

District 6 Newsletter

Fall, 2012
Vol. 25 ~ #4

HAVE YOU VISITED US ?

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**6301 Manchaca Road
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Austin, TX
78745**



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Next District



Meeting

October 20, 2012

**Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church
7127 BEE CAVE ROAD
AUSTIN, TX 78746**

Hosted by Northland AFG

Our Gift of Service Begins with Tradition Seven

How often do we hastily pass around the Gratitude Basket at meetings, hoping not to interfere with the personal sharing in progress? How often do we explain the different opportunities that members have to make a contribution? Do members understand that their donations are a financial investment in their own spiritual well-being?

As a non-profit organization, our financial contributions need to be more in balance with our literature sales. In 2011, the gross profits from literature sales totaled 65% of our income (\$3,354,000). Our AFG and personal contributions equaled \$1,206,000 from groups, Appeal Letter, birthday/memorial/individual, and bequests.

Many AI-Anon members aren't aware that they can contribute directly to the WSO, and often only contribute to the Quarterly Appeals by adding a dollar or two in the envelope --- that's only four times a year!

Why not encourage members to put a dollar or more in the birthday envelope for each year they have been in AI-Anon, or a group take up a collection to send to WSO for the group birthday? This is a way to show your gratitude for the years of serenity you have been able to have and a way to give back. Another way to give a personal contribution is in the form of the memorial contribution. You can donate in memory of a loved one, family, friend, pet, etc., as long as it is sent by a member.



The birthday and memorial envelopes are free, so order some for your group, the next time you put in a literature order and then you will have them! This is one way to ensure that the hand of AI-Anon is always there.

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DISTRICT MEETING DIRECTIONS

WESTLAKE HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7127 Bee Cave Road
Austin, TX 78746

Hosted by Northland AFG

The location of the church is on Bee Cave Road one mile West of 360. Parking lot above the parking garage is the best place to park and access the Parlor, where the meeting is being held.



Officers

Paula H.
DISTRICT REP

Stephanie S.
ALTERNATE DR

Cindy C.
SECRETARY

Michelle K.
TREASURER

Coordinators

Jayne G.
ALATEEN

Tally R.
ARCHIVIST

Jackie B.
FORUM / LITERATURE

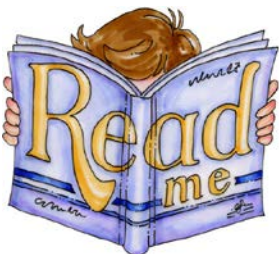
Paulette Reynolds
NEWSLETTER
p.reynolds@live.com

Judy W.
PUBLIC OUTREACH SOUTH

Steve J.
PUBLIC OUTREACH NORTH

Martha H.
SPANISH COORDINATOR

DISTRICT 6 SERVICE
COMMITTEE



DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

"Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

The District 6 Al-Anon/Alateen Newsletter is published quarterly. Groups receive this newsletter free. Suggested individual contributions are \$11.00 per year for a subscription, which help cover publishing costs.

2013 Subscription Renewals due by November 30 for individual subscribers.

District 6 Newsletter Subscription Form

Name

Home Group

Email

Address

Telephone

Send your 2013 Subscription Form, via email, to: p.reynolds@live.com

You will then receive information on where to send your subscription contribution.



Letters to the Editor

...from our Al-Anon/Alateen Members

Dear East Texas and District 6:

On behalf of the World Service Office staff, thank you so much for the generous hospitality and in helping to make the TEAM event in East Texas a huge success. We appreciate the time and effort that you and all the volunteers contributed to benefit the Al-Anon Groups in East Texas. Thank you so much for everything you do for the family and friends of alcoholics.

Yours in Service,
Teresa A.
World Service Office Staff

Hi Everyone:

Our TEAM TEXAS Event was held in Round Rock on August 17 and 18 at the Williamson County Convention Center. Our attendance was 131 Al-Anons who participated in presentations from the World Service Office as well as workshops on Friday night and Saturday.

I would like to give special thanks to the volunteers who worked hard to put the event on as well as work with hospitality and registration. A special thanks to Bennie P., Rosie M. and Joyce Y. who worked with the World Service Office to prepare and present our workshops on Public Outreach, Maintaining a Healthy Al-Anon Group and Recovery is Intertwined with Service – Using the Concepts in recovery. The workshops were well attended and the participation from everyone was appreciated.

Thanks to everyone for your participation in making our TEAM TEXAS a very successful weekend in recovery!

