

Area 69 News & Notes

Volume: Panel 59 November 7, 2009

Issue: 4

Delegates Report

Good morning and thank you John and District 8 Committee for hosting us this weekend. "If there are any new comers here we bid you welcome. May you find your answers to General Service as we have found ours?"

Following a thorough and diligent interview and evaluation process for **A.A. Staff vacancies**, we are delighted to welcome as new Staff members, Jim M. and Mary C. **Jim's** first day was September 1 and his assignment is Corrections. **Mary** began her first day on October 5th on CPC.

At the request of the **trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs -Accessibilities**, a letter was sent to all General Service Conference Members and Special Needs Committee chairs in the U.S. and Canada requesting submission of stories from A.A. members with various special needs. This is the first step in a process begun by the 2009 General Service Conference Advisory Action "that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc." Anyone who knows of such members is encouraged to let them know of this project and, if necessary, help them submit their stories.

The PI desk reports that the trustees' P.I. Committee is currently accepting resumes for a non-trustee Appointed Committee Member (ACM) position. The deadline is December 30, 2009. (I forwarded the announcement and procedure information to those eligible from our area.) The P.I. desk continues to receive questions and complaints

about the use and possible **misuse of A.A. trademarks and copyrights on social networking web sites**, in addition to questions about A.A. Traditions on these sites (**predominantly regarding anonymity**).

It may prevent controversy if we could please check with local Public Information Committees or GSO/ Public Information desk before developing or posting events on these sites.

Publications reported that total distribution of all books through August 2009 was 1,734,512 units up 20.1% from the same period in 2008. Our Mail & Shipping Department reports a savings of \$2,170 from April 22 through August 31 by networking with World Net, a company that provides shipping services in conjunction with the Post Office to get better rates.

Grapevine/LaVina Combined circulation of 115,000 in print and audio GV/LV goes to less than 10% of the membership. Grapevine - New Book Arrival: "A Rabbit Walks Into A Bar" is a collection of jokes and cartoons from the Grapevine. Cost is \$9.95; see Luana our Area G.V. / LaVina Chair.

Area 69 distributed 450 English and 50 Spanish of the 2009 General Service Conference Final Report. Thanks in part to the fine report my friend David N. Area 06, California provided and gave permission for us to share.

Following are some discussion topics from my visits to districts this past month;

- group anniversary birthday envelope
- why we do service work -service sponsorship
- home group service positions
- ratio of old-timers to newcomers

- organizing literature distribution efforts & civic speaking opportunities
- contraband being brought in by A.A.'s into corrections physically fighting each other and challenging staff in facilities- importance of being on our best behavior when attending A.A. meetings and doing Twelve Step work

The 2010 International Convention registration. Within a week, over 11,000 folks had registered. Despite recent rumors, hotels and housing are still available to registrants and rooms are being added as we move along Look for updates on our website online @ aa.org for latest information on this and other Convention news.

PRAASA 2010—online registrations open @ www.praasa.org

Finances

Percentage of Area 69 Groups Contributing through September 30, 2009

GSO 51.50% - groups contributed (same as last year)

Area 69 - 57% groups contributed

257 total groups; 255 active; 2 groups unknown

New Group Registrations since January 2009, the total is 10 new groups; 1 Spanish Speaking- 9 English Speaking from Logan to Blanding.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the General Service Board, I want to express our gratitude to your group for the hours of selfless sacrifice freely given to men

and women who come to your group in search of a way out of the darkness, pain and misery of alcoholism. In the current economy, we understand that some A.A. groups have found it difficult to cover group expenses and also have funds to support local A.A. services and your General Service Office. Please remember that your group's contributions are also Twelfth Step work. Contributions beyond your group help ensure that your G.S.O. can assist in providing A.A.'s vital ser-

vices worldwide. Participation in AA's Twelfth Step is demonstrated in many ways: In the November 1957 Grapevine, Bill W. wrote: "When we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found to all those who still suffer."

Terrance M. B.
Class A Trustee General Service Board Treasurer

(Copied and Reprinted from GSO quarterly contribution report)

November is traditionally referred to as gratitude month in Alcoholics Anonymous and I want to thank each of you and your families for the gift of sobriety and service that you share with me. I wish you a Healthy, Hungry, Happy, Thanksgiving. Thank you for this extraordinary opportunity to serve.

Monte S. Delegate Panel 59 Area 69

Fellowship Sharing on Self-Support

2009 General Service Conference Advisory Action number 7 –request for Fellowship sharing. The trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance

- (1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit?
- (2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?
- (3) The committee requests that the statement of policy "Self-Support of the World services of Alcoholics Anonymous" be distributed as background.

