



AL-ANON NEWS

Al-Anon Family Group Service (AFGS)

HOUSTON INTERGROUP

9800 Northwest Freeway, Suite 201
Houston, TX 77092

713-683-7227

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Volume 2011 - 3rd Quarter

July, 2011

News From the Board of Directors

Intergroup Update

During the first quarter of this year, many of you heard that Intergroup was experiencing financial difficulties. This past winter the Board of Directors realized that a trend had developed where for 2009 and 2010, Intergroup costs had surpassed donations and our financial reserves were slowly being depleted. I could not help but notice that this trend seem to coincide with the severe economic downturn which our nation has been going through over the last several years.

Once the Al-Anon fellowship became aware of the problem, groups and individual Al-Anon members responded and donations in 2011 have gone up enough to sufficiently restore our reserves back to the levels of a year ago. Also, over \$2,000 was raised by the penny drive. The Board would like to thank everyone for their donations. The Board would also like you to know that we are trying to cut our expenses as much as possible to help resolve the financial problems. Hopefully, if everyone continues to contribute at the present level we will return our reserves to the level prior to the downturn in the national economy. Thanks again for your support of Intergroup.

There have been questions about whether Intergroup is required by it's corporate by-laws to maintain a year's worth of reserves. To clarify this issue let me state that our Intergroup by-laws do not specify that a specific amount be held in "prudent reserve". The Al-Anon World Service Organization (WSO) does have a goal of maintaining one year's operating expenses in a reserve fund, which they state is typical for non profit organizations. The Intergroup Board of Directors would like to maintain approximately a year's worth of expenses in our reserve fund, but this is only a suggestion from WSO and not a requirement.

Some of you may not be aware of the services the Intergroup office provides to the Al-Anon groups in the greater Houston area. Intergroup operates a book store which supplies Al-Anon Conference approved literature, operates phone lines which are answered 24 hours a day for people who need help and sponsors a web site with Al-Anon information.

Al-Anon Tradition 7 says "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." The Board of Directors believes this tradition needs to be observed; however, individual Al-Anon members can make contributions by check to the Intergroup Office. The office will give you a receipt for tax

purposes as we are a non profit organization. If you would like further information, please call the Intergroup office at 713-683-7071 .

At its June meeting the Board approved the establishment of a committee to handle the maintenance of Intergroup's website. Three members of the Al-Anon fellowship have volunteered their time to handle this task. I am very grateful to Don F, Gerald C, and Tessah H for stepping up and offering to help with the website.

The Board of Directors is also struggling with how to effectively communicate with members of the Al-Anon fellowship in the Houston area. Approximately 200 groups purchase literature from the Intergroup book store, however, at the last quarterly Intergroup Board/ISR meeting in April we had less than 15 groups represented. Please consider electing an ISR (Information Service Representative) who can represent your group.

Your Al-Anon Friend in Service

Lou L., Chairman Intergroup Board of Directors

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QUARTERLY BOD/ISR MEETING

Sunday—July 31, 2011

1:30 p.m.

Chapelwood United Methodist Church

11140 Greenbay St—Houston, TX 77024

Nominations and elections for new Intergroup Board of Directors will be held at this quarterly BOD/ISR meeting. If you are an Information Service Representative (ISR) please try and attend this meeting as your participation to elect new board members is needed. We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your service to Al-Anon.

Lou L.



PENNY DRIVE FOR
HOUSTON AL-ANON
INTERGROUP

Districts 4,5&7 AFG's,

The Houston and surrounding area AFG's are filled with wonderful caring folks. When we are asked to help, we step up to the plate and deliver. The Penny Drive has been a GREAT success. As of June 30, 2011 we have collected **\$2,123.11** to support our Intergroup Office. **WOW – BRAVO** our 7th Tradition at work.

The following groups and individuals have contributed to the Penny Drive and I would like to applaud you all:

Town & Country AFG

Bear Creek AFG

Copperfield AFG

Al-anon in The Little Red House

Ophelia P.

