Day 3 of conference

The second CAI (chosen agenda item) discussed received 42 votes:

Concept 9 and 10 - What spiritual principles help define good personal leadership? Bill W's essay on leadership in our Service Manual (p. 200) was read in part and discussed. How can I participate and be part of the solution when leadership ceases to function well? What can we do about bullying and ignoring Traditions, guidelines and Concepts in our meetings? Do we use our CAL to help with conflict? Suggestions of a leadership workshop were discussed.

#### Budget Presentation

100% of groups are using services: 61% of groups contributed in 2023.

A few of the services used by our groups:

- Getting registered
- Reading CAL at meetings
- Calling WSO to locate meetings
- Using the Mobile App for Zoom meetings
- PSA's airing on TV stations

This is the part we see at every Assembly included in the Delegate's report. The only difference is that the cost goes up every year. Please notice the difference just from 2004 to 2024!

Cost per group is now \$330 per year. That's 27.50 per month. If every group donates their part just imagine how we can reach those in communities that need the hope AI-Anon gives!

Consider:

- How do we continue to carry the message?
- How do we continue to reach new members?
- We do that by continuing to provide services, such as:
  - Public outreach and community awareness
  - Connecting with our international structures
  - Increasing access through technology
  - Increasing communications in a three languages

If each group that contributed in 2023 contributed the cost per group of \$330 in 2024, we would reach our contribution goal for the year.

The message is that the budget requires consistent giving all year in order to provide continuing services.

I have a full copy of the budget report for emailing if anyone would like to see it.

Thought Force: Personal and Service Sponsorship.

- 3 workshops created on Sponsorship
- 5 topics with handouts and skits
- 1 day / ½ day / 30 min-1 hr in length
- As soon as presentations are posted by WSO I will have more information

## Day 4 of Conference

How many of you took the 2021 Membership survey? I took it because I saw it when I read In The Loop, our monthly communication from WSO. The results were actually pretty amazing.

The WSO facilitates the membership survey once every three years. The survey documents the benefits of AI-Anon from the perspective of members who have seen the quality of their lives improve after participating in the AI-Anon program.

## Background Information

- Doctoral dissertation completed in 2023
  - Based on 2018 AFG Membership Survey
- Presented to the BOT @ 2023 July Board meeting
- Benefits of working the AI-Anon program
  - Longevity in AI-Anon is a key component to better mental health
- AI-Anon's "therapeutic elements" associated with positive change:
  - Attending meetings
  - Being spiritually motivated
  - Working with and serving as a Sponsor
  - Engaging in service

## Applying Our Spiritual Principles

- Tradition One
- Tradition Five
- Tradition Nine
- Concept Four

Members complete surveys, WSO publishes results, Professionals use survey data to publish findings.

Members confirm and carry the message

All this was presented as a lead up to the next survey which will be taking place this June and July. Please take the time to take the survey and participate in the information that is so very useful in how professionals can offer help to people out there still suffering. It takes about 15 minutes and it makes such an impact on who hears the message of recovery. It's also a great way to be of service!!

## 2024 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect

October 26 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT

The 2024 Road Trip! You and Your Board Connect will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in South Carolina at

Courtyard by Marriott Columbia Downtown at USC

630 Assembly Street Columbia, SC 29203

Registration will open in September!

Panel 64 Group (60)

Final thoughts

This was a spiritual and amazing service experience. Most days were filled with lots of information and I'm sure I didn't capture all of it. I have 2 more years to get it right! Thank you for your faith in my ability to communicate back to you all what is happening around the Worldwide Fellowship of AI-Anon.

The attendees applauded after the Delegate's Report presentation.

We took a break at 2:34 pm after Ann F announced that Sign Up sheets are available at the back table to help with the 2-day Fall Assembly.

We came back at 2:45 pm after the break to a Skit presentation on purchasing CAL (Conference Approved Literature) headed by the Literature Coordinator (Sharon B). The participants were Donna S, Angela S, Daisy A, Sharon B, Betty M and Jeff D. The attendees applauded after the presentation.

7. **Registration Committee Report:** Sue M (Registration Committee Chair) reported that there were 45 in person attendees with 27 of them voters, 37 were on Zoom with 23 voters. She also said some people have left therefore there were a total of 50 voters approximately.
  
