

District 6 Newsletter

Summer, 2012
Vol. 25 ~ #3

NEW

AIS OFFICE LOCATION!

**6301 Manchaca Road
Suite F
Austin, TX
78745**



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Next District



Meeting

**July 21, 2012
Restoration Covenant Church
1150 McNeil Rd.
Round Rock, TX 78681
Hosted by New Beginnings AFG**

**The Guest Speak is Nancy M.,
our East TX Area Delegate.**

Experience, Strength and Hope - A love letter to my sponsor

Experience, strength and hope ~ this is what you have given to me. You old timer black belt you! With your genuine smile and the light in your eyes. Your hugs are full of warmth, understanding, empathy and love. I need your hugs!

You speak of things familiar to me because you have been where I am today. Your stories remind me that I am not alone. You have shared in the same heartache, anger, fear, resentments, grief, and agony that assaults me. You laugh and cry just as I have and just as I will.

On how I want what you have: To be able to let go and let God is an admirable quality indeed. You have survived and even thrived and so too shall I. You are my lifeline, my teacher, my hope. I see you leaning on your higher power and this helps me be less afraid of leaning on mine.

Thank you for sharing your program, experience, strength and hope with me.
They have made a difference. You have made a difference and I love you too.

“New in program”



DISTRICT MEETING DIRECTIONS

RESTORATION COVENANT CHURCH
1150 McNeil Rd.
Round Rock, Tx 78681

Hosted by New Beginnings AFG

Take McNeil Rd exit off I-35.
Restoration is the third church on the right - 9 miles.
You'll pass St. Williams Catholic Church and Faith for Life
before you reach Restoration Covenant Church. Parking available in front/back.



Officers

Paulette H.
DISTRICT REP

Stephanie S.
ALTERNATE DR

Cindy C.
SECRETARY

Michelle K.
TREASURER

Coordinators

Jayne G.
ALATEEN

Tally R.
ARCHIVIST

Jackie B.
FORUM / LITERATURE
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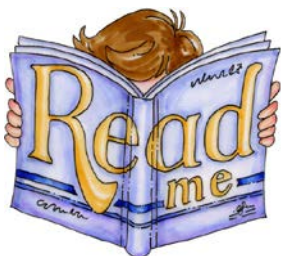
Paulette R.
NEWSLETTER

Judy W.
PUBLIC OUTREACH SOUTH

Steve Jones
PUBLIC OUTREACH NORTH

Martha Hernandez
SPANISH COORDINATOR

DISTRICT 6 SERVICE COMMITTEE



DISTRICT 6 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Tradition 7 - "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

The District 6 Al-Anon/Alateen Newsletter is published quarterly. No fees are required for groups to receive this newsletter, however, individual contributions for a yearly subscription are appreciated. The suggested donation is \$11.00 per year, which goes to help cover publishing costs.

District 6 Newsletter Subscription Form

Name
Address

Home Group

Email
Telephone



Letters to the Editor

Musings from our Membership...

War is the Desire to Impose Your Will on Someone Else: The Need for Group Inventory

My group is experiencing changes. Some of the changes include a sign-up sheet to chair meetings, getting regular reports about how much is in the bank, and having business meetings once a month to discuss what we want to do and what we want to accomplish.

Some folks like changes, some resent them. For every person that dislikes the change, another is very enthusiastic about it. Neither of these people are talking to each other (apparently). So how do we bridge the distance between the two? Our District Rep recommended that we do a Group Inventory.

Remember when we did our personal 4th step? It was a transition from desire to turn our lives and thoughts over to our Higher Power by taking action to do something about it. Just as we did in our personal 4th step, we need to find the courage to look at ourselves as a group and determine what we need to change (or not change).

Finally, just as we will do our individual 4th step periodically, we need to be ready to repeat a group inventory every few years in order to keep ourselves invigorated and on track with the group’s goal; helping the families and friends of alcoholics.

Genocide is defined as violence against members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group with the intent to destroy them. I simplify it to mean, “kill anyone not like me.”

If “The Steps prevent suicide. The Traditions prevent homicide.” I hope the Group Inventory prevents genocide.
from Anonymous

AFG Announcements

New Groups:

- Copperas Cove AFG 3016 S. F.M. 116 Kempner, TX 76539 Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
- New Perspective AFG 2800 S Timmier Rd Killeen, TX 76542 Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

New Meetings:

- Central Austin Parents AFG ~ Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Suburban Friends AFG ~ Newcomer Meeting Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.

