

Minutes Utah Area 69 December Committee Meeting December 4, 2010
Triangle House, 84 West 100 South
Moab, Utah District 9

Welcome Charlie G., Chair – with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Anonymity Statement. Welcome newcomers to their first General Service Meeting.

Minutes of the “Fall Workshop” November 6 and 7, 2010 – Walter C., Area Secretary – Approved as read.

Financial Report – Pete G., Treasurer, Approved as read.

Delegate Report – Monte S. – Thank you Moab Group for hosting us today - it has been several years since the area committee has had the opportunity to share with our friends in this district and we are delighted to be here. The Holiday Edition of Box 459 has three calls for stories that may be considered for inclusion in new or existing literature. The first request is for sharing focused on spirituality from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in A.A. The trustees are looking for stories that reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences from A.A. members who with any belief or non-belief have found solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous. Next, personal stories are being sought that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies. There is an interesting article from the GSO contributions department supervisor, Constance I. She tells of a recent contribution received from a son on behalf of his father, who had gotten sober in A.A. “The son wanted us to know that the Fellowship had done wonders for his father and he hoped the money from his father’s estate would help us ‘continue the good work’ we’ve been doing.” The check was returned along with a kind and grateful letter from a GSO staff member describing A.A.’s Seventh Tradition and explaining the spiritual benefits of self-support. The check, however, was for \$100,000. The trustee’s Literature Committee is seeking stories from A.A. members in response to the 2010 General Service Conference Advisory Action to update the pamphlet ‘A.A. and the Armed Services’ to include recent experiences from members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services. The anonymity of all authors will be observed. Please contact me if you would like additional information on how to submit your manuscripts. Since our last meeting in Sunset, Utah the pace has finally begun to subside. The phone doesn’t ring as often, the e mails have slowed to a manageable rate and the demands on my time have noticeably decreased. However; I was able to attend the District 8 elections in Roosevelt, Utah where they were able to fill all of their positions except for literature. On November 12-14, 2010, I was fortunate to be able to meet Keith M., Area 69 Delegate elect, in Rapid City, South Dakota for the West Central “Additional” Regional Forum. Rod B., Pacific Regional Trustee chaired the workshop on “Native Americans in A.A.” Rod began the workshop by sharing his experience with the Sweat lodge and Medicine Man and their relationship to A.A.’s spiritual principles as outlined in the Twelve Steps; Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service.” We learned that the suicide rate for young Native Americans is the highest on this continent and the young people are not interested in A.A. Members talked about wide spread poverty, remote isolation, dual cultures and the combined effects alcoholism has on native communities. South Dakota is home to the poorest County in the United States. Several members described the difficulty of overcoming prejudice saying that ancestors from Wounded Knee and Little Big Horn conflicts still live in the area. Members shared that the solution to alcoholism remains the same and we were reminded to keep the A.A. message simple, focused on human beings not cultures or religions. The discussions about cultural, geographical and language barriers from members of Crow, Navajo, Cherokee, Cheyenne and Lakota tribes was, as Phyllis H., the GSO General Manager described, “A powerful time of sharing our unity.” There were over 200 members in attendance. This is my last report to area 69 as your delegate. This afternoon we begin the process of rotation. For me, it will be time to hand over the reins and delegate email address to our Panel 61 Delegate and Moab Group member Keith M. On behalf of my family, please accept our love and gratitude for sobriety and for sharing with us this extraordinary opportunity to be of service. The best is yet to come.

Roll Call – Doug R., Area Registrar – In attendance were 5 Area Officers – Area Standing Chairs 9 – Past Delegates 1 – District one 1 DCMC, 1 DCM – District two 2 GSR – District three 1 DCMC, 1 GSR – District four None in attendance – District five 1 DCM – District six None in attendance – District seven None in attendance – District eight None in attendance – District nine 1 GSR – District ten 2 DCMs, 1 Alt.DCM, 4 GSR – District eleven 1 DCM, 1 GSR – District twelve 1 DCM, 3 GSR – CO Reps None in attendance – Interested AAs 4

