

La Vina

CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

The Hispanic members of AA have a special treat in La Vina, the Spanish meeting in print. It is a wonderful way to reach our fellow alcoholics, especially the lesbian and gay men who may experience the barrier of language. Some Latin countries do not appreciate drunks or gays.

If you or someone you know can write in Spanish, your story may touch someone out there in need. If not, donate a subscription to a prison, treatment setting or group. What a gift of service work. Subscriptions are available for the magazine at \$11.97 or digitally at \$9.97.

Visit www.aagrapevine.org

TRUST the process

Many requests come to the IAC website via the support mailbox. Recently, Jose M. (not his real name) contacted us from Brazil and asked for help to start an AA meeting for gays and lesbians in his country. The request was submitted in Portuguese so we scrambled a bit and contacted Linda M (IAC Ohio representative) who translated the message. An IAC volunteer contacted AA GSO in New York and learned that Brazil actually had its own World Services Office, which has operated for over 45 years.

We were able to link Jose to the Brazil General Service Office which eliminated a language barrier. The group was able to complete the process of starting the group, as well as accessing all pamphlets and literature available in Portuguese. This is an example of just how the process works and how volunteers helped a gay man to start a meeting in Brazil.



International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women In Alcoholics Anonymous

August 2011

Executive Committee Members ON THE MOVE and Meeting to Serve

- Committee members attended several round-ups in the last year to meet with people and hear about your ideas, comments and needs for IAC. These include Austin Roundup, SEMRU, San Antonio Roundup, Houston Roundup, Dallas Roundup, Long Island Roundup, Provincetown Roundup, Long Island Roundup, Toronto Roundup, North Texas Roundup, Winter Awakening, Connecticut Roundup, Big Apple Roundup in New York, New Jersey Roundup, Long Island Roundup, Ohio Roundup, Together We Can (Michigan) and Hotlanta. These trips represent informal IAC participation and the individual committee members pay for all expenses.

- Each year, there are two formal meetings of the full IAC committee which are in person. Since everyone had personal plans to attend the convention in San Antonio in July 2010, the committee was able to meet an extra time. Each member paid for all of their own expenses to attend the convention. The other 2010 meetings were at SEMRU (Massachusetts) in February and Akron, Ohio in November.

- In 2011, the committee met at the Twin Cities Roundup (Minneapolis, Minnesota) in June and will be at the River City Roundup (Sacramento, California) in November.

- With the limitations in our finances, IAC pays for

"Executive Committee Members On The Move and Meeting to Serve" Continued on page 2...

AA GRAPEVINE: Ways to participate

Widely known as a "meeting in print," the AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity, and service. The awareness that every AA member has an individual way of working the program permeates the pages of the Grapevine, and throughout its history the magazine has been a forum for the varied and often divergent opinions of AAs around the world.

The February 2011 issue featured stories by gay men/lesbians. The special order sales for the February issue was over 4000 copies and surpassed even the purchases of the special 75th anniversary issue. Currently, catch the online I-POLL on relationships. There are many ways to share in the Grapevine.

"If Walls Could Talk" Send in a photo of your home group meeting site.

"At Wit's End" Submit a favorite AA joke.

"Personal Stories" Share the journey of sobriety in your life today.

"Calendar" List roundups and conferences in your area.

"Dear Grapevine" Opinions welcome.

"Art Work" Each issue features visual messages of recovery – photography, paintings, etc.

"Grapevine Representative". Carry the message to your group

Grapevine subscriptions are available as a magazine; in audio format and in a digital archive. Visit the website at www.aagrapevine.org or see your local Grapevine Representative.

IAC-AA

The International Advisory Council (IAC) serves the gay and lesbian members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our sole purpose for existing is to provide our experience, strength and hope to any arm of AA when called upon to do so, and to work in the spirit of Unity and Service with AA for the betterment of the (gay/lesbian) members of AA and for AA as a whole. IAC was chartered in 1981 and it is recognized by Alcoholics Anonymous as a special interest group. IAC is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation and contributions are tax deductible.

IAC Executive Committee

Chair	Lynn W.	Houston, TX
Deputy Chair	Mike N.	Big Falls, WI
Secretary	Carol N.	Stoneham, MA
Treasurer	Geoff M.	San Antonio, TX
Advisor I	Robert F.-D.	Dallas, TX
Advisor II	Hebert G.	Providence, RI
Advisor III	H. Pierre B.	Atlanta, GA
Technical Liaison	Gary C.	Royal Oak, MI

IAC Treasurer's Report

Date: June 30, 2011
Balance: \$14,937.89

IAC Donations

In keeping with the traditions, IAC is self-supporting. It accepts donations from AA individuals, meetings, groups and roundups. Monies are not accepted from outside the fellowship (non-AA members, other 12 step programs, treatment facilities or non-AA groups, roundups and clubs). The maximum annual donation by an individual is \$3,000.

