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# AREA 69 NEWSLETTER

## Post Conference Assembly 2010

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### SPOTLIGHT ON STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

At Pre Conference Assembly, it was suggested to me that it would be great to hear about our Standing Chairpersons' Area service experiences and I am most grateful to be able to share the following with you.

**Our current Archives Chairperson, Treesa J. starts us off with:**

#### **Where the Past meets the Present, Area 69**

**Archives:** It was never a goal to stand for an Area position. I was happy in group and district service positions. Serving Area 69 as the Archive Standing Chair has been a priceless experience. The Archive Standing Chair position is responsible for all reports to the Area. Standing at the microphone is still a little overwhelming but it is also a great joy to share about new items that have been donated by members for the Area 69 Archives. My personal favorites were the Big Book signed by a group celebrating a 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday and a T-shirt donated by a group celebrating a 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Well, let's get real!! Is there anything that isn't exciting, when it comes to preserving our past for our future? It really has been an eye-opening experience to work with Janet in sorting, preserving and displaying the archives.

Let's talk about the round tables. It has been a pleasure to chair the round tables and each time I am awe struck at the depth of information gathered and shared. The program of AA is in a constant forward motion with new GSR's at each round table discussion. This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss the role of Area 69 Archives and inform new GSR's what the Archives does and doesn't do. A very

popular topic is the how Archives preserves the anonymity of members while providing an interesting display at all full body assemblies.

Personally, my greatest memory will be attending the 13<sup>th</sup> National Alcoholics Anonymous Archives Workshop (NAW) in Woodland Hills, CA. The Area budget is set to defray \$300 to each archivist on rotating years so each has the opportunity to attend the NAW. Unfortunately, Janet will not have the opportunity to travel because her turn is this year and the date is set for the same weekend we have our area elections assembly. This was my third NAW Conference but my first as an Area Archivist. Each time I gain a greater perspective and a continued respect for our history and Archives. There are no words to describe the wonderful feeling of camaraderie that accompanies an event full of members with the same objective.

In addition, I will never forget that this was the time our Area Archives were moved into a gated, climate controlled storage unit with video surveillance. It was a huge step for Area 69 in a continuing effort to improve the conditions for preserving and storing our Archives. I find it ironic that this occurred at the

same time the Archives at GSO had their storage area renovated for the continued preservation of the history of our fellowship's archives.

This was the greatest opportunity I have ever had the pleasure of sharing with so many. So, I thank you Area 69 and the fellowship of Utah. In humble appreciate and gratitude, Treesa J., Area 69 Archives Standing Chair.

**From our Assembly/Agenda Chairperson, Keith M., comes:**

The Agenda and Assembly Standing Chair for Utah Area 69 is a fantastic job, maybe the best job in the entire service structure. Because it has two incredible parts, it fits me very well. First, the physical aspect of moving the technical sound and recording equipment around the Utah Area and making it work without too much squeaking. The purchase of the new speaker cables last fall helped with the feedback noise and made that part of the job much easier. The other part of the Agenda and Assembly assignment is attending the numerous planning meetings of the District Host Committees. AA service folk are the best. The Utah Area 69 has one of the twelve Districts host three assemblies, two workshops, and two committee meetings annually. These meetings rotate throughout the Utah area and help carry our service message to all AA members of our service area. The role of the Agenda and Assembly Standing Chair at these planning meetings is somewhere between area liaison, ombudsman, spiritual leader and quite observer. The Area 69 Guidelines suggest that the Agenda and Assembly Standing Chair attending the District Host planning meetings provide assistance and guidance by sharing the knowledge gained from past experience. Since these District Host Committee planning meetings occur throughout the Utah area, I have traveled numerous miles up, down, and across our beautiful state. More than a few of these trips include mountain passes with snow covered roads. However, the AA members of service in these meetings make it all worthwhile.