Inactive Groups: University AFG, #30561921 - “Nobody coming”.



DISTRICT 6 SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Officer Reports

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Many thanks to the Temple New Group for hosting the District 6 ETAAA meeting on April 21! The loving, warm hospitality was much appreciated, and I enjoyed meeting new friends from the North part of District 6. Thank you for the wonderful workshop on the district inventory, and many thanks to Paulette for posting the results in the District Newsletter.

As requested at the January District Meeting, I have prepared a listing of websites and other useful information for Group Representatives. If you were not at the meeting on April 21, please e-mail me, and I will send you that information.

WSO is sending monthly e-newsletters to all groups who have e-mail addresses. If you are a GR and don't have Internet access, there is a form that someone from the group can fill out if you wish to receive the newsletter. Please contact me for that information.

WSO also sent a letter to groups regarding the new Group Record Registration/Change form. Not only is the format different, but also, there is no section on the new form for "group focus". When naming a group, it is suggested that the wording is consistent with all groups of similar life situations, such as Adult Children, Parents, LGBT, Men, or Women. Group change forms are available on the Texas website, www.texas-al-anon.org, under "Group Services." They are also available on the Members' Website, <http://www.al-anon.org/members/gsreg.php>.

Many thanks for your patience and understanding as we worked through the process of voting on the recommendations of the Financial Thought Force on the 2012 Budget. Thank you to all who served on that committee, for your service work, and for your presentation at the District Meeting.

Mark your calendars for this upcoming event! TEAM is coming to Round Rock, TX, August 17 and 18, 2012. I hope all of you can attend! Workshops will be presented by WSO, and it is an opportunity to meet our trusted servants from WSO as well as folks from Texas West and other Areas. ETAAA is sponsoring the event, and District 6 is hosting the event. Help is needed with hospitality and registration. If you can help, please contact me, and I will forward the information to the TEAM committee people, or you can get their information from the TEAM flyer that I sent to groups.

Our next District 6 Meeting will be hosted by the New Beginnings group in Round Rock on July 21. Nancy M., our East Texas Area Al-Anon/Alateen Delegate will be joining us for that meeting. If you haven't met her, this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know her.

It is an honor and privilege to be your trusted servant. If you have any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or questions for our District, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly in Al-Anon service,
Paula H.

SECRETARY REPORT

DISTRICT 6 MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2012

Hosted by Temple New Group AFG

The meeting opened at 9:13 by Paula H. with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer and opening comments. Housekeeping announcements were made by Tally R. We then read the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and General Warranties. Paula announced there would be a raffle drawing to give away some literature. Those present for their first District Meeting were recognized, followed by introductions. Paula received a post card from Nancy, our Area Delegate, while she was at the World Service Conference, that she left on the table for viewing. The Ask-It-Basket was circulated around the room before the Workshop and Alateen Sponsor Meetings began.

The business meeting began at 11:04 with Paula's report. She discussed the purpose of the Area World Service Committee (A.W.S.C.), reminding us of the ETAA Assembly coming up in May. She shared that the Al-Anon International Conference bid from San Antonio was withdrawn, announced that the WSO now sends email updates, via the Group Records Change Form, and that the newly revised Change Form that on the Al-Anon website. Officer Reports were given and the Minutes from our last District Meeting were approved, as written, with a motion made by Lorelei L., to "approve minutes from 1/12/2012", seconded by Tom B., vote was 19 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining. Coordinator reports began with Jayne G., Alateen Coordinator and Tally R., Archives.

Lunch was served from 12:03 to 1:02.

Coordinator reports resumed after an "on time" raffle. Pat E. reported on the upcoming T.E.A.M. event and Kay for next year's All Texas Conference, with a theme of Live, Love, Laugh.

Group reports were given, followed by announcements for the location and dates for the next two District Meetings and Assemblies.

Jayne G., reported on the Financial Thought Force. After some discussion, a motion was made by Adrian, "I move that in addition to the changes proposed by the Thought Force, we raise the budget for District Meetings. I propose the new amount be \$1,000.00 for the year." The motion was seconded by Sue S., vote was 16 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining, Motion Passed.

