



# District 6 Newsletter

## District Meeting

January 19th

Hosted by:  
Smithville AFG  
First Presbyterian Church  
300 Burluson  
Smithville, Texas  
Contact: Lori L. @  
(512) 237-4790 or  
(512) 308-2734 Cell

### Directions:

**From Austin:** Take IH 35, either direction of North or South, go 71 East/Bastrop. Pass the airport and continue on to Bastrop. Stay on 71 East to Smithville. Exit Smithville/Flatonia (Hwy 95) then veer to the right. Go over the bridge and at the light which is Loop 230, turn left. Take Loop 230 down to Burluson and turn left. The church is on the corner of Burluson and Loop 230. A stove, microwave and refrigeration are available.

8:00 am Registration  
9:00 am Opening  
9:30 am Workshop  
11:00 am Business Meeting  
12:00 pm Pot Luck Lunch  
1:00 pm Business Meeting  
3:30 pm Adjournment

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## Our New Alternate DR's Story...

When Lori asked me to write my story for the newsletter, I did what we are taught to do and said yes. I secretly thought-what am I going to write! Anyway, thanks Lori for giving me a chance to practice my program in another area of my life. I will try and tell in a general manner what I was like, how I got here, and what it is like for me today.

Long long time ago, in the plains of Kansas an Al-Anon was born (that's me). I was not born into a family of alcoholism or grew up around alcohol abuse. My parents encourage me in all aspects of my life and taught me the work ethic I have today. With all those blessing, I never felt a part of. I was always comparing my insides to your outsides. You were cuter, more talented, smarter, and, if you were another girl, you always got the guy I thought I wanted.

I tried to fill that hole inside me with books, dreams, and associating with people who lived on the edge. From an early age, I ran around with people who drank too much and I loved it. I even participated in the drinking and merry making. Why I didn't become an alcoholic, only God knows, and for that I am truly grateful.

Situations happened (he got a divorce and needed to move to Ohio) and I was having trouble in school, so I thought it was a good time to get married. I wasn't getting my way in graduate school and he didn't ask me to marry him, so I did what was natural and moved to another state. One more geographic to try and get the result that I wanted. Situations happened and we did get back together and married.

In Southeast Texas, we both hit bottom and luckily he know that alcohol was the major contribution to the unhappiness in our marriage. I was ok, with him getting help as long as I didn't have participate in anything-like therapy and it had to be on our insurance plan. I was really angry and said some very hateful things to him at this time. I was so angry by this time, I had become hateful and unloving to my parent and I wasn't a stellar employee. Oh, I went to work every day, but everyone avoided me so that they didn't hear my harsh words. No one wanted to work for me, unless they had to.

We started down the AA/Al-Anon path, with kind and loving people. They loved us when we didn't. I was told to go to six meetings during family out-patient day so I went because I thought it would keep him sober. I was so angry, but when I got in those meetings and whined about how he had messed up, the kind and loving people just let me talk and told me to keep coming back. I didn't want to be there. It was his problem, not my problem. I kept going back because they seemed to understand. They shared with me one on one what it was like in their households so I didn't feel alone. The group asked me to make coffee, so I started my first service job. I kept hearing, if you want what we have, you have to do what we do. I asked what that was, they said watch the people how laugh and have a sparkle in their eye. Ask them what they do, so I did.

**KAY'S STORY CONT. ON PAGE 8**

## Future Events

<b>January 19, 2008</b>	District 6 Meeting Hosted by Smithville AFG in Smithville, Texas
<b>February 8-10, 2008</b>	All Texas Al-Anon & Alateen Conference in San Antonio
<b>February 18, 2008</b>	Austin Information Center Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
<b>April 21, 2008</b>	Austin Information Center Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
<b>May 16-18, 2008</b>	Spring Assembly, College Station, Texas (flyer not available yet)
<b>July 4-6, 2008</b>	Al-Anon International Convention, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

# Officer Reports

## District Representative

### District 6 Meeting, October 20, 2007

Greetings everyone,

I only have two big items to discuss for this quarter.

First, I am pleased to report that the situation with the missing laptop computer has been resolved. As you may remember, the computer had disappeared after our district meeting in April and the church had initially asked us to replace it. At our last district meeting a committee was appointed to arrive at a mutually satisfactory solution. We learned that the church had already filed an insurance claim, as well as the police report, and had replaced the computer. It did cost them, however, the \$500 insurance deductible. The majority of the committee felt that since we did have the key to the church, we bore at least part of the responsibility for what happened while we had the key, and that the district should repay that part of the church's expense. Accordingly, and acting as trusted servants, we did pay \$500 to the church to replace their insurance deductible. The issue was not only one of financial responsibility, but one of moral responsibility, or "doing the right thing." The committee suggested that the money be taken from our prudent reserve and that we pass the basket for those who wished to help make up this cost.