Area Officer’s Reports

Alternate Delegate, Renae H. – I want to take this opportunity to share my gratitude to each of you for the humble experience of serving Area 69 as Alternate Delegate for these past two years. I have enjoyed the many opportunities I have had of working with you. The Districts have invited me to participate in workshops, presentations, and GSR/District meetings as well as "Special Meetings" to assist in providing information and guidance to help groups or Districts resolve issues that arise internally from time to time when groups exercise their autonomy. AA's unity as stated in the traditions is vital to our individual recoveries. The principles of each of the 12 traditions, when applied in appropriate situations, has such spiritual power providing us with all the answers and solutions to our struggles along the paths of recovery. I truly cannot thank you enough for your patience, love, and tolerance in showing me how to serve, and for giving me the " best of the best" friendships I have ever known!

Area Chairperson, Charlie G. – A verbal report was given at the Committee Meeting.

Treasurer, Pete G. – A verbal report was given at the Committee Meeting.

Registrar, Doug R. – A verbal report was given at the Committee Meeting.

Bid for “2011 December Committee Meeting” – Keith M., Assembly Agenda Chair – District 3, Provo, (Mary B.) won the bid.

Standing Committee Reports

Archives, Treesa J., Chairperson – I have excellent news! The Archives was contacted by a member in District 4. He is a new GSR and was wondering about General Service information. I shared District 4 was/had been a dark district and how excited I was to hear from him. We communicated through several emails and it suggested that a neighboring district may be able to be a sponsor district until District 4 can get on their feet. I also informed him of the Area Website, this meeting today, and the next District 7 meeting on December 11 in Cedar City. It has been quiet since our last meeting. However, Monte turned in some memorabilia from the "West Central Additional Forum" on November 12 - 14 in Rapid City, SD where Rod B. was the chairperson. This is my last Archive Standing Chair report! It has been a pleasure serving in this position. Young Peoples video from Angie W. North Audio, will not play. She will mail Monte a copy.

Assembly/Agenda, Keith M., Chairperson – I met with the District 9 December Committee Meeting a few times and we set the place up a few days ago. I then asked Charlie to contact Harry with District 5 about getting the stuff to the next event. Janet from District 7 has requested a meeting about the host committee for Pre-Conference Assembly in 2012 and we will be making arrangements this weekend, I hope Charlie will be available for that meeting. Now for the good stuff; it was my honor to attend the West Central "Additional" Regional Forum in Rapid City, South Dakota with Rod B., Monte S., Ruth J., Joan M., and 300 from the local region. All of us from the Pacific Region sat together forming a small island in the mid-west. I have only attended a few forums; but, this was by far the most spiritual. A Lakota native member sang a prayer to open and close the event. Very moving, not a dry eye in the place, 300+ sober members crying like babies. Rod B. shared numerous times throughout the weekend and also focused on the difficulties of native members getting and staying sober. His thoughts included 1) removal from native land 2) change in diet 3) outlawing native language 4) emasculation and 5) add alcohol. Numerous other native members from the local area shared similar views. There are numerous very poor reservations in the local area, including Rosebud and Pine Ridge; it was noted that alcoholism on these reservations is over 90%. There were many sober native members present, our solution seems to work, at least for some.

Communication, Kurt J., Chairperson – We did have a Communication Committee meeting at Fall Workshop. I am currently working on the a new Area 69 District map. I will release it when I am finished. For those putting on area events, there are three things that I keep hearing about. One, they want the registration information. Second, they want the event agenda. Specifically they want to know what is happening Friday night and Sunday morning. Third they want to know how to get to the event; either a small map or direction. All of the information should be place on the event flyer which will be placed on the website. An email was sent out on "How to use your Area 69 email" to the area officers and the area standing chairs. Please let me know if you have any questions. When sending emails now, the return address will be the area email address. Setup email accounts at the area for the districts. Area 69 email blast can be sent from the Area 69 GMAIL account. If you need additional information please contact me.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Sherrie P., Chairperson – Since we last met I have had contact with an individual involved with a legal firm and was able to send them some literature to have available in their offices. They wanted a lot of the literature for the Young People so I also sent them one of our wonderful Young People posters. As I have been going through the information I wanted to pass onto Wade, our new incoming CPC Chair, I have been able to reflect and remember. I am ready and excited to move onto my newly elected position of Area Registrar, but the thing I have really become aware of through the last 2 years is the lack of knowledge about our disease of alcoholism. I am so thankful to have all of you who are willing to give your time and heart to carry this message as part of my family. Thanks for your trust in letting me share this blessed and wonderful opportunity with you.

