



District 6 Newsletter

Spring 2017

Vol.30, No. 2

District Meeting

April 8, 2017

Host Groups

San Marcos AFG

District Meeting Location

First Lutheran Church
130 W. Holland St.
San Marcos, TX 78666

Contact

Karl B. (512) 757-3585

Agenda

Registration/Breakfast.....8:00 A.M.
Workshop.....9:30 A.M.
Business Meeting.....10:30 A.M.
Potluck Lunch.....11:30 A.M.
Adjourn.....2:00 P.M.

(Cont'd on Page 2)

Newsletter Highlights

Officer Reports/Minutes.....Page 4
Ask It Basket.....Page 6
Treasurer's Report.....Page 7
AIS Report.....Page 9
Coordinator Reports.....Page 11
Group Reports.....Page 12
Service Representatives.....Page 15
Meeting Schedules.....Page 16

**SUMMER NEWSLETTER INPUTS DUE
MAY 15, 2017**

My Story

I was the first born to loving parents who were always there for me and provided for all my needs. I remember things we did as a family and especially things that involved alcohol. Sometimes, I hear in meetings that members don't think they need to talk about the disease with their children nor make amends because they were too young to remember anything that went on in the home when there was drinking. I was three when my brother was born. Those days, Moms stayed in the hospital for some time to recuperate. One of those nights, I remember my Dad had a big lobster bake in the back yard with lots of drinking, singing, and loud noise. I sat on the edge of my bed watching out the window for some time and wondered what my mother would think if she knew. It was the alcohol that bothered me; it really wasn't the noise or that she wasn't there, but I remember thinking she needed to know. So, when Mom came home from the hospital I told her that the roosters crowed all night and that I couldn't sleep. Why that story? I do not know, but I remember crafting the details. The drinking is what I really wanted her to know had gone on. Of course, she knew, but I often wonder if she knew how much it was the drinking that bothered me. We never talked about it – ever, except to chuckle about the idea that I thought it was the roosters that crowed all night.

My parents' alcoholism progressed, but I never thought of them as alcoholic. I just knew their drinking bothered me. It was after years in Al-Anon and when the adult children stories started to be told that I could even think, much less say, that their drinking was a problem. Growing up, I would think that if they didn't drink so much, they wouldn't fight and argue, and we'd all be a lot happier. I'd worry about bringing my friends home, what the neighbors thought, and what would happen if they divorced (wondering how we would survive). We were really poor, but I never thought of myself as poor. I frequently thought about my future, and often thought that no matter what, I would never marry anyone that drank.

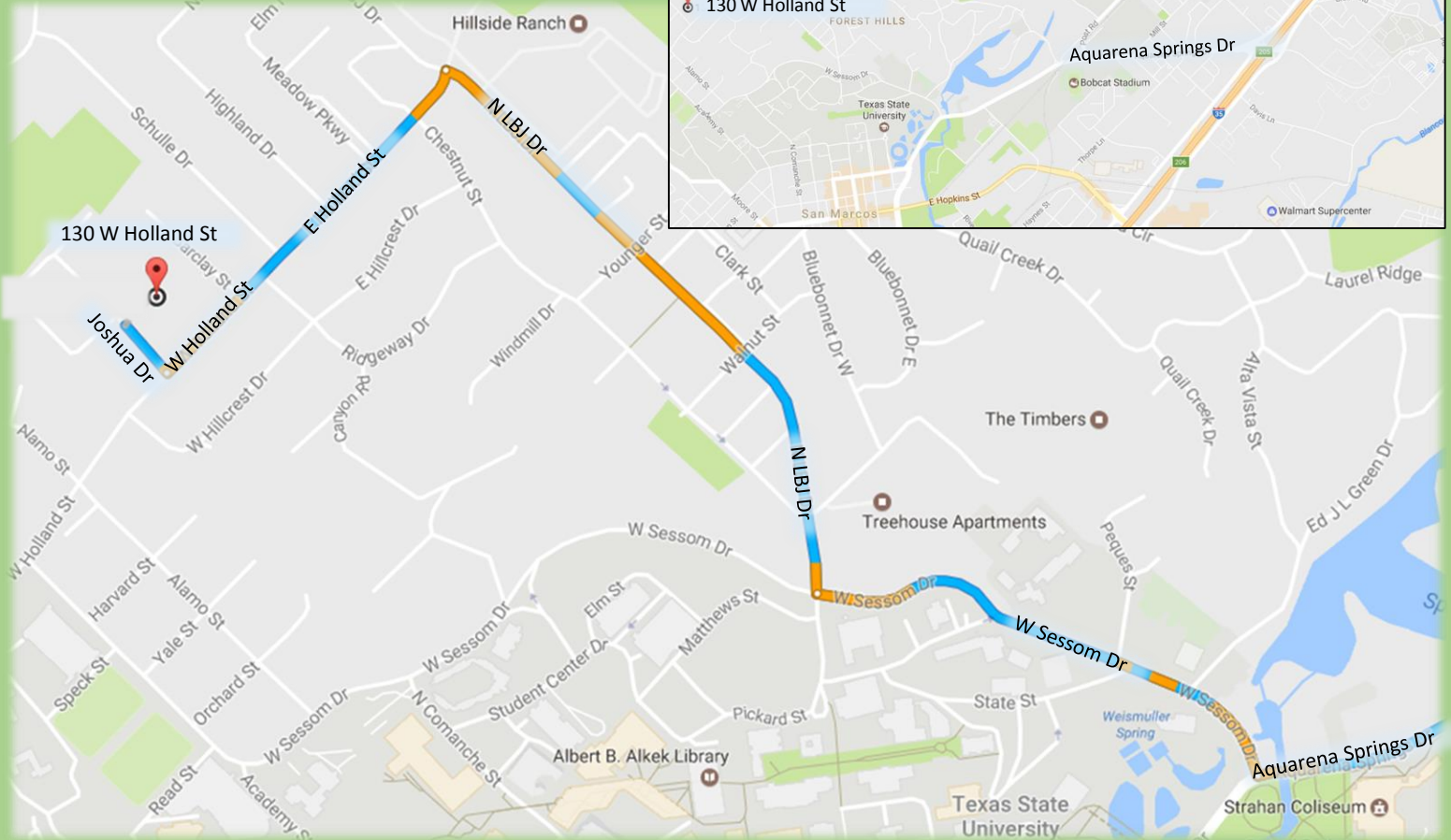
In the 1950s, I was in my early teens. One night, after everyone was in bed, I was up watching TV. *The Loretta Young Show* came on, and she announced they were going to introduce a new group for the families of alcoholics. It was called Al-Anon. I watched and remember crying through the whole show. I later wrote this story, which is included in the new history book, *Many Voices, One Journey*.