A second motion was presented, taking in consideration the above passed motion, by Tom B., "I move that accrued reserve be reduced from \$5,750 to \$3,950, total expenses reduced to \$12,700, budget to be approved with this change." The motion was seconded by Lorelei L., vote was 14 for, 1 against, 1 abstaining, Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectively submitted for Cindy C. by Steve J.

Treasurer's Report

Mar 5 – June 9 2012

Contributions

April 21st District Meeting Basket:	\$163.05
Group Contributions:	\$2913.14
Kristi Fund Contributions:	\$100.00
Newsletter Subscription:	\$10.00

Total Contributions: \$3187.19

Expenses

Printing of Newsletter :	\$550.56
Room Rent for Apr District Mtg:	\$200.00
DR Expenses –	\$110.16
DR Expenses – ETAAA -	\$152.30
Bank Checks –	\$74.60
Alateen Coordinator–	\$40.33
Alateen Scholarships -	\$135.00
Public Outreach South -	\$500.00

Total Expenses: \$1,762.97

T.E.A.M.: New	\$50.00
Total :	\$543.20

International Fund:	
New	\$50.00
Total :	\$2893.40
(2013?)	

Kristie Fund:	\$1650.08
(see contribution above)	
Plus for first 2 Qrts 2012	\$50.00

Prudent Reserve: \$10, 583.66



THE BEACON

Our Area's quarterly newsletter - \$6.00

www.texas-al-anon.org

Coordinator Reports

ALATEEN

During the first quarter, the Area Alateen coordinator announced the formation of an Area Alateen Committee to review all things Alateen. I am the representative for our district on this committee. The first topic concerned the Sponsor Training Workshops. After input was gathered we had a conference call meeting, the committee decided to recommend that sponsor training workshops at Assemblies be rescinded. This will possibly be up for a general assembly vote in November. The second topic we are working on is the certification/recertification process itself.

In March, I attended POSSE, Program Of Sponsors Sharing Everything, in Gonzales. It was a beautiful weekend full of sharing and learning. There were 17 attendees, of which six were from our district. The Chair did a few things differently and there was fun to be had.

I was given permission to conduct District 6 Alateen Sponsor Workshops and gave my first Sponsor Training Workshop in May. I had two experienced sponsors who came to share and one interested participant. Hopefully, I will do more at the next sponsor workshop. If you are interested, give me shout!

In June, we had the Texas East Area 53 Alateen Conference, held in Gonzales. Twenty-one participants attended from District 6, with 4 Alateens and 5 Sponsors. It sounded like everyone had a grand time - they even tie dyed t-shirts!

In Service, Jayne

Did you know ...?

Alateen has a quarterly publication!



www.al-anon.alateen.org

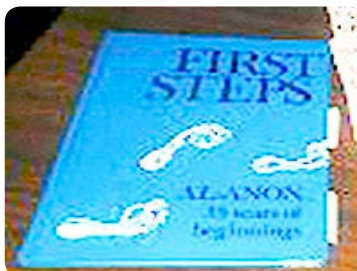
ARCHIVES

I have put a photo album together of pictures of Regional Service Seminar which was held in New Orleans in 1992. We had a lot of fun, laughter, and lots of fellowship. I have pictures of Area Assembly that was held in Longview in 1994. What memories of that assembly and some of the people are still active in Service Work!

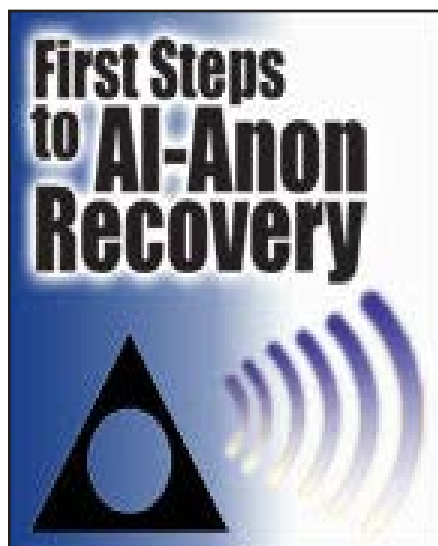
This is a quote from Lois W. speaking to the 1976 World Service Conference on the 25th anniversary of the World Service Office: "It's always forward that we have to look, and let our gratitude be for those to come. The people who have been in the past were just doing what they wanted to, what they loved to do---and what you yourselves are doing. So here's to the future of Al-Anon." This statement can be found on page 383 in *Many Voices One Journey*.