Love in Service, Pat E.
TEAM TEXAS,
Host Committee Chairperson



New Groups:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Hornsby Bend Serenity Seekers | 3801 Austin Colony Rd | Briggs, TX | Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. |
| Courage to Change AFG | 215 Loop 308 | Briggs, TX | Thursday 7:30 p.m. |

AFG Announcements



DISTRICT 6 SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Officer Reports

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

It was lovely to see so many of you at the TEAM event that District 6 hosted August 17 and 18, 2012! A thousand thanks to the host committee and to all volunteers and groups who helped make this event fun, memorable, and successful! Teresa, Karen, Mary Ann, and Vicki, our trusted servants from WSO, shared their personal stories of experience, strength, and hope on Friday evening. Saturday they gave wonderful presentations on "Recovery Is Intertwined with Service—Using the Concepts in Recovery", "Maintaining the Health of an Al-Anon Group", "Giving—Our Spiritual Link to Gratitude", and "Trustee Search." Sharings from the workshops on the Concepts and maintaining a healthy home group will appear in future issues of the Beacon. At the October 20 District Meeting, I will be sharing some more information from the workshops.

In addition to the TEAM event, District 6 ETAAA has been busy growing! We have four new meetings! In Briggs, TX, Courage to Change AFG meets Thursdays at 7:30 P. M. at 215 Loop 308. Copperas Cove AFG meets Mondays at 7:00 P.M. at Holy Family Catholic Church on 1001 Georgetown Rd. in Copperas Cove. In Killeen, TX, a new ACA meeting has been added; New Perspective AFG meets Fridays at 11:30 A. M. at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church on 2800 S. Trimmier Rd. In Austin, Hornsby Bend Serenity Seekers AFG meets Wednesdays at 7:00 P. M. at 3801 Austin's Colony Blvd. at the Austin Colony Community Center.

Speaking of meetings, there have been some new (and not so new) designations for groups. All Al-Anon groups are designated with AFG; however, there are some additional initials that are used for meetings. "GFA" signifies a Spanish group. "ACA" signifies an Adult Children of Alcoholics group. The Al-Anon Family Groups listed on the Austin area and Central Texas Meeting schedules signify that the Groups are registered with WSO, with ETAAA, and District 6 ETAAA.

SEPTEMBER, 2012! What happens??? Registration opens for the Al-Anon/Alateen International Convention, July 5-7, 2013 in Vancouver. B. C., Canada! The convention website is: www.al-anoninternationalconvention.org. When you register for the convention, a list of hotels will be sent to you. Some of us from District 6 ETAAA have been saving our pennies and are going! Come join the fun and picture yourself in Vancouver!

October 20 and November 9, 10, 11, 2012 will be here before we know it! October 20 is the next District 6 ETAAA meeting hosted by Northland AFG. Among the discussion items for that meeting will be the district inventory that was published in the Summer, 2012, District 6 ETAAA Newsletter. If you would like to submit other items for discussion, please contact me a couple of weeks before the meeting.

In November at the Fall Assembly in San Antonio, GR's will be voting on two items. The two items are listed in the Beacon on pp. 5 and 10-11. In the 2nd paragraph of Nancy M.'s report on p. 5, there is a report on Area structure. I encourage you to read Nancy's report and discuss it with your groups. The gist of the report is that Areas are free to restructure (or not) to enable groups to have full communication, participation, and representation. The second item that GR's will be voting on regards Alateen Sponsor Training at Assembly. This report is on pp. 10-11 of the Beacon. If your group did not receive a Beacon, please let me know. Also, at the November assembly workshops will be presented on sponsorship and how to use the Al-Anon Members' Website.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the October 20 District 6 ETAAA meeting! Bring Al-Anon friends! The more, the merrier! Together we can make it

Yours truly in Al-Anon service,
Paula H.

SECRETARY REPORT

DISTRICT 6 MEETING MINUTES July 21, 2012

Hosted by New Beginnings AFG

The meeting was opened at 9:15 by our District Representative, Paula H., with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Announcements were made. This was followed by going around the room reading the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, and General Warranties. There were five new attendees-four Al-Anon members and one Alateen member.

The Ask-It-Basket was passed as was the donation basket. Paula H. also passed another basket asking us to write down our ideas for a future workshop. The theme of the workshop was to be service related. Many ideas came back which Paula read back to the group. Paula announced we would not be having a workshop at this meeting because our East Texas Al-Anon/Alateen Delegate, Nancy M., would be joining us to give her report on the World Service Conference held in April. Since Nancy would not be joining us until lunch, Paula passed a gratitude card for Nancy for all to sign. Pat E. gave her report on the upcoming TEAM Event. Officers, Coordinators, and Group Representatives began giving their reports for the previous quarter.

Future district meetings were discussed. Northland Al-Anon Family Group, Austin, will host the October 20, 2012 meeting. Just For Today AFG in Elgin will host the January, 2013 meeting, date to be announced depending on the date of the Area World Service Committee Meeting.

Paula announced that an agenda item for the next district meeting would be to discuss a District Inventory. Another item at the next meeting would be to discuss a Yahoo Web Group-a way to provide a link for the district to send and receive electronic communications from the World Service Office as a district. Paula announced the donation basket contained \$176.57.

We stopped for our pot luck lunch at 11:52.