Assemblies, workshops, and committee meetings are the heart of our service structure. These events include Area business meetings with Delegate, Officer, Standing Committee Chair, and DCM reports. In addition to these activity reports there are usually standing committee roundtables were all attending AA get to share their experience, strength, and hope. True communication at these Area events is a two-way street with all AA's talking and listening. The Area Officers assisted by the Agenda and Assembly Standing Chair set the agenda for these business meetings; however, the agenda for the rest of the weekend is created by the Host District. Of course, Agenda and Assembly Standing Chair bring suggestions to these committees. For example, over the past few years at most Assemblies, the Host District has made time available on Friday night for the Area Standing Chair Roundtables and time on Sunday morning for the Area Standing Committee Chair and DCM/DCMC meetings. Both the Area Business Meeting Agenda and the District Host Program are a collective effort to communicate in the Utah Area 69. After a year and a quarter, I believe we are doing a good job; however, more roundtable time and more panel discussions would make it even better.

My last thoughts about the Agenda and Assembly job involve the need for reviewing facility contracts early, prior to final negotiations and signing the document. We as AA members are not professional facility negotiators; however, hotel staff are professionals. Most sales managers have at

least a couple for years of college training and usually many years of experience. A strong suggestion is to start early. The Area bids all assemblies two years in advance, most District Host Committees are waiting until 6 to 9 months before the event. This usually limits our negotiations due to the disproportionate need to get a facility, *any facility* - NOW. With a couple of years of lead time the District Host Committee can get a few proposals, then negotiate the best deal for our fellowship. There are numerous forms, worksheets, guidelines and other suggestions for the host committees on the Utah Area web page under Agenda and Assembly Business documents. Thanks for letting me share. Keith M. Agenda and Assembly Standing Chair

**Our newest Standing Chairperson, Kurt J., Communications, makes his newsletter debut:**

Originally, the Area 69 web site, and the Website Committee, was created as a subcommittee of the Public Information Committee. An ad-hoc committee was originally formed in October 2002 to examine the idea of an Area 69 website. The ad-hoc committee presented recommendations for creation of the Area 69 website at the 2003 Post-conference Assembly. The recommendations were accepted at the following Fall Assembly. The domain name, utahaa.org, was registered in March 2004. In May 2004 the first web servant was elected and the Area 69 website went live.

In 2006, the PI committee saw that the web servant needed to be to as many Area functions as possible in order to have their finger on the pulse of Area business. They created an ad-hoc committee to look into funding the web servant. The result was a motion passed at the 2006 Fall Assembly creating Communications as a separate area standing chair. The Communications Chair was assigned responsibility for not only the web site, but also producing the newsletter, electronic communication to the assembly, translating area documents into Spanish, and coordinating translation needs at area events.

As a standing chair, the Communications Chair directs the Communications Committee. The communications standing chair serves as the chair of the Website Committee and acts as the Area Web Servant. The communications standing chair also directs the Newsletter Committee and the Translation Committee.

Members of the Communications Committee include the communications standing chair, Area Registrar, Alternate Delegate, Area Secretary, Assembly/Agenda standing chair, Immediate Past Delegate, DCMs and GSRs assigned by the Area Registrar, and interested AAs. The Communications Committee has three broad areas of responsibility, 1) the Area website, 2) the Newsletter, 3) Translation.

The web site is an Area 69 Public Information vehicle. The purpose of the web site is to provide information to existing and potential members of AA and to provide a means of communication within the general service structure of Area 69. The Website Committee is guided first by the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. In addition, Area 69 has developed specific guidelines for the website and the Website Committee. Area 69 is on the forefront of using the internet to support the area assembly. The

Area 69 Website Guidelines helped serve as a foundation for similar guidelines developed for the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services website. The Area 69 Website Guidelines are found in Appendix E of the Area 69 Guidelines. The various responsibilities of the Website Committee include maintaining the area website, maintaining a list of meetings in the area, maintaining a list of groups in each district, maintaining a calendar of service events, providing a place for announcement of fellowship events, managing email communications with the fellowship and within the area general service structure, providing access to the various area service materials and business documents, and providing direct information about the next Area 69 service event.

The Newsletter is produced and distributed three times a year, at each Assembly according to the guidelines. Not much to say about the Newsletter except that it is always a challenge to get content beyond officer and committee reports. Rumor has it that the new Newsletter editor strong armed the committee standing chairs to produce something for the next assembly.