At the 2009 General Service Conference: The committee reviewed the material submitted by the fellowship

and , after lengthy discussion, the committee acknowledges that roughly half of all the A.A. groups contributing is not enough to support our services, yet agreed that funding services through contributions is our ideal. The committee affirms the General Service Board Policy previously adopted which reads as follows:

Self Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous

The A.A. spiritual principle of self-support enables us to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic with a shared sense of responsibility for our life saving work and without interference or financial dependence on outsiders. From our fellowship's earliest days, the expenses of the General Service Office, and the world services provided

by it, have exceeded the amount derived from contributions of AA groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of AA literature. It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a prudent reserve fund. We hope that the day will come when AA groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.

Alternate Delegate Report

Dear Friends,

I am humbled to be of service to you and Area 69. I am learning all the time just how much I really don't know, the further away I get from my last drink! Being involved in General Service for me, is like reading the first 164 pages of the Big Book to a new comer, and hearing things jump off the pages that I know I've read many times before but have never quite heard! So goes the journey of service.

As a Co-chair on the Guidelines Review Committee (GRC), I am sensing the huge responsibility we have in making a thorough review of the guidelines and making well thought out recommendations when they are needed. I really appreciate the commitment of all the GRC members---thank you for your willingness to show up and serve!

Since the September Fall Assembly hosted by District 11 in Bountiful (which by the way, was a wonderful experience...thank you to the host

committee [AKA] "Coop and Crew"! I have had the opportunity to visit Districts 9 (Moab area) and 10, and also had the privilege to attend District 12's GSR meeting with our Delegate, Monte S. Each of these Districts have different issues they are currently working with, but at the same time they are all working toward a similar end...that being---how to better carry the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic.

I have heard it said in these service meeting rooms by people much

wiser than I, that in spite of the occasional disagreements and sometimes colorful "loving discussions" one might experience here, at the end of the day there is only one question that needs to be answered and that question is "How is this [decision/motion] going to help better carry the message to the newcomer?" This is the basic purpose of our Group business meetings, District meetings and Area Service meetings as contained and written more eloquently by Bill W. in Tradi-

tion Five. If we can answer "yes" to this question after all the discussions are had and all the votes have been made, we have collectively had a productive and purposeful meeting and a worthwhile day! (In my book, anyway!)

The Third Legacy of Service is such an important piece to my own personal recovery and I am so grateful for mine and all of yours' sobriety, and for the Grace that has touched

each of our lives through the program of Alcoholic's Anonymous.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this wonderful Fellowship and Area 69!

Renae H.
Area 69, Panel 59
Alternate Delegate

Treasurers Report

My name is Pete and I am an alcoholic. It is great to be back in Vernal to visit all our friends. It has been a long time since we had the energy and participation that we experienced at the Fall Assembly in Bountiful. I can't get over how much we accomplished. The contributions from the groups reflect that sort of dedication to our fellow alcoholic.

I put off closing the books so I could have as complete of a report as possible for you today. It has been an absolutely marvelous five weeks. As always, let's start off with the fun stuff.

Even this late in the year, we continue to add new groups to our contribution list. This past month was no exception and we had a very pleasant surprise show up in the PO Box two weeks ago. District 12 had a group contribute to the Area for the first time, the Fey y Esparanza group contributed and I want to express my gratitude – Gracious. In addition to that wonderful addition, District 1 and District 2 added new contributing groups. That is fantastic.

At the Fall Assembly, District 1 returned the seed money for the Pre-Assembly workshop plus an additional \$699.17 above seed money. A few weeks ago, District 11 returned the seed money for the Fall Workshop plus an additional \$474 from that event. How cool is that!

In the five weeks since the Fall Assembly, we have received and deposited \$4150.

I do owe an amends to District 1 and the Cache Valley Intergroup for not mentioning their contribution sent to us in August for \$410. I feel this is very significant and I overlooked saying anything about this type of cooperation in my previous report.

In the five short weeks since we last met, Area 69 has met it's responsibilities by defraying our Treatment Chair to the National Bridge the Gap Workshop, established a new and more protected environment for our Area archives and supported our trusted servants. We also approved one of the most assertive budgets that this Area has attempted.

As many of you know, we did not approve any increase without listening to every point to view. We performed our duty, as GSR's, DCM's or Committee members with extreme diligence and dedication to the program.

That being said, there are copies of the approved 2010 budget for you to take back with you to those who are not fortunate enough to be here today. I had intended to have the approved budget mailed with the GSR mailings but, due to a miscommunication, that was not done. In addition to you folks here today, District 7 has received copies of the

approved budget. That may be 100 groups out of our 257 registered groups that have a copy of what we accomplished at the Fall Workshop. Please feel free to take as many copies of all the financial information as you think you can pass along to other groups.