The meeting resumed at 1:00. Our Delegate, Nancy M., gave her report, finishing at 2:15. Paula presented her with the card we had all signed along with some nice gifts.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy C., District Secretary

Alternate District Representative Report

I'm an apprentice to the DR, learning as much as I can. The Assembly gave me the opportunity to observe the "Big Boys and Big Girls" Friday Night meeting. I learned a lot about the workings of the Assembly. I also made myself available to the GR's and answered their questions.

Thanks for letting me serve you. Sissy S.

Coordinator Reports

Treasurer's Report

ALATEEN

D6 2012 3rd Qrt Treasurer's Report

This past quarter saw the 5th Texas East Area Alateen Conference held in Gonzales. We had five sponsors and four Alateens from our district attending. Our guidelines state that each sponsor is responsible for no more than five Alateens at events. Our district currently is the only one with male sponsors, so Steven stepping up to the plate allowed some Alateens from Houston to participate. We gave out three Kristy scholar ships - thank you District 6 for having this scholarship program! Some Wimberly folks are getting Al-Anon members to start a new meeting. That's great news, as our district has more Alateen meetings than any other district in our area. Yeah District 6!

Income: (Jun 10th – Aug 31st)

District Meeting Basket:	\$176.57
Group Donations:	\$646.44
Newsletter Subs:	\$33.00
Total Income:	\$856.01

I have been approved to present the Alateen Sponsor Workshops and I hope to be able to provide more training in the near future, so we can see Alateen bloom again in our area. Just let me know and we'll schedule something for everyone interested and invite current sponsors to come and share their experience, strength and hope. This coming November the Area Alateen Committee will be presenting a motion to rescind a previous motion to have Alateen Sponsors training available at Assembly. This came about as a realization from the work of the committee.

Expenses: (Jun 10th- Aug 31st)

July District Meeting (rent):	\$100.00
District Rep Expense:	\$26.41
Alt District Rep Expense:	\$209.39
Spring Newsletter:	\$550.56
Background Check (AMAIAS):	\$6.50
Misc (speaker at 7/21 Meeting):	\$20.00
Total Expenses:	\$918.03

The Assembly Agenda Item reads, in part:

Reserves:

Int'l:	\$2,723.40
T.E.A.M.:	\$593.20
Prudent Reserve:	\$7633.66

"In May, 2006, Area 53 voted that our assemblies include Alateen Sponsor Training. Our area's Certification/REcertification Process defines a Training Session as no less than a six hour training (or attendance at POSSE). Training has not been offered at Assembly because of the challenge of including Sponsor Training into the regular Assembly schedule. The Area Alateen Committee (AACmte) has evaluated the possibility of providing Sponsor Training at Assembly and has concluded that it is not possible to provide a complete six hour session and it is less than optimal to have the session split up, for example, by having three hours of training at each Assembly. The original intent of the 2006 motion was to make Sponsor Training more accessible to more members. Since the AACmte is also working on a recommendation that our area develop a system of additional trainers offering more training opportunities throughout our entire area, greater accessibility can be achieved this way."

Kristi Fund:	\$1550.08
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Carryover: \$4999.86

(monies left over in bank account that are not allotted to anything specific)

The Al-Anon/Alateen Committee is recommending to the Assembly that this policy be reversed, which would require a motion from the Assembly floor. I encourage all of you who will attend November Assembly to vote to remove this motion. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.



THE BEACON

Our Area's quarterly newsletter - \$6.00

www.texas-al-anon.org

Did you know...?

Alateen has a quarterly publication!



al-anon.alateen.org

In Service, Jayne

ARCHIVES

[Editor's Note: Tally is currently on vacation, and gave me permission to post something from Al-Anon's archival history. As I understand it, we no longer refer to these promises, yet they dazzle me with their clarity of purpose today. Enjoy! Serenity in Service, Paulette]

AL-ANON'S PROMISES

If we willingly surrender ourselves to the spiritual discipline of the Twelve Steps, our lives will be transformed. We will become mature, responsible individuals with a great capacity for joy, wonder and fulfillment.

Though we may never be perfect, continued spiritual progress will reveal to us our enormous potential. We will discover that we are both worthy of love and loving. We will love others without losing ourselves, and will learn to accept love in return.

Our sight, once clouded and confused, will clear and we will be able to perceive reality and recognize truth. Courage and fellowship will replace fear. We will be able to risk failure to develop new, hidden talents.

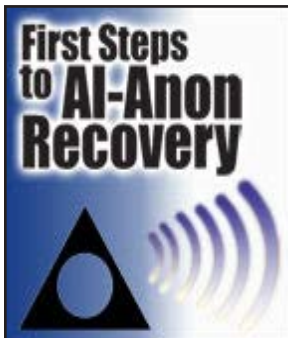
Our lives, no matter how battered and degraded, will yield hope to share with others. We will begin to feel and will come to know the vastness of our emotions, but we will not be slaves to them.

Our secrets will no longer bind us in shame. As we gain the ability to forgive ourselves, our families and our world, our choices will expand. With dignity we will stand for ourselves, but not against our fellows.