The Translation Committee has two main responsibilities, translate area documents into Spanish making them available on the area website, and coordinating with the District 12, host committees, and the Assembly/Agenda chair to translation and interpretation at area events. Translating documents into Spanish can be a real challenge. There are many tools available to automate translation. The problem is formatting. If all the fonts, paragraphs, margins, tabs, and indents do not get carried through then the result can be unreadable. Fortunately translation tools have improved to the point where very little manual editing is required. There is the occasional registration form which defies automated translation requiring an hour or so of fiddling. But most documents are now translated and posted as is. We hope this effort will encourage our Spanish speaking fellowship to keep informed. Our Alternate Delegate has been acting as a liaison to the District 12. In this capacity, the Alternate Delegate has been working with District 12 and the host committees to coordinate the translation and interpretation needs of our Spanish speaking fellowship. This is especially important at each of the area assemblies.

The idea of Communications becoming a separate committee at GSO has been discussed. GSO, and some Areas, considers the website as part of the PI Committee. Other Areas have a separate Communications standing chair similar to Area 69. Regardless of the organization, the responsibilities of the Communications Committee are now a vital part of our support the Area 69 Assembly and our mission to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Wade J., our Corrections Standing  
Chairperson shares:**

The last year and a half has been very busy and very rewarding. Bruce I. and I have spent a lot of time working on the Area 69 BTG Program. We Co-Chaired the 2009 BTG Workshop which went really well and I feel that it was very informational for all who attended. I have had the pleasure of attending a lot of the Districts in the Area and visiting with the Volunteers who take

the meetings into the Correctional Facilities. It has been such a honor and privilege to have met so many dedicated people. We are in the process of preparing for the 2010 BTG Workshop and I really hope we can get a great turnout for the workshop so we can further educate the Area on how simple and important the BTG Program is and hopefully get everyone cooperating with each other. As with all of the other service positions I have had the Honor to fill, the Corrections Chair Position has enriched my sobriety

even more. I am so grateful to Area 69 for allowing me to serve in this position and I would recommend it to everyone. Love in

Service, Wade J., Area 69 Corrections  
Chair

**We wrap up our Standing Chair section with Andy B., our Public Information Standing Chairperson:**

Hello fellow Friends & Servants. My name is Andy B., I serve the Utah Area 69 as the Public Information Standing Chair, and what a gift it has been so far. "Thank You" all for allowing me to be of service. It all started with Me being willing to stand and say to everyone, I'm available to be a part of this deal called **General Service**. The excitement of hearing my name called, when they tell me I've just been elect to that position that I was willing to stand for. Then even with my own mind telling me or more like screaming at me over n over "YOU ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO DO THIS", you know the way we're our own worst critics with things like this. Then the support I've gotten from like everyone, past P. I. Standing Chairs, Past Delegates, I mean everybody, and slowly the doubt goes way, and the job doesn't seem so difficult and things start to happen, at the Area events, and in my personal life. You get invitations to events. It's cool to set up an A.A. table or booth and have a fully stocked display, with just about everything that Our program has to offer.

All the people I've met and all the events, you know, the Health Fairs @ Discover Card, AARP & some of the local area Hospitals, all the Recovery Days put on in Park City, Provo, Salt Lake City & Tooele, the annual U of U School on Alcoholism. These are just some of the awesome events things I've been able to do in the past year and a half. There are a lot more coming up as well. There's nothing like the feeling you get when you can help someone try to understand what A.A. is or what A.A. isn't, or what A.A. does do or what we don't do, to help someone find a meeting or A.A. services in their area or community, explaining some of the literature to somebody, providing pamphlets for a meeting or a lit rack for meeting halls, doctors offices or even some of our Schools. Cuz, I know for me and a lot of others I've met in the program, that's when n where I started doing some of my bestest research and experimentation with "booze" and "dry-goods". It's also been cool to be able to share my Experience, Strength & Hope with somebody who is wondering if maybe they've got a drinking problem, or someone they know needs help with a drinking problem, whether it is a friend, a neighbor or a family member. Informing and educating our fellowship, public servants and our community on the importance of anonymity, how it is vital to most of our members to keep our full names and faces out of the spot-light, and how they can help us by being aware of our situations in the community.