Love to all, Tally Roth Archivist

P.S. [Editor's Note] Did you know that there about Al-Anon's first 35 years? Just ask Tally Tally Meeting!



is an out-of-print book all about it at the next District Meeting!



Informational...

PODCASTS...PODCASTS

www.al-anon.alateen.org

Inspirational...

Annual Subscription \$11.00

Austinalanon.org



SERVICE ARMS REPRESENTATIVES

AL-ANON INFORMATION CENTER

AIS WACO AREA

DISTRICT 6 -

EAST TEXAS AREA (ETAAA)

WORLD SERVICE OFFICE (WSO)

6301 Manchaca Rd / Austin, TX 78745 - 512-441-8591

P. O. Box 8374 / Waco, TX 76714 - 254-808-4757

c/o Michelle (see "Officers - Treasurer")

www.texas-al-anon.org

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

Public Outreach (PO) South –District Report

Since our January District Meeting, PO South has been very active. The need for more volunteers continues as more centers and event opportunities present themselves. Please contact me to help carry the message to others.

February to April Accomplishments:

- 1) Three speaking engagements at the Development Counseling Center Inc.;
- 2) Donated pamphlets/book, How Al-Anon Works, to DCCI for use in their class curriculum;
- 3) Provided one bi-lingual speaker to support their AA Anniversary event at the Gardenia Center;
- 4) Al-Anon speakers (with bi-lingual attendees) supported the Women's Resource Fair;
- 5) Met with Travis Co. Civil Drug Court (TCCDC) rep to discuss continuing to serve their needs;
- 6) Participated in two TCCDC meetings, speaking and provided literature;
- 7) Met with Hacienda Solutions (Alcohol/Drug Addiction Center).
- 8) Speaking engagement at Hacienda Solutions with three members on 4/2;
- 9) Met with Phoenix Academy (Juvenile Center) rep to plan the setup of a Parent's weekly meeting;
- 10) Met with the Hayes Caldwell Women's Center (San Marcos);
- 11) Met with Area P O Chair to discuss practices and building support between district PO chairs.

Planned Activities:

- 1) Follow up with DCCI Spanish counselor to donate literature and discuss his speaker needs;
- 2) Continue to provide TCCDC monthly support to speak with families;
- 3) Locate one speaker for Hacienda Solutions in May and fulfill additional literature requests.
- 4) Identify members to conduct weekly meetings and Parents Meetings at Phoenix Academy;
- 5) Follow-up with the Hayes Caldwell Women's Center request for additional literature;
- 6) Continue to develop opportunities with PO District Chair peers at the Area Assembly in May.
- 7) Pause (breathe)...☺

Love In Service,
Judy W.

Public Outreach Coordinator North

Greetings to all from the northern part of the district! As I mentioned in my first report last quarter, we began meeting twice a month at the Waco Juvenile Center since early February. Attendance has ranged from one to eight parents. At our last meeting, we decided to give out copies of How Al-Anon Works to those who keep coming back. So far we have used the newcomer meeting guidelines, passed out a number of pamphlets (both in English and Spanish), and had some good discussion meetings. The probation officer who first contacted us is hoping to get another program started soon that addresses underprivileged families. This meeting should take place in the Bellmead area. We are hopeful that the Bellmead Al-Anon group will get involved with this outreach program when it gets started. More exciting news --- the Killeen group will be conducting two health fairs in May.

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

Newsletter Coordinator

Hello District 6!


I want to thank everyone for their positive feedback on the April issue, which was my first coordinating effort for our district. As you can see by this issue, the format has changed since I switched to a new software program, Adobe CS6 InDesign. It compliments the software that our printing house, Ginny Print, uses. As reported at the April District meeting, we sent out 122 copies with only two returned. The cost was \$550.56. A subscription price of \$11.00 was approved at the April District meeting.

I also want to thank Nancy and Lorelei for their submissions (cartoon and logo respectively) to this issue. **Thank you all** for being so patient while I overloaded on software tutorials, allowing me to finally complete the Summer Issue. I learned a lot about myself from this experience, because at first, as I saw the days go by, I began to wonder, "Will the District feel I've let them down, because this issue is late?" After reflection and connecting with my Higher Power, I knew that y'all would understand that the journey is more important than the destination --- hey, Al-Anon at work!

Serenity in Service,
:) Paulette

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2013

Strength and hope for families and friends of problem drinkers



"I missed the order date!"