Serenity and peace will have meaning for us, as we allow our lives and the lives of those we love to flow day by day with God's ease, balance and grace. No longer terrified, we will discover we are free to delight in life's paradox, mystery and awe.

We will laugh more. Fear will be replaced by faith and gratitude will come naturally as we realize that our Higher Power is doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

From "Survival to Recovery", page 269-70, copyright 1994 by Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc.



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SERVICE ARMS REPRESENTATIVES

AL-ANON INFORMATION CENTER	6301 Manchaca Rd / Austin, TX 78745 - 512-441-8591
AIS WACO AREA	P. O. Box 8374 / Waco, TX 76714 - 254-808-4757
DISTRICT 6 -	c/o Michelle K. (see "Officers - Treasurer")
EAST TEXAS AREA (ETAAA)	www.texas-al-anon.org
WORLD SERVICE OFFICE (WSO)	www.al-anon.alateen.org - 1-800-344-2666

These service arms rely on donations from groups and individuals. Please remember to indicate your group number, so group contributions can be acknowledged. Personal contributions are also gratefully accepted, please contact the corresponding service arm to make your donations.

Public Outreach (PO) South –District Report

BIG Thank You to all that supported the following accomplishments! Without you, Public Outreach would not be possible. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Judy W. to express your interest.

- 1) Began a weekly Saturday Closed Parent's Meeting at the Phoenix Academy Juvenile Center on Saturdays. This meeting has 14 rotating members to support the parents of children attending the facility. In August, a member volunteered to be the primary contact and be responsible for scheduling. (Many thanks Ali K.!)
- 2) Conducted 4 panel speaking events for monthly Family Support Day - Austin Transitional Center Family Day / Del Valle. This low-security halfway housing center provides clients with support systems for a 90 day period.
- 3) Provided one speaker to Hacienda Solutions on Family Support Day.
- 4) Supported three monthly visits to the Texas Civil Correction Drug Court to speak with families.
- 5) Held 2 three-panel member speaking events at Developmental Counseling Center, Inc for Client/Family Day.
- 6) Continued working with Kathy to identify five more snail-mail sponsors for the Women's Lockhart Prison system Al-Anon Wednesday meetings.
- 7) Provided literature for Al-Anon booth at "Cash on the Green", which was supported by the Independence Group Meeting on 45th Street.
- 8) Donated "Hope For Today" reader to the Hayes Caldwell Women's Center at their request, with future speakers being considered.
- 9) In August, we provided a panel event for Family Support Day at the Austin Recovery Center. This was Public Outreach's first visit to the South Austin location, to begin building our relationship. "How Al-Anon Works" was donated to the center for the counselors to share.
- 10) Provided support for a fifth Tuesday speaker meeting for the Pflugerville Paths to Serenity Group. If you or your group is also doing something for Public Outreach, please share! We love to hear those stories, get your ideas, and are also here to support you if you need help.

Love In Service, Judy W.

Public Outreach Coordinator North

Greetings to all from the Northern part of the District - Killeen, Temple, Belton, Waco, etc. As I mentioned last quarter, the Killeen Group conducted a number of health fairs recently. that is an excellent way to get the word out about Al-Anon and Alateen. Killeen also has started a new groups and so has Copperas Cove! This quarter, Waco has its two annual health fairs - a children's health fair, and then in October at Providence Hospital, the largest employer in the Waco area. New groups, health fairs, etc., are some of the ways to get the word out about Al-Anon and Alateen. In the upcoming months, we will be focusing on some mailings to professionals.

Thank you again for letting me serve in this vital service position.
Sincerely, Steve. J.

Forum/Literature Report

The WSO has approved a new piece of literature on intimacy in general, including sexual intimacy in alcoholic relationships. The Literature Committee is seeking sharings from members for possible use in the piece. If you would like to contribute please contact me.

Jackie B.

Newsletter Coordinator

Hello District 6!

I want to say a hearty “thank you” for all of your positive feedback and encouragement on the new format for our District newsletter. And I wish to thank everyone - in advance - for sharing their constructive suggestions, especially when shared with courtesy, and in the spirit of positive communication and the loving exchange of Al-Anon fellowship.

[Note: The snafu with the return address on the envelopes has been addressed with the printer. It looks to have been an error during a change in their label formatting.]

Serenity in Service, :) Paulette

“We forgot to order!”

Relax!

**This pamphlet can be ordered again for the
SPRING of 2013.**

**Order online: al-anon.org
100 copies for \$40.00**

**Al-Anon Faces
Alcoholism 2013**



AL-ANON DISTRICT 6 AREA DELEGATE REPORT

Report to District 6 from Delegate visit in July, 2012

I was asked to summarize my concerns, specifically related to my perception from attending the World Service Conference in April.

Here are my thoughts:

I will begin with a picture and conclude with some questions we - as members, districts and area - need to ask ourselves regarding which direction we see Al-Anon going, and whether we want to do anything about that (it even if it is only opening up a dialog to the membership).