I ask this because we accepted a large task at our Fall Assembly. While it is true that we are having a very favorable year as far as contributions, only 57% of our registered groups take the opportunity to contribute to the Area and support what we are doing here. I know that all it takes is for an alcoholic to realize there is a good thing happening here to want to be a part of it. We have set a marvelous example in the eleven months since this Panel has existed and we need to pass this opportunity along to those groups who do not know where, how or most importantly, why their participation in this Area is helping so many alcoholics.

If I can be of service to anyone or answer questions for any group, please contact me.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Pete G.
Area 69 Panel 59 Treasurer

Registrar's Report

There are a total of 614 Groups listed at GSO in their NFV database. 277 are active. 5 are new within the last three months, including a new meeting in Blanding, district 9. I've been sending the newest version of the Area Directory out via email, if you need a copy let know and I'll get you one.

If you're a new GSR and you haven't received your welcome packet from GSO and it's been over a month that you registered please let me know and I will try to find out what the problem is.

Thank you for allowing me to service this incredible Fellowship!

Doug R
Area 69 Registrar

Area 69 Literature Report

Greetings Fellow Servants and Friends of AA!

Thank you in advance to the Host Committee for this event. We all appreciate the time, effort and selflessness involved in putting on an Area 69 event.

Another large literature order has been completed since our last gathering. It should arrive in plenty of time for the Fall Workshop. It's an exciting thing to see first-hand how AA's lifesaving message of hope and recovery is being carried in the various districts throughout Utah. District One has ordered some PSAs and I look forward to hearing how those will be used up north! Thanks to both Les and Frank for their patience in helping this PSA rookie in wading through the different types of PSAs that are available. Yes, folks, there is actually a selection of PSAs available in dif-

ferent formats, for both radio and television. Check out the Literature catalog! I love all the on-the-job training available in this position!

Several individuals and committees pre-ordered additional young people's posters after our Bountiful event. There will be approximately 35 additional posters available for purchase in Vernal on a first-come, first-served basis. I will order more before the end of the year, so please see me at some point during this weekend if you need them. The posters have been a very popular item since they became available and are truly a bargain at \$1 each.

In placing the order, I was informed that a couple of the pamphlets that were updated and revised during this year's conference are available and some may be available in the next couple of months. I hope to

have the updated version of the "AA and The Native North American" pamphlet in Vernal. The order had not arrived at the time of the writing of this report, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed. I hope to have new service manuals available at the next event and will order several large-print copies. Unfortunately, the new CD of the Young People's video project is not yet available. There are anonymity concerns associated with this delay. More to follow on this...

Please let me know if you need assistance with literature items. Thank you so much for allowing me to serve Area 69 in this capacity.

With gratitude,

Sheryl T.
Area 69 Literature Chair

Communications Committee Report

Greetings fellow servants,

I wanted to give you some updates on some of the issues and challenges the communications committee has faced over the last few months. First, I'd like to express my apologies and awareness of the lack of availability and communication from me recently. I've been facing some personal challenges in my

life, including some family and work issues which I won't go into here, but I have listened to some concerns which have been expressed to me and am endeavoring to improve on those issues.

First, I have to express my thanks to the Communication Committee members for their support and help in keeping up on Area Communica-

tions responsibilities. They are the reason why things have run as well as they have.

In order to improve response time and accuracy of the area website meeting schedules, I have been working with Doug and trying to implement some of his ideas so that I'm more efficient and available personally, through better planning and

some routines which he employed so successfully. While my time has become stressed and has been under unusual demand, it is important to me that things are still taken care of. Consequently, along with my own personal efforts, I have been talking with and recruiting some passionate, technically savvy members of the fellowship to assist with aspects of the website which have not been updated expeditiously. They will be helping me field e-mails with meeting updates and documents to be posted so that we can cut down on the turn-around. Some time ago one of the members of the committee had to step down because of other demands of her, and I am confident these new members of the committee will help offset the duties she was attending to.

In other news, we have gone some time now without a repeat of the attacks which were plaguing us last year. Most of the vulnerabilities which allowed these site compromises to take place have been closed, and the website has been hardened against future attacks.

The Communications Committee meets once a month, and has been meeting at the Coffee shop on the

corner of 5th East and 9th South. Because of some health and time issues the committees members are dealing with, we've begun to hold meetings not only in person, but also via Skype, so that our members can meet from remote locations. Skype is a VOIP – Voice Over Internet Protocol – communications utility which allows anyone anywhere in the world to communicate via video and voice with anyone else. If you are interested in sitting in on one of our meetings using this technology, you are welcome to. We'd be happy to assist if you're not sure how to use it.