Editorial Policy

The oversight for the IAC Newsletter and the IAC website is the responsibility of the IAC Executive Committee. AA members, groups and roundups may make copies of materials for local distribution. We invite articles, letters, questions, suggestions and comments.

Contact Us

Web: www.iac-aa.org
Email: Support@iac-aa.org

Mail: IAC
15500 SW Jay Street # 45287
Beaverton, Oregon 97006-6018

Best Wishes... Dear Kevin

This year, Kevin W-S stepped down from the IAC Executive Committee after many years of service. It was time for him to turn his attention to other areas of his sober life. Kevin served in two positions during his years of service - Treasurer and Secretary. For the 2010 Convention, he served as a Co-Coordinator of the IAC activities (Hospitality Suite and Dance).

His talent, humor and dedication will be missed by IAC but we know he will carry the message in new ways. Our thanks and love, go with you.

Submit questions to the Executive Committee by Email or Mail.



International Advisory Council
for Homosexual Men and Women In Alcoholics Anonymous

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Decision time

As you know, there was always on-going discussion about the IAC name. Officially, the name is The International Advisory Council for Homosexual Men and Women in Alcoholics Anonymous – IAC for short. Named in the early 1980's, it was a reflection of the times and the lingo.

Over time, the frequent questions include "What is IAC? When are you going to change the name?" The Executive Committee put out the call for discussion and name change suggestions. We need to move to a decision this fall (September 2011).

If we are to change, there will be a lot of work to select a new logo and review all IAC materials to be consistent and relevant to a new name with the same mission. If we decide not to change, there are other areas of work that need our attention.

Frequent questions:

1. As a Special Interest Group of AA, is it OK to change the name? *We addressed this with GSO and there is no problem. Our purpose and mission remain the same.*
2. Do we need to set up a new corporation with the new name? *No. We explored this and the name change can be coordinated rather simply with our incorporation, the IRS, banks, etc.*
3. Is it necessary to change the name? *No. Our discussions were the result of the many people who talked to us about the name of IAC at the IAC Hospitality Suite in San Antonio last summer. The general theme was a desire to have a name that was a shorter and a clearer message about us.*
4. Can it stay the same name? *Yes. If we do not receive general discussion and support for a change, it can remain as is.*

5. Why do people want to change it? *Mainly to make the name reflect more clearly who/what we are. IAC seems too vague to many people.*

6. Are there proposed new names? Yes but only a few so far.

- *Gal-AA. Gays and Lesbians in AA.*
- *GAAY. Gay in AA*
- *LGM. Lesbians and Gay Men in AA.*
- *GAYS in AA*
- *SOBER AND GAY in AA (SAGAA)*
- *The LGBT members of Alcoholics Anonymous*

Please let us know what you think by 9/1/11 through the website.

"Executive Committee Members On The Move and Meeting to Serve" Continued from page 1...

only hotel rooms and roundup registration for the two formal IAC Executive Meetings each year. The individual members cover travel and meal expenses.

- Committee members meet via Skype about every six weeks.
- If you would like an IAC representative to attend a roundup, please contact Rob F. via the website. Our ability to attend is limited by finances but every effort will be made.

WHO ARE THESE IAC Executive Committee PEOPLE?

SEX: Six men and two women.

AGES: There are three members over 60; three in their 50's; one in his 40's and one in his 30's.

SOBRIETY: There are two members over 30 years sober; one is 20 years; four are between 11-17 years and one at 3 years.

IAC Service Opportunities...

Volunteer positions are available. Please choose your area of interest and talent. We would be delighted to have you join with us. Contact us to volunteer or to learn more.

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER POSITIONS

- Meeting Directory Editor. Manage meeting information.
- Membership Editor. Manage directory of members, volunteers, and friends.
- Feature Writers new items under development (humor, slogans, monthly features, etc)
- Column Writers
- Graphic Designer. Newsletter design and possibly a new logo.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE:

Hebert G.

Hebert lives in Rhode Island (Area #61) where his home group is Peace of Mind in Lincoln, RI. He is also a member of the Unity Group and RIGAL (RI Gay and Lesbian Group). He has held all service jobs on the group level such as coffee maker, set up/clean up, tickets, commitment bookie, secretary, treasurer, GSR and CSR.

Likewise, he served at the district level as secretary, treasurer, various district coordinator positions (treatment/convention/corrections/Grapevine), Alternate DCM and DCM.