Relax!
This incredible pamphlet can be ordered again in the **SPRING** of 2013.

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

AL-ANON DISTRICT 6 WORKSHOP : The Energetic District ~ A District Inventory

Workshop Facilitator Tally took the spirit of the G8-a guidelines and implemented a District Inventory called, "The Energetic District".

Taking a periodic group inventory keeps your group healthy, encouraging members to participate in what actions need to be updated, discontinued, or improved. Ideas for service opportunities, reaching out to newcomers, as well as resolutions for major/minor concerns are also shared. "The harmony and success of each group depends on shared responsibility, a warm spirit of fellowship, and individual self-improvement." from Taking a Group Inventory, G8-a.

What is an energetic district? An energetic district is one that recognizes it's a link in the chain of worldwide Al-Anon; has a DR who visits the groups s/he serves; performs public outreach activities; is represented at the area level; conducts exciting and productive district meetings; periodically communicates with GRs; strives for a GR for every group; is represented at area events; and financially supports itself as well as its service arms.

1. What public outreach project can our district do to reach out to new members?

Placing Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2012 in public places that provide professional services.
Sending out professional letters from WSO.
Use public service announcements at radio and television stations.
Support our Public Outreach Coordinators.

2. What can our district do to support new groups?

Visiting new groups and encourage them to get a WSO Starter Kit and Forum subscription.
Posting in district newsletters and announcing at district meetings.

3. Do the groups in our district have beginner meetings?

There are 14 AFGs that host newcomer meetings throughout District 6.
Hold a District workshop, reviewing Beginners Guidelines G2.
Conduct a group conscience to share views about providing this valuable service.

4 . How can we encourage all groups to elect and support a GR?

Ask each AFG in the District to elect a GR / ALT GR.
Conduct a District workshop on Group Representative Guidelines G11.

5. Has our DR visited each group in our district in the last year?
Both DR / ALT DR can share their experiences during district meetings.

6. What can we do to insure representation of Alateen groups at district meetings?

Encourage existing Alateen groups to attend district meetings and share reports.
Ask the Alateen coordinator to facilitate a workshop at a district meeting.
Share stories in the district newsletter.

Present table tents at the district meetings.

7 . What can we do to support the Alateen meetings in our district?

Emphasize the importance of Alateen to Anon members, working to promote volunteerism.
Get informational pamphlets to social services where parents can locate it.
Announce Alateen meetings at every AI-Anon meeting.
Work with Alateen Coordinator to use resources and get meetings started.
Make better use of technology - use alerts.

8. Are there district Alateen sponsors' meetings?

There are district-wide Alateen sponsor meetings four time per year.

9. What can we do to encourage and attract more GRs to attend our district meetings?

Develop more interactive activities at the district meetings.
Send out a district meeting AGENDA, several weeks in advance.
Ask inactive GRs to provide service at a district meeting.

10. How can we keep AFGs informed who have no GR or to GRs who miss district meetings?

Communicate with GRs / ALT GRs via regular emails about district meetings.
Create a Yahoo egroup for All GRS, Coordinators, and Officers; and have open discussions.
Create a CLOSED FACEBOOK page for the District, and invite all GRs and ALT Grs to join.

11. What can we do to improve communication in our district?

Use technology to remind about district activities, via Facebook, Yahoo egroups to network.

12. How can we encourage the use of the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual?

Use service manual in AFG meetings and during our group conscience.
Have regular business meetings.
Encourage GR / ALT GRs to get a Service Sponsor.

13. How can we let our trusted servants know they are valued?

Thank trusted servants for their service during district meetings.
Have "service birthdays" at each district meeting and recognize lengths of service.

14. How can we check that our groups receive mailings from the district, AIS, area and WSO?

Keep group and GR contact information current or consider getting a group P. O. box.

15. How can we use district functions to nurture unity and fellowship among our groups?

Host a District-wide AFG Community Day.
Create a District 6 Community Binder for groups to contribute their history, stories, etc.

16. Does our district support our AIS financially and with volunteers?

AFGs provide regular contributions and AIS meetings are attended by valued servants.

AFG Reports

Bridge to Shore AFG

Our group continues to thrive. Our Sunday meeting averages between 30 and 40 attendees. Most of our meetings are discussion-based, with bi-monthly speaker meetings. We give birthday chips and we have had several birthday members celebrate more than a decade. Newcomers are always welcome!

