

Area 69 News & Notes



**"The front door to a
local downtown
Honolulu tavern.
No kidding."**

Reporting from PRAASA

Keith M., Delegate

After attending fourteen PRAASA conferences, this recent event in Honolulu, Hawaii was by far the second best PRAASA ever. The best was my first PRAASA in 1995 held in Tacoma, Washington where I became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. In Tacoma, I was introduced to General Service of A.A. and I wanted it all. I was the GSR for the Moab Group and began to understand the importance of the GSR assignment. This recent PRAASA, being the Panel 61 Delegate from the Great State of Utah, Area 69 was incredible. My involvement as the Delegate included sharing sessions with other Pacific Region Delegates, a short two minute report of Area 69 Highlights, an only slightly longer 10 minute presentation on showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members in our PSA and videos, and a very long few minutes an-

swering an "Ask-it-Basket" question on the Lord's Prayer. What a humbling experience this Delegate assignment has been for the past 79 days and the best is yet to come. Thanks Area 69 for this awesome gift. The following is more or less the presentation I shared at the 44th Annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly:

PRAASA 2011

Showing faces of actors who are portraying A.A. members in A.A. Conference Approved Videos

I would like to thank the 2011 PRAASA Host Committee, specifically my good friend Vernon, for this great topic and the setting of this event which is not too bad. I thought Moab Utah was pretty - this place is gorgeous and the weather is okey-dokey, too. This topic is from the 2011 Panel 61 General Service Conference Agenda under the

Public Information Conference Committee Agenda Item C. The Agenda Item reads "Consider approval of the General Service Board 'Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates.'" Wow, that is a mouthful! This issue has been around for a number of years but has become a real hot button issue since the approval of the revised video "2009 Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" at the General Service Conference. A number of A.A. members have expressed concerns about full faces of actors in PSAs or videos for a while, notably the 2007 television PSA announcement "A Force of Nature." However, questionable use of full face actors occurs in four videos, two PSAs and three full face videos of our founders. These later three videos have limited distribution to A.A. members only.

The trustees' Public Information Committee has met at least six times since February 2008 to discuss this important issue. On July 31, 2010 a subcommittee was appointed in response to the 2010 Advisory Action which basically suggested creating a policy, since we kept vacillating back and forth between showing faces and not showing faces. We know that it is pretty darn important when a General Service forms a subcommittee.

So what's this all about? As a core principle "personal anonymity" has been extremely important from the beginning of our program. If I was to hold up a hand gun and wave it about you would all be very concerned; however, if I pulled out a camera you would be horrified! Core principle. The short form of the Eleventh Tradition states,

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need

Keith M., continued

And the long form provides even more clarity:

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never a need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

Bill W. discussed the need for anonymity in the 12 and 12 first published in 1953:

There was actually a time when the press of America thought the anonymity of A.A. was better for us than some of our own members did. At one point, about a hundred of our society were breaking anonymity at the public level. With perfectly good intent, these folks declared that the principle of anonymity was horse-and-buggy stuff, something appropriate to A.A.'s pioneering days. They were sure that A.A. could go faster and farther if it availed itself of modern publicity methods.

The idea of not liking “horse-and-buggy” thinking is partly what got us into trouble. Some at GSO were trying to move “faster and farther” wanting the videos and PSAs to reach a wider targeted audience. Reaching more still suffering is an extremely powerful goal. Full face videos carry a strong message of recovery and are very common on television and the internet. There is no

question that in the past GSO determined that full faces were acceptable within our Traditions, because the actors were not actually A.A. members.

Another aspect of anonymity as expressed in the short form of Twelfth Tradition makes it clear how important it is to us,

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

And as usual the long form of the tradition provides additional understanding,

And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

The trustees' subcommittee provided clarity about full face photographs using the 1968 General Service Conference Advisory Action specifically addressing the question of what constitutes an anonymity break by a member under the Eleventh Tradition. It was determined that a full face video, even though the name is withheld is still an anonymity break. The subcommittee clarified what we all understand the phrase “press, radio, and films” is interpreted to include televi-

sion, the internet, video, and other means of public communication available through new technologies.