The second item concerns our part as Support District for the November Area Assembly in Houston, hosted by District 5. At our last district meeting, we had volunteers to coordinate Group Representative registration and Action Committee registration, and to provide assistance for both the Friday night workshops (for those in various service positions) and the Action Committee workshops on Saturday afternoon, and, finally, for our Alateens to present the game show skit that was such a hit at the April District Meeting. I hope that all will be ready and that we can ask for help when and if we need it.

One last quick item: Mike J has resigned as District Literature/Forum Coordinator, and Stephen S was elected to complete the rest of his term thru 2008 at our last district meeting. Thanks to Mike for his service to the

district over the past two years.

Many thanks to Kay for stepping up and leading district meeting on October 21st. I'm sorry that I couldn't be there, but I thought our timing in selecting a new Alternate District Representative worked out very well for us.

See you in Houston!

Hugs in service,  
**Randy M.**

## Secretary

**District 6 Quarterly Meeting  
October 20, 2007  
Hosted by Hope AFG, Cedar Park**

**9:00-** Meeting Starts, Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties

**9:12-** Announcements

**9:20-** Introductions

**9:30-** Workshop: Come up w/ a skit regarding Boundaries

Workshop: Alateen Sponsors

**11:00-** Business Meeting Starts

### Officer Reports

DR- Alt DR Kay filling in for Randy to discuss report at later time

Secretary- Cindy B.

Treasurer- Shelly

Coordinator Reports

Alateen- Liz

Forum/Literature- Kay filling in for Mike  
Newsletter Editor- Lori

Public Outreach North- Cindy

Information Center North- Cindy

Information Center South- Sissy filling in for Kitty

**12:00-** Put luck lunch

**1:00-** Business Meeting Resumes

- Discussion about District Newsletter Online, Tally motioned to continue newsletter online, T.J. second the motion. Lisa motioned to vote by majority, Sissy second the motion. Current GR's present- 21, 21 voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

- Discussion was held regarding Committee decision on missing laptop from 4/07 District Meeting. Committee consisted of Randy, Betty, Judy, Michelle, and Sissy. Four out of Five committee members agreed to pay the

\$500 deductible to the Church for the missing laptop. A check was given to the Wellspring Church in Georgetown for \$500.

- Discussed made to form a general statement to give prior to rental of a facility notifying the facility to lock up valuables, that we are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Sissy motioned to form a committee to come up with blanket statement, Steve second the motion. GR's voted, 18 in favor, 2 apposed, 1 abstained. Motion passed. Committee volunteers: Cindy B., Sissy, Lisa, & Randy. Discussion tabled to discuss further 1/08.

- Discussion on Fall Assembly 2007, District 5 running Assembly. District 6 Volunteers reviewed to support District 5 during Assembly.

- Discussion by Steve S. regarding cordless microphone system. After Steve's reports no motions made, District 6 will remain without a cordless microphone at this time.

### Group Reports Given

**2:00-** Future District Meetings

January 2008- Smithville/Bastrop

AFG's will host (tentative date 1/19/07)

April 2008- Courage to Change AFG in Austin to host

- Discussion on Alanon International, Pittsburg, PA. - July 4, 5, 6<sup>th</sup> in 2008. Pat discussed how to register. Motion to create committee to make love gifts made by Millie, second by Dillon. Thirteen in favor, 2 opposed, 4 abstained. Motion passed. Dillon and Millie will table and discuss further 1/08.

**2:30-** New Business

- Mike resigned as Literature/Forum Coordinator-effective immediately, needs new Coordinator. Steve S. volunteered. Pat motioned to nominate Steve S., Tally second the motion. Twenty in favor, 1 person absent. Motioned passed.