Currently, he is Area #61 Chairperson. Prior to this, his area service resume includes treatment committee co-chair and chairperson, convention committee newcomer's panel chairperson, entertainment chairperson, area roundup chairperson, registrar and treasurer.

He served in multiple roles for the old Boston Roundup and many years with SEMRU (Southeastern Massachusetts Roundup).

His history with IAC includes serving as the RI State Rep, New England Rep (including MA, ME, VT, CT and NH), Secretary, Deputy Chairperson, Chairperson and current Advisor (Member Relations).

He has been known to star as Mother Goose in a skit for the Massachusetts State AA Convention. We have seen the pictures! Hebert is a committed member of IAC and his service work within the AA service structure brings a wealth of experience to IAC.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

- Legacy Volunteers. Preserve our history. We have many materials from the last thirty years which need to be organized for posting on the website.
- IAC Representatives. Reach out and be a part of IAC in your state, region or city.
- Atlanta in 2015. The 80th Anniversary of AA will be celebrated at the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in 2015 in Atlanta. The nuts and bolts planning committee stars soon. These committee members will work very hard over the next four years.

Elections

NEW MODEL OF ROTATION

Over the years, the IAC Executive Committee continues to experience two major, organizational problems.

- Lack of sufficient people interested and willing to serve. We are working on this and more will be revealed.
- An election cycle that rotated everyone off the committee at the same time and welcomed a new committee which at times had no experience with the IAC Executive Committee. To address this, the committee has formulated a new rotation cycle to improve continuity of the work. Newer members and older members bring unique gifts to the committee when working together.

Committee members serve a period of two years. During the elections to be held in December 2011, we plan to transition to the new rotation model. The simple plan is to elect only half of the committee at any one time to maximize a steady work plan for IAC.

In December 2011, there will be an election for half of the members to serve a two year term 1/1/12-12/31/13. The next election for these specific positions will be in 12/13 for service to begin 1/1/14. The specific positions include:

- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary
- Advisor II
- Technical Liaison

Four positions will extend in their current role for one additional year until 12/31/12. At that time, there will be an election for these specific positions to begin service 1/1/13-12/31/14. The specific positions include:

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Advisor I
- Advisor III

IAC CONTRIBUTIONS

January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

With much gratitude, we share the listing of those who helped us to be self-supporting. Many have contributed on a regular basis which keeps IAC available to alcoholics.

ROUNDUPS:

Aloha Roundup. Hawaii
Austin Roundup. Texas
Big D Roundup. Dallas, Texas
Gay 18. New Castle, Delaware
Hot and Dry. Palm Springs, California
Houston Roundup. Texas
New Jersey Roundup, New Jersey
Quest Roundup. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Rehoboth Group, Rehoboth, Delaware
San Diego Feeling Good Roundup. California
Southeast Massachusetts Roundup. Massachusetts
Spring Break Roundup. Phoenix, Arizona

GROUPS:

3-In-1 Group. Houston, Texas
AA "S.M.I.L.E" Group. Manchester, Connecticut
Acceptance Group. Charleston, South Carolina
Asbury Park Monday Night Men's Meeting.
Asbury Park, New Jersey
Ask It Basket. Houston, Texas
Back to Basics Group. Houston, Texas
Back to Basics Group. Alexandria, Virginia
Back to Basics Group. St. Louis Park, Minnesota
BBBC Group. Vallejo, California
Beginner's Group. Houston, Texas
Bell, Book and Candle Group. Atlanta, Georgia
Berkeley LGBT Sunday Rose Garden.
Berkeley, California
Big Book Discussion Group. Upper Montclair,
New Jersey
Brothers and Sisters in Sobriety. Toledo, Ohio
Brothers in Sobriety. Providence, Rhode Island
Came To Believe Group. Houston, Texas
Chatters Group. Houston, Texas
Cleaning House Group. Houston, Texas