Correction, Wade J., Chairperson – Since the last time we met, things have been winding down. I have had the pleasure of taking part in helping several districts to Bridge some new members to AA. I would personally like to thank Bruce on the great job he has done on the BTG program in the Area. We have been finalizing the documents we have to pass on to the new Treatment and Corrections chairs. I would like to thank Area 69 and my Higher Power for the gift to serve AA Corrections position. I plan on meeting with 2 districts at their district meetings to discuss the importance of a district corrections chair. Thanks to all the districts for allowing me to be part of your lives the last two years.

Grapevine, Lauana H., Chairperson – Since we last met, I have talked with Tony D. regarding Grapevines and subscription. Other than that the only things I have done is placed an order, the order will go to our new Grapevine chair (Treesa), and I did an inventory of Grapevine supplies. Thank you for allowing me to serve you these past 2 years.

Literature, Sheryl T., Chairperson – I just made the last literature order I will make as Area 69 Literature Chair. It was a small order and was really no big deal. What was a big deal was the bittersweet feeling that overcame me when I finished the call. I was sad that I would not be placing any future orders, but happy that I will be passing the responsibility on to someone else who will get to learn and grow as I have in the position. Speaking of the last order of literature, the bulk of the order was the new service manual. I have a limited number of copies available for purchase this weekend - both large print and regular print. When these are gone, you will need to see the new Literature chair if you need additional copies! Thank you my friends for the opportunity you have given me to serve Area 69 in this capacity.

Public Information (P.I.), Andy B., Chairperson – This is my last report in the Area, at this time I would like to thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Area 69 service committees over the last few years. I always felt the support and friendship of everyone at all the events and everything we have done. Thank you District 9; I hate long good-byes, so I will say "Hello" as an interested AAer.

Treatment Facilities, Bruce I., Chairperson – Since the Fall Workshop I have continued to put my effort into BTG. As of today it still was not enough. I had hoped to turn all of the materials over to Mary and Pete today but considering my progress It will be more like the end of the year. We recently completed a rough draft of an introduction to the BTG workbook. It has been the hardest thing we have written so far. The goal of this piece was to explain how to use the documents in the workbook in three pages or less. So far we have succeeded. As we were wrapping things up it occurred to us that we needed some feedback from the new Treatment and Corrections Chairs anyway and we hope to get that this weekend. In the process of creating the introduction we hit upon four ideas which seemed to be the success of Bridging the Gap. They fit nicely on a half of a sheet paper so we thought we would use them as a tool to help us understand the process easier. Since this is my last time to officially address Bridging the Gap could we review this short list. We recently met with the SLC Central Office manager in regard to cooperation with Bridging the Gap. He agreed to allow us to use their phone number and address for BTG correspondence. We have been using a P.O. Box in Sandy for the last few years. They will forward any requests to the Area Treatment or Corrections Chairperson or to the appropriate district representative. In extreme situations they will offer their own twelfth step network. We feel this will offer a great deal of stability since our Area network is vulnerable to rotation and changing contact information. They seemed very interested in the coordinators lists we have developed and said as long as we provided current information it would be easy to cooperate. I was able to attend the District 11 monthly meeting in November. It had been a while since I had been there and it was good to be "home". It was good to see the high level of participation they have at the moment. There is a brand new meeting in Bountiful for sign language only. This group does not encourage those who do not sign to attend because it creates too much of a distraction. But that is probably why we have so many "special interest" groups in the first place. The irony is that just days before I had given a set of Big Book and 12 X 12 VHS tapes recoded in ASL to Janet H. for the archives. She has returned them today and with your permission we would like to donate them from the Area to this group. I was told they would be greatly appreciated. I discovered that people who depend on sign language often have challenges with reading skills. It is difficult to tell someone who depends on sign language to just go read the book. The treatment facility inventory is still in progress. I recently discovered there are 125 substance abuse facilities in Utah. We are in the process of sorting out and evaluating our relationships and responsibilities. Hopefully by the end of the year we can turn over a clear picture of our activities to the new Treatment committee.