(Cont'd on Page 3)



Directions: District Meeting – April 8, 2017
First Lutheran Church, 130 W. Holland St., San Marcos, TX 78666
Contact: Karl B. (512) 757-3585

Traveling on I-35 (North or South), take Exit 206 toward TX-82 Loop/Aquarena Springs Dr.



- Take Aquarena Springs Dr. to W. Sessom Dr.
- Turn right onto W. Sessom Dr.
- Turn right onto N. LBJ Dr.
- Turn left onto E. Holland St.
- Turn right onto Joshua Dr.
- The church will be on the right



Please remember that the lunch is potluck, so bring your favorite dish. GRs should bring their service manuals for use during the meeting and are also encouraged to bring a written group report to be included in the next newsletter.

Future Events

Apr. 8	District 6 Meeting, First Lutheran Church (San Marcos, TX)
May 5-7	TEA AC (Gonzales, TX)
May 15	Austin Information Ctr. Board Mtg. (Information Center)
May 19-21	East Texas Area Al-Anon/Alateen Assembly (Sugarland, TX)
Aug. 14	Austin Information Ctr. Board Mtg. (Northland AFG)

District 6 Newsletter Subscriptions

The *District 6 Al-Anon/Alateen Newsletter* is published quarterly. Groups receive the newsletter at no charge. Suggested individual contributions are \$11/year for a subscription, which helps cover publishing costs.

District 6 Newsletter Subscription Form

Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Telephone:
Home Group:

Send form and any check(s) to:
Doon R.
P.O. Box 342194
Lakeway, TX 78734

My Story (cont'd)

We were eventually able to buy a home and move into a new neighborhood. I later found out my new friends' parents went to AA. They would take us to cookouts and parties at the AA clubhouse. I always felt safe and comfortable there as there was no fighting, no drinking, and everyone was so kind. Every now and then, they would suggest that perhaps my Dad would like to go to a meeting with them, but that never worked out and was simply laughed off with the comment, "those meetings are for alcoholics."

After two years of college, I joined the Army, left home, and loved it. After two years, I returned home and married a boyfriend that I had known for many years. He had joined the Marine Corps, and we would keep running into each other. We figured it must be something that was meant to happen. He did drink from time to time, but I thought that once we were married, that would change. It did, for a short period of time. As his drinking progressed, so did all the character defects that I brought with me into the marriage. We eventually had two children, and with each one, I just knew that it would be the change that would cause him to see how the drinking was taking its toll on the family. With every transfer, I just knew it was the one that would be to the right place that would provide the magic answer. As I know now, the family disease of alcoholism was progressing in all of us. I also learned that wherever I go, I take me with me.

Our final duty station was Hawaii. We had always wanted to be stationed there, and it was our dream come true.

I just knew that it was going to be the very place that was going to be the change I had always wanted - it would be paradise. My best thinking was running rampant. I convinced myself that he wouldn't need to drink because it was too cold or too hot; there was too much stress; or any of the other reasons I became so accustomed to hearing existed. It did not take long until we were settled into our house, new jobs, new schools, and new lifestyle, but the drinking continued.

One of our new neighbors was the base chaplain who had children the same age as ours. I thought I was doing a pretty good job of keeping our family secret to ourselves, but one day, the chaplain came over and asked to speak to my husband outside. Seems there had been something at work that was a problem, and the drinking was identified as the possible cause. My reaction to this was less than pleasant, but today, I understand and can make it one of the funny stories I tell.

After the intervention and the interviews of both my husband and myself, the counselor, the commanding officer, and the chaplain decided it was best if my husband would consider treatment. I remember thinking this was the change I had been wanting, but this just was not what I had in my plan. I remember thinking then that it was the worst thing that could ever happen to us. Little did I know, the treatment center would be a new beginning for us, with my introduction to Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous to my husband. That was 36 years ago, and looking back, it was the beginning of a new life for our family.

(Cont'd on Page 14)

Officer Reports

District Representative

Hello, District 6! I attended the AWSC meeting on February 4 in Waller, Texas, with District 7 hosting. Kay C., Area Chairperson, opened the meeting at 11:55 A.M., with the reading of the Concepts and Warranties. Kay C. read from Page 66 in the service manual on the AWSC meeting and the purpose of it.

Joyce Y., Area Delegate, shared that the bid for Houston to host the 2023 Al-Anon International Convention will be presented at the WSO Conference on April 29 at 3:00 P.M. They will have ten minutes to make the presentation.

Margaret, Area Forum/Literature Coordinator, shared that the new notebook, *Paths to Recovery*, P-93, is \$10 and goes with the book, B-24. The set sells for \$25. She encouraged us to send in sharings for the new books to the WSO. There is no deadline to do so. She stated that the guidelines for turning in sharings are in January's edition of *The Forum*. WSO is also looking for sharings from parents and grandparents of alcoholics and on intimacy. There is a new daily reader coming out as well. The *Alateen Service Sponsor Manual* is now available on the WSO Web site at www.al-anon.org.