NOW back to the Area events, in my opinion Round-tables are the most valuable tool we have, as far as educating and explaining what our Standing Committees do, or even at that, getting new people comfortable in the Service part of our Program. I know for myself, sitting in that first round-table made me feel like more of a part of everything that was happening at that particular event, because up to that, I was not feeling very involved with the whole General Service deal. And my first Committee was the Corrections round-table, and Bud was the Chairman at that time, I liked the way he got everyone in that committee involved in the little bit of time we had to meet.

I want to say Thank You to all of those who took the time to show us that we are a valuable part of the service structure, and that there are so many ways we can "carry the message". Once again it's an Honor and a Privilege to be a part of this great fellowship. Love & Service, Andy B.- Area 69 P.I.

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**Ask-it Basket follow-up**

"What would be the best example to do with funds that are unused or in excess of our stated purpose? (or, 'What do we do with extra money?'"

This question was submitted at an Ask-It-Basket session. Since there was not enough time to answer it that day, I have been asked to give a response in our Area newsletter.

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When I read this question my first thought was what's the definition of "unused or in excess of our stated purpose". For as many years as I've been serving, the area has consistently passed annual budgets far larger than the annual donations we have ever received. Based on this practice in our area, is there really any such thing as funds "in excess of our stated purpose"? All money budgeted has a "stated purpose" regardless if it is spent by the end of the year or not. In that same sense, the area has never had any "extra" funds, as all our contributions are in fact budgeted to 1 specifically stated purpose or another.

So in reality, were the area to actually spend all the money budgeted each year, we would eventually go bankrupt unless we had a steep change in donations on a miraculous level.

Perhaps we need to ask a different question: What do we do with "unused" money?

- I believe it would be wise to increase our prudent reserve.
- I'm confident our Area Standing Committees with the exception of Literature, would each love to see increases in their individual budgets. The Literature committee is the only one that brings in about as much money as it spends, since they sell a large percentage of the inventory they purchase. The Grapevine committee does generate some income as well, but not to the level of the Literature committee.
- We could look at doing outreach to our less active districts.

I'm sure there are many more possibilities...Yours in Service, Jodi E., Past Delegate, Panel 53, UT Area 69

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One of my favorite things that happens right after the *General Service Conference* is the unveiling of the new Theme and Workshop and Discussion topics. Just reading them can give you a sense of some of the prevailing concerns or focuses of the fellowship as a whole at the time they are chosen. This last two years it has been particularly fun as our own Panel 59 Delegate, Monte, has been on that particular committee. With no further ado, I bring you:

The Theme for the 2011 General Service Conference is:

**“We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin with Us”**

The Discussion/Presentation topics are:

**1) Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:**

- a. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
- b. Carrying A.A.’s Message Online
- c. Grapevine – “A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More . . .

**2) An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:**

- a. Self-Support – Where Does Money and Spirituality Mix?
- b. Humility – Accepting the Group Conscience
- c. An Informed Group Conscience – Using the Three Legacies

**3) Diversity in A.A.:**

- a. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
- b. The Hand of A.A. – Inclusive Never Exclusive
- c. Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose

**4) Sponsorship:**

- a. Importance of a Home Group
- b. Leading by Example – Attraction Not Promotion
- c. Recovery, Unity, Service

The Workshop Topic is:

**“How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs”**

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Prior to the beginning of the actual Conference, there is a meeting for those Delegates concerned with the A.A. needs of remote communities. This year, our Delegate attended and gave the following presentation:

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the remote community of Rye New York. Compared to Times Square, Rye meets my definition of a Remote Community. It is an honor to meet and serve with all of you no matter the location.

Utah does not have a remote communities committee or chair. Remote communities work is left to the resources and autonomy of the groups and districts using standing committees. Our area has had success with our Spanish linguistic district and a few individuals who carry A.A.’s message as they migrate throughout our state by leaving behind literature and Grapevines in the most unusual places.