My mental picture:

When I walked into the stable, from the outside it looked beautiful and clean and noticeably very quiet. Then I opened the door and noticed it was empty but all neat and clean with all the horse manure gone. My first question was, "Who opened the back door and let the horses out?"

In looking around, I noticed a sign that said "Please do not talk with others." That seemed a bit strange, but being a new kid on the block and knowing little about horses, I followed the orders given by the building owner. But it left me feeling very uneasy and a lot of questions that left nowhere for me to go for answers.

Now I will try and state as simply as I can my perception of what I believe has happened over the past 15 + years with Al-Anon. We have reached a point where the Delegate's responsibility has become little more than being a cheer leader for the WSO and assisting in their money-raising efforts - hopefully to bring the fellowship back in compliance with the IRS, to be a non-profit fellowship, as we were in the beginning.

My passion and personal desire for Al-Anon is to keep it as inclusive to all members and allow them to be a major part of a large group conscience, regardless of how uncomfortable that may seem. I want to let everyone - even the minority opinion - be heard, and if necessary, have the problem discussed until an informed group conscience can be reached.

AL-ANON INFORMATION CENTER - AUSTIN / WACO

AUSTIN

Thanks to the absolutely marvelous turn out for the AIS move in June. The move went almost flawlessly! Our new digs are very spacious and clean. We invite you to visit at the same hours, 10-2, Monday through Friday, or attend an AIS Business Meeting on the 3rd Monday of every other month. We'll be working on reviewing the By-Laws for the next several Board meetings. Lorelei, Chair, AIS

WACO

We are still in the black and receiving donations from other groups in the central TX area, individuals and two Waco groups to keep paying our bills. Our New Beginnings meeting on Thurs night continues to be hosted by one of our Waco groups and continues to have regular attendance by newcomers. We still get many calls on the pager and many of these callers end up at our Waco meetings. Cindy, Chair, AIS

We have become a select few (six - seven) appointed executive committee members having a discussion apart from the body and making Power Point Presentation or skits that are supposed to deliver the message of the “force” - with no motion or vote from the floor.

This process is called Knowledge Based Decision Making or KBDM. KBDM was adopted after the WSO hired a consulting firm and accepted their recommendation. Although this method has proven over the last seven years to make our procedures go faster and with less friction, what we have lost is the most important element - the voice of the membership from the groups up.

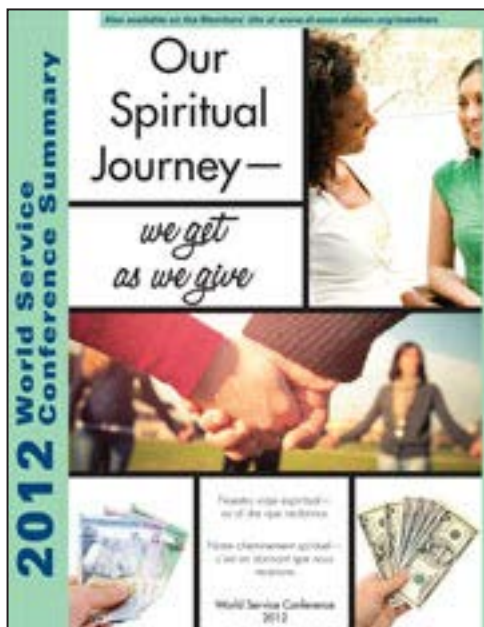
Let’s also look at where this method is used extensively, mostly by educators and the business community. When I came into the program in 1983 the message from the WSO was very clear and though I was personally seeking recovery from the effects of living as a child in a home with a problem drinker, we were told not to dilute our program with recovery language, so our groups were very careful to not use recovery language in our meetings. Yes, I understand we have to do the business of Al-Anon at our Assemblies and the AWSC meetings, but why is it now recommended from the WSO that we transgress the same guidelines and use business language? Let me end this paragraph by expressing my greatest concern for the fellowship as a whole - Putting all discussion outside the motion deprives the majority of the membership the ability to express their concerns or knowledge of the subject.

Bottom line – the corporation – AFG, Inc., is intimating that they know better what is right for the Fellowship and that we are not adequately informed to “govern” ourselves. The question to ask: is that true? Because if we continue to allow them to take away our voice then we deserve the outcome.

My fear is that I see a pattern of indifference being promulgated in the Al-Anon fellowship. Plato said: "The punishment of wise persons who refuse to take their part in the affairs of government is to live under the government of unwise persons".

In Service, Nancy M., Delegate TX East, panel 52

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE SUMMARY - NOW ONLINE!



The World Service Conference convenes annually. During this time, one elected Delegate from each assembly area along with the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and Al-Anon administrative staff members of the World Service Office come together to discuss and make decisions on important matters affecting Al-Anon/Alateen as a whole.

The Conference Summary is the annual written report to the Al-Anon/Alateen groups of the World Service Conference activities. It includes a report of World Service activities during the previous year. Additionally, thought-provoking, growth-providing ideas can be adapted or adopted for outreach and “inreach,” including specific skits, workshops, and meeting topics.

