

# **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary archives project**

## **Archives Coordinators celebration**

“60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Archives Project”

On Saturday April 16, 2011 at 6:00pm, a commemorative 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House is scheduled at the World Service Office. The office opens from 1:00-4:00 pm and at 3:00 pm a special ceremony commemorates the release of the WSO mortgage.

A ticketed reception and banquet follow. For details and cost, please visit the Member's Web site.

Archives Coordinators are asked to join the celebration by participating in a project that identifies the registration date of every AI-Anon and Alateen group. To learn about participating, please visit the archives e-Community and in the [View All Documents](#) folder, click on the “60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project” for details.

**Scroll down to the project**

# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project

## What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose is to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al-Anon by beginning a three year Area project that is focused on identifying the registration date of every Al-Anon and Alateen group.

## Who do we notify to become a part of the project?

Please notify the WSO Archives Coordinator at 757-563-1600 or [WSO@al-anon.org](mailto:WSO@al-anon.org).

## Where do we begin?

Each Area needs to identify which groups need registration dates.

## How do we determine which groups need registration dates?

To determine which groups are missing registration dates, simply request a copy of the most current Area “printout” from your Area Group Records Coordinator. Groups without “registered dates” are the ones the project is targeting.

For your review, the illustration below gives you an example of the 2011 printouts:

01/07/2011		AL-ANON PRINTOUT FORM	AREA_ «AREA»
<b>Group No.</b>	<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Status:</b>	
		<b>District:</b>	
		<b>Group Type:</b>	
<b>Current</b>		<b>Focus:</b>	
<b>Mailing</b>		<b>Beginners:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>		<b>Limited Access:</b>	
		<b>Introductory:</b>	
		<b>Language:</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>		<b>Sign Language:</b>	
<b>Address</b>		<b>Member Count:</b>	
<b>Info:</b>		<b>Registered Date:</b>	⊙
		<b>No Mail Date:</b>	
<b>Contacts:</b>		<b>Inactive Grp Date:</b>	
<b>Day/Time:</b>			

[♪ Note: Any group on the printout “without” a “registered date” is a target of the project]

## **What comes next?**

Congratulations, you now know which groups need registration dates.

As we progress, just remember that AI-Anon service is a job that does not have to be done alone. When working together we are able to exchange ideas and share. To avoid becoming overwhelmed, consider asking members to help in the research.

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## **Create an “inventory” of the available resources**

Because the holdings vary in size from Area to Area, the retrieval process is going to be different for each of you. This step is designed to identify Area resources. Interested members that live “close to where the records are stored” can be especially helpful with this part of the search.

## **What if we find a group’s registration date while sorting?**

If you find a group’s registration date during your sorting, just submit this information to your Area Group Records Coordinator.

## **Which references or sources are important to the research?**

The following is a list of some of the most common sources:

- Long time AI-Anon members [Stories or audio from Area pioneers]
- Early correspondence
- World Directories [1952 – 1988]
- Old Area printouts
- Flyers of Area events/group anniversaries
- Conference Summaries [1961- current issue]

## **What comes next?**

Congratulations, you found which registration dates are needed and identified the resources that are available for research.

The next step is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, if you find time to sort the early correspondence and flyers by year, you will find the material easier to use.

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## **How do we use the resources to find registration dates?**

Although the following is helpful, it is not intended to serve as all inclusive. If you find time to tell us of what worked in your Area, we will add the ideas below.

### **Long time Al-Anon members**

Sometimes you learn of a registration date simply by listening or reading the text from a long time member's sharing. For example, when members begin to share, they often begin with, "My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ group."

### **Early correspondence**

Linking a group to the past is often a challenge. In the early years, the use of WSO identification numbers was not always referenced. In order to trace the history of a group, several clues are found to be helpful. Some of the most common are a group name, street address, zip or postal code, phone number, and sometimes the contact member's first name and last initial. Many of these are found in early correspondence. Every reference is helpful.

If a member mentions a group's participation in an Al-Anon event, this helps establish a date. For example, if you read where a group voted to elect a Delegate to participate at the third Al-Anon World Service Conference, you know immediately, that the group was at least in existence by 1963.

Even the words used to describe the World Service Office or the address can help. For example, we know a group is especially old when a member refers to the WSO as the "Clearing House." If you find that a letter was sent to New York, this indicates that the group is at least older than 1996, when the WSO moved to Virginia.