Otto F.

Independence AFG

We meet on Friday evenings, with a Step study on the First Friday and a Tradition meeting on the third Friday. Our current membership is around ten. We need and welcome visitors!

Adrian, GR

Just for Today AFG

We continue to meet Monday through Fridays at noon, welcoming numerous newcomers, members and visitors every week. The Monday newcomer meeting uses How Al-Anon Works. The Friday meeting has just begun a study of Discovering Our Choices which focuses on relationships. Several members from the Thursday Al-Anon Adult Children of Alcoholics meeting gather at a private home on a weeknight to work through the steps together. Here at Just For Today we have Progress Not Perfection.

Ann R, GR

Just for Today - Elgin AFG

Our group is thriving! We consistently have between 10 and 15 members showing up. We've had several newcomers returning and for that we're grateful. We've made some changes in our monthly format, we now have two speaker meetings scheduled for this year. For our first one, we had our guest speaker, DR, Paula, come out and join us at our favorite Mexican food restaurant. It was great and she turned us onto a funny video available on the Internet as an example of alcoholic behavior. (Just ask her about that.)

Our first quarterly birthday celebration had four members celebrating from one to five years in the program. It was awesome to realize that I have been privileged to see these ladies grow! At our last group conscience we elected to give How Al-Anon Works to newcomers, regardless of the number of times they attended. We hope this act will help to plant the seed should they not return anytime soon. It was agreed to keep our doors open on Christmas Day, which is our Tuesday meeting. So if you happen to be in Elgin on a Tuesday night around 6:30, drop on by and join us for a great meeting!

In Service, Jayne

Killeen AFG

We are very pleased to announce that we have grown our long-standing Tuesday/Thursday night meetings to an average attendance of around 12! The range of ages and experiences is wonderful and we share a wide array of experience strength and hope. Six weeks ago we also started a third meeting: Our new Adult Children of Alcoholics meeting is on Fridays at 11.30 and averages eight attendees. The lunch time meeting appeals to people that don't drive at night or rely on public transportation. Last week we did a presentation of an ACA meeting to a class of Drug & Alcohol counselors in training and had very positive feedback about their experience. Many were unaware of what an Al-Anon meeting consists of and commented that they now feel comfortable referring clients to meetings. We recently updated our information with the Killeen Daily Herald, who publishes a monthly community Health & Fitness magazine that has a brief summary of local organizations along with their meeting times and places. Over the next month we have concrete plans to provide two outreach functions, one at a City of Killeen carnival and the other at a local hospital health fair. We also have tentative plans to do a presentation at various meetings hosted by the Texas Council on Alcoholism. We are excited and on a mission to get the word out about Al-Anon!

Nicky

New Beginnings AFG - Round Rock

If you work in the area we invite unto bring your lunch and come to our Tuesday meeting. The first Tuesday is a Step meeting, and the chairperson chooses the topics for the remaining month. Birthday celebrations are on the last Tuesday. Our Thursday meeting is a newcomer meeting, from 7 to 8:30 pm. There is 30 minutes of open discussion about AI-Anon, with newcomers encouraged to ask questions, followed by a book study of How AI-Anon Works, which we give to them. Attendance has been great! We ave about 10 people and new people almost every week. Our meetings are not only increasing our attendance, but they're inspiring attendees development in experience, strength and hope. We're looking forward to hosting the District Meeting on July 21, 2012. Hope to see you all there!
Jackie B. GR

Northland AFG

Our group continues to offer nine meetings a week. We have just received an order of Public Outreach Brochures and we've begun to encourage members to take several copies for distribution at physician's offices. This will help get more members involved in service work. Our GR and I will be attending the ETAAA and the TEAM events this year. I hope everyone is enjoying the Bluebonnets this year- they put a smile on my face every day on the way to work.
Sue S.