Let's turn our attention to another issue; specifically, what constitutes a “potential A.A. member” in a video. The trustees' subcommittee concluded that portrayal of a person drinking to excess is not, in and of itself, sufficient to characterize the person as “potential member.” It is only when the person is “touched by A.A.” This occurs when the person is videoed making or receiving a twelfth step call, or walking into an A.A. meeting. Of course, if the character comes under the umbrella of our Traditions at any time during the video, then earlier scenes in which the character is shown is subject to any policy on showing faces. The subcommittee noted that it was their determination that of the publicly distributed videos and “2009 Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” there are no actual anonymity breaks of A.A. members.

The issue regarding full face video is a conflict between the videographers and A.A. principle of anonymity. They like eyes because eyes tell stories. I am somewhat of an amateur photographer and a photo of a lion hunting prey which shows vibrated sparkling eyes focused on a warthog has a much greater impact than a sleeping lion or as we called them “flat-cats” with their eyes closed.

When I walked into my first A.A. meetings I saw hope in

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“This issue has been around for a number years but has become a real hot button issue since the approval of the revised video “2009 Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” at the General Service Conference. .”

Keith M., continued

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their eyes. They were not judging, they were soft, gentle and caring. There is a very great possibility that we may not be able to represent this in a video. One of our strongest assets is one-on-one communication with newcomers. I know you have to get them through the door so that the communication can begin. Conflicting interest between the videographers wanting to tell a story and A.A. needing to preserve our principle of anonymity is the problem. No one wants to make a goofy video. Partial—face or shadow videos can look strange. If we don't do it right it could go viral on the internet as a joke.

Recently it was my privilege to review a draft young—people video from my home state of Utah; it was awesome - I formed tears throughout the video, moved greatly by the stories. However, there were too many eyes along with full faces. When it was sent to GSO, Mary Clare agreed and it is currently being edited by A.A. members in Utah. There is a very good possibility that the final product will not be as powerful; however, our principle of anonymity will be preserved.

Another consideration of showing full faces is the perception that we at A.A. are filming our meetings. When I was attending my first meetings in the small town of Moab, Utah I did not drive my truck to Triangle House. Someone in the community might see me and then they would know I was an Alcoholic. Remember this is the town

where I was gathered up by the police off the sidewalk and taken home. Where I was asked to leave all the bars in town and it was strongly suggested that I was not welcome in the future. If I saw video with recognizable individuals at an A.A. meeting, I would have been very concerned and might have stopped attending meetings. This could have jeopardized my sobriety and possibly my life.

The policy created by the trustees' subcommittee, was adopted by GSO on January 31, 2011 and has been forwarded to the 2011 Conference Committee on Public Information for approval by General Service Conference. The policy reads,

Videos produced and distributed by the General Service Board or its affiliated corporations, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and Alcoholic Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., which include actors portraying A.A. members or potential A.A. members shall not show the actor's full face, unless:

The General Service Board, by substantial unanimity, agrees that the proposed video is consistent with A.A. tradition of attraction rather than promotion, and that such use of an actor or actors does not in fact or in appearance place personalities before principles, and

The General Service Conference authorizes, by substantial unanimity, the production and distribution of such videos.

The policy goes on to define what a "video" is, what a "potential A.A. member" is, and that existing videos using actors

to portray A.A. members or potential members may continue to be produced and distributed until retired from service. The policy also notes that "Markings on the Journey," "Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions," and "Bill's Own Story" which show full faces of our founders can continue to be distributed to A.A. groups, since distribution is restricted to A.A. members only.

If the 2011 General Service Conference approves the policy created by the GSO there will be no more full face actors in our videos or PSAs. However, it is also a possibility that future Conferences may determine that full faces of actors in videos are not promotion rather than attraction and that our cherished spiritual principle of anonymity is preserved.

Keith M.

Panel 61 Delegate

Area 69 Utah



These are boats that motored out to deeper water from Honolulu harbor to ride out the Tsunami.



"Another consideration of showing full faces is the perception that we at A.A. are filming our meetings."

Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age – Irma B.



"I have been a total zombie for the last 5 days."

Irma B.

Said after being up for two nights and days following the Tsunami.

I was voted the privilege of representing District 10 of Area 69 at the 2011 PRAASA, for which I am very grateful.