Last year during this meeting our area asked me to try and find out how other areas arrange for detoxification in remote communities. I shared the experience I had during a district committee meeting in eastern Utah. Members there explained that there were problems getting detoxification for miners, oil field workers and others who had overdosed on alcohol. There were members traveling 200 miles one way to deliver wet drunks to the doorsteps of the nearest detox centers in Salt Lake City. There were also reports that hospitals in the district were sending would-be patients to jail rather than to detox. The updated situation in eastern Utah is that while visiting hospitals in his district, the DCM learned that indeed patients had been turned away and some incarcerated. He said that those were isolated incidents that drew a great deal of focus from among the local A.A.'s and that it is in fact hospital policy to treat overdosed alcoholics through detoxification. The patients that were not treated were fighting with staff and abusive (imagine that). This same district is home to an Indian treatment center located at Bottle Hollow. I asked my friend Shawn the past treatment chair where the name Bottle Hollow came from. He told me that during the late 1800's soldiers from the Army Fort would visit this remote and isolated area to drink whiskey. The soldiers would throw their empty bottles down in the hollow, hence, Bottle Hollow. From the bits and pieces of discarded whiskey bottles springs hope and sobriety through this Indian recovery center.

At the Pre Conference Assembly Ask It Basket, during a discussion of A.A. and anonymity in regards to the Internet, I commented that I believed GSO had a presence on YouTube. Just an FYI, I did confirm this and wanted to let you know that our username on YouTube is **aapublicinfo**. The page includes PSA's in English, Spanish and French. Check it out!! *The editor*

During last year's delegates only pre General Service Conference meeting we were informed of plans for a remote community workbook that would include a chapter on detoxification. As far as I know the workbook proposed last year is still on the drawing board and the chapter that was to share about methods for obtaining alcohol overdose detoxification in remote/rural locations remains unwritten.

Who is going to assume responsibility for following up and following through? What are our expectations from today's meeting? When do we expect to see a proposed product as a result of our plans? How can we put our plans into action? Why are we meeting outside of the General service Conference? Where else could we have these discussions and seek better outcomes?

Until we as an A.A. culture can answer these questions the continuity of our experience will continue to be lacking and our unity will continue to suffer right along with those we are trying to reach. Is this meeting today the best use of our time and resources? I think we may have the cart before the horse.

I pray for God's Care and Protection, Guidance and Direction for each of us during the coming hours of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

Thank you for this extraordinary opportunity to serve. In Gratitude and Fellowship, Monte S., Delegate Panel 59, Area 69, Utah

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**The following comes from a new GSR sharing her ESH and a PRAASA report from her first PRAASA. Thank you, Dee!!**

I am a fairly new GSR for the No Nonsense Group on Friday Night at 8:00 pm - I love the meeting. My sobriety date is 11/1/1986. After I became a GSR - I also signed up to become a prison volunteer - I go about twice a week. It takes awhile to get processed, but it was worth it.



In answer to your question about experiences in General Service, mine started about five or six years ago when I became the treasurer for the Basic AA meeting on Thursday nights - then me and two other alcoholics started the West Jordan Big Book Study - It began to grow, and I was the treasurer for that meeting too - this was a little bit difficult, though I managed both quite well for awhile - these two meetings seemed to think this was okay, but it didn't say much for the spirit of rotation - I remained treasurer for both for awhile. I finally gave up the Thursday night position - another person volunteered to do it and I was grateful for that. It has changed hands a few times now - then I finally gave up the Tuesday night position also. I still attend the Tuesday night pretty regular and sometimes the Thursday meeting - however, I go to the Alano Club for the Fresh Air meeting of AA on Thursday and attend an Alanon meeting after that, and now I am also going to the prison for the Lone Peak facility at 7:00 pm for a **Big Book** study on Thursday night. I am replacing Ron L in that position. He is moving to Hurricane soon.

Just before becoming a prison volunteer, my home group, the No Nonsense group asked me to be their GSR as Tom P. had done it for two years - I agreed and they voted me in. I was one of five people from the District 10 GSR meeting to be given the opportunity to go to PRASSA that very weekend - District 10 paid for us to go. I was already planning on going to the Pre-Conference this weekend at Park City - I could hardly believe that I was going to PRASSA which I knew nothing about. What a great experience and this weekend was also a great experience. I have been blessed. I still have a whole lot to learn about the process of AA and GSO. In love and service, Dee R., Current GSR for District 10 Area 69

**From the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, Dee R., GSR:**

#### **Grapevine:**

Bill W. wrote 152 articles for the Grapevine from 1946 – 1971.