Atascocita

Alvin AFG (Taylor Street)

Spring in Your Step (Pearland)

Alvin Al-anon Works AFG

Camino a la Serenidad GFA

Nueva Vida

Saturday Night Serenity AFG

A New Leaf AFG

33rd & P

West Isle AFG

Islander AFG

Grupo Unidad

Grupo Nueva Vida

New Freedom AFG

Serene Group

Pines Rainbow

Chapelwood Discussion AFG

Cy-Fair HUGS AFG

Heritage Group AFG

If your group has inadvertently not been listed, please let the Intergroup office know as soon as possible. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank my husband, Richard and daughter, Katie. They have both been a tremendous help.

Sincerely,
Dana B.

Have a cupful of recovery!

By Eliza D., Seattle AIS Newsletter Editor
Bits Newsletter, August 2010

"Al-Anon believes that our benefits are measured by our willingness to share them with others. For we know we can never give as much as we receive." (2010-2013 *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27), page 7).

Temporarily unemployed? Having an identity crisis? Retired? Need a little jazz in your life? Have I got a suggestion for you! Yes, I have been in all these states (and in fact, still am), and I want you to know that there is experience, strength, hope, and the Al-Anon program to be had for the likes of me and the likes of you as an Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) office volunteer.

I have been a volunteer in the AIS office for about six months now, and I have to tell you, it has been one of the highlights of my life! I have something to look forward to twice a month. I have a reason to get out of bed early to catch an 8:30 a.m. bus to downtown Seattle. I treat myself to a hazelnut coffee with lots of cream. I arrive in the office a little early and settle in to enjoy my coffee. And this is what I get to do:

- ✓ I greet the most beautiful and friendly people in the world.
- ✓ I answer phones and help people by providing meeting information.
- ✓ I help with literature sales, and,
- ✓ I get to share the experience, strength, and hope of the program for three hours.

Are you feeling the love yet? Yes, I love being in fellowship with family members and friends of alcoholics. Yes, I even love being in the fellowship with alcoholic family members and friends. And being in volunteer service to Al-Anon is the highlight of my life! More people are needed in the office. Are you available? Please say yes. Please call your local AIS office and let someone know you are ready to add a little more program to your life by being available to be an office volunteer. I promise you it will be one of the best things you have made yourself available to do in this wonderful Al-Anon program.

Used with permission From *Area Highlights—Spring, 2011*, pg 2

AIS = Al-Anon Information Service = Houston Intergroup

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011

2011			
July	10	Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.	District 5 Meeting July 4th 2nd Sunday of month, Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp @ Pecore 77009 Houston, TX
	31	Sunday 1:30 p.m.	Houston Intergroup BOD/ISR Meeting Chapelwood UMC, 11140 Greenbay, Fireside Room, 77024 Houston, TX
Aug	28	Sunday 1:00 p.m.	Board of Director's Meeting (BOD) at Intergroup Office Houston, TX
Sept	11	Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.	District 5 Meeting Includes Alateen Sponsor Meeting , Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp @ Pecore 77009 Houston, TX
	24	Saturday	AWSC —Time and location to be determined Tyler, Tx Area
	25	Sunday 1:00 p.m.	Board of Director's Meeting (BOD) at Intergroup Office Houston, TX
Oct	3	Monday	Al-Anews deadline to submit an article to Intergroup Houston, TX
	8	Saturday 9:30-2:00 p.m.	New Date District 4 Meeting —Host & Location pending due to date change. District Elections and District Alateen Sponsor Meeting TBA
	30	Sunday 1:30 p.m.	Houston Intergroup BOD/ISR Meeting at Chapelwood UMC, 11140 Greenbay, Fireside Room, 77024 Houston, TX
Nov	13	Sunday 2:00-4:00 p.m.	District 5 Meeting (<i>Depends on date of Fall Assy</i>), voting mtg for the service positions, Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp @ Pecore 77009 Houston, TX
	4-6	Friday Saturday Sunday	ETAAA Fall Assembly —Holiday Inn Park Central—2929 Jimmy Johnson Blvd (Corner of Hwy 69/Jimmy Johnson Blvd) - Area Elections Port Arthur, TX
	20	Sunday 1:00 p.m.	Board of Director's Meeting (BOD) at Intergroup Office (Last meeting of 2011) Houston, TX
Dec	10	Saturday 9:30-2:00	District 4 Meeting host and location TBA, TBA,
2013			
July	5-7	Friday—Sunday	2013 Al-Anon International Convention Vancouver, BC