With the assistance of Sarah L., over the coming months we will be working to move the site to a new Content Management System (CMS) which allows for easier updates to the site. While implementing that, we will be making some adjustments to the look and feel of the site also, but the basic interface should remain the same.

Spam has increasingly become an issue on some area e-mail accounts. I have tightened the area spam filters, which has had some effect on the volume of junk emails being received, but I will continue to

monitor the problem and take further steps as necessary.

The area BTG database was completed some time ago, and we are working with some of the BTG contacts to make use of it. It is a relatively simple, spread-sheet-based design which anyone can use from anywhere. You simply need the login and password. If your district needs assistance with using this tool, please contact Sara L. or myself and we'll make sure you're supplied with correct login credentials and instructions on using the database.

I've already fielded several questions and concerns from members of the districts and area about the website, but if you have any additional questions, concerns or suggestions we would love to hear from you. I hope to make the last half of my term as Area Communications Chair a positive one, and leave things at least as well, if not better, than I found them.

Thank you for letting me serve,

ames H.
Area Communications Chair
801.588.9650

From the Hat - Dollars and Sense

I love to get the latest copy of the Conference Report for many reasons. When I came into General Service, I wondered how those members 'up front' would know so much about what takes place within the Fellowship. When they showed me their method of gathering all this information, I would look forward to each summer when the new Conference report would come out. It also aides insomnia.

The primary reason I await the report is that it contains an accounting of where the money comes from and where it was spent. While I have no delusions of creating a document as complete as the Conference Report, I feel compelled to share the Area Finances so that you may have questions answered with reasonable accuracy.

Question #1. Where does the Area money come from?

Our primary source of operating funds comes from your group – 66 cents out of every dollar Area 69 receives is from a group. Twenty-five cents out of every dollar Area 69 receives comes from other AA sources such as the contribution from the IWF Conference and individual contributions from members. Nine cents comes from contributions returned from Area events such as our Assemblies and Workshops. The Area sets aside seed money at the beginning of each budget year so the events will have something to get started with. At the end of the event, the host committee pays all the expenses and returns to the Area the seed money and any proceeds collected in addition to the

seed money. We have been very fortunate this year indeed with the participation at our gatherings and the spirit in which they were conducted. As you can see, it would be difficult to maintain our work without successful events.

Question # 2. Where does all that money go.

The simple, but not very fun, answer would be to say we support the Area activities. A more complete answer is that it comes right back to the group in the form of helping the group keep in touch with AA as a whole and helping the groups help others to achieve sobriety. I like the way that GSO breaks your AA contribution down into one dollar, so I will do that here.

- Officers Expenses require 25 cents

- Standing Chair Expenses require 20 cents
- Administrative Expenses require 12 cents
- Seed Money (Theoretical expense is 10 cents) Actual expense is 3 cents.
- Archives (Repository and Committee) requires 7 cents. (GSO=9)
- Agenda requires 1 cent.
- BTG – National and Area requires 1 cent (theoretical, actual =1/3 of a cent)
- Communications requires 1 cent
- Corrections requires 1 cent
- Grapevine requires 1 cent
- GSO Conference (2009) requires 6 cents.
- Literature requires 1 cent.
- PRAASA requires 8 cents.
- Public Information requires 2 cents.
- Printing Directories requires 1 cent.
- Printing Financials requires 2 cents.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community requires 1 cent.
- Treatment requires 1 cent.

Contributions, to date, are up by more than 20% over this time last year. While GSO experienced a 1% decline in their contributions for 2008 versus 2007, we have been blessed with increased participation from our groups, other AA entities and good returns from our own Area events this year.

As Monte will report, 57% of our registered groups contribute to the Area. We have had over 20 new groups contribute this year that have not taken the opportunity to contribute before. Their contributions, if isolated, would make the new contributors the 3rd largest contributing District in our Area.

For the remainder of this year and into the next year, I ask you to carry this message back to every group that you visit – when the opportunity presents itself. I offer myself and any information I can gather to you to aid you in this effort. I know there are groups that simply do not realize how important our Area work is to each and every group in the Area. Some may not even have the basic idea of how much they can contribute or where to send their contributions. That has been the case for at least five groups I can think of without falling back to my records.

Alcoholics are the greatest givers on this planet, when they know it is for

a good cause. Time and again, in Corrections and Treatment and Public Information, they have risen to the need for funds to supply basic literature and supplies. I believe in the Power of the Purse and I think that each group out there that can contribute, would contribute as long as they know the purpose of the contribution. Let's give them a chance.