Path to Serenity - Pflugerville AFG

Our attendance varies between 10 and 20 at our Discussion meeting on Tuesday evenings. We also informally welcome newcomers at 7:30 pm, before the regular meeting. Our location is on the old Austin-Hutto Road, in the Center Building. Our first Tuesday of the month we address a Step, on the third Tuesday we do a Tradition and a Concept. On the fourth Tuesday we have our birthday celebration and ask those members to share their stories. The other Tuesdays are open topics, chosen by the volunteer leader for that meeting. Our group also has an extra "unofficial" gathering once a week for a book study. Occasionally we have a social gathering to promote our social, emotional, and spiritual links with one another.
Jeanne D. GR

Round Rock AFG

The RRAFG meets weekly on Mondays and Fridays at 8pm. We have 8-10 regular members and welcome guests and newcomers with open arms. Our group is currently doing a book study on How AI-Anon Works. The only bathroom facility available is a portable outside our building. We offer 1st/3rd Monday- Step/Tradition Study for the corresponding month; 2nd/4th Monday-Discussion; 5th Monday- Speaker Tape; 1st/2nd/3rd Friday-Book Study; 4th Friday-Birthday/Discussion; 5th Friday-Speaker Tape.
Becky M.

San Marcos AFG

We've discontinued the beginner meeting on Sunday nights. The group is looking go begin a Yahoo group.

Smithville AFG

Hi all! We have three steady members every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. If you're in town, we hope to see you!
Love in Service, Lori L.

Suburban Friends AFG

We now offer three meetings a week: Friday noon is a Step/Tradition/Concept/Forum meeting. Saturdays we host a newcomer meeting at 11:00 am, and an Open Discussion at noon. Potluck Birthdays are on the last Saturday. Business meetings are held every month with posted agendas and minutes. Newcomer Committee meetings are monthly, to help plan and support the newcomer meetings. These newcomer meetings follow the WSO suggested guidelines G2, providing a series of six meetings, focusing on steps 1-3, the slogans, selected readings, and sponsorship. We have 12 volunteer members to act as "friends" for this new area of service work.
Lorelei, GR

Temple New Group

TNG is holding it's own. Our meetings have averaged about 10 or more. We're continuing reading Opening Our Hearts, Transforming our Losses. We do the step of the month. It has been very rewarding to watch the group members get involved for the District Meeting. I'm very grateful for all the friends that I have in this program. We meet on Thursdays at 7:00 at Christ Episcopal Church.
Tally R., GR

Temple One Day at a Time AFG

Our attendance is still solid. We meet on Tuesdays at 8pm and have members with over 20 years experience, as well as newcomers. We encourage members to get a sponsor and work the steps. We have members actively involved in service work.

**Love in Al-Anon,
Gertrude S.**

Town and Country AFG

We have a great core group and have lots of new faces joining us from time to time. God is working through our program and giving hope back to people. It is amazing when members share about their growth when using the Al-Anon tools. If you're ever in the neighborhood, or just want to check out the fine BBQ, come by and visit some time. We're very excited and honored to have Paula come in April to share her experience, strength, and hope with us.
Cindy M., GR



IT



ASK

BASKET

Q: How long should a person remain in a group service position? What if no one is willing to take over when the person resigns?

A: In the Service Manual, pages 43-46, "GR is a 3 year term as well as officers at District and Area Levels." Often the incumbent may offer to stay in that position until another member will offer, or it can be open until someone steps up.

Q: How can a GR initiate change in the group without "leading"?

A: Page 49 of the Service Manual, Group Business Meetings: "Group changes/ideas are brought up at the meeting and discussed. Then a decision is made by the group conscience. Once a group conscience decision is made, the entire group agrees to support the decision."

Q: Can we have a group e-mail list, so we can support each other?

A: Group e-mail contact information is confidential. Only District, Area Group Records and WSO has access to that information. However, if you want to ask an individual in a group if s/he would be willing to be e-mail buddy, that is an individual decision. For anonymity, the use of blind carbon copy feature is suggested.

Q: How can we encourage people at our groups to keep their sharing focused on them and their recovery?

A: Emphasize time constraint of 3 minutes and stay strictly within a one hour time frame.

Q: My group rents a room from an AA group that owns their building. Our building is in ill repair. What are your suggestions on the best way to approach the AA landlord about needed repairs?

A: The GR should schedule a meeting with the landlord, bringing the Lease Agreement to use as a reference during the meeting. It's helpful to have your group needs written down as well.

Q: How can mega-groups facilitate communication between individual meetings and the GRs? How can individual meetings express concerns to group as a whole and receive feedback?

A: "Our experience": One group tried using representatives from each meeting to attend the group conscience steering committee meetings. They have also added the minutes of their business meeting in the sign-up books. Another group uses e-mail to keep in contact between meetings. E-mail addresses are included in their sign-up sheet. Page 49 of the Service Manual says: "The group's business meeting is an opportunity for members to share their ideas...express concerns. The manner in which a group business meeting is conducted and how to keep track of the group conscience decisions is as varied as the groups themselves; groups are within their autonomy to determine how to conduct their group business..."

