

alaco Region

alamo area council of governments

118 Broadway, Suite 400 San Antonio, Texas 78205 phone (512) 225-5201

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Holidays Ahead—Don't Drink and Drive



Over the past three years, motor vehicle fatalities have increased from 174 in 1982 and 210 in 1983 to 248 in 1984 according to James C. Garriott, Ph.D., Chief Toxicologist with the Bexar

County Medical Examiners office. He also reports that in 1984, 70% of the drivers at fault for fatal accidents tested positively for alcohol and/or drugs compared to 25% of the not-at-fault drivers.

In an attempt to change these statistics, the San Antonio Council on Alcoholism in conjunction with the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, sponsors the Holidays Ahead Campaign, designed to promote greater awareness of the effect of alcohol on driving ability and a host's responsibility to make sure guests are able to drive home safely.

The kick-off event for the 1985 Holidays Ahead Campaign was held November 26 at the San Antonio Police Department Driving Course at Brooks Air Force Base. After the event a DESIGNATED DRIVER drove each Drinking Driver Media Event participant home. The principle of the DESIGNATED DRIVER Program is quite simple. In each group, one individual volunteers to refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages for the day and/or evening. In doing

so, the DESIGNATED DRIVER assures safe transportation home for other members of the group.

Restaurants, bars and businesses may request red, white and blue stickers with the logo "No Thanks, I'm A Designated Driver" from the San Antonio Council on Alcoholism by calling 225-4741. Roland Klar, Jr., of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation who heads up the campaign committee stated, "We strongly encourage alcoholic beverage servers to support and promote this program by extending a courtesy, such as a free non-alcoholic beverage, to the DESIGNATED DRIVER in each group."

CARE CAB service is another Holidays Ahead Campaign effort to increase traffic safety and decrease vehicular fatalities due to alcohol consumption. "Block Distributing Company and Checker and Yellow Cab Companies join us for a third year of operation," remarked Debora Schmidt Orrick, Executive Director of the Council on Alcoholism. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve and continuing until 4:30 a.m. on New Year's Day, anyone in San Antonio who has had too much to drink and drive safely can call the Council offices for a free taxi ride home (to the address on the person's drivers license only).

For additional information on the Holidays Ahead Campaign and on alcoholism and available services, call the Council on Alcoholism at (512) 225-4741, or call the Substance Abuse Office at AACOG (512) 225-5201.

Summary of Executive Committee Action

At the November meeting of the Executive Committee, AACOG recognized LTC. Donald Conkright of the 507th MAST Unit for his contribution to the MAST mission. In addition, Southwest Airlines was recognized for its Home for the Holidays Program.

Judge Sagebiel of Guadalupe County was appointed to respond to the Secretary of State's request for a session with county judges and commissioners on elections. The Committee approved the consent agenda of the MPO including the 1984-85 Unified Work Program Budget Amendments, 1985-86 Unified Work Program Amendments and the 1985-86 Transportation Improvement Program/1985-86 Annual Element Amendments.

Recommendations by the Budget and Workplan Committee were also approved. The 1986 Budget to include a 3% cost-of-living increase was approved. The recommendation to delay a 1 cent dues increase until 1987 was also given approval. Insurance for equipment, furniture expenditures and four personnel changes were accepted as were the recommendations by the Bexar Senior Advisory Committee to fund the St. Patrick's Parish, "St. Patrick's Senior Citizens Program," and the King William Adult Rehabilitation Day Care Center, "Tran-

sportation." The Committee also approved authorizing the Executive Director to contract for a one year audit of Project Free, not to exceed \$7500.

In addition, a Senior Community Services, Inc., "San Antonio Foster Grandparents Program," and a Benedictine Health Resources Center "Project for Training Caregivers of Older Persons," were given favorable review. The Bexar Senior Advisory also recommended the appointment of Dottie Fry as Chairperson of the Senior Advisory Committee and Albert Newton as Vice-Chairperson. Additional membership was also approved.

Continued membership in the Texas Association of Regional Councils was also approved.

The Committee approved a job description for a Youth Coordinating Council Administrator and a Memorandum of Agreement between YCC and AACOG and aggregated a statement that YCC will secure funding for the provision of the administrator.

The Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Alamo Senior Advisory Committee to appoint Leslie D. Thorne to the State Advisory Council of the Texas Department on Aging.



*Season
Greetings*



The Alamo Area Council of Governments is a voluntary association of local governmental units joined together in a cooperative effort to meet the challenge of today's problems

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JTPA Spotlight

Through the Atascosa County Job Training Office, county residents are developing marketable job skills to better their lives and the communities in which they live. Placement and training of participants allows once unemployed individuals to find new careers.

Though there are many successfully placed individuals, one fine example is the achievement of VERONICA MARTINEZ of JOURDANTON.

