



BiAnnual IAC-AA Board Elections Slated for August 2007

From the IAC Executive Committee

The biannual election of the Executive Board of International Advisory Committee will be held August 17.

According to the IAC Charter, the following positions are available for election:

- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Advisors (3)

Nominations for these positions can be made by any IAC members; self nominations can also be made.

Nominations should include service resumes, and should be sent to the address below, postmarked by July 20, 2007.

Secretary

International Advisory Council

Suite A306

3035 Washtenaw Ave.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-5119

Ballots will be mailed to all voting members by August 1, 2007, and must be returned to the IAC by August 17, 2007. The ballots will be tabulated and results will be announced at the next general IAC meeting, which will be held during the New Jersey Roundup, September 14-16, 2007.

IAC Meets in Palm Springs, California, for 2007 "Sober in the Sun"

By Hebert G., Deputy Chair

First let me start by saying we missed those unable to attend.....Kel, Lynn, Kevin and Marty.....Marie, Fred and I (Mary and Mark too) missed ALL of you.

Secondly, our apologies to those who were planning on taking part in the teleconference call.... we were not scheduled for the time slots we had originally planned on.....IAC was given space and time at 11:45 am on Saturday (we had planned on 2:00 con call followed by the

general meeting when making the arrangements) Due to the fact that SITS went through a full executive committee process to allot IAC time at the main opening meeting, as well as the space for our general business, we did not want to disrupt the process; we also were listed in their program as such, so we ran with it.

In my opinion, it was a very successful visit for IAC.

We made our "pitch" at the opening Friday night meeting; had space in the registration area for our table—very successful—and were also listed in the program. It was announced that seventh tradition monies collected at both the Friday and Saturday night meetings were to be divided and sent to the service structure of which IAC was a part of. We are very thankful for this.

We had a very informal general meeting at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, with approximately 12 folks in attendance (in addition to those already active with IAC). We gave an IAC overview, then fielded questions. Before we knew it, our allotted time was up—a very nice meeting

After that, Fred, Marie, Mary, Mark and I continued outside on the deck of the hospitality suite—a bit of brainstorming took place—was also time well spent. We reviewed the web site, budgets, updating of directories, newsletters, and planning for San Antonio.

We continued through a working lunch, at which time Kevin joined us by speakerphone. We put a notice out on the web site announcing the upcoming elections (including time frames for nominations).

Most important was the fact that we got a few folks to take an active role with IAC. We now have a current Palm Springs Representative, as well as a Representative for Long Beach, California, in addition, someone more than likely will take on Mexico City. Also, Mary (our representative for Cape Cod), stepped up to take on the position of newsletter editor.

Request for IAC Reps to Verify Their Contact Information

From Hebert G., Deputy Chair

Would all IAC-AA Regional Reps please take the time to review the contact information on the IAC-AA.org website for their respective areas, and let the Deputy Chair know if any changes need to be made.

States Needing IAC Representatives

States currently needing active representatives are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, US Virgin Islands, Utah, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Contact Deputy Chair Hebert G. via Email at HFGRI99@aol.com if you have an update or want to volunteer to represent one of these states.

Summaries of General Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting

IAC - Palm Springs Round Up, May 12, 2007

There were not enough members to form a quorum, so no minutes were taken, and no voting was done, with one exception. *See below.

General Meeting was held at 11:45 am. About 10 people attended and at least two expressed an interest in becoming more involved with IAC. We stuck to a simple question and answer format, Hebert led with a great explanation of IAC. We passed around and distributed more IAC pamphlets. Mark J answered questions relating to the website.

Some questions were:

Who are we? Why hadn't they heard about us before? What do we do?

We answered these questions in a very informal way and spoke about some of the history of IAC, and then we were kicked

out at 12:30 moved to the porch of the hospitality room for an executive committee meeting.

Topics Of Discussion

Website:

Mark has made progress here, but we need to start looking at updating the meetings. The consensus seemed to be that we should "start from scratch." Hebert said he would try to contact regional reps. Marie will send a letter to groups that have sent donations so far this year to see if we can get an update. This is an ongoing project, probably for a long time.

International:

Hebert to follow up with GSO on exactly what they give us during the convention, he thinks that we are offered a place for the dance. He will follow up. Budget discussed, need to find out exactly what we need for the International.

Budgets:

We need more information, especially as it concerns the expenses for the International. see above.

Newsletter:

Mary S. will serve as the newsletter editor for now. Her E-mail address is: moanialia@comcast.net. She will prepare something for Mark and between the two they will get a newsletter together.

*Kevin W.S. joined us via telephone at this point. We voted to include Mark in the correspondence when it goes to the entire exec. Committee. That way he will be "in the loop".