Pete G – Area 69 Panel 59
Treasurer

The A. A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs hospitals or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A. A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

National Alcoholics Anonymous Archive Workshop (NAW)

September 24 – 27, 2009
Woodland Hills, California

The Conference was educational and informative. What an experience to meet new people and share a common interest. Oh wait that is what AA is all about. Well, I attended the first NAW in Akron, Ohio (1996) and I attended the 11th NAW in Phoenix, Arizona (2007) . Those two workshops were fun and informative but this time I was the active participant. This was such an awesome experience and I want to thank the area for supporting this position.

On September 24, I arrived at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel. Two friendly members of AA manned the registration desk. The infamous

map of the USA was there with stickpins for attending Archivists to map their area. It was a great to say Utah had representation. One Archivist traveled from Canada. In addition to Panels, Workshops and Presentations, there were Speaker Meetings. Thursday night was a speaker meeting, Friday night was a Long Timers Panel with 4 speakers, and Saturday night was a lively AA history presentation by Gail (OH) and Jay (CA). The entire workshop was taped and available for \$90. I intend to purchase tapes of sessions that will be added to what is currently in our Archives.

The first discussion was "Varieties of Spiritual Experiences". The common denominator is "Ego Collapse". There is a soul sickness that shows an individual as irritable and discontent. Conversion is the process of change. The book Children of the Earth describes once born versus twice born. The once born are healthy and content with their imperfections. The twice born are self-loathing and indulge in self-despair. The twice born use alcohol to escape from self-loathing and self-despair. The term Agnostic can be used to describe a shameful and weak faith. There is the Educational variety that continues to learn and

dissect until one day it makes sense and all comes together in a spiritual experience. The Sudden variety has an immediate spiritual experience. This individual surrenders personal will and power floods in to take over. Self-surrender is a vital point of spiritual surrender.

The book "Down On Water Street by" S.H. Hadley was written in 1898. Mr. Hadley wrote in this book, "It isn't the last drink that ruins a man, it is the first". I thought AA came up with that statement. Mr. Hadley's son managed for two years the treatment center Ebby went to before Ebby went there. The book "Twice-Born Men was written by Harold Begbie in 1923. Mr. Begbie wrote, "Sobriety means a radically bad person becomes a radically good person".

God is or isn't. You have to leap one-way or the other. Samuel Moore Shoemaker Jr wrote the book "Twice-Born Ministers". He describes Sobriety as a train station. Imagine you are sitting in a train station and think you're traveling. However, to be traveling, first you have to get on the train. In the book "The Tail of the Comet" by Frank Buchman, the Virginian is the code name for Samuel Moore Shoemaker Jr. Frank Buchman was the founder of the Oxford Group. Alcohol in Latin is Spiritus. You need the spirit of faith to fight the spirits of alcohol.

Frank Buchman, Bill Wilson, and Marty Mann were all of the Sudden Variety. An immediate spiritual experience overcame them. Samuel Moore Shoemaker Jr., Bob Smith and Ebby were all of the Educational Variety and did not have an immediate spiritual experience. January 1968 Grapevine, Bill wrote about the Divine Gift as a transforming experience.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with an Archive Workshop. Archive's is a process to preserve our past so we do not forget where we came from. It educates us in the chain of events that formed our beginnings so we can appreciate what we have today.

Preservation & Conservation.

September 25, 2009.

We were fully underway in our educational experience. The topic was Preservation & Conservation. One way to protect paper documents is to use Acid Free sheet protectors and keep the document out of direct light. Acid Free boxes are ideal for storing files of papers. The optimum storage conditions for a stable environment are a constant 68-70 degrees and 40-50 percent humidity. It is important to maintain a stable environment to prevent the growth of mold, mildew and other bacteria. *I am so excited Area 69 Archives will be moving to a climate-controlled environment because we have a lot of paper documents. YEAH FOR US!

Perry D., the Archivist from Arkansas instructed the group on "Pests: Identification and Control". Even using Acid Free sheet protectors and Acid Free boxes, documents need to be monitored for pests. Hardware stores have glue traps that work well with little pests. Beetles love paper products and leave a powder dust where they habitate. Look in your books because they will eat the pages. Silver Fish also eat paper products. The Booklouse is another pest that loves to eat books and paper. Don't forget Cockroaches. These pests hide in dark moist areas. They leave their feces everywhere they congregate. Yuck! Mice are common pests that also leave their droppings and urine where they travel. They also eat into wires.