I was asked to report on a presentation concerning "AA in a Digital Age." While I have heard a lot of discussion on this subject in the past year, this time I was able to open my mind considerably. The main concern has been keeping anonymity in AA online. This is, and should be, the responsibility of every member who utilizes online services and chat rooms (online groups). The 12th Tradition is an extremely important part of the AA practice and should not be forgotten while using technology.

I think online groups is a great idea, particularly for members who live in remote areas where there may be only one or two meetings a week, or where they may have to travel a great distance to attend a meeting; or for people like myself who was home bound for about three months and unable to get to meetings. This is a way for members to share their stories as well as being in contact with others who share the same problems, struggles, successes and hope. However, I feel that every member should attend at least one regular group meeting per week if at all possible. There simply is no replacement for

face to face meetings where one can see and feel the love and camaraderie of people who can relate to where you are in your sobriety.

I feel that members who utilize the online services should still remember the 7th Tradition and donate to the AA cause in order to preserve AA for suffering alcoholics now and in the generations to come. Remember, it costs money to keep AA online and traditional meetings afloat. It's up to us!

Irma B. – GSR and Literature Chair, District 10

Diversity in A.A. –

We are responsible for A.A.'s Future

—Steve R.

Hello. My name is Steve and I am an alcoholic. It was my great pleasure to attend this year's PRAASA in Honolulu Hawaii. I would like to share with you some great things I heard on the subject of diversity in AA.

We are responsible for AA's future. The first thing that really caught my attention was that lots of people have gotten sober in AA in many ways. Not all people have a higher power the way I do and the language of the heart is spoken in many different and incredible ways. Getting to know and listen to atheists and agnostics about how they got sober and stay sober helps me stay sober and opens my eyes to different ways of helping another alcoholic who may have different ideas about spirituality. I believe this is the concept of being inclusive, never exclusive. The most fantastic thing of all that I witnessed at PRAASA was the unity we share with the Spanish-



speaking community, the deaf, and physically challenged members. We all really have just one primary purpose: to carry the message to the struggling alcoholic. We can do that by whatever means possible, whether it be sign language, translation equipment or a simple hand out to help someone up the stairs. I saw all of these things take place at this great event. I am responsible to do the same. It is a privilege.

Yours in Service

Steven R, DCM, District 10, Area 69

Past Trustee's Experience, Strength & Hope—Frank B.

PRASSA 2011 Honolulu Hi. Panel 7 Past Trustee's - Experience, strength and Hope.

Panel took place Sunday Morning 9:15 am. The first Past Trustee was Tom M. Tom was not on the Agenda although he served as a Trustee May 1993 to May 2001. Reflects on where he comes from, his home town in Northern California and one of the first 100 members from that area named Charlie. According to Charlie he helped Bill W. write the Big Book. Also stated that Bill W. always had profound thoughts, through *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, always wondered if he was doing the right things. His negative thoughts would disappear as soon as they appeared. A.A. would remain safe especially from Bill Wilson. Tom reflects on the importance of a Concepts meeting, and how it affects a group (s). To many members this subject or subjects would be very dry. During a Concept meeting many members would leave for a cigarette and smoke a whole pack of cigarettes before they returned to the meeting. After a while those people would start standing for District positions and they also understood benefits to serve.

Jim C. Concept 1 -

Group conscience of the fellowship.

Concepts are very important. Jim reflects that he did not know the Concepts until he served on the Board and read

them. Very very hard to understand. Learned about the Concepts and was educated through On line access and through the Grapevine. It was Bill W.'s custom to give a talk at the GSC on the Concepts. It was always stated that Bill W. quoted the Service Manual and the importance of how the Concepts work. In 1962 the concepts were officially voted on and of course posted and were approved. The group conscience in A.A. always has legal authority - get the group conscience from the Fellowship. To get an informed group conscience, we must learn to communicate. Its very important to rely on the background material that is available to get back to your Group.

Madeleine P. Concept 3 -

Right of decision.