Visit the national website, go to the Members page, and key in the name of your home group, followed by “afg”.

<http://www.al-anon.org/members/summary.php>

Alateen Group Reports

Ride to Sanity Alateen BASTROP

Hi, I'm Sarah, and I'm the GR for the Ride to Sanity Alateen group. Our sponsors are Jayne and Lori. Our group has been growing like weeds! We have four new members now, ages 12-17. We have three new members coming from Elgin and we decided to take turns being chairpersons, so I chaired last week. Our current topics are Acceptance, the 12 Steps, and Anger - just to name a few. As GR, I try to reach out to others in my group, helping them with a good dose of Al-Anon. And I know they can do it, with the support of our group, one day at a time.

Sarah, GR.

AFG Reports

Anderson Mill AFG

All officer positions are now filled! We have a healthy group of regular members, with varied topics each week, and celebrating Al-Anon birthdays monthly. Newcomers receive How Al-Anon Works as our gift with a Newcomer Packet. Members share experience, strength, and hope, as well as tears and laughter -join us!
Jennifer C.

Came to Believe AFG

The Came to Believe group meets on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. We have a very active group and we are growing! We just moved into a larger room to accommodate our growing. We have from 15 to 25 people attend our meetings every week. Many of those in the group have sponsors and we have sponsors available to carry the message to others. Hope to see you soon! We are located in "The Yellow House" in Cedar Park, Texas.

Heart of Texas AFG - WACO

We meet on Mondays and average 8-14 members at our meetings. We get a number of newcomers, some that return or find another group in town to make as their home group.

Steve

Independence AFG

In June we had a "Group Conscience" meeting. At that meeting several newcomers asked why we read the Steps and Traditions at every meeting, also why do we study the Steps (1st Fri) and the Traditions (3rd Fri) for a whole meeting? So I did a meeting on the "Three Legacies" and How Al-Anon Works and The Three Obstacles to Success". We also talked about the roles of GR's, Dr's, Assembly chair, Delegate and WSO. We learned how to work within the above structure and how GR's are so important. We grew as a group and learned together. Our meeting is stronger because of the process. All the newcomers are still coming back.
Sissy S., ALT GR

Just for Today AFG - ELGIN

Greetings from Elgin! We're having one heck of a time with our meeting place, between Bible School and a/c that doesn't want to work, our meeting has been displaced and misplaced. We've decided to host another district meeting. Those who are unsure about doing service work get a taste of what it takes to have AFGs as a world-wide phenomena and to see that our little group isn't alone. Last year we elected to cut back the number of speaker meetings to two a year. Our first speaker was an Al-Anon member, so our upcoming speaker will be an AA member. Otherwise, we're still meeting and growing. Come by for a visit if you're out our way!

In Service, Jayne G.

Killeen AFG

We continue to grow, in both our Tuesday discussion and Thursday literature study meetings, where membership is averaging 12 - 17 attendees. For some time now we have been giving the book *How Al-anon Works* to new members at their sixth meeting. At one of our recent group consciences we decided to make any meeting at which someone receives their book into a sponsorship meeting, this has resulted in an amazing surge in sponsorship as well as growth and understanding of the program.

Nicky, GR

Georgetown AFG

Georgetown Al-Anon meets on Monday nights, at the same time as an AA and an Alateen group and we average 15 weekly members, with one or two newcomers. Attendance has been down during the summer, but we are optimistic it will grow again in the fall. We recently started celebrating program birthdays and have a high percentage of double winners.

Rebekah R., GR

New Beginnings AFG - Round Rock

We meet in the Youth Building. The first meeting of the month is a Step meeting, and the chairperson chooses the open discussion topics. We celebrate anniversaries on the last Tuesday. This meeting continues to grow physically and spiritually. Please join us and share your experience, strength, and hope with us. Thursday meeting is a newcomers meeting. We give each newcomer a copy of *How Al-Anon Works*. This meeting continues to grow, if you know of someone who is new to Al-Anon, send them our way!

Jackie B. GR

ACA New Perspective AFG - KILLEEN

Our group is a new group, with meetings on Fridays at 11:30 am. Attendance ranges from 5-12. We offer, as our name states, a new perspective. Most attendees are adult children of alcoholics (ACA). We are a closed meeting, with our focus on Hope for Today in an open discussion format. All please feel free to stop in and check us out. You will most likely leave having found a new perspective, with a little hope for today!

Debra W., GR

Northland AFG

Our group made a contribution of \$100.00 to TEAM hospitality and \$100.00 to TEAM expenses. Our meeting site is going through building improvements, but attendance is still healthy. Sue S.

Serenity and Solutions AFG

We meet each Wed. evening, with the 12 Step on the first meeting, and all other Weds are topic discussion. Our attendance ranges from 8 to 12. We encourage all Al-Anons with many years in the program to attend because we always have newcomers in attendance who need your experience, strength, and hope.