Respectively submitted for Cindy C., Steve J.

AL-ANON INFORMATION CENTERS

Austin

By the time you read this, we'll be happily settled into our NEW OFFICE LOCATION! The address is 6301 Manchaca / Suite F, which is only a few blocks further south than the previous location. We'd like to thank the Location Committee and the entire board for scouting out our new home and trekking to several planning meetings to make this a fairly crisis-free move.

The By-Laws Committee will be updating us on their progress at the August AIS meeting. The embezzlement issue has been picked up by the authorities and is being investigated. Our Treasurer is researching on switching from Bank of America to a credit union. While the Information Center is beginning a good recovery from last year, future costs (increased rent, etc) indicate that we continue to need your wonderful support until we've fully recovered.

Lorelei, Chairperson

Waco

The Waco AIS is still staying in the black, thanks to contributions from two of the Waco groups, a couple of Austin groups, and from individual contributions from district members.

On an average week, we usually get anywhere from 3-10 calls on the pager, some for meeting information in outlying areas, media, and occasional calls from the Belton, Temple, and Killeen areas - even a couple of out of state calls.

One of our Waco groups continues to host Al-Anon meetings at the DePaul Center. Many of the newcomers that attended their first meeting at the Center are now regulars at one or more of the local groups.

One main focus is to get the word out about Al-Anon/Alateen, so thanks again to those who are able to contribute to the Information Center in your local area, you're making it possible for the word to get out!

Sincerely, Cindy C.



ETAAA May Assembly Musings...

"The assembly was well-organized, had good information on upcoming events, great networking, and excellent hospitality from Districts 10 and 11." Jennifer C. Anderson mill AFG, District 6

"Listening to the speaker, Karen, about KDBM---this excited me--- and gave me a better understanding of the process.". Nancy, Just for Today/Elgin, District 6

"Attending the assembly, especially the size of East Texas, make us realize just how many are involved in service. That inspires me to give service beyond our home group or district.". Rosemary, Faith AFG, District 6

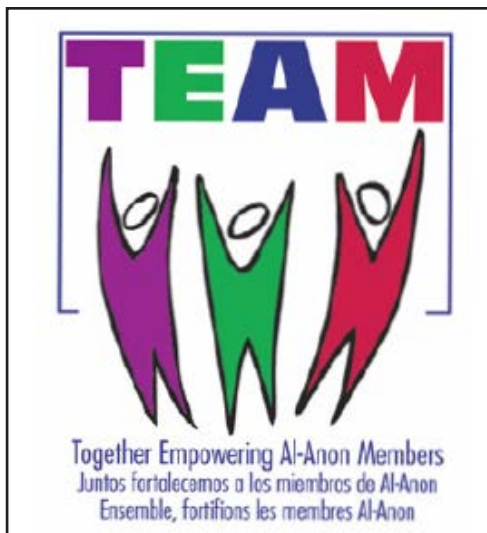
TEAM EVENT REPORT

Our Team Texas event, which will be held August 17-18, 2012, at the Wingate by Windham in Round Rock, is taking shape!

I have had one conference call with the WSO where we went over various parts of the Team Conference. The flyer has been posted on the Texas website: www.texas-al-anon.org and our AIS website www.austinalanon.org.

What can you do to help? We those attending and perhaps ested in helping with this proj-craft ideas as well - bookmarks gram-related ideas. Also, we for the hospitality room. Since finger foods and beverages. also welcome and will go a long

So copy the flyer and start groups! This is a great op-staff as they put on the work-is not an assembly event, the group. This is an Al-Anon/Ala-



would like to have some love gifts for some of the groups would be inter-ect. I am sure you also have some with Al-Anon slogans and other pro-need help with registration and food we won't be serving lunch, we need Also, monetary contributions are way for much-needed supplies, etc.

talking about this event in your portunity to meet some of our WSO shops for the Team event. Since this GR expenses are not paid by the teen event with the focus on service.

Love in Service,
Pat E, TX TEAM Event Chairperson

FUTURE EVENTS

July 21	District 6 Meeting in Round Rock, TX
August 17 - 19	TEAM in Round Rock, TX
August 20	AIS Center Board Meeting, Austin, TX