Roll call was done by the Area Secretary, David, and we had 22 voting members. We decided to go with the majority. The AWSC meeting minutes were read and approved as corrected.

District 2 gave their report on the 2016 Fall Assembly:

- 193 registrations
- 1 Alateen
- 14 AAs
- A concession stand was set up to (help) pay for food. This was done by the hotel.
- Fundraising was set up, did silent auctions during district meetings.
- 35 members registered early.
- Al-Anon and AA meetings were held in both English and Spanish. This was very successful.
- 145 luncheons were sold.
- In the end, they had an additional \$3,000 collected to return to the Area.

Alateen Sponsorship Certification process: Motion made and passed to make changes to the certification process to make it permanent for a new AMIAS to do the training/workshop for their first year and then every year after to do either a training/workshop or the self-guided manual and then go over it with an Area Approved Trainer.

Motion by Lynn S. passed for the Area to go forward in keeping with the spiritual principles of an assembly and make the assembly meeting separate from the convention style.

November elections: For service positions and their qualifications, please see *The Beacon* or the [Texas Al-Anon](http://TexasAlAnon.org) Web site. Resumes will go to the Area Chairperson for Delegate, Officers, and Chairperson.

March 2018 South Central Area Delegates meeting: Motion made and passed that Area 53 will assist the Past Delegates to put this meeting on.

Ann, Area Archivist, will find a climate controlled storage unit to store the archives. Motion made and passed that a small committee that understands archives will be formed and will review the items for what should be kept and what can be discarded.

Bennie P., AAPP, reported 97 Alateen sponsors and 32 registered Alateen groups in Area 53. March 1 through June 1 starts the certification/recertification process for Alateen sponsors.

Lynn S., *Beacon* Editor, stated that the AWSC members get their *Beacons* e-mailed to them. If that member wants to receive a hard copy, they will have to pay the \$6.00. She also stated that the P.O.S.S.E. flyers are not in *The Beacon*; only the assembly flyers are included. All *Beacon* newsletter returns cost the Area \$0.57. Instagram: Lynn is sending an e-mail to the district newsletter editors.

Judy W., Area Public Outreach Coordinator, has a surplus of 400 posters and 500 starter kits. Please tell her how you will use them and where you will place them, so she can keep a record.

(Cont'd on Page 5)

Officer Reports (cont'd)

District Representative (cont'd)

Lisa, Area Web Site Coordinator, said the Web site needs nine updates and does not know what will change. She said that she did not receive the All Texas Al-Anon/Alateen Conference flyer and that is why it was not up on the Web site.

Paula, Austin AIS Liaison, reported that literature sales have dropped off. A survey was sent to the groups requesting information on how to improve.

An Assembly Guidelines Task Force was formed for new guidelines to be put in place. On this task force are Lynn (Chair), Delores, and Jane. Lori L. will be a sounding board.

Kay C. asked for a Task Force for Area boundaries: geographic as well as numbers of groups for Districts 5 (145 groups), 4, and 7. Kay, Joyce, and the DRs for these districts will be on the Task Force since the number of meetings in these districts are out of proportion. Districts 9 and 10 become one district or stay as is. Districts 3 and 12 combine, or District 3 becomes a part of Districts 12 and 4. District 6 should think about splitting up (parts) to Districts 7, 13, and 12.

The meeting adjourned.

In service,
Lori L.

Secretary's Report-
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2017

Hosted by Central Texas Serenity Seekers AFG

Judy W., Alternate DR, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and the reading of the Three Legacies.

Barbra H., with Central Texas Serenity Seekers AFG, welcomed everyone. Judy W. thanked and recognized all members of the hosting group and the five new GRs and two Alateen members in attendance.

After introductions, everyone participated in a workshop on Step One, Tradition One, and Concept One led by Barbra H.

At 10:05 A.M., the group took a 15 minute break.

The business meeting began at 10:20 A.M. with the officers' reports (Page 4).

Alice M. asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 15, 2016 minutes as printed in the "Winter 2017" District 6 Newsletter. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved as printed.

Doon R. presented the 2016 District 6 Fourth Quarter Operating Statement (Page 7). The Ask It Basket and donation basket were passed, with \$155.00 collected.

The coordinators' reports followed (Page 11). Anna A. announced that the newsletter submittal deadline is February 15th.

Judy W. advised that the Alateen Coordinator and Spanish Coordinator service positions are still open. She asked that members consider filling these positions in the fall when the election of officers is held.

The group broke for lunch at 11:15 A.M.

The business meeting resumed at 12:15 P.M., with the Ask It Basket questions being answered (Page 6).

Alice M. called the roll. There were 49 attendees with 28 voting GRs.

Old Business:

Unallocated funds – Anna A. gave an update on the cost for the Cap Metro campaign. Judy W. asked for other public outreach project ideas. Lori L. asked that the unallocated funds be kept in reserve to cover unforeseen Fall Assembly expenses. After a discussion, Kerry M., Lee Anne D., and Karen S. volunteered to be members of a Thought Force. They will research and report on options for the use of the unallocated funds.

(Cont'd on Page 6)

Officer Reports (cont'd)

January 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

New Business:

Doon R. presented the Proposed Budget for 2017 (Page 8). After some discussion the following motions were made:

- Kathy J. motioned – I would like to make a motion to approve the 2017 budget as presented. Kate H. seconded the motion. The motion passed with 27 Yes votes and one abstention.
- Kate H. motioned – I move to reimburse Doon (Treasurer) for overage she covered. Barbra H. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The GR reports followed (Page 12).

Update:

Bill W. is the new District Alateen Coordinator. Yay! We're thrilled to have him on board.