Check out these websites

Houston Intergroup <http://www.houstonalanon.org/>

All Texas <http://www.texas-al-anon.org/> **WSO** <http://www.al-anon.org/member>

LET IT BEGIN WITH ME

When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help

*May the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen
always be there and*

LET IT BEGIN WITH ME



Remember—when you buy from the Houston Intergroup, your local Literature Distribution Center, you support your local services.

Group Contributions

April - June 2011

33rd and P AFG
 Al-Anon in the Little Red House
 Al-Anon Works AFG, Alvi
 Alvin AFG
 Anonymous
 Atascocita AFG
 Bear Creek Care Bears AFG
 Bunkerhill Wednesday Morning AFG
 Celebrating Serenity AFG
 Chapelwood Discussion AFG
 Copperfield AFG
 Courage to Change
 Cy-Fair H.U.G.S. AFG
 Discussion AFG, St. Vincent de Paul
 Eldridge Road Al-Anon
 Friday Noon
 Grupo Caminmo a la Serenidad
 Grupo Nueva Vida
 Grupo Unidad
 Healing Through Feelings AFG
 Heights Group
 Heritage Group
 Hopeful AFG
 How Al-Anon Works AFG (Cemnacie)
 How Al-Anon Works, Katy
 Jackson Hill AFG
 Just for Today Thursday Morning AFG
 Katy Fifth Street Al-Anon
 Katy Rainbow AFG
 Kingwood Club Al-Anon Groups
 Lambda AFG Sunday 7pm
 Let It Begin with Me AFG, Lake Jackson
 Live & Let Live
 Lunch Bunch AFG
 Main Course Step and Tradition AFG
 Mid-Week AFG
 Middlebrook Womens Family Group AFG
 MIR-Miracles in Recovery
 Middlebrook Womens Family Group AFG
 Monday Nite Acceptance
 New Beginnings AAC, Woodlands
 New Freedom
 New Leaf AFG
 New Life AFG
 New Solutions AFG
 Northshore Friday Morning AFG
 Parents of Alcoholics AFG, Memorial
 Parents of Alcoholics, St. Martin's

Paths to Recovery AFG, St. Vincent De Paul
 Paths to Recovery, 1ST UMC
 Peaceful AFG
 Pearland AFG
 Pines Rainbow
 River Oaks Newcomers AFG
 Riverpoint AFG
 Rose-Rich Center
 Santa Fe AFG
 Saturday Night Serenity AFG
 Saturday Serenity AFG
 Serenity Now AFG
 SERENITY WOODLANDS AFG
 SOS Seeking Our Serenity
 Spring AFG
 Spring In your Step, AFG
 TGIM AFG

The Right Step AFG
 The Sunday Night Seekers
 The Woodlands Friendship AFG
 Third Tradition AFG
 Thursday Men's Club AFG
 Town & Country Discussion AFG
 Tuesday Night Serene AFG
 Tuesday Noon Discussion AFG, St. Luke's
 Tuesday Serenity Woodlands AFG
 Unity North AFG
 West Isle AFG
 White Oak AFG
 Woman to Woman AFG