8. **Motion to Fund Delegate 2025 Stepping Stones Visit: (Motion 2024/05 - #1)** Currently the Ohio area pays full amount (\$2500 - \$3000) towards the delegate's trip to WSC (World Service Conference). Historically, the delegate's visit to Stepping Stones in New York (home of our Bill W and Lois W – the cofounder of AI-Anon) was part of the WSC trip. From 2025, the visit to Stepping Stones will not be part of the WSC trip and the delegate will be responsible for the expenses to visit Stepping Stones if they choose to.  
Sandra F (past delegate – panel 49) made a motion to fully fund the delegate's visit to Stepping Stones with the budget estimate of \$1000. Discussion followed the motion presentation. Robin R (GR - Oregon Thursday Nite AFG) asked if this was a one-time expense and Sharon B asked if other areas are also considering funding for this outside visit. If not, was it helpful with respect to service for the Delegate. Sandra F answered that not every area has funding like Ohio has and that our area voted a long time ago to fully fund the Delegate's visit. Mary Ellen R (GR - Hubbard Friday Night AFG) asked if this was an all-inclusive expense for the Delegate's trip and is this expense just to send out Delegate to Stepping Stones or all the Delegates. Hernan V asked if this funding was a violation of Tradition 6 (funding an outside enterprise as Stepping Stones is not part of AI-Anon). Sandra F and Ann F explained that this motion is pertaining to sending Panel 64 Delegate to Stepping Stones from Connecticut where WSC will be held in 2025 and that no contribution is given to Stepping Stones. Mary Ellen R and Susan H (GR - Selby Park Acceptance AFG) supported this motion saying it would be helpful for the Delegate. Robin R seconded the motion. Voting pursued the discussion by show of hands both in person and on Zoom. The results were – **Yes: 45 (25 in person + 20 on Zoom); No: 0; Abstention: 1**. The motion passed.

9. **AAPP Report:** Irene B (AAPP) presented her report. She shared that there are 18 active Alateen Meetings in the Ohio Area and that in the AFG of Ohio Handbook, the appendix name, **AMIAS Packet**, has been changed to **Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements (ASBR)**.
10. **Motion for Increased Funding for AMIAS Packet Review: (Motion 2024/05 - #2)** The task force on AMIAS packet review has been working with changes from the Attorney and were planning to present to Spring Assembly. But the WSO recently responded with some additional changes and needs, so the task force will work to have the revised packet changes to present at Fall AWSC and Fall Assembly. Since the project has expanded, **a motion for additional \$1000 for the Attorney fees was presented by Irene B (AAPP)**. Daisy A made a comment that the Motion be renamed as Increased Funding for ASBR instead of AMIAS packet Review. Irene amended the motion name and presented it to the Assembly. Terri N (Budget Committee Chair) seconded the motion and voting pursued. The results were – **Yes: 44 (26 in person + 18 on Zoom); No: 0; Abstention: 0**. The motion passed.
11. **Report on KBDM on USNCRDM:** Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) presented the need for sending delegates both past and present to USNCRDM and what it is all about.
12. **Motion for USNCRDM reimbursement changes: (Motion 2024/05 - #3)** Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) stated that the current policy in Ohio is for the Area to pay expenses for the current Delegate each year, the Alternate Delegate for one year of the 3-year term, and to subsidize the past Delegates who wish to attend to a maximum of \$300. However, a task force comprised of current and past delegates found that \$300 dollars no longer covers the registration, meal plan, banquet and hotel cost much less travel expenses. Therefore, **a motion was made to increase the annual cap fund for the past delegates to attend the USNCRDM up to \$500 subject to annual review by the Budget committee and the probable number of past delegates planning to attend in addition to fully fund the Alternate Delegate's expenses each year of their 3-year term**. Discussion pursued this motion proposal. Susan H asked how many past delegates usually attend this meeting. Theresa M (past delegate – panel 58) answered that 5 past delegates usually attend and emphasized that this amount is subjected to funds availability. Cheryl C seconded the motion. Voting pursued and the results were – **Yes: 40 (25 in person + 15 on Zoom); No: 6 (1 in person + 5 on Zoom); Abstention: 0**. The motion passed.
13. **Review and Budget Committee Report:** Terri N (Budget committee) presented the 2023 Review committee report and the 2024 Budget committee report. Chris E seconded the proposed budget for 2024. Voting pursued and the results were – **Yes: 45 (26 in person + 19 on Zoom); No: 0; Abstention: 0**. The budget passed.
14. **Handbook Committee Report:** Cheryl C presented the report along with two motions.
15. **Motion 1 – handbook committee: Registration (Motion 2024/05 - #4):** Update the October 2023 - HANDBOOK OF General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., SECTION XI – SPECIAL STANDING COMMITTEES, B.4 (page 17) to increase the Registration Committee from 2 to **3** members. Janet P (GR - Fremont Monday Night AFG) Seconded it. Voting pursued and the results were – **Yes: 45 (26 in person + 19 on Zoom); No: 0; Abstention: 0**. The motion passed.  
**Motion 1 – handbook committee: Budget (Motion 2024/05 - #5):** Update the October 2023 - HANDBOOK OF General and Committee Working Procedures For Al-Anon Family Groups of Ohio, Inc., SECTION XIV – EXPENSES & MOTIONS, D. Budget (pages 19 & 21), to remove D.1,

a. and b. on p. 19. Then to reword D. 9 on p. 21 to say, “Develop an Ample Reserve of approximately one year’s operating expense, to be securely invested by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Budget Committee. The Ample Reserve amount will be reviewed annually by the Budget Committee.” Discussion pursued this motion proposal. Many questions were asked regarding the current wordings in the handbook, explanation for operating expenses and ample reserves. Ann F explained that we have approximately \$25000 as ample reserve in CDs and Cheryl C explained operating expenses are sum of subtotal of Non-Budget Items and subtotal of Budget items which is (16684.44 + 16055.00 = 32739.44, Refer to the proposed 2024 budget). Theresa M explained that the handbook should reflect how we do business at the present time and not in the past. Ann F emphasized that this motion gives autonomy to the Treasurer and the Budget Committee to make timely prudent financial decisions. Angela S (GR - Chagrin Valley Wednesday Night AFG) commented that this motion is putting Concept 3 into practice. Jeff D seconded the motion. Voting pursued and the results were – **Yes: 44 (26 in person + 18 on Zoom); No: 0; Abstention: 0.** The motion passed.