Club 449. Kihei, Hawaii
Double Digit Group. Houston, Texas
Doylestown Men's Group. Doylestown,
Pennsylvania
Early Bird Group. Houston, Texas
Eye Opener Group, Houston, Texas
Eyes Wide Shut Group. Houston, Texas
Free 2 Be Group. Bonita Springs, Florida
Friday Night Fun Too Group. Washington, DC
Friday Night S.E. Andrew's Group. Ann Arbor,
Michigan
Fruits of Sobriety. Eureka, California
G.A.Y.S Group. St. Petersburg, Florida
G & L AA Group. Des Moines, Iowa
Gay, Joyous and Free Group. Washington, DC
GLBT and Friends Group. Des Moines, Iowa
GLBT People's Group. Albany, New York
GLBTQ Sunday Evening Group. Portland, Maine
Gratitude All Year Group. Palatine, Illinois
HOW Group. Phoenix, Arizona
Hump Day Group. Houston, Texas
Interest in Our Fellows Group. Oakland, California
I Want To Scream Group. Houston, Texas
Just Another Meeting Group. Houston, Texas
Kane Alii Group. Honolulu, Hawaii
Keep Coming Back Group. Houston, Texas
Lambda Group of Albany. Albany, New York
Lambda Group. Traverse City, Michigan
Leisure Group. Houston, Texas
Light Group. Raleigh, North Carolina
Little Table Group. Houston, Texas
Live and Let Live. Birmingham, Alabama
Live and Let Live Group. Upper Montclair,
New Jersey
Live and Let Live. Paramus, New Jersey
Live and Let Live Group. St. Paul, Minnesota
Live and Let Live Group. Tampa, Florida
Live and Let Live Group. Walnut Creek, California
Live and Let Live. Austin, Texas
Live and Let Live. Toledo, Ohio
Live and Let Live. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Living Sober Group. Houston, Texas
Living Sober Group. Charles Town, West Virginia
Monday Magic Group. Houston, Texas
Mondays at 8:00 Group. Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada
New Group. Brooklyn, New York
New Hope Group. Mesa, Arizona
New Leaf Group. Houston, Texas
Northeast Group. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Nova Men's Group. Portland, Oregon
One Step Per Month Group. Houston, Texas
Positive Sobriety Group. Houston, Texas
Positive Sobriety Group. San Diego, California
Positives in Sobriety. West Hollywood, California
Practical Solutions AA Group. San Diego, California
Primary Purpose Group of AA. Warren, Ohio
Primary Purpose Group. Columbia, South Carolina
Primary Purpose Group. Washington, DC
Rainbow Reading Room Group
Rainbow Recovery Group. Concord, California
Rose City Men's Group. Portland, Oregon
San Antonio Lambda Group. San Antonio, Texas
Saturday Night Live Group, Houston, Texas
Search for Serenity Group. Houston, Texas
Silent Journey Group. Houston, Texas
Sober and Free. San Jose, California
Sober, Proud and Gay Group. Fort Lauderdale,
Florida
Sober Saturday Matinee Group. Baltimore,
Maryland
Sober, Strong and Free. Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada
South Jersey Gay Group. Laurel Springs,
New Jersey
Spiritual Awakenings Group. San Diego, California
Step by Step Group. Bloomfield, New Jersey
Step Study. Houston, Texas
Stonewall Men's Group. St. Petersburg, Florida
Stretch and Surrender Group. Houston, Texas
Study and Grow Group. Houston, Texas
Sunday Evening Group. Houston, Texas
Sunday Gay Men's Stag Meeting of AA.
San Francisco, California
Sunday Log Cabin Noon. West Hollywood,
California
Sunday Night LGBTQ AA Step Study Group.

Berkley, California
Sunday Serenity Group. Washington, DC
Sunny Dunes Group. Palm Springs, California
Survivor's Group. Houston, Texas
TGIF Group. Houston, Texas
Third Tradition AA Group. Grand Rapids, Michigan
Third Tradition Group. New Hope, Pennsylvania
Third Tradition Group. Lambertville, New Jersey
Third Tradition Group. Grand Rapids, Michigan
Tightrope 359 Group of AA. Youngstown, Ohio
Tom's River Thursday Night Group. Toms River,
New Jersey
Traffic Jam Group. Houston, Texas
Unity Group. Houston, Texas
Unwound Group. Houston, Texas
Upper Cape Lesbian and Gay Group. Cataunet,
Massachusetts
UTC Group. Warrington, Pennsylvania
Wednesday Big Book Group. Houston, Texas
Wednesday Night Big Book Group. Montclair,
New Jersey
Women On Wednesday Group. Houston, Texas
Group 134990
Group 697351. New York, New York
Group 1207084510
Group 673370. Chula Vista, CA
Group 4035. California
Group 165618. Vallejo, California
Group 603485. New Jersey

INDIVIDUALS:

AA Contribution. Danville, California
Barbara B. Houston, Texas
Carla B. Houston, Texas
Ed B. St. Petersburg, Florida
Fred S. Stuart, Florida
Kerry W. Davie, Florida
Kimberley G. Belleville, New Jersey
Lynn W. Houston, Texas
Marilyn M. Katy, Texas
Martin S. Ypsilanti, Michigan
Patrick T. Clifton, New Jersey
Scott W. Raleigh, North Carolina
Shawn A. El Cerrito, California
Timothy T. Raleigh, North Carolina
William R. New Orleans, Louisiana