Important Dates:

- May 5-7, 2017 – TEA AC, Gonzales, TX
- May 15, 2017—Austin Information Center Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M. at the Information Center
- May 19-21, 2017 – ETAA Assembly, Sugarland, TX
- August 14, 2017—Austin Information Center Board Meeting, 6:30P.M. at Northland AFG
- November 3-5, 2017—ETAA Assembly, Austin, TX
- November 13, 2017—Austin Information Center Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M. at the Information Center

Future District Meetings:

- July 15, 2017 – Host to be announced
- October 21, 2017 – Host to be announced

The meeting closed at 1:49 P.M. with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully submitted in gratitude,
Alice M., District 6 Secretary

Ask It Basket January 28, 2017

1. Group officers – What is the usual term of office? Are there guidelines on how long any person may serve one office? Can an Al-Anon member who is also an AA member serve as an officer of the group?

Answer: Guideline (G-11) available on the WSO Members' Web site. A GR serves three years and may serve another term (Page 146 of the service manual). Al-Anon members, who are also members of AA, may not serve as GR, DR, Area Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Delegate (or their alternates), nor do they sit on WSO select committees (Pages 82 and 146 of the service manual).

2. Is there an Official IRS Letter of Determination that groups can use?

Answer: No. In the service manual, see Page 58, "Group Bank Accounts," and Page 119, which states, "Incorporation would not give local services authority over groups they serve."

3. Is the District Alateen Coordinator (DAC) expected to attend P.O.S.S.E. and TEA AC. If so, does the district cover expenses? Is the DAC expected to attend assemblies?

Answer: The DAC has a budget to pay their expenses and does not attend TEA AC unless as a group sponsor.

4. Our group is deliberating between two phone lists – one is handed out to newcomers, and the other is a private list of names of all of the group, including e-mail addresses (i.e., in case meeting location or any other pertinent information changes). Is anyone else doing this? How is it working?

Answer: We have just one phone list with numbers only. Only the GR's e-mail is on it. Some groups provide an e-mail list to the entire group. It is up to the individual group's autonomy. Each member must decide what information they want to provide.

5. How long do you have to be in Al-Anon to be a Spanish Coordinator?

Answer: No guidance for that but would suggest a service sponsor to consult for help with the position.

6. Could Outreach assist with beginner packets for a group? Our group has a dedicated newcomers' meeting

(Cont'd on Page 9)

Officer Reports (cont'd)

2016 District 6 Operating Statement (4th Quarter)

D6 Operating Statement		4th Q 2016						
Income	Budget	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Actual	Notes	
D6 Basket Collection	500.00	143.00	82.00	111.00	140.00	476.00		
Total Group Donations including newsletter subscriptions	6,000.00	2,264.77	1,122.29	1,998.03	2,322.10	7,707.19		
Bank Interest	10.00	2.72	2.48	2.58	2.47	10.25		
Collection for Delegate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Misc	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00		
Contribution from Unallocated Funds to cover proposed expenses	2,765.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Total Income	\$9,275.00	2,410.49	1,206.77	2,111.61	2,464.57	8,193.44		
Expenses	Budget	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Actual		
Alateen Coordinator	1,000.00	175.22	0.00	0.00	42.01	217.23		
Alateen Liason Coord.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Archives	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00		
Rent / District Meeting	1,000.00	100.00	0.00	93.50	25.00	218.50		
DR Int'l Convention	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
DR Expenses	1,200.00	176.00	340.17	114.24	548.68	1,179.09		
All. DR Expenses	500.00	0.00	73.92	0.00	27.72	101.64		
Secretary Expenses	200.00	17.49	43.82	26.14	32.14	119.59		
Treasurer Expenses	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	219.80	219.80	Reimburse add'l \$100 in 1st Q 2017	
Newsletter Editor	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Forum/Literature	150.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	33.00		
AMIAS	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Newsletter	2,400.00	560.03	580.99	551.93	590.70	2,283.65		
Public Outreach No.	500.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00		
Public Outreach So.	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Spanish Coordinator	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
P.O.S.S.E. Scholarship	200.00	62.50	62.50	0.00	0.00	125.00		
Donation to TEAAC	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00		
Delegate to Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Gift to Delegate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Bank Charges	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00		
Misc.	0.00	40.00	22.48	29.13	106.15	197.76	Oct Dist Mtg Exp 90.00 + 16.15 Checks	
Total Expenses	\$9,275.00	1,302.24	1,123.88	814.94	2,114.20	5,355.26		
Reserves								
Int'l Reserve	\$1,801.43	\$1,801.43	\$1,801.43	\$1,801.43	\$1,801.43		For DR's Attendance	
T.E.A.M.	\$171.51	\$171.51	\$171.51	\$171.51	\$171.51		One-Day Seminar on Service	
Assembly Funds	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00		For Deposits, etc.	
Prudent Reserve	\$4,637.50	\$4,637.50	\$4,637.50	\$4,637.50	\$4,637.50		Approx. 1/2 Annual Budget	
Kristy Fund	\$1,133.38	\$1,043.38	\$1,043.38	\$1,043.38	\$1,043.38		1/2 Scholarships for TEAAC	
Total Reserves	\$9,743.82	\$9,153.82	\$9,153.82	\$9,153.82	\$9,153.82			
Reserves	\$9,743.82	\$9,153.82	\$9,153.82	\$9,153.82	\$9,153.82			
Allocated Funds	\$923.45	\$547.00	\$547.00	\$547.00	\$682.00		Posters for Schools, \$135 addition	
Allocated Funds	\$2,765.00	\$2,765.00	\$2,765.00	\$2,765.00	\$2,765.00		Anticipated to Cover 2016 Expenses	
Allocated Funds	\$2,645.25	\$65.50	\$65.50	\$65.50	\$65.50		CAP Metro Project	
Allocated Funds					+/- \$2000.00		Donation to WSO from Unallocated F.	
Allocated Funds					+/- \$2000.00		Donation to 2017 Assembly from UF	
Unallocated Funds	\$5,956.50	\$7,139.75	\$7,222.64	\$8,519.31	\$5,433.60			
Bank Balance (1/1/16)	\$22,034.02	\$19,671.07	\$19,753.96	\$21,050.63	\$18,099.92			
Bank Balance	on 12/31/15	on 3/31/16	on 6/30	on 9/30/16	on 12/31/16			