Elections:

Mark prepared a notice for the website concerning the upcoming elections and how to nominate people. We talked about getting ballots out to the membership.

We spoke about IAC's future, and then ended the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. —Marie S.

Meeting Minutes, IAC Executive Committee

02/17/07 Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA

Meeting started at 2:05 PM EST and 1:05 Central Time with the Serenity Prayer.

Present were at the Southeast Massachusetts Round Up were Hebert G, Marie S, Marty S, Fred S and Mary S. On the telcom were Kelly and Lynn.

Secretary's Report:

The meeting minutes from our last meeting were not prepared, but Hebert reviewed the call with us. Secretary's report was given and accepted. Marie has received

71 checks since becoming secretary and has forwarded them to Kevin. Stan, our former deputy chair has forwarded some mail and wants postage costs. Marty will contact him and ask for an invoice.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report was read and accepted. The treasurer Kevin W. was not present due to other obligations. He E-mailed IAC his report. We have \$11,347.89 in the account.

Deputy Chairperson's Report:

Read and accepted. Hebert has made changes to the Directory listing as far as updating Rep. info. This needs to be followed up with Mark J. the web master.

Chairperson's Report:

Kelly stated that it is important to maintain communications with others to include all representatives, etc. Fred and Marty discussed how great it has been to work with Kelly, all agreed. Kelly stated that she feels we have a good working team right now.

Old Business:

It was confirmed that IAC meets twice a year as an Executive committee and one General Meeting. The next IAC exec meeting will be at Palm Springs, CA Roundup held May 11-13,07, and the fall IAC exec meeting will be at the New Jersey Roundup held Sept. 14-16, 07.

The Spring 08 meeting will be held somewhere in Texas. Lynn will help us with the date and which Round Up.

Fred will get a draft of a readable page/s on IAC to be distributed at conventions. Fred stated that the report on the OPM of IAC is nearly done and will be forwarded so that we can discuss. Marty reported on the banner and that it was washed and certain letterings were damaged and is in the process of repair.

Mark J. the web master joined the meeting via the telcom at 2:45 PM. Mark: Discussion regarding update changes, directory, and newsletter. Marie, secretary, suggested and it was accepted that when she receives the information of meeting updates that she has access to the web site to finalize the information. Hebert, Deputy Chairperson, should also have access to update information regarding Regional and State Representatives. Mark will also prepare a newsletter if we get him the content. IAC member need to self subscribe in order to have the newsletter sent to them. When the website is up and running Marie will revise the thank you letter and let people know what they need to do to get the newsletter.

There was also a discussion on printed directories and how groups will be able to pay for them, that is still under construction.

New Business:

Marie S, brought up the subject of IAC paying some of the costs incurred by IAC exec members, attending IAC Exec meetings, Roundups, conventions, etc. Discussion followed regarding the Seventh Tradition. A motion was made, seconded and accepted that the Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer form a Budget Committee and draw up a budget that will include all expenses forecasted up to and including the 2010 International Convention.

Lynn reported the Austin Roundup had positive feedback as far as wanting to get involved in the International Convention stuff. She said Texas people will be having a meeting in the next couple of months to start the ball rolling. Also so that they (Texas) can start putting names and faces together. Lynn will contact us as to which Texas convention is the most valuable for us to attend.

IAC Executive elections will be held in August. Think about it. IAC will be sending out info to IAC Reps (International, National, State and Regional) and others in the April/May time frame. (The Newsletter should be working by then). Ballots would go out no later than May 30th and have to be returned no later than 30 June.

Discussion regarding an active IAC RU Liaison. Hebert had GREAT notes from the conversation with Mark in Toronto and was able to quote target dates and the monies involved.

Motion adjourned at 4:04 pm EST, 2:04 CST. Accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Kevin W.

June 4, 2007

Current bank balance:\$13,937.63
2010 International Convention
Restricted Funds \$1,635.00
Available Funds\$12,302.63

Website Redesign Project Update

by Mark J.

I first became familiar with the IAC-AA.org website in 2004, providing a link to it from the lambdahouston.org site I have hosted since that year. In 2005, I referred to the IAC-AA.org site while traveling, occasionally using it to locate meetings.

As I design and host web sites as part of my business, I utilize two Google Mini Search Appliances on several of my customer sites, to enable searching of large quantities of source material. This device provides a similar user experience to the Google.com website, but on a localized basis.

I realized that my search engines could be used to provide a searchable directory for

the IAC-AA.org site, enabling website visitors to search for an individual meeting or roundup, instead of retrieving an entire listing of Roundups of Meetings, as the site at that time provided. I contacted the IAC-AA board via E-mail, and offered my services in early 2006, inviting them to view a demonstration site I had made using the original meeting data.

