

Minutes Utah Area 69 Pre-Conference Assembly
March 28-30, 2014
Best Western Landmark Inn
Park City, Utah, District 2

Welcome: Wade J., Area Chair – Opened with a moment of silence, followed by the Preamble, Anonymity Statement and Responsibility Statement. Registration information was given. Introduced Area Officers and Past Delegates. Welcomed newcomers to their first General Service Meeting.

12 Concepts: Read by Rich R., District 11

Area 69 Standing Committee Chairs were introduced.

Minutes of the 2013 Fall Assembly, September 20-22, 2013, read by Wendy W., Area Secretary - Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Dear Friends, I am so grateful to be sober and to be here with you today. Welcome to all of our new comers to general service---it's pretty cool to see so many recovering alcoholics committed to see that the business of Alcoholics Anonymous is taken good care of here in the Utah Area 69. Thank you for your service! It's been really busy this first quarter---lots of stuff happening! I have the privilege to serve as Area 69 Treasurer - which is my primary function, and I am currently serving on the Area Finance Committee, the Area Ad-hoc Inventory Committee, and the Utah 2015 PRAASA Committee. I also attended this last PRAASA held in San Diego, California. Our area's groups are doing an amazing job with their Seventh Tradition contributions. We have received contributions from all but two of our twelve districts so far this year. Year to date contributions are \$6,867.39, which is only \$141.11 less than this time last year. The Administrative, Officers, and Standing Chair expenses are below last year's by approximately \$1,850.00. This decrease is due in part to having fewer committee members defrayed for PRAASA on Even years per Area Guidelines. No matter what the various fluxes of income vs. expenditures are, it seems to be that all the needs are met by the participation of the groups in the Tradition of "self-support", where and when, "money and spirituality" really do "mix". There may be some members/groups who wonder why send their contributions to the various service agencies, and what is the money used for? Bill W. writes in our service pamphlet "SELF-SUPPORT: Where Money And Spirituality Mix"; *Footing the bill*- "Now, where do A.A.'s services --- worldwide, area, local --- fit into our scheme of things?" asked Bill W. in an October 1967 article in the A.A. Grapevine. "Why should we provide these functions with money?" According to Bill, "The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office...or the world service Headquarters...Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion---to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength---and that, under our Tradition of self-support, *we are all going to foot the bill.*" We will be talking about this very pamphlet and other self-support service material later on today when we discuss this year's 64th General Service Conference Agenda items to inform our Delegate on how we, as service representatives of our groups, feel about each item presented. If you are not certain of how your home group supports AA through its contributions, you may find some suggestions that will be talked about here, helpful to you in determining how you may talk about the 7th Tradition practices within your own groups. Once again, I am deeply grateful and humbled to be a part of General Service to our local fellowship, and to be but a small part of serving Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole---as we all are doing by our service here this weekend. You are helping ensure that the future alcoholics of tomorrow, will continue to find our rooms and have the same opportunities in AA for sobriety and life in recovery as good as, if not better, than what we have found here when each of us first stumbled in. Thank you again---Rena H. Area 69 Treasurer Panel 63

Financial Report: Rena H., Area Treasurer – Motion to accept report as amended by John, seconded by Aaron. Approved as presented.

Registrar's Report: Sheryl T., Area Registrar - In attendance were 7 Area Officers, 10 Area Standing Chairs, 5 Past Delegates; District 1: 1 DCM, 8 GSRs; District 2: 1 DCM, 1 DCM, 10 GSRs, 1 District Officer; District 3: 1 DCM, 1 Alt. DCM, 3 GSRs, 1 Standing Chair; District 4: 1 DCM, 1 GSR; District 5: None in attendance; District 6: 1 DCM, 2 GSRs; District 7: 1 DCM, 1 DCM, 1 GSR, 1 Standing Chair; District 8: 1 DCM, 3 GSRs, 1 Alt. GSR; District 9: 1 GSR; District 10: 4 DCMs, 14 GSRs, 2 Alt. GSRs, 2 Standing Chairs, 1 District Officer; District 11: 1 DCM, 1 Alt. DCM, 5 GSRs, 2 Standing Chairs, 2 District Officers; District 12: None in attendance; CO Reps.: 1; Interested AAs: 6 – **TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE: 107**

Bid for 2016 Pre-Conference Assembly: Matt D., Agenda/Assembly Chair – District 4 won the bid.