Gina P., GR

Steps to Freedom AFG

Steps to Freedom AFG has a steady attendance of 15-20 members and often includes newcomers. The meeting is a book-study group, studying a step, tradition or concept from *Paths to Recovery*-- beginning with Step One in July. When there is a fifth Saturday the topic is on boundaries. The meeting may go longer than an hour and our gift to newcomers is their choice of a daily reader. We have a fellowship brunch at Rudy's on the first Saturday of the month. We are currently looking to fill the Alternate GR and Secretary positions.

Gratefully yours in Service, Alice M. GR

(AFG Reports, continued from Page 13)

Suburban Friends AFG

We continue to host step meetings on Fridays, newcomer and open discussion meetings on Saturdays, with a birthday meeting on the last Saturday. Our newcomer meetings offer an open format that encourages Q and A from newcomers. We're working on a group inventory and we look forward to sharing the results with SF members at our September Business meeting. We're also looking forward to developing an action plan, using KBDM. We continue to see our members volunteering to chair meetings, provide hospitality, and helping with setup and packup of materials; as well as sharing their experience, strength, and hope.

Lorelei, GR

Temple One Day at a Time AFG

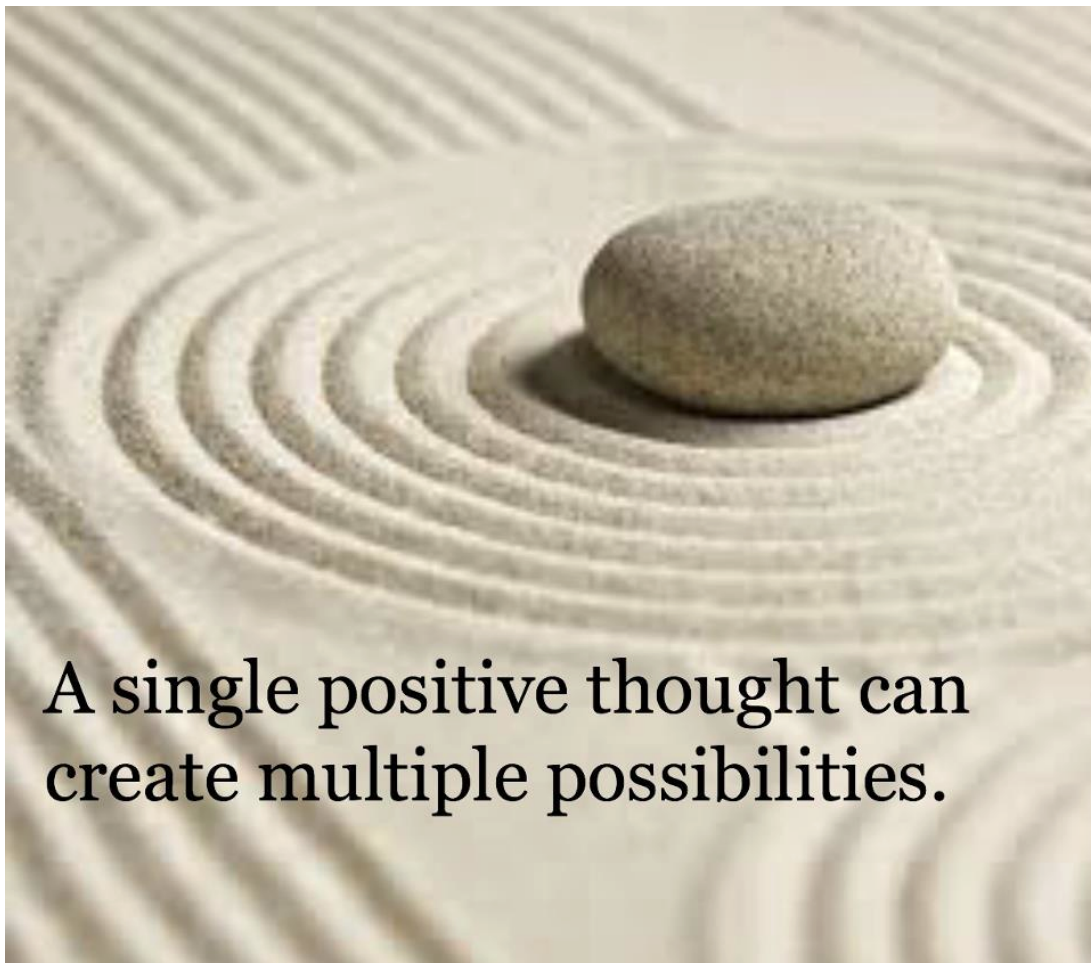
We continue to welcome newcomers, many of them have found us online. We're continuing our reading in Courage To Change and How Al-Anon Works. We also continue to welcome "Alateen age" people. We're involved in service work and look forward to getting involved in outreach activities.

Love in Al-Anon, Gertrude S.