Study the Service Manual in your Home group. When groups do, some members think you're trying to give away a disease or something. Something happens here at PRASSA, we as trusted servants can take back the message to our home Districts. It is very important to get the word out on issues and the needs that are relevant to your Home group and that are relevant in this day and age in A.A. Our trusted servants, we must trust them. Remember when you complained about the coffee in your Home group? You made it the next time. We trust God - we trust A.A. - we trust one another - we trust our trusted servants. The gift of desperation. What-

ever the issue is, I trust you. Decision is the conclusion of consideration, everyone is trying to do the very best they can. Do not destroy us within. Be very diverse and open minded, we are all trusted servants.

Ruth J. Concept 5 -

Right of appeal.

Refresher course on chanting and rituals (not A.A.). Not familiar with Concept 5 try using the pamphlet on the Concepts. We have one now, use it. Delegates should be free to vote using their own discretion. If a vote does not go your way or if you're the minority you have the right to appeal. Verbal or written are just fine, but just be sure your ducks are in a row. The minority opinion is very important because it could sway the majority at times - really consider it and have an open mind. The Fellowship depends on our ability to communicate. It's a spiritual program involving spiritual principles.

George D. Concept 9 -

Experience is not wisdom, its just experience.

Focus and concentrate on the spiritual points of the Concepts. There are 4 or 5 spiritual points in the concepts. One through five are the spiritual points of the concepts and six through eight are the application. Nine through twelve are just there - Bill W. liked the idea of twelve, that's why there are twelve? Leadership

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"Experience is not wisdom, its just experience."

Frank B., continued

(Continued from page 5)

- There have been a lot of great, great mentors along the way. It's up to you to rise to the level of A.A.. Not A.A. to drop to the level of you. Follow the principles of the program. Be careful who you elect at a group level. Follow up on qualifications and make sure the right person is in the right position, avoid trying to force someone into a position when they're not ready or not qualified.

Thank you,

Frank B - District 1

"Follow the principles of the program.."

Honolulu recreation.
These fish became
guests of honor at our
luau.
Honest.



Delegate Introduction, Service Highlights—Lauana H.

PRAASA 2011

Our Moderator was our own Pacific Region Trustee Rod B.

Each Delegate was given 2 minutes to talk. Timer Tim W. explained how the timing worked. There was a green light which turned to yellow, to warn the speaker to rap up. When the light went to red we the audience were to start clapping.

Phil W. NV. Reader explained what a Delegate's role is within the fellowship.

First to speak was Loren U. Alaska, Area 02 Panel 60. Area 2 consists of approximately 500,089 miles. Modes of transportation are mainly air or boat. One District is the size of Montana and Wyoming combined. there are 12 districts in all. In

the last year the fellowship has grown by 14%.

Much of communication is done via telecommunications.

Suzette C. Arizona Panel 60, Area 03. Arizona spans over 10014 miles with 16 Districts. Have just started a Hispanic District.

Has a committee for helping the special needs community. Arizona holds 4 assembles a year.

Marcus F. So. California, Area 05, Panel 61. Has started a committee to outreach to the elder community. Area 05 covers from Malibu to Pomona, Pasadena to Englewood along the Pacific coast highway and the Santa Monica freeway.

Has 5 overlaying hispanic districts.

Ken M. California No. Coastal, Area 06, Panel 61. The area is over 500 miles, this covers from the Pacific Coastal Oregon border to the Big Sir area in Monterey in the south. This Area has over 2000 groups, has 22 Districts including 4 bilingual districts.

Melody T. California No. Interior, Area 07, Panel 60. Area includes the great Central Valley to the Oregon border. Has 29 Districts. Has 960 listed groups. Has 4 assemblies per year with the Area Committee meeting 8 times. In September will be hosting the National Bridging the Gap Workshop.

Joel C. San Diego Imperial, Area 08, Panel 60. Has approximately 946 groups. Are experiencing growth in

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Lauana H., continued

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the deaf community. They do have active ASL support.

Linda C. Mid-So. California, Area 09, Panel 60. 1861 recorded groups. Takes in from the Pacific coast to the Arizona border and approximately from the Great Imperial Valley to the Los Angeles city limits. Has 18 districts and 6 Hispanic districts. Has 3 assemblies a year and 6 Area committee meeting. Has 15 standing chair committees with Spanish speaking co-chairs.

Linda McD. Hawaii, Area 17, Panel 6?. The area includes the 6 Islands. Have 3 assemblies with 2 committee meetings.

