

## AILG Annual Report, June 2005

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Section IV.3(D) of the Charter of the Association of Independent Living Groups reads "The Chair of the AILG shall provide an annual State of the Association report to the Members."

As all regularly attending members know, the Board of the AILG selects a set of annual goals and, therefore, an annual report is naturally an assessment of how the Association did in meeting those goals. For the period between the June 2004 and June 2005 Annual Meetings those goals were:

- Strong house corporations
- Economic buttressing
- Strategic assessment and clarity
- Productively respond to accreditation, task force report and grants program
- Recruitment intervention
- Educational Offerings

### **1. Strong house corporations**

**1.1.** Began the Accreditation program with two volunteer houses and will be presenting lessons learned and a go-forward plan to the membership this fall. See below.

**1.2.** The Alumni Association is now providing resources to maintain contact with alumni (addresses/contact information lists from the alumni database) and to connect previous volunteers (from local chapter organizations or class officers) with alumni corporations. They have created brochures and posted links to AILG information (the FSILG toolkit), including the IRDF grants information (see below). Thanks to Bob Ferrara for working with the AILG to support multiple initiatives this year.

**1.3.** In April, began the construction the Safety, Licensing, and Inspection (SLI) program described below.

## **2. Economic buttressing**

**2.1.** FSILG Cooperative, Inc. (FCI), which was begun as a project of the AILG is now fully on its own and self sufficient.

**2.2.** AILG itself joined the Cooperative and is outsourcing a variety of tasks to it, such as the AILG breakfast meetings.

**2.3.** AILG Board requested changes to the "FTP" (financial transition program) as the 3 yr commitment ended and future MIT expenditures were being considered. One result was the AILG mini-retreat on June 22 at Endicott House. Thank you, Steve Immerman.

**2.4.** An extension of much higher bandwidth fiber optic lines to all houses in Boston and Brookline was requested and MIT IS has the project underway.

**2.5.** While the traditional IRDF loan program will continue, the IRDF fund has more money than needed by current funding requests and the FTP funding (see above) is ending. A number of parties including the AILG undertook the creation of a companion IRDF Educational Operating Grants (EOG) program. (Thanks are due for the help of Bob Ferrara, Chris Rezek, Tom Holtey, Steve Immerman and the IRDF board.) This new program allows houses to receive outright annual grants from the IRDF based on the "educational" (per IRS code) portion of operating costs for their building. The MIT Legal Department handled tax issues so that the IRDF can accept tax-deductible donations through MIT and provide these to the FSILGs under this EOG program. Chris Rezek, via the FCI, is providing assistance to the FSILGs in preparing the initial applications and the first checks have been cut. Tom Holtey has been appointed as the AILG representative to the EOG advisory board.

**2.6.** The SLI program was begun with the previously documented aim of making this fee-based but cost-shared between AILG member funds and MIT funds, outsourced for day-to-day operations and database maintenance to the FCI, and providing a professional building safety facilitator (BSF) to assist houses in identifying and

correcting conditions that would jeopardize safety and successful inspections. Thanks to the steering committee of Peter Cooper, Tom Holtey (chair), Steve Summit and Bruce Wedlock, as well as Chris Rezek (of FCI), Bob Ferrara (Alumni Assoc), and Dean Steve Immerman.

### **3. Strategic assessment and clarity**

**3.1.** It is hoped that all the other items here are indicative of strategic assessment and clarity.

### **4. Productively respond to accreditation, task force report, grants program**

**4.1.** The Accreditation program described here is also a part of the strong house corporations item above. Beginning during the fall of 2004, the Accreditation Committee (see Charter) met to determine the scope, metrics and process for accreditation. At a formal (breakfast) meeting of the AILG the plan was approved and then endorsed by Dean Benedict at the end of the term. In the spring of 2005, two volunteer houses (Student House and TDC) served as prototypes for the accreditation process.

- Student House received a "pass" recommendation.
- TDC likewise received a "pass" recommendation.

Lessons learned and a go-forward plan will be presented to the AILG voting membership this fall.

**4.2.** The IRDF Educational Operating Grants program (see above).

### **5. Recruitment intervention**

**5.1.** AILG had a visible presence at CPW events including the reception.

**5.2.** Over the signature of Chair Geer and Vice Chair Woodmansee, separate letters were sent to new students and to the parents of new students.

**5.3.** Encouraged IFC leadership in their efforts to have a safe, alcohol free, and successful Rush to preserve the negotiated earlier start of recruitment.

## **6. Educational Offerings**

**6.1.** Treasurer 101: taught during IAP by professionals including members of MIT's own financial operation, with open courseware (TR101) and direct training on Quickbooks. Second year for this effort.

**6.2.** House Manager 101: taught during IAP by professionals including members of MIT's own facilities operation. First year for this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Geer, '72, Chair

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