**Cont. on Page 4**



# Treasurer's Report

	District 6 Treasurer's Report					
	2006 Totals	2007 Budget	1st Quarter 2007	2nd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2007	2007 Year to Date
<b>Operating Account:</b>						
<i>Beginning Balance</i>	3,442.23		453.58	871.67	1,370.06	453.58
<i>Anonymous Cash</i>	498.00		157.00	116.20	133.00	406.20
<i>Group Donations</i>	3,325.78		1,396.10	1,204.32	733.00	3,333.42
<i>Other</i>	-		-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal Income</b>	3,823.78	6,400.00	2,006.68	2,192.19	2,236.06	4,193.20
<i>Alateen Coordinator</i>	319.26	500.00	181.01	32.20	-	213.21
<i>Archives</i>	112.12	25.00	-	-	-	-
<i>District Meeting</i>	369.31	400.00	50.00	50.00	140.00	240.00
<i>DR Expenses</i>	513.51	600.00	-	45.00	284.07	329.07
<i>DR RSS Expenses</i>	471.78	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Forum/Literature Coordinator</i>	-	25.00	-	-	-	-
<i>Miscellaneous (1)</i>	192.25	350.00	45.00	-	45.00	90.00
<i>Newsletter</i>	3,541.62	3,000.00	759.00	444.93	461.16	1,665.09
<i>Public Outreach Coordinator - North</i>	434.36	500.00	-	-	-	-
<i>Public Outreach Coordinator - South</i>	930.00	1,000.00	-	150.00	-	150.00
<i>Accrue Reserves</i>	400.00		100.00	100.00	100.00	300.00
<i>Release Reserves</i>	(471.78)		-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal Expenses</b>	6,812.43	6,400.00	1,135.01	822.13	1,030.23	2,987.37
<b>Ending Balance</b>	453.58	-	871.67	1,370.06	1,205.83	1,205.83
<i>Reserve Accounts:</i>						
<b>Kristy Fund</b>						
<i>Beginning Balance</i>	514.50		514.50	514.50	514.50	514.50
<i>Accrual</i>	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
<i>Payment</i>	-		-	-	-	-
<b>Ending Balance</b>	514.50	-	514.50	514.50	514.50	514.50
<i>Int'l Reserve</i>						
<b>Beginning Balance</b>			1,638.17	1,688.17	1,738.17	
<i>Accrual</i>	200.00	200.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
<i>Payment</i>	-		-	-	-	-
<b>Ending Balance</b>	1,638.17	200.00	1,688.17	1,738.17	1,788.17	1,788.17
<i>RSS Reserve</i>						
<b>Beginning Balance</b>			593.20	643.20	693.20	
<i>Accrual</i>	200.00	200.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	150.00
<i>Payment</i>	(471.78)		-	-	-	-
<b>Ending Balance</b>	593.20	200.00	643.20	693.20	743.20	743.20
<i>Prudent Reserve</i>						
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<i>Accrual</i>	-	N/A	-	-	25.00	25.00
<i>Payment</i>	-		-	-	(500.00)	(500.00)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,525.00	1,525.00
<b>Total Bank Account Balance</b>		(400.00)	5,717.54	6,315.93	5,776.70	

Notes:





## Officer's Reports Cont.

### From Page 2, Secretary's Report

- Carolon resigned as Public Outreach Coordinator South- effective 1/08, need new Coordinator. Discussed duties, no current volunteers. Subject tabled until 1/08 meeting.
- Discussion by Dillon regarding anonymity of Alateens with the Alateen Web Talk. Web program is monitored by the W.S.O.

2:55- Ask It Basket Questions

3:25- Meeting Adjourned

In Service,  
**Cindy B.**

## Coordinator's Reports

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

From the last mail out we had the following:

Returns – 0

Change of address – 0

Additions

Deletions -

At the last district meeting there was a motion made and passed to continue to put the newsletter on-line at [www.austin-al-anon.org](http://www.austin-al-anon.org). I think this decision was a good move made by the district in order to help cut printing and distribution cost. I am trying to stick as close as I can to the dates that I have set for when the newsletter will be available on line. I appreciate your comments and support.

To recap from the last District meeting, we printed up 125 newsletters at \$3.00 each plus the postage at .58 cents/each, totaling \$461.16. Printing and shipping was done through Ginny's Printing. I did state at the last meeting that I would call Ginny's to see why they charged us for printing of all 125 when in the past they have not done so. I called and left a message with my contact and should have an answer soon.

Grateful in Service,  
**Lori L.**

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

### NORTH

In July, Steve J and I participated in the "Hooray For Health" Kids Health Fair. We did this last year and were invited back. We gave away a lot of pamphlets and talked to a lot of people. We also made a lot of contacts. One group member, Stephen R., from the HOT group joined us for a couple of hours. He speaks Spanish and was able to talk to the Hispanic population. This was very helpful. We were also well-stocked with Spanish pamphlets.

I completed my mailouts to professionals offices-Doctors (including Psychologists and Social Workers) and counselors at middle schools and high schools.

I have given more pamphlets and table cards to the Family Abuse Center. I also included the schedule of meetings in Waco. I took the same the the DePaul Center. I also mailed pamphlets and schedules to Mission Waco. I am nearly out of materials so I will be ordering more to restock my supply.

With gratitude,  
**Cindy C.**  
P.O. Coordinator - North

### SOUTH

I have decided to resign as District 6's Public Outreach Coordinator for the South. I am sorry that I was not able to make the last district meeting to make this announcement but I had prior obligations.

Ads have been put in the Austin High School paper, The Green Sheet, (512) North and South papers, and Hill Country News.

There was a health fair at Dawson Elementary school.