The physical aspects of the paper can also give you guidance. For example, some of our earliest correspondence is found on "yellow or white onion skin paper."

Even the letterhead offers information. A few examples are on the following page:

1952

**The Al-Anon Family Groups  
P.O. Box 1475  
Grand Central Station  
New York 17, New York**

**March 1, 1952**

1961

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.

P. O. BOX 182  
MADISON SQUARE STATION  
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

September .. 1961

SERVICE CENTER FOR THE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

1970

**Al-Anon  
Family  
Groups**  
World Service Office



AL-ANON AND ALATEEN ACTIVITIES  
35th Anniversary International Convention of A. A.  
July 3-5, 1970 - Miami Beach

P.O. BOX 182 MADISON SQUARE STATION, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

(212) GR 5-6110

1980

P.O. Box 3163  
Mission, B.C. V2V 4J4



Telephone:  
(604) 826-9922

*Al-Anon Family Groups (Canada)*  
National Public Information Committee

30 January 1980

Henry E. Griffith  
Chairman, AFG Board of Trustees  
Bedford Hills N.Y. 10507  
United States of America

Dear Hank:

This letterhead was delivered a few minutes ago. I hope it will meet with your approval. When Joanne Borrows and I looked over the notes from the committee meetings in Banff, we concluded that the best way to cover both the national aspect and information aspect of the Canadian Committee would be to utilize the above.

"Canadian National", in Canada, means the Canadian National Railway.

If I am reading you correctly, it seems to me you are staunchly moving me - and other Canadian members - toward a national image for ourselves. Please advise me otherwise, if my impressions are not accurate.

The 1981 Al-Anon Bulletin, for Canada, is at the printers. Sandy Forte's friend, Rosanna Serra (Brooklyn NY) created an impressive illustrative mosaic for us to use in the bulletin. I hope to have the bulk of these bulletins in the mail before coming to NYC January 20th.

Possibly you will have heard from Joanne Borrows about Margaret Suhre's contacting Joanne at Banff. Margaret failed to recognize the expression of the evident group conscience at the seminar and still insists that I "have it in for her". Further, that as soon as my term of office is over, Canadian PI will return to her office. I suggested that Joanne write you, rather than my having to repeat words which can only have been voiced so that I would SURELY hear them.

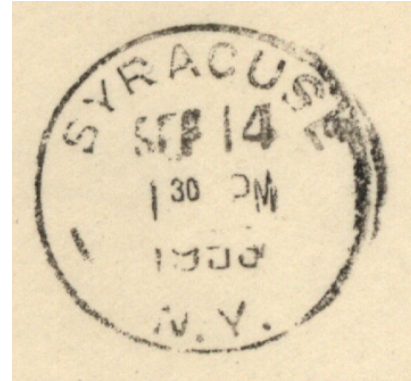
Now that we have this letterhead, I will write Madame Bégin, and other Canadian figureheads. I am excited at the progress you helped us to make.

Thank you.

*Ruth*  
Ruth Hughes - ET Canada West

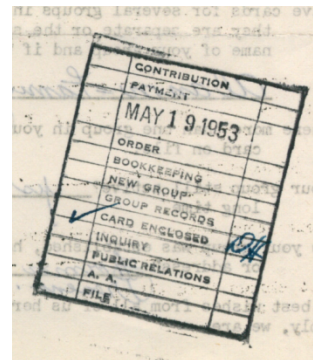
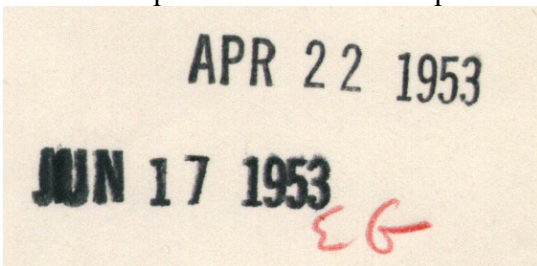
*Happy, healthy New Year.*

The amount of postage paid on a stamp or the date stamped on the outside of an envelope gives us a clue. In the example below, you found that the stamp sold for three cents but are unable to read the date stamped. In this case you need to turn to the US Post Office or internet for help.



In addition to the US postage stamps, the World Service Office also dated the correspondence.

Here are examples of the WSO stamps:



♪ Note

[When multiple dates are found, use the earliest]

## What comes next?

Our next step is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>.

In the meantime, you may find registration dates that differ from the current Area printout. Please notify your Area Group Records Coordinator and submit the new information.

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