Officer Reports (cont'd)

District 6 2017 Budget

D6 Operating Statement		Budget 2017						
Income	Budget	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Actual	Notes	
D6 Basket Collection	\$500.00					\$0.00		
Total Group Donations including newsletter subscriptions	\$6,000.00					\$0.00		
Bank Interest	\$10.00					\$0.00		
Collection for Delegate	\$0.00					\$0.00		
Misc.	\$0.00					\$0.00		
Contribution from Unallocated Funds to cover proposed expenses	\$3,075.00					\$0.00		
Total Income	\$9,585.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Expenses	Budget	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Actual		
Alateen Coord.	\$1,000.00					\$0.00		
Alateen Liaison Coord.	\$0.00					\$0.00		
Archives	\$75.00					\$0.00		
Rent/District Meeting	\$1,000.00					\$0.00		
DR Int'l Convention	\$0.00					\$0.00		
DR Expenses	\$1,200.00					\$0.00		
Alt. DR Expenses	\$500.00					\$0.00		
Secretary Expenses	\$200.00					\$0.00		
Treasurer Expenses	\$300.00					\$0.00		
Newsletter Editor	\$100.00					\$0.00		
Forum/Literature	\$150.00					\$0.00		
AMIAS/Background	\$50.00					\$0.00		
Newsletter	\$2,400.00					\$0.00		
Public Outreach North	\$500.00					\$0.00		
Public Outreach South	\$1,000.00					\$0.00		
Spanish Coord.	\$200.00					\$0.00		
P.O.S.S.E. Scholarship	\$200.00					\$0.00		
Donation to TEA AC	\$500.00					\$0.00		
Delegate to Assembly	\$0.00					\$0.00		
Gift to Delegate	\$0.00					\$0.00		
Bank Charges	\$10.00					\$0.00		
Misc.	\$200.00					\$0.00		
Total Expenses	\$9,585.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Reserves								
Int'l Reserve	\$1,801.43						For DR's attendance	
T.E.A.M.	\$171.51						One-day seminar on service	
Assembly Funds	\$1,500.00						For deposits, etc.	
Prudent Reserve	\$4,792.50						Approx. 1/2 annual budget	
Kristy Fund	\$1,043.38						1/2 scholarships for TEA AC	
Total Reserves	\$9,308.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Reserves	\$9,308.82							
Allocated Funds	\$682.00						Posters for schools	
Allocated Funds	\$3,075.00						Anticipated - 2017 expenses	
Allocated Funds	\$65.50						CAP Metro project	
Bank Balance (1/1/16)	\$18,099.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Bank Balance	on 12/31/16	on 3/31/17	on 6/30/17	on 9/30/17	on 12/31/17			

Ask It Basket January 28, 2017 (cont'd)

on the schedule each week. We hand out many of these packets each year.

Answer: Tradition 7 – Groups are self-supporting and district funds should be used for district business. You can put together cheaper newcomers’ packets with less expensive pamphlets.

7. Is it the GR’s responsibility to manage my group’s donations to the district? If so, is there a recommended dollar amount?

Answer: No! No! It is not the GR’s responsibility to “manage” group donations – it is the group’s responsibility. See Pages 56-59 in the service manual – “The group supports Al-Anon/Alateen financially at all levels of service by contributing to: District, AIS, Area and WSO. Members work out a financial budget for the group.” Contributions are often rotated to various entities and are a percentage of group contributions (e.g., 25% of month’s contribution designated to district).

8. How do you get more members involved in service positions in your groups?

Answer: I noticed how I became involved in service. When someone said we need someone to chair the meeting next week, I did not volunteer, but when someone spoke to me one-on-one, such as: “Bill, would you chair the meeting next week,” it was hard to refuse. The same kind of thing occurred when someone said, “Bill, could you come to the district meeting on Saturday?” Then six months later, they said, “Bill, would you be our group representative?” My first response to each question was to sputter about not being ready for that responsibility, and in each case, they expressed confidence that I could do it.

I now understand the principle here. When we make an announcement that a vacancy needs to be filled, we often don’t get a response, but when we ask

a person if they can do it, they often react positively to our confidence in them.

I see it this way.....if Al-Anon asks me to do something, that’s my Higher Power urging me to say, “Yes.” Unless, there is a conflict, and I really am not available.

When there is an upcoming election, I look for an eligible person and ask them one-on-one if they can serve. Sometimes, I express it by asking if their Higher Power has whispered anything to them about their next service position. If a person has a good reason to decline, I look around for someone else.

Half of my personal growth, learning to use the Steps in my life, has come from watching and listening during service meetings. I see other people practicing recovery, and even when I see someone slipping, it serves as a graphic reminder to use the principles of the Steps in service meetings.

Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Centers

Austin AIS

The Austin Al-Anon Information Center (AAIC) Board met on February 21, 2017. Officers for 2017 are as follows: AAIC Board Chair is Carolyn K., Secretary is Mary Evelyn, and Treasurer is Peggie F. Committee chairs were elected for four standing committees. The Literature Committee Chair is Don C. The Finance Committee Chair is Joyce L. The Volunteer Committee Chair is Marilyn C. The Meeting List Committee still needs a chair.

Expenses for 2016 exceeded the Austin information center’s income. Several suggestions were made for improvements. One was to ask the groups for more donations, and another was to raise the cost of literature. A written policy is needed on how literature is priced.