In the fight for prevention of pest invasion, clean all incoming materials. Store the materials in a hostile pest environment. This means keeping conditions such as temperature, moisture, air circulation and light conditions at a level that doesn't invite pests. Keep the area vacuumed so crumbs, hair, and lint are not present. If you have a structure for your archives, use landscaping that is not attractive to beetle, silverfish, mice and cockroaches. This will also assist in preventing migration of pests. Don't forget to check documents or materials for mold. For additional information, check the following websites:

www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications, www.museumpests.net, www.nedcc.org. Questions you can ask yourself. How do pests enter the storage facility? Is there a water source nearby? Is there a food source nearby: such as sugar, salt, bird eggs, etc? Keep aerosols used by exterminators to a minimum.

One method used to protect books is a method called Flash Freeze. You place a book in a zip-lock baggie. Place the same book in a second zip-lock baggie the opposite from the first zip-lock baggie. Freeze for 6 months. This will kill any pests in the paper or on the pages. The difficult part of the Flash Freeze is monitoring the defrost process. You do not want to create moisture on the book when you thaw it out. Moisture will promote the growth of mold and mildew.

Staples must be removed from all paper documents because they will rust. We all had an opportunity to apply this process. First you use a lifting knife or spatula blade. Lift the edges of the staple and cut off these edges with nippers. Then you can use the lifting knife to remove the flat end that is left. We also learned to bind them. We used twine that was pulled over a cube of beeswax. It was quite exciting to participate. I can't wait to show the Correction Standing Chair in District 7. I always thought you just ripped staples out and sometimes the paper got torn. There is a better way to treat paper documents so they will last longer.

REMINDER: Preservation is a slow, time-consuming process. BE PATIENT.

DO NOT use scotch tape. Scotch tape creates a chemical reaction that destroys paper by actually producing burns. Lighter fluid will remove the scotch tape. Lightly rub with a soaked Q-tip. The lighter fluid dries quickly and doesn't leave a residue.

Methylcellulose is a combination of chemicals that relaxes the fibers in a paper document so any or all

creases can be removed. Creases can also be removed using a humidification chamber. You can create a humidification chamber by filling a cake pan with a little water. Then place a smaller cake pan inside the water and lay the paper in the pan with no water. Cover with a sheet of wax paper and the creases should relax and be removed.

To repair a tear in paper you will need a Bone Folder (can be bamboo) and Filmoplast (which is archival safe). Replace the paper tear so the edges are on the right sides. Tear a tiny piece of the Filmoplast and lay over the tear. Use a small watercolor paintbrush to apply sealant. Use the Bone Folder to smooth and remove air bubbles. NOTE: torn sides work better than straight edges on the Filmoplast.

ORDERING SUPPLIES: Purchase or shop for Acid Free because Archival Safe isn't always Acid Free.

Next we learned to De-Acidify paper documents for preservation. An inexpensive pen can be purchased that tests paper (in a small corner) for PH content. Acid must be removed from paper documents before storage. Use a buffer sheet between sheets such as on a book. When this process is complete, it will be necessary to wear cotton gloves for viewing or reading the documents or books. *This can be an expensive process.

Archives are spiritual. It is vital that Archivists maintain integrity of the materials. We are not collectors; we collect stuff. Archivists don't rotate because of the necessity to maintain consistency and integrity from one generation to the next. The Archivist challenge is to postulate anonymity. Use displays as an attraction. NAW has generated interest in the service structure resulting in the creation of the Archive Workbook and a Conference Committee. Archives are not everything to everybody. The Archive Committee is the last to come of age in AA.

RONALD REAGAN MUSEUM
ARCHIVIST: Mike Dugan.

President Reagan was the first president under the Freedom Information Act. This meant that every document that crossed his desk had to be preserved for viewing by the public. Remember, he was the first president after Watergate. The museum has 60 primary categories. There are 3,000 secondary categories. It also has 700 personal holdings, i.e. Oliver North, etc. There are 1.5 million photographs. The photos are on a retrieval numbering system and catalog who is in the photo. The facility has a research area available to the general public. If you go to the website, the items in bold are available for research. They receive requests for Non-Classified and Classified items.

The museum doesn't rely upon CD's for storage because they are not recognized by the National Archives as a stable storage device. Media storage devices are constantly updated and it is impossible to keep pace with the necessary new equipment to read each type of media.

They do keep and preserve all documents but do not copy or duplicate.

The pages in the President Reagan's personal diaries were removed that referred to National Security items. The diaries were rebound and the removed pages secured. When the removed pages are no longer a threat to national security, they will be put back in and the diaries rebound once more. I found this particularly interesting because it reminded me of items that are donated to Area 69 Archives. There can be stipulations that an item not be displayed for a certain number of years. Essentially, being removed and secured until such a time as they can be displayed and/or copied.

The largest item at the museum isAir Force One. It is on loan from the Air Force. The oddest item is a portrait of Ronald Reagan presented to him from India and done all in butterfly wings.

NAAAW Open Mike.