Angela H. Idaho, Area 18, Panel 60. 12 Districts and 451 listed groups. 100,038 square miles. Have groups from eastern Oregon to western Wyoming and northern Nevada. Covers all of Idaho excluding the panhandle. Have 2 area assemblies and 3 committee meetings a year.

In 2013 will be hosting PRAASA in Boise, Idaho.

Byron F. Nevada, Area 42, Panel 61. Includes the state of Nevada and the eastern edge of California. Area is divided into north and south. Has an odd service structure, has separate

service structure for the north the south and the Area overall. All are supported by separate treasuries. Has 2 assemblies. Will host the Young Peoples conference in 2012.

Anne M. Oregon, Area 58, Panel 60. Has 37 districts, 3 of the districts are linguistic districts. Oregon does host groups from southwest Washington and northern California Each district was randomly assigned to a conference committee. They are asked to take the issues on their assigned committee back to the home groups and discuss the issues, then send the results to the Delegate.

Keith M. Utah, Area 69, Panel 61. We have over 350 groups We are strongly committed to carrying our message, both to the large groups to our small groups of 2 or 3. We have 11 districts and one borderless Spanish speaking district. Have instituted a vibrant Bridging the Gap program which is co-chaired by Corrections and treatment chairs. Our new Pacific Region Trustee is our own Rod B. Rod is the first Native American to serve as a trustee. Rod would remind us not to forget our Native Americans.

Debbie A. Western Washington, Area 72, Panel 61. There are 1400 groups

throughout 42 districts. Area takes in from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific and from the Canadian boarder to the Oregon boarder to the south. 3 Area quarterly meetings. There is but one Area Assemble a year. There are six pre-conference meetings to discuss the issues for the General Conference. The GSR then gets the information back to their home groups for discussion, then get the information back to the Delegate, via phone, e-mail, snail mail or fax.

Jamie S. Washington State East, Area 92, Panel 60. This area is composed of 4 states and 2 countries. have 25 districts four of which are non geographic Spanish-speaking districts, have inclusion Russian, Spanish and several other languages. The area is bounded by the Cascade Mountains in the west to the hills of Montana in the east, the Salmon River in the south, to a small part of British Columbia in the north.

This year they will be hosting a special forum on September 9th and 10th. The forum will focus on working with different diverse cultures, Russian, Spanish and Native Americans. How can AA better serve them.

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***"Our Moderator
was our own
Pacific Region
Trustee Rod B."***

Lauana H., continued

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Ken S. Central California, Area 93, Panel 61. Has 96 active districts, and 7 Spanish speaking districts. Their focus at this time is better communications with the GSRs. They have just finished their new Area guidelines to better serve them in the years to come. They have over a 1000 groups.

Scott H. BC/Yukon, Area 79, Panel 61. the Area is approximately 900,000 square miles. Some districts are as large as Mississippi and Maryland combined.

From the Canadian border to the Yukon is a staggering 1500 miles. There are 47 districts. To get to some groups you have to travel by ferry, boat, plane or Ski-doo. Challenges of traveling great distances cause the use of alternate means of communicating, such as teleconferencing. Have 2 quarterlies and 2 assemblies.

As you can plainly see each area is different and faces many challenges. But all are dedicated to carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our Delegates are but trusted servants carrying our home group voices to the General Service Conference.



"As you can plainly see, each area is different and faces many challenges. But all are dedicated to carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.."

Sponsorship—Kurt J.

My name is Kurt J. and I am an alcoholic. I had the privilege of attending PRAASA 2011 in Honolulu, HI. This was my first full PRAASA. I say "full" because I attended one of the roundtables at the 2000 PRAASA in Ogden. Our beloved Newsletter editor asked me to pay special attention to Panel 5, then write a brief article for the Pre-Conference Newsletter. Please note that all of the ideas in this article come from the Panel 5 presenters—I'm just stitching some of them together to share with you.