There was a survey created by a Task Force. The survey seeks input on how groups and individuals utilize the

(Cont’d on Page 10)

Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Centers (cont'd)

AAIC, and it seeks suggestions for improvement. That survey will be sent to groups in the near future and will be put on the Austin Al-Anon Information Center Web site. From the time the survey is sent to groups, groups will have one month to complete the survey, and hopefully, the survey results will be presented at the next information center Board meeting.

Since the last Board meeting, the information center had an income of \$20,020.23 from debt repayment, literature sales, and donations. Literature expenses were \$9,518.45. Over the past 62 days, there were 236 calls made to the information center and 123 walk-ins. There was no information on after hours calls, and the Board would like statistics on after hours calls.

At a previous District 6 meeting, the GRs asked for statistics on how many times the Austin Al-Anon Information Center Web site was visited. Here are the results: 49,329 visits to the Web site; Austin meeting schedule viewed 27,227 times; Waco meeting schedule viewed 1,398 times; Information Center Board page viewed 492 times; and District 6 page viewed 940 times. Visitors to the site that were directed from search engines produced the following results: Google-15,486 times; Yahoo-878 times; and Bing-758 times. Visits from the WSO AFG site linked to the Austin site were 802, and visits from the Texas Al-Anon Web site were 663. Many of the on-line district newsletters were also viewed.

Future Board meetings are as follows:

- May 15, 6:30 P.M. at the Austin Information Center
- August 22, 6:30 P.M. at Northland
- November 13, 6:30 P.M. at the Austin Information Center

With gratitude in Al-Anon service, Paula H.

Waco AIS

The Waco Information Service is not a Literature Distribution Center. We pay the bills for the Al-Anon pager, the local post office box, and *The Yellow Pages* and on-line ads. Billings are \$19.24 per month for the pager, \$33.00 biannually for the post office box, and \$317.52 per year for *The Yellow Pages* and on-line ads. Our balance is currently \$317.63.

We receive contributions from local groups and occasionally from groups outside of Waco. We use these contributions to pay our bills, and they are very much appreciated.

We cooperate with Public Outreach in the northern part of the district when having health fairs, etc.

In grateful service, Cindy J.

A 12-Step Opportunity:

Waco AIS is searching for a Chair and a Treasurer. If you are interested, please contact Waco AIS at (254) 808-4757.

Distribution of Alateen Posters to Schools - Update

We had encountered various difficulties in the larger independent school districts (ISDs) in obtaining consent to distribute posters to their middle and high schools.

Hays ISD had previously indicated a substantial charge for consenting to the distribution to schools. However, despite payment of the fee, there was no guarantee that the posters would be placed in the individual schools.

Then, a small "miracle" happened.

The Hays ISD Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) was approached and offered to get the charges waived and distribute the posters to the appropriate middle and high schools in the school district. Although strictly an advisory body, they were prepared to by-pass the school district procedures get the posters put up.

That gave us hope that we could achieve the same in other ISDs. There are no guarantees since each ISD operates somewhat differently,

but it is worth a try.

With the school year more than half over, volunteers might also think about obtaining consent now to put up posters for the beginning of the next school year.

We are still looking for volunteers for Del Valle, Manor, and Georgetown ISDs. If you would like to volunteer for these districts, please contact me at rosemarycameron@yahoo.com.

- Rosemary C.

Al-Anon/Alateen Related Acronyms

- AAPP - Area Alateen Process Person
 - AIS - Al-Anon Information Service
 - AMIAS - Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service
 - AWSC - Area World Service Committee
 - CAL - Conference Approved Literature
 - CMA - Current Mailing Address
 - DAC - District Alateen Coordinator
 - DR - District Representative
 - EIN - Employer Identification Number (tax ID number)
 - ETAA - East Texas Area Al-Anon/Alateen
 - ETAAA - East Texas Area Al-Anon/Alateen Assembly
 - GR - Group Representative
 - ISR - Information Service Representative
 - LDC - Literature Distribution Center
 - P.O.S.S.E. - Program of Sponsors Sharing Everything
 - PQ - Public Outreach
 - PSA - Public Service Announcement
 - TEA AC - Texas East Area Alateen Conference
 - TEAM - Together Empowering Al-Anon Members
 - WSC - World Service Conference
 - WSO - World Service Office
- (AA - Alcoholics Anonymous)

Coordinator Reports

Alateen

Bill W. is our new District Alateen Coordinator. Please welcome Bill to his new service position. We look forward to his report in the next edition of the newsletter.

Forum/Literature (by Judy P.)

The Forum Magazine



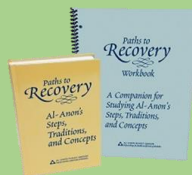
Al-Anon's monthly magazine features timely sharings from Al-Anon and Alateen members, suggested meeting topics, and

the latest information on worldwide Al-Anon recovery. Experience and insight you won't find anywhere else!

The Forum is available in hard copy via annual subscription for \$11.00 and electronically at Barnes and Noble. You can also buy it one month at a time at Amazon, iTunes, and Kobo.

Informational only and not an endorsement of any electronic media provider, reader, or other products sold by electronic media providers.

The Paths to Recovery Workbook Is Here!



This new workbook contains all the thought-provoking questions on each Step, Tradition, and

Concept of Service found in the book *Paths to Recovery* (B-24), with space to write answers. It can be used for personal study, partnership with a sponsor, or group study during meetings. The *Paths to Recovery Workbook* gives us an opportunity to explore in writing our relationship with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, and deepen our understanding of the *Paths to Recovery*

(B-24) book. In effect, through the action of taking pen to paper, we become active participants with the book in our recovery journey. Also available as a set (K-31) with the *Paths to Recovery* book.