Martinez enrolled at the Texas A&M University training school in the word

processing program.

After completing her training, she began working for Goodwill Industries in San Antonio. Currently employed in Jourdanton, Martinez is working with the Attorney General's Office.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments congratulates Veronica Martinez and the many other participants who have successfully completed the Job Training Program. For more information contact the AACOG offices in San Antonio at (512) 225-5201.

Airport Study Underway

A PUBLIC FORUM to discuss the various alternatives developed in the AACOG/CAPCO Airport System Study and to solicit feedback from the public is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., December 12, 1985 in the AACOG Conference Room 420, 118 Broadway, San Antonio.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) and the Capital Area Planning Council (CAPCO) have been developing the

study in the AACOG and CAPCO areas. A future shortfall in general aviation facilities in the metropolitan areas has been determined and several alternatives will be presented to resolve the problem.

For additional information, please contact Bill Carpenter, AACOG offices, (512) 225-5201.

HAZMAT Sub-Committees Underway

The AACOG Hazardous Materials Steering Committee is well underway with the implementation phase of the 1985-86 program.

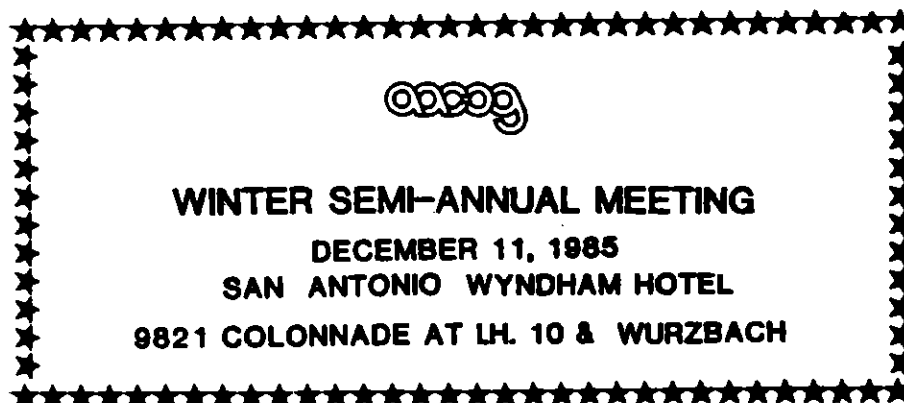
Ten sub-groups have already been appointed to address specified work areas. Members of the sub-groups are from the region at large, and represent a cross section of the various first responder disciplines involved in a hazardous material spill on public thoroughfares.

The Steering Committee, made up of

the chairmen of the various sub-groups, met on November 21, 1985. At this meeting individual sub-group work programs, with time lines, were presented and deliberated by the Steering Committee.

All sub-groups are now positioned to commence the actual tasks in connection with their areas of responsibilities.

For more information please call Bill Carpenter at AACOG, (512) 225-5201.



Block Numbering Areas Established for 1990 Census

The nine rural counties of the AACOG region, Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson, will participate in the Block Numbering Areas (BNA) Program for the 1990 Census. This program will replace the present Enumeration District Program.

The BNA Program will make it possible to suggest geographic areas within rural counties for which a breakdown of census information below county level would be logical and useful, i.e., towns, school districts, transportation zones and other geographies for which population informa-

tion is regularly needed. Local participation in this project should provide for a more successful reporting format than the existing program for enumeration districts.

The maps for the program will be provided by the Census Bureau to each County Clerk. The Counties are then asked to identify the BNA using guidelines for delineation established by the Bureau. The final maps must be submitted to the Census Bureau by June 30, 1986.

Assistance to local governments will be provided by AACOG staff.

ICAN Specialist on Board

BILLIE SMITHSON has recently joined AACOG as the Interagency Child Abuse Network Specialist, and will serve as staff support for the Network.

Ms. Smithson holds an M.A. in psychology from Trinity University, is a certified We Help Ourselves trainer and has been a Parent's Anonymous Volunteer. Among her duties with the Network will be to assist member agencies in the development of interagency agreements and statistical reporting formats which will facilitate data gathering.

The RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE of ICAN is attempting to develop standardized guidelines for the evaluation of sex offenders and recommendations for the judiciary on which categories of offenders should be evaluated. As a part of this project, staff is contacting other states and programs which may already have available educational materials.

Weatherization Tips for Colder Months

During the day, set the thermostat to establish room temperature no higher than 68-70 degrees.

At night and before retiring, turn the thermostat down about 5 degrees. During the day, open shades and curtains to let in the warmth of the sun. Remember to close them when the sun goes down or doesn't shine.

Only heat those rooms in use. Keep all doors and windows closed when heating these rooms. Close all doors and heating registers of rooms that are seldom used. Use door sweeps, towels or cloth snakes at the base of drafty doors to keep out cold air.