**TOTAL APRIL—JUNE, 2011
 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS
 \$13,754.82**

Tradition 7

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

2011 Al-Anon Family Group Services (AFGS) Financials

	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	YTD 2011
Contributions	6,389.97	6,306.48	4,244.60	27,738.35
Fundraising*	0.00	-132.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	24.13	27.42	0.00	133.64
Literature Sales	8,111.25	8,142.88	6,116.73	43,054.51
Total Income	14,525.35	14,344.78	10,361.33	70,926.50
Less Cost of Goods Sold	4968.75	5,294.71	3,869.17	25,954.38
Gross Profit	9,556.60	9,050.07	6,492.16	44,972.12
Operating Expenses	7220.32	3,174.58	5,449.84	33,883.86
Total Net Income	2,336.28	5,875.49	1,042.32	11,088.26

* Returned Face2Face registrations

Newsletter Submissions

*Due Date for submissions is **October 3, 2011** for 4th Quarter.*

Email or mail to the Intergroup Office at

alanon@houstonalanon.org

Articles, events, book reviews, etc. in Word, PDF, or email is preferred.

Intergroup Board of Directors

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL	TERM ENDS
Chair / Nominating Committee	Lou L.	loul@houstonalanon.org	May, 2012
President	Annette T.	annettet@houstonalanon.org	May, 2012
Treasurer (Interim)	Robin O.	robino@houstonalanon.org	May, 2012
Secretary	Pattie T.	pattiet@houstonalanon.org	May, 2012
Board Member/AWSC Liaison	Shirley C.	shirleyc@houstonalanon.org	May, 2012
Board Member			May, 2013
Board Member			May, 2013

Each member may be reached via email (above) or by calling the Al-Anon Office: 713.683.7227

Office Staff

Office Assistant—Connie D.
Office Assistant—Mary M.

Apr – Jun 2011 Volunteers Thank You!

Phone: Adrienne B, Allyn D, Anna D, Chris C, Cindy L, Claire P, Connie F, Cora N, Dana B, Dorothy B, Fran S, Jennie D, Jennifer F, Jennifer L, Julie M, Karen K, Kathy H, Lonnee F, Lynn A, Lynn D, Mary Lou L, Norma W, Ophelia P, Peggy W, Robin O'M, Ruby B, Ruby H, Ruth W, Stephanie W, Terri D, Tina P

Volunteers: Linda C, Annette T

Carrying the Message

2011	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
Office Calls	304	238	248	790
After Hours	48	35	30	113
Spanish Calls	16	0	0	16
Webpage Visits	2096	2193	2354	6643
Volunteer Hours	0	0	15	30.5

Information Service Representative Registration

Please complete and return to the Houston Intergroup Office.

ISR Name _____

ISR Contact Info: email address _____

Phone _____

Group Name _____

Group WSO ID _____ District No. _____

Group Current Mailing Address (CMA) _____

From the Districts

District 4 Made up of counties—all of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Matagorda and Wharton counties, except League City which is in [District 5](#)

Greetings from District 4. Welcome to two new meetings in our district.

- Fe y Evolución—1106 Morton Street, Suite G—Richmond, Sunday at 4:00 p.m.
- Courage to Change AFG added a second meeting—Thursday, Noon—Lamplighters Club - 2425 FM 1092 Rd. in Missouri City

In preparation for district elections in October, we have had several workshops this year on the Service Manual, district officers and coordinators responsibilities, and enthusiastic service journey sharings by two past delegates from our district.

District Elections will be held at our next meeting rescheduled for October 8—9:30—2:00. Location is pending due to date change. Groups in District 4 are asked to have group elections prior to the October meeting.

We continue to carry the message of hope to families by providing CAL to Brazos Place in Freeport. Thank you, Let It Begin With Me AFG, for your service. The district will again participate in "Cruisin 2 Recovery" in Galveston in late September.

Service—Gratitude in Action,

Joyce Y.

Concept 4—Participation is the key to harmony.