The theme of Panel 5 was Sponsorship. Each panel had five presenters. The Panel 5 topics included "Importance of a Home Group", "Self-support: Where do Money and Spirituality Mix – additional ways to Communicate about self-support", "The role of Past Delegates in Area Affairs – Elder Statesman or Bleeding Deacon", "Money, Property,

and Prestige in Service", and "Service sponsorship". As always I learned many new things and was reminded of things I knew. I think my favorite topic is the Importance of a Home Group. I have only recently become part of a real, functioning home group. I can now see how a home group is the basis of recovery, unity, and service in A.A. and as such encompasses all of the other topics. To paraphrase one of the presenters, at first a home group is about what the group can do for me, in service it is about what I can do for the group.

Money and Spirituality mix in the hat. By mixing my contribution with others, it becomes spiritual. When you put a dollar in the basket it is no longer yours. AA in action constitutes a sacrifice of a lot of time and a little money. The presenter suggested we share with groups that when a group registers

they are asking for the services of our General Service Office. When the group fails to contribute they lose the spiritual connection.

From the A.A. Service Manual, "A.A. has in past delegates a wealth of experience, which is sometimes used and sometimes not." In Area 69, we are blessed to have a number of past delegates who participate in the area. As the presenter stated, this gives us an opportunity to hear the wisdom of their experience, without their butting into area business... I look forward to seeing each and every past delegate at each event. It is an honor and a pleasure to know them as friends, sponsors, and associates.

The question of Elder Statesman versus Bleeding Deacon, is not limited to past delegates. The presenter suggested that every long timer goes through a

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Kurt J., continued

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bleeding deacon stage. And it is the bleeding deacons who become elder statesmen.

Carlos A. presented the topic "Money, Property, and Prestige in Service – Warranty One". His presentation was in Spanish with an English translator. Many laughed and applauded when Carlos said,

"Service makes you a better looking person."

I believe a service sponsor is as important as a recovery sponsor. My first sponsor would help anyone who asked. But he did not do "business meetings". When I got my first service job I found someone else to answer questions and show me the path of general service. Since then my first service sponsor

drifted away from general service. As I have become involved at the Area I have found another service sponsor who is still active.

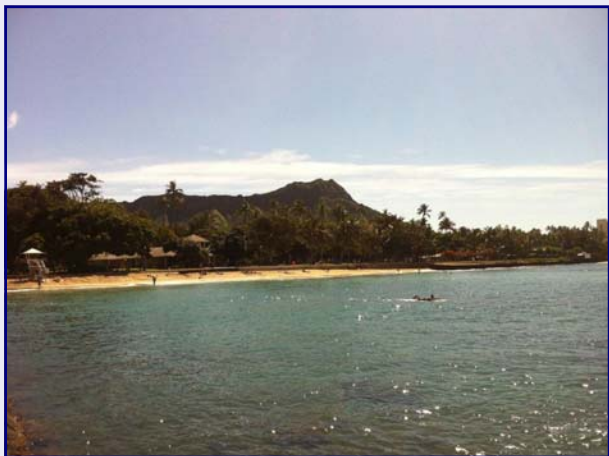
In closing, I think the last presenter summed up the panel by saying that sponsorship is a position you don't have to rotate out of.



"As always I learned many new things and was reminded of things I knew."

Kurt J.

has



This We Owe to A.A.'s Future; In a Digital Age – Renae H.

Good Afternoon,

My name is Renae H., and I am an alcoholic from Area 69, state of Utah. My sobriety date is January 27, 1998 and my home group is the Grapevine Group which meets at 7:30 every Thursday night in Sandy Utah. If you're ever in town, look us up and please join us for fellowship and a cup of coffee.

When ever I'm asked to share or speak at any gathering of Alcoholics Anonymous, my thoughts seem to be more keenly aware of the newcomer that is entering the rooms for the first few times. It's only taken me about 7 or 8 years of it being all about me, to

finally get to the place where it's more about us and you, than me! How do my words and actions affect the newcomer? This applies in General Service as well. So my thoughts in preparing this presentation actually have two components...the subtopic "In a Digital Age," and "what about the newcomer"?

My topic is, "This We Owe to A.A.'s Future"; In a Digital Age. Just FYI, a lot of what you hear me say today is not original material or new stuff that you'll be hearing for the first time. I imagine that you will be hearing some things multiple times throughout this PRAASA weekend as many of the topics overlap one another. But what I do

hope to deliver in this presentation is a simple language communication of an ideal: that we may walk away at the conclusion of this panel, and this PRAASA, with some good information and thoughts to ponder for ourselves; that we will be inspired to share with our groups and our districts how we can all participate in carrying A.A.'s message of recovery, while adhering and keeping to our Traditions, "online" and "in a digital age."