- Discussed a central location for Archivists at the World International 2010.
- Discussed storage, databasing, techniques, medias, etc.
- Also, the need to communicate with each other and GSO.
- Also, an upcoming Anonymity Protected Catalog that archivists can access themselves!!
- Archivists have brought stuff with them that pertains to another area and they wish to pass it on.

GSO Archivist: Michelle Mirza.

Michelle Mirza is the Archivist at General Service Office. She reminded us, first that there are a lot of us and only one of her. Michelle's team consists of Steven D'Avria, Svetlana Goryacheva, Noela Jordan, and Rose Hendrichs. Michelle wanted to clear up one misunderstanding that the fellowship has about when or how a request is denied. One reason for a denied request is when a request may include photos of personal correspondence not owned by GSO but the copyrights are owned by an individual and the Archives must preserve the anonymity of the family member or members.

Archives mean the process to Gather, Organize, Catalog, Research, Preserve and Store. Archives helps the fellowship maintain the integrity of the facts from being distorted.

Michelle stated the Archive Workbook is on the website in Spanish and French. I am hoping to print one off for the Fourth Annual Spanish Convention in October, 2009.

GSO Archives was opened November 3, 1975. Nell Wing is considered AA's first Archivist. Nell lived from 1917 to 2007. Ruth Hock was AA's first secretary.

Dr Bob and the Good Old Timers donated to GSO Archives. Michelle read the story "Found at Flea Market" in Markings: the Archive newsletter. A member visiting family in Texas took a side trip to a big flea market in Canton, TX. Browsing, this member noticed a dark blue leather-bound book and was excited

when reading the title: Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers. Inside was a letter from Bob P., the former general manager of GSO in New York, presenting an advance copy to the parents of the author. It is the only book of its kind! The vendor purchased it at an estate sale. He sold it for \$10. The member contacted the Archive Committee in Rochester, NY. The delegate then presented the book to the Archives at GSO in New York. The book has come full circle and now is back home!

Michelle provided a power point presentation with photos of the GSO Archive storage area or better known as the "Vault". Wow! The shelves are lopsided and sloping. Some shelves are leaning so much that the boxes are sloping down. So, they are in the process of remodeling. Truly, not a moment too soon.

ICYPAA donated part of their archives to GSO. Currently, this display can be seen at GSO and will remain on display through 2010. ICYPAA will be held in New York during 2010. I thought this was very exciting!! Also, the ICYPAA Archive Chairperson is now on Area 60 Archives Committee (Georgia). The NAAAW will be hosted by Macon, GA in 2010 and Helena, MT in 2011.

One question Area 69 Archive roundtable had was is there a way to create a webpage listing all the Area Archivists? Michelle reported that she had tried to contact all the Area Archivists but she didn't get very far with the email addresses. So, Area 69, this is something that GSO is working on.

Collecting Histories, Oral & Written. September 26, 2009.

This discussion actually took a major part of the day with a lot of questions and visual displays. When it comes to collecting histories, about 5 % of the people do 100 % of the work. Group histories, should include who started the group and when. Include any historical facts. GSO has when groups were registered but not always the date they

were formed or who the members were.

Histories used to be collected on cassette tapes and then transcribed onto paper copies. These oral histories need to be stored on Acid Free paper and stored in Acid Free boxes for optimum preservation.

- One Louisiana group history. A new member had to go through the first 5 steps with a sponsor in 28 days even if this meant they had to take time off work. The sponsor, at the end of the 28 days, would petition the group on behalf of the new member. The group would vote on whether the new person could become a member and attend that meeting/group.

It has been found that when collecting histories from Old-timers that they don't really trust younger members in terms of stability, anonymity and longevity. A lot of the time these Old-timers will only talk to other Old-timers.

One tool that has become very useful is MP3 players. These are compact and very useful when collecting a long history. This useful tool is easy to travel with and there are no cassette tapes or bulky recorders. The history can easily be downloaded to a computer and burned onto a C.D. or a flip-video. The history can also be downloaded to a flash drive in turn providing one more copy of the history. It is also possible to store on a zip drive or external hard drive. The program to download is Real Audio.

What and How to Collect Archives.

Gently collect archives. Explain and educate the general fellowship what is history. Archives is "inclusive never exclusive". Share the passion we feel for the history of AA.

Understand that families don't always pass along items for donation and that is their right. Inform groups and members that items they want donated should be marked so that AA Ghouls (collectors not archivists) don't read the newspaper and call a grieving family pretending to be an

archivist willing to collect and protect items that later are sold on eBay. Inventory donated items so that the relevance of the item is not lost.

GSO is looking at a self-guided tour that members can access for viewing archives on the internet or use when they visit the GSO Archives.