Remember that for saving energy fuel dollars and safety purposes be sure gas heating equipment has a blue flame. Do not use an oven or the gas burners of your stove to heat a room.

Arrange seating away from windows and doors. Wrap all hot water pipes with insulating pipe wrap. Set the hot water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.

Replace furnace and central heat filters monthly.

Have a warm and safe winter.



**COLD
WEATHER**

THE AGE PAGE

Several Rural Aging Programs were highlighted during a day-long tour of the northern AACOG counties, when Texas Department on Aging Director BOB BOBBITT and JAMES GRABBS, TDOA Public Relations officer, visited Bandera, Gillespie, Kerr and Kendall Counties.

Mr. O.P. (Bob) Bobbitt was appointed the Executive Director of the Texas Department on Aging in February, 1984.

Bobbitt has over 35 years experience in the broadcasting field and spent five years as the first director of volunteerism working for then Governor Dolph Briscoe.

In 1974, Bobbitt was appointed to head the newly formed Texas Center for

Volunteer Action. He was instrumental in the development of a state network of 24 regional volunteer coordinators and 201 county chairpersons. He was elected president of the National Assembly of Volunteerism for three terms during this time.

In his responsibilities as executive director of the Texas Department on Aging, Bobbitt's priorities center on making Texas a showcase for aging services and programs. Bobbitt is constantly searching for new and innovative answers to the problems facing older Texans and is presently involved in expanding the types of programs available for them.



Seminar on Construction Site Crime

The Alamo Area Council of Governments and the Alamo Area Crime Prevention Association, in cooperation with the American Society for Industrial Security, sponsored the first CONSTRUCTION SITE CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR for the Greater San Antonio Builders' Association.

The need for the seminar arose after thefts of millions of dollars worth of construction equipment and materials recently came to light and achieved area wide publicity. Although some of the equipment and materials were recovered by law enforcement shortly after the items were stolen, there still existed a void in stopping future thefts. The key to this void is prevention and the seminar is designed to provide that.

AACOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UNIVERSAL CITY MAYOR BRUCE BARNARD and

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAM MILLSAP opened the ceremony. JIM B. BAYLOR, Executive Director of Construction Crime Prevention Services of Houston, Texas, also spoke. Mr. Baylor, President Emeritus of the Texas Crime Prevention Association, lectured on job site security, operation identification, inventory control measures, property accountability and the new law requiring marking of heavy equipment. ED SARGOLOGOS, a Special Crimes Prosecutor for the Bexar County District Attorney's office, spoke on current fencing operations and prosecutions of thieves.

Immediately following the program, attendees were treated to a buffet dinner provided by the Greater San Antonio Builders' Association.

McGruff Makes Debut in Region



Esteban Sosa, Chairman of the Alamo Area Council of Governments' Violence/Vandalism Task Force, congratulates one of several winners in the McGruff Poster Contest. Each winner was presented with a McGruff stuffed toy.

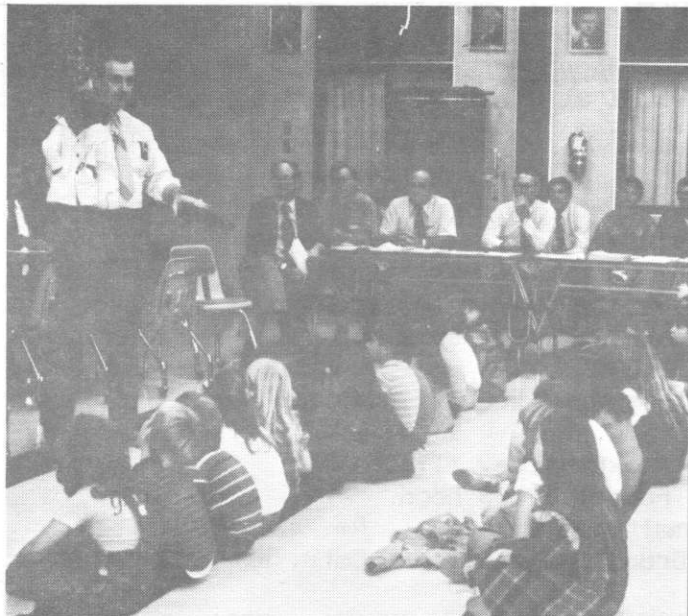
The Alamo Area Council of Government's VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM TASK FORCE, in cooperation with the ALAMO AREA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION and THE SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY will be introducing to the San Antonio area three safety programs, featuring MC GRUFF, THE CRIME FIGHTING DOG.

At the November 19, 1985 meeting of the Violence/Vandalism Task Force held at Montgomery Avenue Elementary School, North East ISD, CHIEF WALT MYERS of the BOERNE POLICE DEPARTMENT introduced the MC GRUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM. It is designed to introduce a McGruff puppet and series of taped safety messages to children in grades kindergarten through sixth.