We will be doing a Stand Down (for homeless) in November.

Speakers are needed for Austin Recovery Center from January through December 2008 for family day to tell their story and answer questions about Al-Anon, which is on the first Saturday of every month.

We need everyone's help to reach others and share our experience, strength and hope. I have enjoyed being the Public Outreach Coordinator for the South but it is time for me to put the focus on myself for my own

personal recovery not only in mind and spirit but physically as well. Thank you!

**Carolon G.**  
P.O. Coordinator - South

### ARCHIVIST

There is no report at this time.  
Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Linda M.**  
District 6 Archivist

### ALATEEN COORDINATOR'S REPORT/SPONSOR'S CORNER

Greetings All!

A photograph taken by Pat E. was published in the October FORUM. She says "(this) was taken at an Area World Service Committee meeting at Surfside (close to Galveston). The picture is a "family" looking out towards the water. In the picture are the back...of Dillon- Alateen Liaison, Betty B. from Taylor-Alateen Chaperone and Lynn L.- Alateen Sponsor from Georgetown." I hope everyone has seen this (small) picture on page 6!

There will be a District Alateen Coordinators workshop at the November assembly and an Alateen Sponsor Meeting held too. All District Alateen Coordinators and D/Rs will receive a binder with a suggested training format for Alateen sponsors. Training responsibility falls to the District Alateen Coordinators, in conjunction with the Area Process Person and the Area Alateen coordinator. Three Alateen meetings are planned so any certified chaperones that need to sit in on Alateen





# Coordinator Reports

## ALATEEN'S COORDINATOR REPORT/ SPONSOR'S CORNER CONTINUED:

meetings are encouraged to attend.

An Alateen Sponsor Training Workshop will be hosted by District 12 on 11/10/07 from 9am to 4 pm at the Rolling Oaks Christian Church. Lynn S. is the contact person at 210/494-8832. According to Lynn, this may be the last local training planned until POSSE on 3/28/08-3/30/08 in Gonzales, so please take advantage of this training! G/Rs- please announce this important sponsor training in your groups! Training is OPEN to all whether you are currently working with Alateens or not!

Local News? Alateen attendance in Waco has been improved since the group's move in March 2007. One of their younger Alateens submitted a sharing to Alateen Talks- its in the most recent edition. Check it out! The Alateens in Georgetown are very active and recently sponsored a spaghetti dinner. They will be hosting a haunted house on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the local club as a fundraiser too! Tally donated several Alateen books at the District Meeting and these were distributed at the meeting.

I'd like to pass along some Q&As (questions and answers) received from Mary Lou M. from WSO. Mary Lou is the Associate Director Group Services - Alateen and Special Services. I hope that the members of the District may find these informative, whether they are currently certified and working with Alateens or not! WSO is a great resource for us and they are always available via email or phone. Mary Lou reminds us of the Member's Web Site and give directions below as how to access it. There is loads of information, meeting topics, etc.. Of particular interest to Alateens and AMIIAS may be the Al-Anon Guide-

lines on Alateen Safety Guidelines (G-34) that provide guidance on how we can support Alateen groups- and guidance to the Alateens themselves on how to conduct themselves. Guidelines on Alateen participation in conferences and other topics can also be found on the Members Website.

Here are the Q&As that were received from WSO via email in 8/07: Thanks for writing to your World Service Office—I am happy to respond to your questions.

The Service Manual refers to "temporary" Alateen sponsors. What does this mean? A "temporary" Alateen Group Sponsor would be someone who is certified in their Area as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) who might substitute for a Group Sponsor, or take on the job for a short time while a permanent Sponsor is sought. Anyone of service to Alateen, whether temporary or permanent, must be certified by their Area process.

If a sponsor wants to join an Alateen activity in another area, is this OK as long as they meet their *own area* requirements? It is up to the Area where the event is held to determine the certification requirements for out-of-Area Sponsors. If it is a multi-Area Alateen Conference, the Areas should collaborate on the matter. Normally, the out-of-Area certification must meet or exceed the certification requirements of the Area where the event is held. It is up to the autonomy of that Area to decide to accept other Area's certification for one-time events.

Can Alateen groups still follow their group conscience in terms of non-certified adults in their meetings? In other words, can a group vote to have one "open" meeting a month as a public service? It is recommended that Alateen groups host one or two open meetings a year, to help to spread the word about Alateen and to attract Al-Anon members to get involved with Alateen service. We would not recommend more frequent regular open meetings, such as monthly.

Can an Alateen group vote to allow a non-certified adult to attend a meeting? Maybe a counselor interested in Alateen

issues- or an Al-Anon who wants to find out more about Alateen before committing to becoming certified as a chaperone? There may be occasions where a professional or media person wants to attend one meeting, and the WSO would support accommodating them. I recently put a writer in touch with Alateen local to her as she was writing a book in which a character attended Alateen. The group voted to allow her to attend a meeting as an observer. These Public Outreach opportunities should be handled on a case by case basis.