District Reports

District 1 – Teddy H., DCMC: During our November district meeting Mike & Shirley visited our gathering to help us with a district inventory. We were blessed to have them at the meeting and have them share their wisdom with us. Financially District One is sound. Last month our budget committee met to create the budget for 2011. Soon the guidelines committee will be meeting to discuss the district one guidelines. District One's service commitments are as follows: DCMC. is Frank B.; our two DCMs are Cathy A. and Cliff D.; Corrections is Gunnar H.; Grapevine is Paul H.; Literature is Teddie H.; and Treatment is Scott H. Four DCM positions remain unfilled as well as six Alt DCM positions; C.P.C. and P.I. remain available. At this time I would like to express my gratitude to the area officers & standing chairs for their service to all of us in Area 69 during panel 59. I would be remiss if I failed to express my sincere gratitude to my husband Gunnar for doing his best to see to it that I had transportation to and from the service functions that I was expected to attend these past two years.

District 2 – Laurene, GSR: I just received a text from our secretary Marti who tells me the following positions are still open; 3 DCMs, 4 Alternate DCMs and Recording Secretary. District 2 needs volunteers for service work! My home group is the Saturday morning 17th and 17th in Salt Lake City, Utah. I am the GSR for this group in District 2. Recently District 2 had our service position elections and were honored to have both Monte and Walter there. I am grateful to have been appointed to the position of Newsletter Chair for District 2.

District 3 – Mary B., DCM: We completed elections Wednesday with all positions filled except Archives. Welcome Dave H. as a new DCM to receive the great blessing of serving in that position. He is already poking around to fill that archives chair. Thank to District 3 and Area 69 for the opportunity to serve.

District 4 – No Report

District 5 – Harry S, DCM: AA is alive and well in District 5. I believe East Carbon is still going strong. I am happy to tell you there is a meeting in Ferron Utah at Senior Center, Tuesdays at 7 PM. The Price meetings are in full service. There were no elections to my knowledge. What we have are trusted servants are carrying the message, keeping doors open. District 5 is grateful to host the upcoming event. Thank you all for all your help and love. P.S. Hoping for jail meeting in upcoming year.

District 6 – No Report.

District 7 – Janet H., District Secretary: All the district positions are filled except for Alternate Correction, Grapevine, Literature, Treatment, DCMC, DCM East. We are hopeful these will be filled soon. All new positions information has been passed on to Doug for next year. The Area Directory has been updated with Doug. The district web page meeting schedule has been updated with Doug. Financially the district is low, but we are in the black. Next weekend is our "Pass the Gavel", potluck and silly white elephant gift exchange and district meeting after.

District 8 – No Report.

District 9 – Joe A., GSR: Service positions have been filled for Moab Group except for Alternate GSR. Have begun bringing meetings in the Grand Co. Corrections facility. Eight Meetings per week organized in Moab; each with a meeting sponsor; continue to expand Area service with Monticello and Blanding and District wide. Hope to elect a DCM in near future.

District 10 – Dave, DCMC: We hope to have all our positions filled out at the next GSR meeting. We are short 4 DCM and 3 Standing Chairs. We are rezoning District 10 to make it easier for the DCMs to contact their groups. We will have the Anonymity Workshop on December 18, 2010 at the Alano Club in Murray at 9 AM to 3 PM. The address is 5053 South 300 West. Lunch break will be at noon.

District 11 – Matt D., DCM: Our district is doing well. We have almost all of our positions filled except corrections chair but I feel that it is just a matter of time. I have been in contact with a member that would like to stand for the position but has had to take a second job to earn some Christmas money. We have seen a crop of new GSR's coming to the district meetings. It is always exciting to see new member get involved. Their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge is contagious. There was some heated discussion about two AA members being asked to take a meeting into a treatment facility. They did not know to check with our treatment chair about this opportunity. Some feelings got hurt and resentments made. Things did get worked out in the end with help from our DCMC. It was a good learning experience for me, as I will be refereeing things like this in the upcoming rotation as the DCMC. The Post-Conference host committee is holding monthly planning meetings and is about a month ahead of schedule even with the late start. The incoming DCM is starting a newsletter for the district. This is a first for our district.