After the initial contact was made, I spoke via phone with Marty, Kevin and Stan about the existing site, and how it could be improved. In April of 2006, the IAC-AA board agreed to let me host and manage the site for the organization.

After initially transferring the meeting data, and working on a much-needed Roundups page last year, it became clear that much of the meeting data had become "stale" over time—meetings were added to a large list on the old site, but there was incomplete information available on when the data was added, and who to contact to verify that the information posted on the site was up-to-date.

At the IAC-AA board meeting last year held in Kentucky, I spoke to the Board via teleconference, and suggested a redesign of the site, updating the information in the existing electronic Directory, and to providing a renewed printed version of the Meet-

ing Directory, which had lapsed.

Although the original delivery date for the site has passed several months ago, I am still working on completing the project. While my original efforts for the IAC-AA were as a volunteer, the scope of the redesign of the site was too broad to be covered under volunteer hours. I submitted proposals to the Board via fax during the August meeting, and they agreed to fund the

The screenshot shows the IAC-AA website interface. At the top left is the IAC logo. To its right is the text "International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in Alcoholics Anonymous". On the top right is a circular seal with the text "TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE" and "RECOVERY". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: "About IAC", "Online Meeting Directory", "Printed Meeting Directory", "Roundup Directory", "Contacts", "Email Message Lists", "Newsletters", "Articles", and "Contributions". The main content area features a heading "BiAnnual IAC-AA Board Elections August 2007" and text stating that the bi-annual election of the Executive Board of International Advisory Committee will be held August 17. It lists available positions: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Advisors (3). It also mentions that nominations can be made by any IAC members and should include service resumes, to be sent to a specific address by July 20, 2007. A footer note states: "The new IAC-AA.org website, currently under development."

project.

Those curious can view the new site at <http://beta.iac-aa.org>.

The new site features a new design, done in PHP, which will be easier to maintain and update over time.

As I have worked on the new site, it became apparent to me that the creation of a web-based data-entry method for submitting Roundup and Meeting listings on the site, would be the best course to follow.

In the prior sites, updates for Roundups were sent via E-mail; these updates were then turned into individual web pages by the web master, then manually added to the site.

The new method employed allows individuals associated with Roundups to provide their own information by using an electronic form on the website.

The individual submitting the Roundup information provides his or her contact information, and information about the Roundup. The electronic form verifies some aspects of the data, and then shows a sample of how the posting will appear. The listing is then submitted to IAC-AA directly from the website.

Upon submission of a new or updated Roundup, an E-mail notification is generated to the IAC-AA web master; any neces-

sary verification of the listing data is then done before it is posted to the site. This method saves substantial time, as the data submitted is in a format ready to be served on the site. The individual Roundups are responsible for the information posted on the IAC-AA.org site, and therefore have an interest in keeping it updated.

An identical approach is being used for the meeting data. Our existing listings are unfortunately inconsistent as to form; some list every meeting at a given location in one record; while others leave out vital address and contact information. Additionally, information about the meeting formats, any special focus (such as birthday nights, women's or men's meetings, or smoking/non-smoking status) is mostly absent.

By again utilizing an electronic form, as with the Roundups page, the goal is to have a direc-

tory that lists the same information for each meeting. The Group name, address, and meeting characteristics will all be listed, because the form will require all this information before it can be submitted. Each meeting listing will also show the date the listing was submitted to IAC-AA.org.

Contact information of the submitter will not be listed, but will be used to verify that the listing data remains current. We have used this method with the Roundups this past year successfully.

While there has been some frustration at the delay in getting the new site online, it has been my primary goal to do provide a good product that will be a good investment for the future of IAC-AA.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the website, please contact me at webmaster@iac-aa.org.

Welcome from IAC Newsletter Editor

by Mary S.

Hi, my name is Mary S. and I have the privilege of serving as the Newsletter Editor for IAC's periodic newsletter. We hope to publish 4 - 6 times per year and we hope that you will help and contribute articles,

stories and other experiences with me and with the rest of the Gay/Lesbian AA population. Please E-mail me at moanima-lia@comcast.net with any thoughts or ideas you have about making this publication informative and fun.

My experience in AA began in the San Fernando Valley, California in late 1980. At that time I was having the usual troubles with people, places and things, but especially with drugs and alcohol. Shortly before that time I learned American Sign Language and was asked by my employer to go to AA meetings and interpret for deaf employees at meetings. In my position as interpreter, I translated the message to myself and realized that I identified with all the speakers and others and began attending meetings for myself.