With regard to Al-Anon members attending Alateen meetings, other than special, one-time open meetings, we would not be comfortable with uncertified Al-Anon members attending Alateen meetings.

What are the minimum requirements for Alateen sponsorship, as interpreted by WSO? The Al-Anon Board of Trustees established minimum requirements that each Area process must meet or exceed. This is not an interpretation of any requirements, but a mandate from the Board, which was affirmed by the World Service Conference. I am attaching a copy of that motion. Each Area has that autonomy to develop their own requirements, as long as they meet or exceed the minimum established by the Board of Trustees.

The pamphlet S-27 on Alateen Sponsorship makes no mention of the Alateen Sponsor Certification Process. Will this be updated? Again, I think you must be looking at an old copy. The one I have, printed in 2005, states on the back side, "If you are at least 21 years old, have been an active member of Al-Anon for at least two years, have met your Area requirements, and are willing to share your program, Alateen sponsorship may be for you."

**CONT. ON PAGE 12**

# Group Reports

## Temple New Group

We continue to meet on Thursday at 7:00 p.m at Christ Episcopal Church. We have had a decline recently. We make sure that we welcome the newcomer when they come to the meeting and offer telephone numbers. We do a step, tradition, 4<sup>th</sup> step meeting along with chairman's choice for the rest of the month. We have encouraged people to get involved in Service Work and we haven't given up.

Love in Al-Anon,  
**Tally for Cheryl, GR**

## New Beginnings AFG

This meeting is still being hosted by HOT, TNT, and TECAM AFG's in Waco. We are selling literature and will need to order more. This is encouraging. It is on Thursday night at 7:30 at the DePaul Center.

**Cindy C., GR**

## H.O.T. AFG

Attendance has been very low on Monday nights. But more are coming on Saturday mornings.

**Steve**

## WACO ALATEEN

One to five are in attendance every week. One of our preteens was published in the most recent "Alateen Talk."

**Steve**

## Belton Steps and Traditions

We continue to meet on Sunday's at 8:00 p.m. at St. Lukes Episcopal Church located at Downing and Beal. We seem to be having the same problem of a decline in members. We continue to encourage people to get involved in Service and keep encouraging them to attend a District Meeting.

Love in Al-Anon,  
**Tally R.**  
Group Representative

## Anderson Mill AFG

Meets Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church on Anderson Mill Road in room D203. Our speaker meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Birthday meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and we have treats so please join us! All are welcome!

**Paula H.**  
GR

## Just For Today AFG (Elgin)

This Elgin group is 7 months old and doing well. We meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. We are enjoying frequent visitors as well as an attendance of 8-10 weekly.

Gratefully involved,  
**Ruth P.**  
Altermate GR

## Killeen AFG

We meet in the educational wing of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church at 2800 S. Trimmier. The meetings are Tuesday & Friday's at 7 p.m. Recently we have had a number of new members who have found us on the internet. A good number of them are returning faithfully and have purchased much literature.

Submitted by,  
**Coy C.,**  
GR



# Group Reports

## Freedom to Recover AFG

Freedom to Recover AFG meets at 8:00 pm on Wednesday's at Round Rock Presbyterian Church in the Children's Education Building. The church is at 4010 Sam Bass Road (on FM 3406 three miles west of IH-35). The monthly meeting format is: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Step; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – Topic; 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – Tradition; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Topic; 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday *if there is one* – Speaker (August 29 and October 31).

Come by to visit us as we grow together in recovery.

In gratitude and service,  
**Millie**

## Learning & Recovery AFG

We meet Tuesday at 10-11:30 am at Hyde Park Christian Church, 610 E 45<sup>th</sup> St (near 45<sup>th</sup> & Duval). We meet on steps the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, Literature the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, & Traditions on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our group has been meeting in the same place since 1970 and we'd love to share our rich heritage. In Sept., we celebrated our 34<sup>th</sup> birthday (chartered by WSO 9-1-73!) & listened to a wonderful tape of a talk by Judy F., one of our

founding members. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Lisa R.**  
 GR

## Friday Nite AFG

We are still located at 1006 Alley A at the Episcopal Church in Bastrop and still meeting at 8 p.m. If you are ever out our way on a Friday night, drop in and see us!

Grateful in service,  
**Lori L.**  
 GR

## Serenity Trail AFG

Meets on Friday's at 8:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Round Rock. Attendance has been down to around 6 during the summer. Our format is to study the steps on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday's, Traditions the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and Topic the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. If there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Friday in a month we have Birthday night. The Chair may share their story or choose a topic. All are welcome. We would love to have you visit us.

