

# Coming in the Future

At the planning meeting on 31 January, we made several decisions about the future of You Are Not Alone.

Because so few new patients are entering trials for HDC/SCR to treat solid tumors such as breast, prostate, testicular, and ovarian cancers, we are finding relatively few new people who need our help to ease their path through the process. Further, having several groups spread across the Southland means that speakers are reaching reduced audiences.

However, because new issues seem to always be coming up with respect to followup and recurrences, existing members believe they still need to have the group in their lives.

So, to serve both the new people and the present members, we have made the following decisions:

## Changing

1. We will go back to **meeting as a single group** at one location.
2. The **"in-person" meetings will be quarterly** beginning this month with Dr. John Glaspy's talk at Dayna's house. Details are in the enclosed newsletter.

## Continuing

3. We will continue to **participate in the usual fall events** for Breast Cancer Awareness, the Races for the Cure, Walk for Hope, and Silver Saturday for which we will need volunteers. As the time approaches, we will ask **volunteers** to contact Joan Valentine.
4. We will continue to provide a **newsletter quarterly** and **periodic news notes** as research and clinical developments warrant. Claudia Gosselin will be editing the newsletter. We still need **volunteers** to stuff, stick, and deposit these mailings at the Post Office.
5. We have received **support to increase the materials** on our Web site and to rewrite those materials that are out of date. The supporting organization was particularly interested in the "holes" that we fill which are not available elsewhere on the Web. We need **volunteers** to work on writing the new documents and to review the current materials for correctness before they are sent to reviewers for checking and editing. If you're willing to help with this effort, please contact Virginia.
6. We have requested **funding for scholarships** to ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting in San Francisco in mid-May), Project LEAD (the educational component of the National Breast Cancer Coalition), and the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (in early December). **Members may apply** for these scholarships and will be expected to help prepare a report on the meeting attended as well as to help with educational outreach in the coming year. Applications will be evaluated by a panel consisting of an oncologist, a psycho-social professional, and one of our members. Recipients will be notified approximately one month before each of the events, except two months for Project LEAD where recipients of our scholarships will to complete Project LEAD paperwork in order to attend.
7. We will continue to provide **peer counselor training** with the cooperation of the City of Hope so as to continue efforts to develop patient advocate **volunteers** in the Southland. The next time is likely to be in the fall.
8. We will continue to offer **telephone counseling services** to patients who need them. We want to organize a telephone tree to accomplish this so that all of the burden will not fall on a small number of volunteers. If you can **volunteer** to organize the telephone tree or **volunteer** to be a member of the telephone tree, please let Joan Valentine know.