Upcoming Events

Post-Conference Assembly: John W. for Deanna O. District 7 – Good morning, The Post-Conference host committee is on track with the guidelines for Assemblies. We brought 100 registration forms. They're back on the flyers table. The registration form and program are both available on www.utahaa.org. All past Delegates have been invited to sit on the panel Sunday morning. Also, Mike O. and Rod B. have confirmed that they will be our speakers on Saturday and Sunday. If you want to register this weekend, you can give them to Treesa J. She is our treasurer. We need donations of bottled water, so if you can donate a case of water when you come down to St. George, everyone in attendance will be grateful. We are looking forward to having the Post Conference this year, Yours in loving service, Deanna O.

Area Bridge the Gap Workshop: Jo District 8: Vernal City Office Building, 374 E Main St, Vernal, UT, June 14, 2014, 9:00am-3:00pm

U of U School on Alcoholism: Rachael F. Area 69 CPC: June 16-20, 2014, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. There is a sign-up sheet in the back for volunteering at the AA booth at the event. Jodi E. will be the Wednesday speaker.

Pre-Assembly Workshop: Chris H. District 1 DCM: District 1 will host.

Report from Past Events

February 2013 Area Committee Meeting, District 6: Denzel gave a verbal report.

Delegate's Report: Walter C., Area 69 Delegate – “Communicating Our Legacies-Vital in a Changing World” Hello my name is Walter and I am an alcoholic. You have given me the privilege and the honor to serve as your Delegate for Area 69 Utah, Panel 63. Thank you for this great honor of representing Area 69 Utah at the 64th General Service Conference. Since we last met in Salina, I have visited several districts. Because of a scheduling conflict, I was not able to go to District 6. I would like to thank the Alternate Delegate (Doug R) for going to District 6 for me. The distribution of the Agenda Items was completed this year via our area website. The Area 69 members [District Committee Members (DCMs), Area Officers, Standing Chairs, General Service Representatives (GSRs), and past Delegates] were given the location of the Agenda Items on the area website and the password to open the background material for the Agenda Items. The DCMs were tasked to answer any questions on the Agenda Items or pass on the background information for the Agenda Items. This method of distributing the Agenda Items is new to the Area and to me. I hope to get feedback throughout the day as to whether this is effective or not. My wish and hope is to get input and guidance from the Past Delegates. When visiting the districts, I talked about where the Agenda items came from and the vital role that the Groups play in the discussion of the Agenda Items. In other words, communicating through the General Service Structure. I summarized how to communicate through the structure using my own words, however, the service manual does a great job of explaining it. The following is from the Service Manual on Page S17: *Keeping a balance between ultimate authority and responsibility and the active, day-to-day functioning of world services means there must be constant communication among all elements of the structure. THE GROUP: The communication process starts with the group, which lets its group conscience – for or against change, approval of a proposed action – be known to its elected general service representative (G.S.R.). The G.S.R. makes sure the group's wishes are heard and fully considered at the district and area levels, and that they are part of the delegate's thinking at the Conference. After each annual Conference, the G.S.R. is responsible for making sure that group members are informed about what went on at the Conference and made aware of the full range of Advisory Actions. THE DISTRICT: Groups are organized into districts, collections of groups located near one another. The G.S.Rs of these groups select district committee members (D.C.M.s), who become part of the area committee. THE AREA: The U.S./Canada Conference is divided into 93 areas, made up of a state or province, part of a state or province, or in some cases parts of more than one state or province. At the area assembly, a delegate is elected to represent the area at the annual Conference meeting. THE CONFERENCE AND THE DELEGATE: At the annual Conference meeting, matters of importance to the Fellowship as a whole are first considered and discussed by one of the standing Conference committees, then brought to the full Conference in the form of committee recommendations. All Conference members then have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the recommendation before they are voted on. Committee recommendations that are approved become Conference Advisory Actions. After the Conference, the delegate reports back to the area, working through D.C.Ms and group G.S.Rs. At the same time, any Conference Advisory Actions that were referred to the trustees are sent to either the appropriate trustees' committee, G.S.O., or the A.A. Grapevine for implementation. Membership in the Conference consists of area delegates, trustees, directors of A.A. World Services and the Grapevine, and A.A. staff members of the General Service Office and the Grapevine. Traditionally, area delegates make up at least two-thirds of the Conference body. THE TRUSTEES: The General Service Board is made up of 21 Trustees. It meets quarterly, and its actions are reported to the Fellowship through quarterly reports and also in the Final Conference Report. The board's two operating corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., report in the same way. A.A.W.S. is the corporation that employs G.S.O. personnel, directs G.S.O. services, and is responsible for book and pamphlet publishing. The Grapevine corporate board employs the magazine's editorial and business staffs and publishes A.A.'s monthly magazine and related materials. One of the questions that were asked while I was attending district meetings was what are the origins of the Agenda Items? Here is an explanation from the Service Manual on Page S55: *The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by individual A.A. members, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, and directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine. The Conference considers matters of policy for A.A. as a whole, and there are tried-and-true procedures for placing an item on the agenda in the most effective way – or, when the suggestion does not concern overall policy, for routing it to the most appropriate part of the service structure. If a G.S.R. has an idea for an agenda item, chances are that he or she will want to discuss it first with the group, then at a district or area meeting, which can then forward it to the staff member at G.S.O. currently serving as Conference coordinator. An A.A. who is not part of the general service structure can give the idea to the group's G.S.R. or write directly to the Conference coordinator. Whatever its origin, any agenda item follows the same path to the Conference agenda; The A.A. staff studies it in the light of previous Conference actions, then passes it on to the trustees' Conference Committee or the appropriate Conference committee. Usually, the trustees' committee determines the most appropriate way of programming it – as a workshop or presentation subject, a proposal, or a committee concern.* I know this is a lot to take in, so please feel free to ask questions when you do not understand what is going on. I would encourage you to go to your DCM with any questions. However, any Area 69 committee member, Delegate or past Delegate can answer your questions. But you need to ask. Now for some definitions: **Vote (Majority):** Usually formal expression of opinion or will in response to a proposed decision; especially: one given as an indication of approval or disapproval of a proposal, motion, or candidate for office. **Sense of the meeting:** General agreement reached by an assembled group; “no vote was taken, but after each discussion the chair summed up the sense of the meeting”. My goal in comparing vote and sense of the meeting is to eliminate any confusion about what we are doing today. However, some may still be confused, so please ask questions at any point where you do not understand what is being done or why we are doing it. As you know, it is the delegate's responsibility to serve the US/Canada Conference as a whole (Service Manual, Page S48). Also, the “right of decision: is given to the delegate in Concept III (Service Manual, Page 11). So what does this all mean? This means that I will get the opinion (sense of the meeting) of Area 69 on the Agenda Items today and I will take this information with me to the General Service Conference. I will add the voice of Area 69 to all the other voices at the General Service Conference and vote for what is best for AA as a whole (Right of Decision, Concept III). When discussing the Agenda Items, I would like to hear both sides fully before taking a sense of the meeting. In other words, if you have an opinion or information that has not been brought to the attention of the Pre-Conference Assembly please go to the mic and share. Now, news from GSO; the following is from the A.A. World Services (A.A.W.S.) Board that met on 14 March 2014: Celebrating the Big Book's 75th year – The General Service Office is developing communication pieces to be distributed within the Fellowship and the media; preparing displays and presentations, and planning a special celebration at the General Service Conference. Archives – The spring 2014 edition of the Archives newsletter, Markings was recently released to subscribers. Formerly sub-titled, “Your Archives Interchange,” the spring edition is the first to carry the publication's new sub-title, “Your Archives eNewsletter.” Services – A.A.W.S. approved adding disclaimer language about links to external Web sites to the print versions of Box 4-5-9 and Markings, going forward and to the anchor Web pages on www.aa.org for each newsletter in the Web site redesign. Publishing Sales – For the two months ended February 28, 2014, total gross sales were reported at \$2,114,739. 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous – By the end of the preorder deadline of February 28, we received preorders for more than 100,000 units of the special edition Big Book. Preorders will start shipping on or about April 1, 2014, and our warehouses have been instructed to distribute all pre-orders by April 15, 2014. Digital Publishing Program – The digital publishing program has added new titles and seen steady sales. Currently, the Big Book and Twelve & Twelve (in English and French) are published on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Apple iTunes stores, with the Big Book in Spanish to follow. Finance A.A.W.S. approved the transfer of \$2,651,267.03 to the General Fund to cover the 2013 General Fund deficit for 2013. The unaudited financial report for the one month ended January 31, 2014 reflected: Net sales \$1,013,307; Gross Profit (Literature) \$646,329; Contributions \$682,442; Total operating expenses \$1,125,366. Walter C., Delegate, Area 69 Utah, Panel 63.*