**Mike C.**  
 GR

## Independence AFG

We are meeting at 7 p.m. on Friday at Red River Church in Austin. That is at 45<sup>th</sup> St. and Red River. Park in the back parking lot and enter that door.

Sissy S.  
 GR

## Smithville AFG

We are now located at the First Presbyterian Church on 300 Burleson St. in Smithville.

We are now meeting on Monday nights at 8 pm and on Saturday nights at 6 pm. We have had some more new comers who have heard "keep coming back!" So far so good!! We are looking forward to seeing you in January for the District meeting!

Shirley O.  
 GR

### Looking for a Speaker Meeting?

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month  
 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month

**Northland AFG** in Austin, 8 p.m.

**Georgetown AFG**, 8 p.m. Al-anon & AA speaker. Potluck dinner is at 7 p.m.

**Anderson Mill AFG**, 7:30 p.m.

**Courage to Change AFG**, Austin, 6:45 p.m.

**Belton Steps & Traditions AFG**, in Belton, 8:00 p.m.

**Freedom to Recover AFG** in Round Rock, 8:00 p.m.

**Wimberley AFG** in Wimberley; eating starts at 7:00 p.m. & speaker meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

**Editor's Note: If I don't have your days & times correct, please let me know! Thank you!**



# Ask It Basket Plus a Little More!!

## ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS!

**Q1:** Recently our group adopted an opening statement at the beginning of our meetings that goes over guidelines on the way the meeting is ran. Many of us were not there during the adoption of these guidelines and we are uncomfortable with this. It seems unfriendly, controlling & long. We think we should keep it simple. Please help w/ District input.

**A1:** Recently my home group adopted a new opening format. Before that happened we formed a committee of 3 members to collaborate, write up a new format and present it to the group. Once this was done, it was used for 1 month before being voted on at the monthly business meeting. Once it was adopted, copies were made and laminated. I don't know what procedure this group used but perhaps it can be revisited at a future group conscience. Perhaps it could be condensed. I have seen all of this in different group openings and most of it is mentioned in the service manual. What it comes down to, I feel, is group autonomy and the needs of the group as expressed in the group conscience. Service Manual pg. 34, 40, 47, and 52. – Cindy

**Q2:** Is naming a group after your city considered affiliation?

**A2:** Tradition 3- can call themselves an AFG provided they have no other affiliation. Service Manual reference- pg. 81, groups are autonomous; WSO cannot shut down if they do not like how the group practices Al Anon or pg. 48, choosing a group's name- it is not a problem. - Tom R

**Q3:** Is there a definition of cross-talk? Does any of the literature address cross-talk?

**A3:** I believe the conference summary addressed "cross-talk" a few years ago- stating that cross-talk is not an Al Anon term. This is a group autonomy decision. My home group opening includes the following: "Cross-talk is discouraged at our group meetings- one on one conversation during our actual meeting. As our 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition states: Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity."

## NEW ALTERNATE DR'S STORY – CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

They told me to make Al-Anon my first commitment, get a sponsor, do service work, work the steps, and my life would change. I was so desperate to get rid of the emptiness; I just did what they said. My way sure wasn't working. I got a sponsor and started working the steps. My group needed a GR, I said I hadn't been coming long enough (about 1 year), but they said just do it and we will help. I got busy in service and what a blessing that was for me. Active alcoholism had returned to my household and I just hit another bottom, but I was responsible, I had those service duties to do so I went. What a blessing, service work kept me busy and my mind off of him.

Since that surrender, my life has taken off. My husband did get sober; we both changed careers, and moved to Austin shortly after 9-11 (that is another story). Today I have two committed Al-Anon meetings and I attend open AA meetings. My committed home groups are Courage to Change in Austin and The 3 C's in Lakeway.

I know that the only way I can guarantee that Al-Anon will be there for someone else in my family is by continuing to go to meetings, doing service work outside of my group, sponsoring and giving back to a way of life that has made me a kinder, gentler, more accepting person. Today I know that I have received a blessing from the God of my understanding and that my purpose in life is to pass that blessing on to others. I also know today that my small amount of service to Al-Anon-inside or outside of the group rewards me tenfold every time.

Love and blessings,

**Kay C.**-Alternative District Representative.



# Information Service Centers

Austin

## AIS – AUSTIN

Your center is in good shape thanks to all the literature you buy through us and the generous donations you send to us.

The one tiny blot is that an Al-Anon asked me to mail several books and said a check would be in the mail. The amount came to \$51, but payment was never received. This person was contacted by mail and phone, yet we have not received payment.

Because of tradition of rigorous honesty, your center is happy to trust that when literature is mailed a check will be sent asap. We assume with confidence that one bad apple will not spoil this trusting relationship.