Reminder - Be sure to get your literature order called in to the Austin AIS/LDC by April 4 for pickup at the district meeting on April 8!

Electronic Literature



Available on Amazon, iTunes, Barnes and Noble & Kobo

This is for information only, and not an endorsement of any electronic media provider, reader, or other products sold by electronic media providers.

(Cont'd on Page 12)

Coordinator Reports (cont'd)

**Newsletter
(by Anna A.)**

For the "Winter 2017" issue of the newsletter, we mailed 120 copies and had eight returned as undeliverable. Total cost for this issue was \$617.81. If anyone has suggestions for additional information to be included in the newsletter, please let me know. The input due date for the "Summer 2017" edition is May 15, 2017.

Please make sure your Current Mailing Address is up to date with the Area Records Coordinator. If you did not change your mailing address and did not receive the latest edition of the newsletter, please let me know. Remember, you can always find the on-line version at <http://austinalanon.org/>, under the District 6 tab.

**Public Outreach (South)
(by Jim C.)**

The South group was active during this period. We continue to support and host the Al-Anon speaker meeting at Promises Austin in Spicewood, Texas on the third Wednesday of every month.

We have been working with ADAAP (*Austin Drug & Alcohol Abuse Program*) to develop on-going outreach for family members. We host family night every three to four weeks at their facility, introduce the family and friends of the participants to the Al-Anon recovery program, and provide schedules to meetings throughout the Austin area.

We have also been facilitating speakers for several Al-Anon speaking requests and are actively seeking new outreach opportunities at intensive outpatient programs (IOPs) and other treatment centers.

If you or your group would like to get more involved in public outreach, please contact Judy W. at (512) 567-6994 for ideas.

Spanish – COORDINATOR NEEDED

We've been searching for a Spanish Coordinator since our 2014 elections. If you're interested, please see Page 16 of this newsletter for the District 6 Spanish Coordinator description.

Group Reports

**Faith AFG
(by Michael Z.)**

Greetings from Northwest Austin! Our group meets at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday nights at The Unity Church of the Hills (9905 Anderson Mill Rd. Room 131). Our attendance continues to be very healthy throughout the winter months. We are a newcomers' meeting, and on average, welcome at least one newcomer each Thursday. We have a tradition of gifting each newcomer with *How Al-Anon Works* to help introduce them to the program.

I'm excited to announce that our Austin Al-Anon Information Service Center Representative position has just been filled.

Come on by if you're in the area on a Thursday night to hear from all those that wish to share their experience, strength and hope, and some laughter.

**Let It Begin With Me AFG
(by Kate H.)**

Our group was started approximately one year ago in Bastrop. We meet each

Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at the Calvary Episcopal Church. The building we meet in is located at the northwest corner of Chestnut Street and Alley A Street, which runs parallel to Main Street.

We are pleased to see that many individuals in the Bastrop area are finding us. We average between eight and fifteen individuals in most of our meetings, including a good number of men. Though we are a new group, we have both long-time Al-Anons and many newcomers. We find that we have connected quickly

(Cont'd on Page 13)

Group Reports (cont'd)

with each other and are finding recovery and serenity in the face of the family disease of alcoholism.

Personal Freedom AFG

(by Tina C.)

Our group meets every Thursday at Faith Methodist Church on S. Lamar in Austin from 6:00-7:00 P.M. This is a literature meeting using Conference Approved Literature, with a focus on solution. On the first Thursday of the month, we use our namesake workbook, *Reaching for Personal Freedom*. We continue to grow and have a steady attendance of regulars along with newcomers. We hold quarterly group conscience meetings, and during our last meeting, we practiced our group autonomy and voted to remove the crosstalk language from our opening.

This past February, we celebrated our three-year anniversary! Several of our service positions are also currently filled, including: Group Representative, Secretary, Treasurer, and Literature Representative. We are currently seeking an Alternate Group Representative, and our Treasurer position is available for rotation of service. Come join us in sharing our experience, strength & hope!

Serenity Seekers AFG

(by Terry F.)

Greetings from Buda-ful Buda! Our group meets on Saturday mornings at 10:30 in the portable building at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church on FM 967 in Buda.

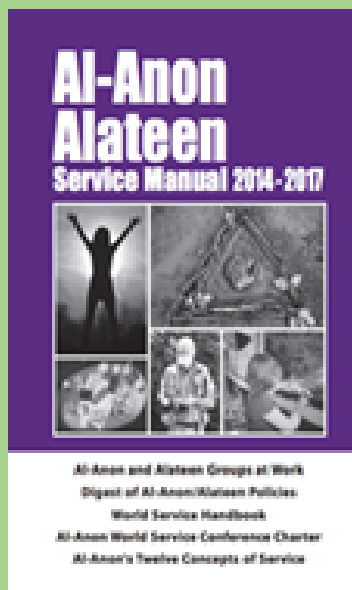
Our group has continued to grow, and we have consistently had upwards of 16 attendees. We are almost outgrowing our space! The strength of our group also grows, and several members have started another Buda meeting that meets at Living Word Lutheran Church on FM 967 on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. This new meeting coincides with an AA meeting held at the same time and place. Buda is rapidly growing, and so is recovery!

Survival to Recovery

(by Terry S.)

We meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 6:00 P.M. at the Yellow House in Cedar Park. We are a book study and use our namesake book, *From Survival to Recovery*, with a focus on the Al-Anon promises.

Although the meeting's primary appeal is to adult children of alcoholics, all are welcome.



GRs: Don't forget to make the service manual part of your library.

My Story (cont'd)

Changing my thinking and working on my character defects has not been a piece of cake, and I surely had some tough times. However, learning and living the spiritual principles of Al-Anon has given me a life I never thought possible.