My sobriety date is December 2, 1980. I now live on Cape Cod Massachusetts and my home group is the Live and Let Live Group in Hyannis. We meet on Sunday nights at 6 pm at the Housing Assistance Building on 460 West Main Street in Hyannis. If you are ever visiting, stop in and see us. I've been attending this meeting since 1984. I began to be interested in IAC in 2004 at our South Eastern Mass Round Up (SEMRU) and volunteered to help out at the hospitality suite at the International Convention in Toronto in 2005. As soon as that convention ended, my partner Marie and I opened up a savings account and began saving for the next International in San Antonio in 2010.

It was at the Palm Springs "Sober in the Sun" Round up in May that I took on this service responsibility. I hope that this newsletter will inform more people about the International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in Alcoholics Anonymous and open up new avenues of communication between and among our Gay/Lesbian AA groups. I'll be looking to you for any communication and contributions that you send to my E-mail address. If you don't have E-mail, please write to me at the IAC address and put "Newsletter Editor" on the envelope.

International Advisory Council

By Lynn W.

In July 1980, I found myself jostling around in van with seven Texas lesbians. At 15 months sober, I questioned how a nice New York lesbian like me ended up on that highway going from Houston to New

Orleans. We were on our way to the "Joy of Living" - the International AA Convention. In the winter of 1979, I was existing in the West Village with my partner of some years. She had moved in new girlfriend but I hadn't noticed! My alcoholism sucked the life out of my soul. I was empty. Blackouts were frequent and lengthy. Hallucinations were the norm. I was beyond wishing life would get better and merely hoped that it wouldn't last too much longer. Through no plan of mine, the gift of sobriety was offered to me. I followed this new path because there just wasn't anywhere else to go. I was sober but not the serenity poster child. That first year was self-will run riot.

Through many wild tales involving women, ego and fear, I moved to Houston. My new home group met at the Lambda Center. Those gay alcoholics had a dream, made it real for me and gave me a legacy to carry forward.

Every five years, AA hosts a convention bringing together 60,000-80,000 alcoholics from all the world. There are hundreds of meetings and workshops. The biggest meetings are in a giant arena to include everyone. We close the meeting with the Serenity Prayer and the earth moves! I attended my first International Convention in 1980 and what a pink cloud. My tears began to fall at the first sound of music, I sobbed as Lois W. came to the stage and I whimpered with gratitude at the experience. At that time, gay people in AA were becoming more visible. In truth, we were there from the first 100. It was important to be more visible so that the gay newcomer could find us. Being a gay person is not the cause of our alcoholism. Likewise, being gay is not a barrier to sobriety. Sometimes, we need a lavender doorway to reach the entrance to Alcoholics Anonymous. At the 1980 Convention, the AA General Service Office scheduled two specific workshops being gay and in AA. Leather, lace and lavender spilled out everywhere!

I was lucky to fall into Houston. The AA groups of Lambda Center hosted gay hospitality suite at Chateau LeMoyné in the French Quarter. Everyone had a job - I was on clean-up. We drank coffee, held meetings and welcomed guests from everywhere. People came from other countries. Some people came from rural areas in the US and had never met another gay person in AA. The other AA folks (non-gay) came as well - to meet us, wish us well and share stories about sobriety, gratitude and the convention. We laughed, cried and shared

our recovery. That weekend, I came to cherish some people who continue in my life today. The International Advisory Council (IAC) coordinates with local gay AA groups to plan events during each international convention - usually a hospitality room and a dance. For each convention, the GSO of AA includes workshops of interest to gays and reserves a hospitality site for use by IAC and the local host city groups.

Since 1980, it has been my joy to attend conventions in Minneapolis, Seattle and Toronto but the best is yet to come. The 75th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in 2010 in San Antonio, Texas. Since Texans do everything big, 2010 will be a blast. Join with the gay, AA Texans to host a special San Antonio "diamond" jubilee celebration. Send your name & contact information to IAC to be forwarded to the San Antonio Planning Committee.

Upcoming Roundups

Information on the following Roundups can be found on the IAC-AA.org website:

- "Walk the Walk" Roundup, Connecticut (August 3-5)
- "Courage Roundup," Halifax, Canada (August 10-12)
- New Orleans Roundup (August 10-12)
- Ohio Roundup (August 24-26)
- "Sober Strong and Free" Roundup, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (August 31 - September 2)
- San Antonio, Texas, Roundup (August 31 - September 2)
- San Diego, California, Roundup (August 31 - September 2)
- Tacoma, Washington State, Roundup (September 14 - September 16)
- New Jersey Roundup (September 14-16)
- Toronto, Canada, Roundup (October 5-7)

IAC Executive Committee

Roberta "Kelly" K..... *Chairperson*
Hebert G..... *Deputy Chairperson*
Marie S. *Secretary*
Kevin W. *Treasurer*
Marty S. *Advisor*
Fred S. *Advisor*
Lynn W. *Advisor*

Mailing Address

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