

AIS / DISTRICT 12 TRANSITION TASKFORCE

UPDATE

The VC Al-Anon Family Groups met on April 21, 2022, to record the votes of the individual meetings to merge or not merge AIS and District 12.

61% of the meetings were present.

32 meetings voted YES; 3 meetings voted NO and 1 meeting abstained.
91% of the meetings voting, voted YES.

The YES Vote exceeded the 75% threshold required and the Merger was approved.

AIS / District Transition Taskforce Meetings are held on ZOOM every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm to finalize the process of merging the two entities.

Anyone interested is invited to attend.

The Zoom ID is 504 973 4809. The PW is serenity.

Feel free to contact your ISR or Group Rep. or Newt G. at 310-704-9223 or Si-Si Pagano at sisidistrict12@gmail.com if you have any questions. You may also contact any member of the Transition Taskforce, Newt G., John H., Si-Si P., Cindy P., Michelle R., Julie H., Debbie S., or Danise D.

Currently the new merged District 12 is on track to be in operation January 1, 2023.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 UPDATE

General Update

The Transition Taskforce held its ninth meeting on September 15, 2022.

The administrative Bylaws have been finalized and will be voted on by the AIS ISRs at the AIS General Meeting on October 20, 2022. All are invited to attend.

A copy of the proposed revised Bylaws is posted on the Website. Approval of the revised Bylaws will allow for the completion of the legal and financial merger of the two entities to take place.

The next steps now are to complete the Guidelines for the service positions in the new merged entity, District Rep, Treasurer, Secretary, Group Reps, Service Coordinators and their Alternates. As the new entity will be providing both the services of the old District 12 and the old AIS, the Guidelines will help clarify the new duties and responsibilities of each service position, who does what, and how the new service positions interact with each other.

The Taskforce will be inviting members who have served in AIS and District 12 service positions in the past to attend specific Taskforce meetings and help establish the guidelines. All members are welcome to attend. We are still on track to have the new merged entity up and running by the new year, 2023.

In January of 2023, all meetings will be encouraged to elect Group Reps and Alternate Group Reps to take on the new duties of each position for a short one-year term. Such term being for only one year so that District 12 can synch its election cycle for Group Reps and the District Rep with that of SCWS. Normally the term of these positions is three years. The Taskforce is aiming to have the Guidelines ready in time for these elections. Note: many meetings will just elect the existing GR to continue or an ISR to become the GR if the meeting does not already have one.

Financial and Legal Update

Once the Bylaws are approved, the AIS (which as a 501c3 Non-Profit Corp. will be legally the surviving entity) will file with the CA Secretary of State to change its name to District 12 Ventura County AI-Anon Family Groups.

In December, 2022, AIS will elect the current District Officers, the DR, Alternate DR, Secretary and Treasurer, to be the Officers of the 501(c)(3) corp. until they can be formally elected by the newly elected GRs as mentioned above, per the new Bylaws. This election in December will allow the merged entity to continue to have officers in the first few weeks of 2023.

See the August 4, 2022 Update for more details on the legal and financial steps to complete the “merger” or combining of the two entities.

AUGUST 4, 2022 UPDATE

General Update

The Transition Taskforce held its sixth meeting on August 4, 22.

The Transition Taskforce is in the process of creating a Transition Taskforce page on the website where monthly updates can be posted as well as meeting minutes and copies of new Bylaws and Guidelines as may be available.

The Taskforce has decided to prepare a set of proposed Bylaws which the new merged District 12 will adopt temporarily until they can be voted on as the permanent Bylaws of the new Merged District 12 by the Group Reps.

The new merged entity will continue to provide the services previously provided separately by the old District 12 and AIS. In general, the structure will be that as outlined in the Task Force Proposal. Each meeting will be represented by a Group Rep and Alternate Group Rep. There will be a District Rep and Alternate District Rep, a Secretary and Treasurer and Service Area Coordinators and/or Committee Chairpersons. The Group Reps and Alternate Group Reps will fulfill the services previously provided by the Group Reps and ISRs.

The Transition Taskforce has voted to adopt a structure like one in use by District 19, where the administrative and governing "Bylaws" of the organization are separated from the "Guidelines" adopted for the Service Area Coordinators or "Committee Chairpersons" and Group Reps and Alternate Group Reps. These "Guidelines" will follow the Al-Anon Traditions, Concepts and Service Manual Guidelines.

The next 2 meetings will focus on the completion of the administrative and governing Bylaws. A very preliminary draft has been adopted from the AIS Bylaws and the Bylaws of District 19 and circulated to the members of the Transition Taskforce for review and discussion. At the August 4, 2022 meeting the Taskforce approved the first few sections of the Bylaws with some additions to be made at the next meeting on 8/16/22.

Following the completion of the administrative Bylaws, the Transition taskforce will focus on finalizing the “Guidelines” for the service position coordinators and/or Committee Chairpersons along with the Group Reps and Alternate Group Reps. For these meetings the Taskforce has decided to invite prior committee chairpersons or coordinators to help in drafting the Guidelines.

Once these temporary “Guidelines” are in place, the merged entity will be ready to begin operations. The “Guidelines” will be circulated to all the meetings and new Group Reps and Alternate Group Reps can be elected. Note, this might simply mean the old Group Reps and ISRs would simply fill those positions if they and the meeting so chose.

Financial and Legal Update

The bookkeeping and accounting systems for the new merged entity have been worked out and all of District 12, AIS and the LDC financial records have been merged into one QuickBooks Online accounting system.

The plan is for the existing non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation to adopt the new Bylaws and change its name to District 12, effectively retaining the legal protections of the 501(c)(3) status but taking on the role of the new merged entity.

The next step in the financial and legal aspect of the merger is for the 501(c)(3) currently named Ventura County AIS Al-Anon to change its name to Southern California District 12 Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups or any other such name that may be decided, by filing an Amendment to its Articles of Incorporation with the California Secretary of State.

The 501(c)(3) will then adopt the new Bylaws of the merged entity and formalize the election of the District Rep, Alternate District Rep, Secretary and Treasurer.

The old District 12 entity will then make a “tax deductible” contribution to the 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation effectively merging the two entities’ bank balances into the new merged entity’s 501(c)(3) bank account. Note: AIS as a 501(c)(3) organization cannot give its money to District 12 because District 12 is not also a 501(c)(3). The old District 12 bank account will be closed. The LDC bank account will continue to operate as part of the 501(c)(3).

Bank papers will need to be filled out to inform the banks of the new name and officers, get new authorized signatures, etc. The tax ID on the bank accounts will not change.

All vendors, including the post office, the insurance broker, the storage unit, telephone services, etc. will need to be notified of the name change.

The post office address will not change, although only one will be needed.