Digital Archives.

Digital Archives is a great way to store a lot of media in compressed folders and records. However, more than one copy should be kept of each item because the shelf life is roughly 7 years. Another problem with Digital Archives is obsolescence. In recent years we have gone from 8-track tapes, cassette tapes, media cards, MP3 players, zip drives, external hard drives, flash drives, and microfilm. Technology is constantly progressing and the equipment to use each new media also needs upgrading. This can be costly.

A Digital Library is an excellent system for retrieval with the necessary required equipment. It can assist with video displays and power point presentations.

A Digital History Presentation.

December 11, 1934 Bill's sobriety date.

January 24, 1971 Bill dies with 36 years sobriety.

October 5, 1988 Lois died.

June 10, 1935 Dr. Bob's sobriety date. (6-17-35 is the recorded date).

November 16, 1950 Dr. Bob died with 15 years sobriety.

1937 AA separated from the New York Oxford Group.

April 1938 Big Book Begins.

1939-1955 First printing of Big Book sold 300,000 copies.

1955-1976 Second printing of Big Book sold 1,150,000 copies.

1976-2002 Third printing of Big Book sold 19,550,000 copies.

2002- Fourth printing of Big Book expected to sell 50th millionth copy this year.

July 27, 1938 Dr. Silkworth wrote "The Doctor's Opinion".	April 1945 Earl T. comprised The Traditions. A summary of all requirements from active groups.	"We think that the Grapevine out to become the 'voice of Alcoholics Anonymous,' bringing us news of each other across great distances, and always describing what can be freshly seen in that vast and life-giving pool we call 'AA Experience'. Never taking part in the controversial issues of religion, reform, or politics, ever seeking profit, never lending itself to commerce or propaganda, always mindful of our sole aim to carry the AA message to those who suffer alcoholism—such is our idea for the Grapevine."
September 1938 Bill formed Works Publishing. April 1959 became AAWS.	August 1945 Grapevine prints Bill's Article.	
July 1953 Grapevine article. (The FBI had a magazine called The Grapevine so we had to change our publication to just Grapevine.	April 1946 The Long Form of the Traditions.	
December 1938 Twelve Steps (Pass It On pg. 198-199)	November 1949 The Short Form of the Traditions.	
January 1938 The ideas are formed for "God As We Understood Him" and "Power Greater Than Ourselves".	July 28, 1950 First National Convention.	
January 1938 First Class A Trustee becomes chairman.	April 20-22, 1951 First General Service Conference of Delegates.	I loved this passage. I substituted the word Archives in place of Grapevine. I want to say that to me Archives is an emotional journey. It means bringing each member news across the great distance of time. It shares 'AA Experience' with newcomers and long-timers. Archives never takes part in controversial issues and is always mindful of our sole aim to carry the AA message. Reminding us of those that came before us and how we arrived at the place we are today.
April 10, 1939 Bill prints the Big Book and says "use thick paper so the alcoholic gets his money worth. The book sold for \$3.50. The dust jacket colors are "Circus Colors".	April 1962 First woman Class B Trustee.	
March 1941 Second printing of the Big Book.	November 1975. Lois W. and Tom S. officially open the A.A. Archives at G.S.O.	
June 1941 Discovery of the Serenity Prayer.	2003 Experience Strength and Hope printing of all stories from the first three Big Books.	
June 1944 publishing of Grapevine. Cost \$1.50.	In ending.....	In Gratitude, Treesa J, Area 69 Archive Standing Chair
	The Language Of The Heart, pg. 389 December 1946 Bill W. wrote in an article for the Grapevine.	

Remaining Panel 59 Events

December 5, 2009	Area Committee Meeting	District 2
February 27, 2010	Area Committee Meeting	District 6
March 5-7, 2010	PRAASA	Los Angeles CA
April 2-4, 2010	Pre-Conference Assembly	District 10
April 18-24, 2010	60th General Service Conference	Rye, NY
May 14-16, 2010	Post-Conference Assembly	District 2
June 19-25 2010	Utah School on Alcoholism	U of U, SLC
June 19, 2010	Utah Bridge the Gap Workshop	District 3
July 1-4, 2010	International Convention	San Antonio, TX
August 14-15, 2010	Pre-Assembly Workshop	District 3
August 27-29, 2010	Pacific Regional Forum	Torrance, CA
September 24-26, 2010	Fall Elections Assembly	District 6
September 24-26, 2010	25th A.A.W.S.- Intergroup Seminar	St. Louis, Missouri
September, 2010	National Bridge the Gap Workshop	TBA
November 6-7, 2010	Fall Workshop	TBA
December 4, 2010	Area Committee Meeting	TBA