The second McGruff program, MC GRUFF HOUSE, was introduced by Buddy Lovestock, AACOG's regional crime prevention specialist. Each McGruff House is issued a distinctive sign to be placed in the windows of participants

that bears the likeness of McGruff. It can be easily recognized by children and signals to them that this is a safe place for refuge.

The remaining McGruff project was the MC GRUFF FRIEND program which originated in Hondo, Texas. HONDO POLICE OFFICER RICK TAYLOR explained that the McGruff Friend project calls for municipalities, counties and school districts to place a McGruff decal on special vehicles announcing to children in need of protection that this is a safe place to go for help.



Walt Myers, Chief of Police, Boerne PD instructs class of elementary school children using McGruff hand puppet.



McGruff on school campus

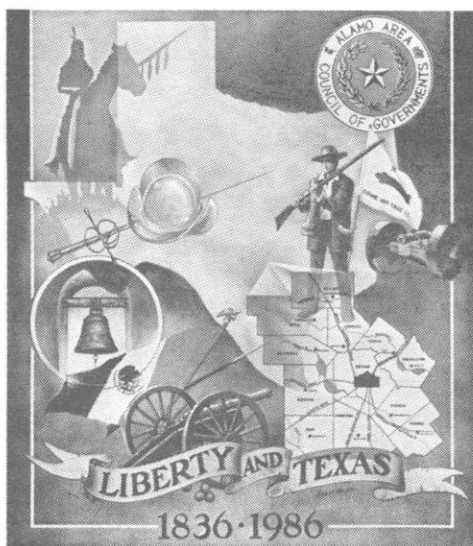
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All McGruff programs are designed for the safety and well being of a community's young people. Although many organizations and programs exist throughout the city, state and nation on protecting children, it is anticipated that a nationally known and recognized symbol such as McGruff, the Crime Fighting Dog, appearing with these newly developed projects will allow children who are in need of help to immediately recognize a safe place.

In addition, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company DISTRICT MANAGER OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS, DORA SALINAS, introduced SWB's TELE-PAL PROJECT developed jointly by the telephone company and the Alamo Area Crime Prevention Association. The project introduces designated SWB trucks as a safe place for children to seek assistance should they be in trouble. Each designated SWB truck is marked with a distinctive Tele-Pal decal and each crew is radio equipped and trained in basic crime prevention and first aid.

For more information please contact the Criminal Justice Division of AACOG at (512) 225-5201.

Commemorative Annual Report Available



The 1985 AACOG Annual Report is now available through the Community Relations Department of AACOG, (512) 225-5201. Due to the limited signed editions by local artist Hobie Welsh, requests for reports will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Annual Report has been produced as an AACOG special tribute to the Texas Sequicentennial Celebration. In addition, the 1986 AACOG Summer Semi-Annual Meeting will continue with that celebration by featuring AACOG's 90 member governments and their historical heritage at a day-long event scheduled for the Institute of Texan Cultures.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Rm.420, Three Americas Bldg., 118 Broadway. All AACOG meetings are accessible to the handicapped person. To arrange for special assistance, call 225-5201 at least 24 hours prior to meeting.

- TUESDAY DECEMBER 3 Open Space Advisory, 10:00 a.m.
- THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 Regional Development & Review Committee, 10:00 a.m.
Interagency Child Abuse Network, 11:30 a.m.
- FRIDAY DECEMBER 6 Alamo Area Senior Advisory Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 Rape and Sexual Assault Task Force, 11:30 a.m.
Domestic Violence Task Force, 12:00 noon
RADAAC Education Subcommittee, 2:30 p.m., Rm. 429
Regional Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Advisory Cmte, Rm. 420
- WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 WINTER SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, Wyndham Hotel, 9821 Colonnade, IH-10 and Wurzbach, Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Resource Conservation & Development Cmte, 9:00 a.m.
Housing Finance Corporation, 10:00 a.m.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:30 a.m.
AREA COUNCIL MEETING, 11:30 a.m.
LUNCHEON HONORING SENATOR JOHN TRAEGER
Governmental Sessions - Liability & Budgeting - 1:30 p.m.
Bexar County Council of Mayors, 3:30 p.m.
- THURSDAY DECEMBER 12 Aviation Systems Public Hearing, 1:30 p.m.
- FRIDAY DECEMBER 13 Bexar Area Senior Advisory Committee, 10:00 a.m.
- MONDAY DECEMBER 16 Solid Waste Task Force, 2:00 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25 AACOG offices closed through January 1, 1986
OFFICES WILL REOPEN JANUARY 2, 1986
- FRIDAY JANUARY 10 Bexar Area Senior Advisory Committee, 10:00 a.m.
Alamo Area Senior Advisory Committee, 2:00 p.m.



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