I got into Al-Anon service early on. I first made coffee for our meeting, then it was taking care of the literature, and then being trusted with the key to our meeting room. I loved being a GR, the Area Delegate, and especially loved serving on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee at the WSO. Even though some of my experiences have been difficult, I know that they have made me stronger and given me tools that I have been able to use "in all my affairs." I have learned that I have skills and abilities that I never would have known I had if it were not for Al-Anon. Al-Anon has been with me wherever I go; it has taken me places I would have never been and given me experiences I never would have had. I have met people that I never would have met all around the world. I still keep in touch with many and get to visit with from time to time. Many of these people I plan to

meet at the 2018 Al-Anon International Convention next year in Baltimore.

Five years ago, my husband passed away. He had 33 years of sobriety in the house. About three years ago, I decided to move from Hawaii to Texas to be closer to my children. Without Al-Anon, I never would have had a relationship with them. Because of my service in Al-Anon, I already knew some Al-Anon members here, so I never really felt alone. I knew it was important to get into service right away, and I was so fortunate to find my district was looking for a Literature/Forum Coordinator, something I had always wanted to do. I only hoped that my being new would not prevent me from being able to serve. It didn't, and thanks to some old friends that encouraged me, I found myself involved again. It has been wonderful to do the job I love – working with our literature, being of service to Al-Anon, and making new friends.

- Judy P.

If you're in the Longview area on May 6, you may consider this event. For more information, see the full flyer. The link to this flyer and other events can be found on Page 17 of this newsletter.

A DAY WITH THE DELEGATE

MAY 6, 2017---SATURDAY

REGISTRATION: 9:30AM

\$5.00 DONATION

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH--WEST FELLOWSHIP HALL
OF THE PARISH CENTER
2108 RIDGEWOOD DR.—LONGVIEW, TX. 75605

SPEAKER: Joyce Yoder (10-12pm)

our area delegate will share her Al-Anon program, experience, and recovery.

LUNCH: 12-1pm— Salad Pot luck..... PLEASE BRING A SALAD
Desert and drink will be provided

RAFFLE

Request that each group bring a basket to be raffled.
This is a joint fundraiser for district 9 and 10

Service Arms

There are five service arms that groups may choose to support after meeting their own expenses. These are listed below with their addresses. Please remember to indicate your group number, so group contributions can be acknowledged. Personal contributions are also gratefully accepted.

<p>AL-ANON INFORMATION CENTER 6301 Manchaca Road, Ste. F Austin TX 78745 512-441-8591</p>	<p>AIS WACO AREA PO Box 8374 Waco, TX 76714 254-808-4757</p>	<p>DISTRICT 6 Doon R. PO Box 342194 Lakeway, TX 78734 512-582-0463</p>
<p>EAST TEXAS AREA (ETAA) Treasurer-ETAA P.O. Box 34102 San Antonio, TX 78265</p>	<p>WORLD SERVICE OFFICE AFG, INC. 1600 Corporate Landing Pkwy Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617 800-344-2666 www.al-anon.alateen.org</p>	

District 6 Service Committee Officers

<p>DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE Lori L.</p>	<p>ALTERNATE D.R. Judy W.</p>	<p>SECRETARY Alice M.</p>	<p>TREASURER Doon R.</p>
---	--	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Coordinators

<p>ALATEEN Bill W.</p>	<p>ARCHIVIST Barbra H.</p>	<p>FORUM / LITERATURE Judy P.</p>	<p>NEWSLETTER Anna A.</p>
<p>PUBLIC OUTREACH (South) Jim C.</p>	<p>PUBLIC OUTREACH (North) Robin C.</p>	<p>SPANISH COORDINATOR OPEN</p>	

Websites

<p>WSO</p>	<p>www.al-anon.org/members (log in using your group name followed by "AFG")</p>
<p>Texas</p>	<p>www.texas-al-anon.org/ (password: anonymity)</p>
<p>Austin</p>	<p>www.austinalanon.org</p>

District 6 Still Needs a Spanish Coordinator

If you're interested, please see below for the Spanish District 6 Coordinator job description.

- Attend Hispanic Group meetings on a regular basis
- Acts as liaison between District and Hispanic Groups in District 6
- Reports information from Hispanic Groups at District Meetings
- Coordinates/assists with public outreach activities; keeps Hispanic Groups informed about Hispanic events in the District/Area
- Translate parts of the District 6 Newsletter; submits Hispanic article to the Newsletter in Spanish and English before deadlines
- Coordinates/communicates with East Texas Area Spanish Coordinator
- Maintains list of Hispanic Groups within the District
- OPTIONAL: Attends East Texas Area Assemblies (two per year)

BUDGET - \$200.00

\$140.00 Expenses for public outreach/travel/copying, etc.

\$60.00 Cell phone (Coordinator may opt to use personal phone)

Descripción

- Asiste a las reuniones hispanas en el Distrito
- Actúa como puente entre la Zona y los Grupos Hispanos en el Distrito 6
- Da informes de los Grupos Hispanos en las reuniones del Distrito cuatro veces al año
- Coordina/ayuda con las actividades del alcance al público; informa a los Grupos Hispanos de eventos Hispanos en el Distrito/la Zona
- Traduce partes de la Carta Informativa del Distrito; presenta un informe en la Carta Informativa en español y inglés antes de la fecha
- Coordina/comunica con la Coordinadora Hispana de la Zona
- Mantiene lista de Grupos Hispanas dentro del Distrito
- OPCIONAL: Asiste a las Asambleas de la Zona dos veces por año

GASTOS

\$140.00 Gastos para el alcance al público/viaje/copias, etc.

\$60.00 Teléfono celular (La Coordinadora puede usar un propio teléfono también)

Central Texas Al-Anon/Alateen Meeting Lists can be found at:

<http://www.austinalanon.org/meetings.htm>

Information and Flyers for upcoming events can be found at:

<http://texas-al-anon.org/events/>