Town and Country AFG - LOCKHART

We have made a move to the BIG ROOM! Our groups is still at Emanuel Episcopal Church, but in the Fellowship Room by the kitchen. Our group hosts a speaking/hospitality meeting every fifth Monday, dinner/potluck is at 6:00 and the speaker begins at 7:00. Feel free to come by and see what is happening on Monday evenings!

Cindy M., GR



**A single positive thought can
create multiple possibilities.**

EVENTS

STEP INTO FALL WITH RECOVERY

East Texas Al-Anon/ Alateen Area Fall Assembly November 9-11, 2012
Hilton San Antonio Airport 611 Northwest Loop 410 San Antonio, TX 78216
Al-Anon - \$20.00 Alateen - \$5.00 AA - \$20.00 Lunch w/Speaker - \$27.50
<http://www.texas-al-anon.org>



“Celebrating Worldwide Unity” with more than 4,500 Al-Anon, Alateen, and A.A. members and their guests will be a great experience to meet old friends and to make new ones! The WSO will hold a special day, celebrating service, on Thursday, July 4, before the Convention begins - What a wonderful way to kick off the weekend!

Members who live outside of Canada will need to have a passport in order to enter Canada. Members are encouraged to allow enough time to process passport applications.

FUTURE EVENTS

October 15	AIS Center Board Meeting, Austin, TX
October 20	District 6 Meeting in Austin, TX
November 9-11	ETAAA in San Antonio, TX



IT

ASK



BASKET

Q: How do we communicate non-WSO (World Service Office) events like ATAAC?

A: For non-WSO events, refer to pg. 52 of the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual:

“Tradition 6: Our Family Groups ought never endorse, finance or lend our name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim. Although a separate entity, we should always cooperate with Alcoholics Anonymous.”

It is important to remember that we only announce AI-Anon/Alateen events in our meeting. Events that can use the AI-Anon name and logo are connected to the AI-Anon links of service (district, area, WSO). Because of our special relationship with AA, those AA events with AI-Anon and Alateen participation can be announced, but at an AI-Anon meeting or meeting location, groups do not announce or discuss activities of other anonymous Twelve Step programs.

Publicizing events of other organizations creates an appearance of affiliation, even if the event is composed primarily of AI-Anon or Alateen members. Note that in order to use the name “Alateen”, any event with Alateen participation must have a connection to the AI-Anon Area in which it is held, and have event requirements that meet or exceed the Area’s Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.

For non-WSO events, speaking outside the meeting room with friends and stating it is not an AI-Anon approved event is appropriate. For the sake of anonymity, e-mail announcements should be avoided. In personal or phone conversations about the event, protect anonymity best.

Q: Where can I get the map of our District?-Like the one at the registration table.

A: In the latest BEACON-The East Texas Area AI-Anon/Alateen Newsletter-or online at <http://www.texas-al-anon.org/>

Q: In the service manual it speaks of charging extra for literature to meet needs of district. At a group level is it also acceptable to charge more than cost and what amount is reasonable?

A: See page 211 of the Service Manual. Haven’t heard of it being done locally, so have a group conscience to decide how much extra your group might charge. Encourage members to increase their contributions (\$1.00-\$8.00). Personally, we think this is a spiritual program and keeping it accessible to all is vital.

Q: What are examples of non-conference approved literature materials and can they be used at AI-Anon meetings? Also, can we offer AA material at AI-Anon meetings?

A: See page 101 - use of materials at Al-Anon meetings. To keep Al-Anon's message, the focus and encourage unity only Al-Anon/Alateen conference approved literature (CAL) and Al-Anon/Alateen service tools are displayed, distributed, and used at Al-Anon/Alateen meetings, including meetings at conferences and conventions.

Page 100 - Identification of Al-Anon/Alateen publications "CAL" look for the seal at the bottom of page 100.

Page 99 - How does it become CAL?

Page 56 - Conference approved literature is written by and for members.

Page 101 - AA literature is not used at Al-Anon meetings because it is written for and from the viewpoint of Alcoholics and is not Al-Anon/Alateen Conference Approved Literature. Reliance on opinions expressed in AA and other outside materials can distort the Al-Anon approach.

Get and read the two pamphlets P-53 *Al-Anon Spoken Here* and P-35 *Why Conference Approved Literature?*

PERSONAL OPINION BY THE PERSON ANSWERING THIS QUESTION: I find the big book very interesting and helpful to understand the alcoholic. But I need to be careful when reading it, because it brings out my need to focus on them, not me. My job is to focus on me and fix only me.

Q: Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM)? A brief description please.

A: KBDM ensures that every voice is heard. Thorough discussion takes place before voting on an issue. Motions are made and seconded after discussion, then the vote takes place. The group can decide whether a majority or two-thirds vote is acceptable. Nancy M., our East Texas Area Al-Anon/Alateen Delegate will address KBDM and she will talk about it at the Area World Service Committee Meeting in September. Look at the World Service Conference Summary 2009.

Q: Another Al-Anon does not respect my boundaries. What can I do?

A: This is a question that could be discussed with a personal sponsor.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy C., District Secretary