Alt Delegate's Report: Doug R., Alternate Delegate: Good morning family my name is Doug and I am a grateful alcoholic. Your love and the solid foundation I have in this Fellowship is what has kept me going through this last week. So thank you all for that, I do feel the love. I had the honor of attending District 3's and District 1's GSR meetings to go over the agenda items. Thank you for allowing me to take that much of your District's time. Walter, Wade and I attended the District 10 Workshop where we were able to go over most of the agenda items, again what an honor to be able to participate at this level. District 10 you did a

fantastic job! The Spanish agenda and background material were distributed to the District 12 DCMC Margarita. PRAASA was incredible, I guess we will be hearing more about that tomorrow, but I want to say that Walter did Area 69 proud! Fantastic job Walter

Guidelines Review Committee: Doug R., Alternate Delegate: Doug gave a verbal report.

Standing Committee Roundtable Discussion/Conference Agenda Items: Wade J., Area 69 Chair: After an orientation, the Assembly broke into roundtables to discuss the Conference Agenda Items.

What's on Your Mind?

Finance planning committee will meet at lunch.

PRAASA 2015 will be held March 6-8, 2015.

Athlene will suggest to GSO that the index and glossary in the Service Manual be expanded.

Wendy re-read the active motion.

Doug announced the Not so Secret Service Manual meeting, 5:30 pm Sundays at the Fellowship Hall in SLC.

Pete addressed the active motion, he is against it.

Kurt announced the Forum in Boise, July 11-13.

Sheryl suggested taking the addresses out of the Directory.

Charlie T talked about accessibilities at PRAASA and announced the Moment of Silence meeting will provide a hearing interpreter at one meeting per month.

Adjourned for Lunch 12:00pm

Reconvened at 1:30pm

Welcome: – Wade J

Conference Agenda Items – Report Backs from the Roundtables and Gathering of a Sense of the Meeting

Agenda – Matt D

Cooperation with the Professional Community – Rachael F: Item **IIA** Substantial unanimity to change the pamphlet

Corrections – Pete G IIIA substantial unanimity to change the pamphlet, **IIIB** substantial unanimity to create a new DVD.

Finance – Renae H

Grapevine – Mark B VB 24 for, 37 against raising the price of the Grapevine, **VE** 2/3 say keep the Alcoholism at Large in the Grapevine.

Literature – Kurt J VIF 2/3 for adding the circle and triangle to literature, **VIG** ¾ in favor of creating a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness, **VIH** substantial unanimity for adding verbiage to the blue cards.

Policy/Admissions – Wade J

Public Information – Treesa J VIID3 Substantial unanimity for creating a new video PSA.

Public Information – Charlie G

Report and Charter – Doug R

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities XA Substantial unanimity to expand pamphlet “Bridging the Gap”.

Trustees – Wendy W

Archives – Athlene M

International Conventions/Regional Forums – Sheryl T

Delegate's Comments – Walter C.

Adjourned at 5:00pm