Are the LaVina (Hispanic translation) and the Grapevine equal? They are getting there. At one time, the LaVina was much smaller than the Grapevine due to not enough stories from the Hispanic members of Alcoholics Anonymous, but with the growing number of sober alcoholics in this group, more stories are being added. The LaVina has no color at this time – the Grapevine does – a sober alcoholic suggested that in order for Grapevine sales to keep up with the cost of printing – perhaps we should take the color out of the Grapevine. It was noted that the Grapevine and LaVina can be taken into prisons if they are bound together with something other than staples.

**Reading and Subscribing:** Group members should be encouraged to read pamphlets that are alcohol related – chair person or secretary should mention their existence and availability and encouraged to subscribe to the Grapevine or LaVina if possible.

**Questions about Agnostics & Atheists:** Stop blasting agnostics and atheists as being unbelievers – most of them pray to some higher power – they do believe in something. We need to be more open to agnostics and atheists. Do we need new statistics from agnostics and atheists? Until a pamphlet can be published on this issue, articles should be published in the Grapevine.

**Special Needs Pamphlet:** Make newcomer with disabilities and specials needs feel welcome. It is hoped that by the 2011 conference there may be an approved draft of a special needs pamphlet.

#### **Minority Appeals & Changing Existing Literature:**

How should minority appeals be submitted to the GSC – over and over again until the GSC recognizes them. For example, changes to the “Living Sober” book have been suggested several times, always to be rejected. Finally, two tiny changes in the appendix were passed – nothing, however, has been approved in the text. Concept 5 says that we all have a right to be heard.

**Inventories:** Should a conference take its own inventory – a committee is working on it. Home groups take inventories periodically.

**GSR Round Table:** How does financial support and spirituality mix? It was suggested that a pamphlet be created for this unless there is already one out there. How do we receive funding from our groups for required conferences? Remind them that they are required and we need help with funding.

**Organization & Record Keeping for GSRs:** Keep all fliers and information about upcoming events together in chronological order. Keep pamphlets and other information in one place. Keep financial reports together also. These may be kept in a briefcase or something similar. Always have pen and paper available to write on.

**Anonymity:** There is controversy over full face videos portraying alcoholics getting sober even though they are portrayed by actors. Some are so good that we think they are the real alcoholic. I still don't quite understand the issue though.

**Alcoholic Obituaries:** Some obituaries are written about the alcoholic's life and accomplishments in AA. Some are written with the alcoholic's consent before he or she has become deceased. It was suggested that alcoholics write their own on-going obituary.

**Financial vs Contributions - Literature:** It seems there have been several different charts over the years for distributing money to the various entities – GSO, District, Central Office, Area and the meeting place. There was a dramatic change in the distributions starting in 1971 with 60% - 30% - 10% - 10% and in 1986 it was 50% - 30% - 10% - 10%. It will probably change again. Some groups do not follow a specific guideline – just their group conscience.

**A Trustee's Opinion And Statement:** A trustee by the name of Larry indicated that he believes the Spirit of God touched AA in its beginning. He also told us something very cute – “the highest you get in AA is sober – any higher, you have to start over”.

**Translation of the Conference:** The Hispanic speaking alcoholics in attendance at PRASSA requested that it be translated into Spanish for them – the motion had passed – every Hispanic alcoholic who did not understand English was wearing a set of headphones listening to the conference translated into their language. There were many wonderful Hispanic alcoholics in attendance. When they spoke to ask a question or give an opinion, there was a translator for them so we knew what they were saying. It took a little longer – they were given four minutes to talk compared to two minutes for English speakers. I was very impressed by this process.

**Prison, Hospitals, Treatment Centers & Other Such Institutions:** We have a responsibility to take Alcoholics Anonymous into not only the prisons, but also treatment centers, hospitals and other such institutions.

**86-ing an Alcoholic From an AA Meeting:** An alcoholic cannot be removed permanently from a meeting because of cussing, cursing or drinking – however, another sober alcoholic can take the offender aside and ask him to stop his behavior – if he refuses, he can be removed from that particular meeting until the next time it meets.