16. **Motion 7: Addition of Tech Coordinator Position to the Ohio Handbook:** Cecelia S (Interim Tech Coordinator) explained this motion and emphasized its need as we have started offering hybrid meetings. Sydney P (Archives Coordinator) seconded the motion. Voting pursued and the results were – **Yes: 42 (26 in person + 16 on Zoom); No: 1 (on Zoom); Abstention: 1 (on Zoom).** The motion passed.
17. **Thought Force on Appointing Area Coordinators Report:** Sandra F reported that the Ohio area is collecting data from adjacent areas regarding appointment of Area coordinators instead of voting. More details will be shared in the Fall AWSC meeting.
18. **2024 AA conference with Al-Anon Participation:** Sydney P explained the dates and the location of the event, and that the flyer is being updated. Kim R (AA Liaison) and the Cleveland committee have found a guest speaker and are in the planning phase (Skits, workshops). More details can be found on the website: <https://aaarea56.org/event/68th-ohio-state-convention/>.
19. **OAC and 2-day Fall Report:** Shelly C explained that she is only involved in the 2024 2-day Fall assembly activities. She and her committee have contracted with the Findlay Inn Conference Center for the event and have secured rates along with discussions regarding the hybrid component of the Fall Assembly. She also said that food suggestions from the attendees are welcome at this point.
20. **OAC - 2024 Report:** Mike B presented this report. He gave a shout out to the following members for their exceptional service – Sandra F, Mimi R, Yvonne G, Carolyn D, Peter K, Mindy N, Linda L, Kim S, Margie W and acknowledged the time and efforts of many others. He also highlighted the details regarding Event location, Registration, Schedule, setting up of new events account, Publicity, Fund raising efforts to support the event, Hospitality, and the participation of AA and Alateen members during the convention. Mike B answered that the registration was opened, and a flyer will be placed in the Ohio Al-Anon website soon.
21. **OAC - 2025 Report:** Sydney P reported that the location and dates of the event have been finalized and the other areas are in the infancy stage. The motion to approve an outside speaker at his event was approved in the Spring AWSC meeting and we can expect Tom W (from California) as one of the speakers at this event.

22. **Task Force Report on Search for Alternative Website Support:** Cecelia S presented this report and urged attendees to be part of this committee and make recommendations regarding the Website support firms and their duties. Cecelia S can be reached at [help@toledoanon.org](mailto:help@toledoanon.org).

**NEW Business:**

- Ann F (chairperson – panel 64) said that the current POC (Public Outreach Coordinator) has resigned, and we need to elect a new one. She emphasized that the POC is the link between WSO and Ohio Area (along with the Delegate). She also congratulated the past POC for her marvelous contributions to this position. Sharon B commented that she would be willing to step in to the POC position if anyone is interested in taking her current Literature Coordinator position. At the end of the meeting Betty M (GR - Now There's Hope AFG) volunteered to be the new Literature Coordinator and Sharon B will be the new POC of Area 44.
- Ann F talked about the Ohio Area's webmaster Mike K's request of using an area phone for website purposes to his personal phone. The Central Ohio AIS is willing to donate their phone to the webmaster and discussion pursued regarding the rates and plans and the type of the phone. Cecelia S made a motion that AFG of Ohio work with Central Ohio to use the new phone to the webmaster for verification instead of his personal phone. Dashawn W (GR - Monday Night Hope AFG) seconded it. The motion passed to activate the phone by consensus.
- Ann F recommended that a committee be formed to investigate how to move forward with hybrid meetings and urged members to join it. Robin, Dashawn, Theresa M, Jeanne, Heidi, and Hernan have volunteered to be on the committee. Ann F also said a post meeting survey would be sent to all the attendees to gauge their experience of the first ever Hybrid Assembly meeting.
- Ann F announced that all committee members and officers are invited to participate in the USNCRDM to be held on Marcy 14-16, 2025 in Ohio and asked if they would consider volunteering for Secretary, Treasurer and Registration positions.
- Sandra F (Past Delegate – panel 49) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin R Seconded it.
- We closed the meeting with the AI-Anon Declaration at 5:25 pm.

**Dates to Remember**

- August 10, 2024: Fall AWSC, Columbus
- August 16 – 18, 2024: OAC Cincinnati
- August 23 – 25, 2024: AA Conference, Cleveland
- October 12-13, 2024: 2 day Fall Assembly, Findlay

Respectfully Submitted,

Daisy A

Area Secretary – Panel 64

The minutes of this meeting were distributed via the Ohio Area website, due notice being sent to every registered group, on: \_\_\_\_\_ May 22, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

The minutes of this meeting were then presented for approval on: \_\_\_\_\_.