Love in our program,  
**Kitty G.**,  
Office Employee

## AIS - WACO

Waco AIS is still alive, but barely. Contributions are still coming from one group in Waco, one in Temple/Belton, and one individual. We are thankful for these. We will be having a business meeting in November and based on attendance, we will decide the future of the AIS in Waco. More later.

Cindy C.

## WANTED: PUBLIC OUTREACH COORDINATOR (SOUTH)

The district needs a volunteer to complete Carolon's term through the end of 2008. Since Carolon will continue to serve through January, we will need to elect someone at the January district meeting. Carolon's area is roughly everything from Georgetown south. Cindy C. is the Public Outreach (North) Coordinator, and has everything north of Georgetown.

Here's how Public Outreach is explained in the Guidelines:

Public Outreach informs the general public through the media, professionals, facilities, and organizations about who we are, what we do, and how to get in touch with us. Our goal is to attract to our program those whose lives are or have been affected by someone else's drinking, so that those who need our program can find the help and hope we offer. We also strive for name recognition and credibility as a community resource. Public Outreach includes Outreach to the Public/Media, Outreach to Professionals, and Outreach to Institutions. Your area/district may choose to combine these service areas under Public Outreach, or to maintain separate coordinators and/or committees. All those in Public Outreach are encouraged to work together to avoid duplicating efforts.

For more information, consult the member's web site at WSO, <http://www.al-anon.org/members/>, enter your group name, and see Group Services in the left column for Guidelines G-9, G-10, G-29, and G-38. Also, look under Public Outreach in the left column for service tools in each of the areas.

Please consult with your sponsor and/or Higher Power, not necessarily in that order, about whether this is a good time for you to start, or continue, service work at the district level. Remember that there are many others willing to help you learn, so you don't have to do this alone.



# Service Arms Representatives

There are four service arms which 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.

AL-ANON INFORMATION CENTER 1030-G S. LAMAR AUSTIN, TX 78704 (512) 441-8591	AIS WACO AREA PO BOX 8374 WACO, TX 76714 (254) 808-4757	DISTRICT 6 900 Broken Feather #113 Pflugerville, TX 78660 (512) 517-1072	EAST TEXAS AREA P.O. Box 7590 Beaumont, TX 77726-7590 (409) 834-2986	WORLD SERVICE OFFICE AFG, INC. 1600 CORPORATE LANDING PKWY VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23454-5617 (1-800 -344-2666) www.al-anon.alateen.org
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## District 6 Service Committee

### Officers

**DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE**                      **ALTERNATE D.R.**                      **SECRETARY**                      **TREASURER**

### Coordinators

**ALATEEN**                      **NEWSLETTER**                      **FORUM/LITERATURE**                      **ARCHIVIST**

**PUBLIC OUTREACH (South)**                      **PUBLIC OUTREACH (North)**

**Texas Website: [www.texas-al-anon.org](http://www.texas-al-anon.org)**

### TRADITION 7 – EVERY GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF-SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS

The District 6 Al-Anon/Alateen Newsletter is published quarterly. No dues or fees are required to receive this newsletter, however; your individual contributions are gratefully appreciated. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or would like to financially support District 6, please send your check and the form to:

Newsletter: AFG DISTRICT 6, EAST TX  
900 Broken Feather #113  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



## CONT. OF ALATEEN COORDINATOR'S REPORT/ SPONSORSHIP CORNER

When will the revised book on Alateen Sponsorship (An Exciting Adventure) be available? The book will not be reprinted. After the requirements were established, a bookmark was issued that lists the sections of the book which can still be used. I am attaching a copy of that bookmark. The WSO is working on a new format of sponsor resource materials that can be customized by each Area. Your Area Alateen Coordinator will receive notice when they are completed this fall.

I hope that answers your questions...I encourage you to explore the Al-Anon Members' Web site at [www.al-anon.org/members](http://www.al-anon.org/members) (For the password, insert your home group name and be sure to add AFG) for additional information (guidelines and Alateen questions)

Love in service,

Mary Lou  
Mary Lou M.  
Associate Director Group Services—Alateen & Special Services  
Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.  
[www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)

### **New Thinking - New Energy - Abundant Outlook!**

*Visit the Al-Anon Members' Web site at:*

[www.al-anon.alateen.org/members](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members)

*For the password,*

*insert your home group name and be sure to add AFG*

In our District Sponsor Meeting today, we discussed the feasibility of asking the Area Assembly to change some of the requirements for *recertification* of Alateen sponsors. Certification guidelines for new sponsors would not change, but we are going to ask for some “loosening” of annual recertification requirements in terms of training and attendance at 6 Alateen meetings. We hope that our ideas can be presented to the WSC in January. If support is evident, we could submit a motion to the Area chair to be printed in the Beacon later. More will be revealed.