**Who Chooses Panel Topics & Speakers:** Topics are picked from evaluation sheets. The program chair picks the speakers.

**A Book about Pioneer Women in AA?** This question was presented at the conference – if one were to be written, it might need to include the non-alcoholic women who were very instrumental in getting AA started.

**Stump A Delegate:** On the last day near the end of the convention, everyone was in the ballroom – people had been putting questions in a basket to “stump a delegate”. There was a limit on the number of questions, but each question was read to a different delegate – it was quite funny at times – especially when the delegate said “I have no clue”. Some questions were kind of tricky.

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Our current Standing Chairperson for Archives, Treesa J., provided the following informational piece for us:

### **AA Organization of Historical Records**

In the early 1950's, Bill W. became concerned that “the history of Alcoholics Anonymous is still veiled in the deep fog.” Office correspondence was loosely maintained in drawers at the General Service Headquarters. Bill W. set out to arrange the historical records. Bill W. personally recorded old-timers' recollections in the Akron/Cleveland area and sent boxes of blank tapes to others hoping to encourage them to record their recollections.

Bill's far-reaching vision outlined an archival message that is still sound today. Bill said, “Every one of the new and unexpected developments (in A.A.) has an enormous amount of dramatic incident and experience. The hard thing to lay hold of is the atmosphere of the whole proceedings and anecdotal material that will make the early experience alive.” The G.S.O. Archives room was opened after a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony in November 1975.

The G.S.O. archivists and the trustees on the Archives Committee of the General Service Board have encouraged the importance of archival service, which is vital to the survival of the Fellowship. Today, almost all areas have set up archival collections and there is significant growth at the district level.

The importance of historical records is to help members sift through our day-to-day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past. This helps sort out the myth from the facts to ensure our original message of recovery, unity and service remains the same while the fellowship is constantly changing, growing and expanding itself. It is this ability to go back and consult the original sources that is the permanent value of Archives.

*Archives Workbook, pg. 9, Introduction.*

On March 5, 2010, the Sugarhouse Men's AA Group in Salt Lake will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What a wonderful tribute to the Group and the Fellowship. This group and others have maintained archival records so they can share such a historical event.

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**We wrap up this Post Conference Assembly issue of the Newsletter with a piece on Corrections:**

### THE ENDURING LEGACY

Today, A.A. estimates that groups in prisons and jails number in excess of 1,100 [2,545 in 2004], with a membership in excess 43,000 [67,000 in 2004].

In an article written for a special issue of the Grapevine commemorating the 25<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of A.A., Warden Duffy, who by then was a member of the California Parole Board, said the following of Alcoholics Anonymous in prisons.

The A.A. program is presented in a humble and human manner, without high-pressure frills. This is the approach necessary to reach the man who has developed a highly suspicious nature. It helps him to face the truth and reality, without self-pity or dodging of responsibility. It rids him of fears, hates, jealousies, and suspicions that have been his for so long. He learns to eliminate his drinking---to fight the urge, the desire---to get help and fellowship from his A.A. friends.

In prison, not all alcoholics will admit they are powerless over alcohol. But as the years roll on and they see the effect of A.A. on others, the die-hards gradually come around. They see their lives have become unmanageable. They are getting a bit closer to "wanting to want to." (pg. 38 CF 2004 Workbook)

Often, A.A. members are heard to say that "they don't want to go to prison meetings because they have never been to prison, so they feel they have nothing to relate". Fear is also very common in holding back potential volunteers from taking advantage of this very important 12<sup>th</sup> Step work. Let us assure you that there is growth in sobriety when a member steps through these considerations. Our Fifth Tradition is largely at work no matter what our experience has been. Inmates are quite alike as you and me, and as human beings struggling with our common illness. The *only* difference is that many of us did not get caught.

There is a great need for both men and women volunteers to enter this service capacity in an ongoing effort to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers within the confines of Correctional facilities throughout Area 69, state of Utah. *Anonymous*

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***From the Editor:*** And so we come to the end of this current newsletter. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has taken the time to contribute to this, your, Area 69 Newsletter. Again, I am very open to your feedback, suggestions and submissions for the Fall Assembly Newsletter. With much love and gratitude, Julie S., Past Delegate, Panel 57, Area 69