District 12 – Carlos G., DCM: As a District, we are planning our work (projects) for the next two years. The district discussed the following: why the groups have to little members and do not have new comers. After different opinions; including those spoken by Walter (Alt. Delegate elect) and Sheryl (Area Secretary elect); we notice that we need to work more with committees like Public Information (P.I.), Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.), Treatment, and any other areas where the AA message can be passed on to the alcoholics still suffering. Therefore, we are going to need Area 69 help as always. We are few but we can do it. Our pass the gavel will be at the Grupo 11 de Noviembre (11 of November group) located at 363 East 3300 South, Salt Lake City, Time- 11:00 am., 12 December 2010. Thanks for your support during my period of service.

Past Event

Fall Workshop, Carlos G., District 12 – There were 47 people registered (\$480.00) and \$25.00 from hospitality donation. The total money received was \$505.00. The following expenses were incurred: facility rental - \$200.00, hospitality - \$235.00. For a total expense of \$435.00. District 12 will be returning \$70.00 to the area.

Up Coming Events

February Committee Meeting, Harry S, DCM – This area event will be held in Price, Utah at the Carbon County Event Center, 450 South Fairgrounds Way. See flyer for additional information.

PRAASA 2011, Keith M., Assembly Agenda Chair – PRAASA will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on 4 to 6 March 2010 at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive. This year we voted to send more people to PRAASA. The defrayment will not cover the expenses for travel. The short fall will be made up by the individual. PRAASA is important no matter where it is held. For example, there are round tables for area officer positions and standing chair positions so that you can meet others holding the same position and learn from them and they from you. I personally know that there is a bunk a drunk for the Hawaii PRAASA. If you need additional information please contact me.

Pre-Conference Assembly, Teddie H., DCMC District 1 – District 1 is so excited to host the Pre-Conference Assembly that will be held on April 1 to 3, 2011. This event will take place at Arandas' Xtreme Gym (White Metal Building in Back), 2029 Main Street, Sunset, Utah. I will be the Chairperson and Frank B. will be the Co Chair. The committee has not decided on the price of registration; we plan to keep it reasonable. Blair D. from Logan is our chairman for the food committee. The food for the Banquet will be cooked on site. Kurt J. also from Logan is chairman of the entertainment committee. He is planning a dance with a live band. Flyers will be out soon.

Motion Discussion

Presented by Bruce I. – seconded by Wade J.

Amend the Area 69 Guidelines concerning "Bridging the Gap". Replace sections **4.5-c** and **4.9-c** of Area 69 Guidelines to read as follows:

Section 4.5 (new) -- c) *Shares co-responsibility with the Area Treatment Facilities Chairperson in providing oversight of the "Bridging the Gap" program within Area 69;*

Section 4.9 (new) -- c) *Shares co-responsibility with the Area Corrections Chairperson in providing oversight of the "Bridging the Gap" program within Area 69.*

Section 4.5(to be replaced) -- c) *Encourages committee members to become familiar with "Bridging the Gap" and other AA programs designed to help inmates.*

Section 4.9 (to be replaced) -- c) *Encourages committee members to become familiar with and to use the "Bridging the Gap" and "Temporary Contact" programs.*

Financial impact: probably reduced overall because of joint effort.

Date of motion: 6 November 2010

Rational for motion: The current guidelines do not suggest who is responsible to organize, adapt and manage "Bridging the Gap" within Area 69. The sections to be replaced simply ask the Corrections and Treatment Standing Chairs to encourage and familiarize their committees. The program clearly needs leadership. It is meant to benefit those target populations so it is natural for the Corrections and Treatment Chairs to provide oversight. As Co-chairs they can efficiently blend their efforts and eliminate duplication as well as provide frontline supervision. At this particular time it does not appear necessary to create a specific committee or chairperson to oversee "Bridging the Gap" if Corrections and Treatment cooperate.

What's on Your Mind

Adjourn for Lunch and close Business Meeting 12:00