Currently, District 6 has 13 sponsors for 6 Alateen meetings and 7 chaperones. In comparison to earlier this year before the recertification deadline of 6/30/07, we had 19 sponsors/ 8 chaperones. District 6 has six certified groups- Wimberley's A NEW BEGINNING is closing. Attendance is down for sure, but it is my opinion that there are not enough Al-Anons willing to “step up” to Alateen service in any case. Please consider Alateen service work- it's an exciting adventure for sure! *Alateen is part of Al-Anon!!!*

Hope to see you at the Houston Fall Assembly Nov 2-4<sup>th</sup>!

LOVE in service,

**Lizz S.**

### **Working Together**

Let's keep Alateen going, growing, and glowing.

Alateen and Al-Anon;

Together We Can Make It fun, healthy, and safe.

from Alateen Safety Guidelines, G-34

**DISTRICT 6'S NEWLY ELECTED FORUM/LITERATURE COORDINATOR**

Hi--- I'm Steve S. the new District Literature coordinator. At the last District meeting, when the opening for this position was announced I discovered how easy it is to secure an Al-Anon service position. Don't avert your gaze when people are looking around for a volunteer. Seriously though, being rather new to the Group Representative position, at first I thought the only duty of a Literature Coordinator was to retrieve books from the Austin Information Center and sell them at the District meeting. Being pretty good at material handling, I thought this job was right up my alley. But, apparently, there is more to the Literature position. I have read all the literature.... so I'm a big fan. (Retention is another story.) I hope to make a meaningful contribution as I learn more of the job.

By way of an Al-Anon biography: I've been a proud member of this fellowship for the past 6 years. (I wasn't proud at first but this developed.) My home group is the Faith Al-Anon group which meets Thursdays on Anderson Mill in Northwest Austin. This is a newcomers meeting, which appeals to me as I feel strongly that newcomers are the most important people in the room. It also appeals to me because I regularly get to hear the 3 C's, which I feel a newcomer should hear at their first meeting. I'm also a regular attendee of the Westlake Parents meeting on Sundays. When I first started with Al-Anon there was not a specific meeting for parents. Now there are four very well attended meetings. Al-Anon has helped me maintain serenity in the midst of trying circumstances. When I don't retain my serenity, I look back and see where I could have applied Al-Anon principles but it is a case of "Progress not perfection." I'm looking forward to serving, and feel free to contact me with any ideas you have about Literature.

**eCAL SHARING FROM STEVE S.**

I have discovered that Electronic Conference Approved Literature (ECAL) is a great way to get free on-line literature which is conference approved. It is also very easy to submit ECAL to the Alanon World Service Office. Here is how to get involved in the ever-growing world of ECAL:

- 1) Go to the World Service Members site. <http://www.al-anon.org/members/>
- 2) Sign in with your password. This is the name of your home group followed by the letters afg
- 3) Click on the ECAL link and you will see this greeting:

"Welcome to  
*electronic* Conference Approved Literature  
(e-CAL)

You are invited to share experience, strength, and hope in creative ways to make e-CAL an exciting recovery environment for Al-Anon members around the world!

e-CAL will grow as a direct result of the submissions you send. Personal stories, graphics, poetry, and even multi-media are welcome. If there is a feeling or a thought you have about recovery that you would like to share, even though words can't quite express what is in your heart, feel free to explore other ways to present your message."

That's all there is to it. You will be able to read other people's shares and share whatever you feel. There are rules about what will be accepted, which are outlined at the site. Happy surfing.

Steve S.,  
Forum/Literature Coordinator







# The Forum Subscription Order Form

Al-Anon's monthly magazine features:

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- Step, Tradition, and Concept of Service sharings
- Special information for Al-Anon/Alateen groups
- "Talk to Each Other" for controversial or thought-provoking issues from members
- Humor
- Calendar of current events

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**Arron J.** - North Carolina - Al-Anon

**Chuck L.** - Michigan - Al-Anon

**Judy A.** - British Columbia - Al-Anon

**Tom W.** - California - AA

### Hotel Reservations

Registration Information	Telephone
Pre-registration before January 9, 2008 \$90.00 per Night 1-4 Persons Check In Time - 4:00 PM Check Out Time - 12:00 PM ( <i>Don't delay - we ran out of rooms last year</i> )	Register Under ATAAC (210) 340-6060 - San Antonio 1-800- Hiltons - Toll Free

### Conference Registration

Make Checks Payable to: **ATAAC**

Mail to: **PO Box 701436, San Antonio, Texas, 78270**

Contacts: *Bonnie - Tel:(210) 887-4679*

*Dotty - email: [dksie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dksie@sbcglobal.net)*

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