District 5 Made up of counties—all of Harris County, plus cities League City, New Caney and The Woodlands

Hello from District 5 (D5) hoping everyone isn't burned up and doing the happy dance to bring rain I know we all need it so badly. D5 is a busy group as we prepare for elections of new Officers and Coordinators for the 2012 - 2015 service position term. If you're a group in the Houston and surrounding areas that make up District 5, please join us at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp (at Pecore) Houston Texas 77009, off of I45 and South Main on July 10th, September 11th, and November 13th from 2-4PM. This is the business meeting for D5 where we hear reports from all of the Group Representatives and Coordinators in D5 sharing the happenings of the groups and beyond. This is where you will hear about the positions to serve and what is required. It is a great way to stay connected with other groups and get ideas of the happenings in the District. One of our members Dana B. created the idea to support the Intergroup Office with a Penny Drive and collected over \$2,000 in this fun fund raiser, just one thing we hear about at the District meeting. Thank you, Dana, for your service. In addition everyone gets an opportunity to provide support in service as we created a Task Force made up of District 5 members willing to take a look at the opportunity to create a website for D5. The Task Force spent time gathering facts and data to provide to the GRs at the July 10th D5 Business Meeting to see which direction they wish to move in this area. This is the service arms of Al-Anon in action. We provide an "Ask It Basket" during the business meeting allowing anyone to ask questions that might not be addressed during the meeting we provide the answer at the next meeting. Our Spanish groups in D5 are very strong we have 15+ groups that are very active in service. Please come join us at the business meetings and be a part of the service opportunity in our community.

In Service,

Lorna F.



District 7 Made up of counties—all of Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Grimes, Madison, Milam, Montgomery, Robertson, Walker, Waller, and Washington counties, except cities New Caney and The Woodlands which are in [District 5](#)

Rennie T

*EAST TEXAS AL-ANON/ALATEEN
AREA FALL ASSEMBLY
NOVEMBER 4-6, 2011*



Came to Believe

SPEAKERS/WORKSHOPS:

Friday 7:45 PM Debbie C. /Winnsboro Tx.
Saturday 7:00 Raffle/
8:00 - Speaker Kathy M. Hochheim Tx.
Sunday 10:30 Susie S./Lake Jackson Tx.

Registration begins

Friday - 4:00pm, Saturday 8:00am
On Saturday there will be a 2 meat lunch buffet at the
Conference Location- Cost of the Buffet will be \$25 per
person
There will be a raffle on Saturday 7:00 PM

Holiday Inn Park Central

2929 Jimmy Johnson Blvd (Corner of Hwy.
69/Jimmy Johnson Blvd)

Port Arthur Texas 77627

(409) 724-5000

Double non-smoking room \$82.00 + tax

Call hotel directly for reservation in order to get special
rates

4 person max in double rooms / 2 queen size beds
per room

Holiday Inn Park Central is a full service hotel

With many amenities: Restaurant on premises

In Room Broadband Internet Access

tropical outdoor swimming pool

huge sundeck • a gazebo • patio dining

There are many restaurants within

2 miles of hotel

For more information: Call

Committee Chair: Carole L. - 409-963-1660

Committee Co-Chair: Cindy O. - 409-721-5255

Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____

Group Rep District Rep AMLAS First Assembly

Group Name: _____ District No. _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

___ Al-Anon (\$20.00)

___ Alateen (\$5.00)*

___ AA (\$20.00)

___ Saturday Luncheon Buffet (\$25.00)

Total \$ _____

*All Alateens when registering at Assembly must turn in to the registration desk a completed and signed East Texas Area 53 Alateen Guidelines/Certified Alateen Sponsor, Parent or Al-Anon Member involved in Alateen Service Behavioral Guidelines Form and be accompanied by responsible registered adult. Notarized Permission and medical forms are to be kept by responsible registered adult.

Forms can be obtained from Alateen Sponsor, Alateen Coordinator or at:

www.texas-al-anon.org/TX%20E%20Alateen%20Forms/tx_e_alateen_guidelines.htm

AFGS

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