I'll begin with our Declaration of Unity which reads:

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

To place our common welfare first; To

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Renae H., continued

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keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives; And the lives of those to come.

Bill W. has expressed in a variety of ways throughout his talks, letters and writings, the paramount importance and the absolute need of "A.A. Unity" for the Fellowship's future survival. The personal responsibility of each of its members is vital in the care and preservation of this precious gift and in being able to pass it on to future generations; to place our common welfare first.

Just how do we do this in a digital age where more and more of our members are becoming techno-savvy? And here again, "what about the newcomer" who is first researching A.A. online, or perhaps visiting a website that has posted online 12—Step meetings? How will that newcomer who may be unfamiliar with the Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Step Program of Recovery know if the online meeting he or she is visiting is indeed "A.A." as outlined in our text book *Alcoholic's Anonymous*, or if it's an offshoot of another 12—Step program? We might assume that he or she does not have a working knowledge of the 12 Traditions of Alcoholic's Anonymous and how they are used as guides in our interactions within the fellowship and within our society at the public level. Furthermore, what about the value of the fellowship's Unity, the spiritual

blessings that come from practicing the principles of anonymity whether at a personal level or at the level of public social sites? These are the questions we are looking at today, "in a digital age," and the ones that we will be discussing with our groups, districts, and areas as we prepare our Delegates for the 61st General Service Conference in May.

Unfortunately I do not have all of the answers to these questions. Therefore, I will be diligent in my effort to stick to what I've been taught through sponsorship, and to what I've experienced and learned through service to this life-giving fellowship. Simply stated, just "what I know".

Oh, I've got another question—sorry! In light of the availability of personal multimedia electronic devices, and the extensive extent of cyberspace, and the ability to mass-communicate within seconds—just "how" do we control all of our members actions online? How do we reign everyone in to be on the same page; to inform them about what they can or can not share in terms of A.A. Anonymity and the use of full names or pictures of themselves or any other members in which they may post in a public place, inadvertently breaking anonymity of someone else? And furthermore, what about informing everyone in our fellowship who uses the internet for .A.A. recovery, how we must have Unity online in the abstract sense of cyberspace, yet again, online...in a digital

age...and for the newcomer?

Must we have a set of the GSO "A.A. Guidelines for the Internet" in the hands of each and every member when they sit down with that cup of coffee in front of that computer or lap top, or smart phone.

Must we have a copy of the *Twelve Steps And Twelve Traditions* at hand? How do we produce the experience and guidance of a sponsor? How in heavens name do we impress upon those who seek us out on the World Wide Web, just how precious and vital these principles are to our very lives? The inevitable and deadly nature of the disease of alcoholism may kill the Alcoholic who is searching for help but cannot find it. What if a newcomer no longer has a solution to our common problem because we failed in our preservation of unity, which had kept us glued together. Many could flounder and die because we allowed the A.A. message of recovery to become fragmented or blended with other philosophies or programs, because we didn't take personal responsibility to ensure that it would be available to our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. How can we possibly inform all our members of these key factors to A.A.'s survival ...in a digital age ...and for the newcomer?

Here it is from my point of view. The really good news is that A.A. does not make policies, mandate, or direct any of its members to act in any cer-

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"How can I be responsible for A.A.'s future...in a digital age...and to the newcomer?"

Renae H.

Renaë H., continued

(Continued from page 10)

tain manner. Translation: I really can not tell anyone what to do, how to do it, or how I think they should act in A.A., or online, period. The other good news is that I'm confident that the presenters on this panel will have some really good ideas and suggestions on specific mechanisms to employ "in a digital age" while staying within the framework our Traditions. I think this lets me off the hook to answer the "how" of it, in the technological sense anyway. I would be gravely deviating from my promise to stick to what I know.

I will share what I do know in my heart-of-hearts, to be the capital—T truth in my life today. I need Alcoholics Anonymous in my life more desperately now than at any other point in my past. It has delivered the very best version of "Renaë" that I have to offer today. I am so grateful for the grace that has restored me back to life by "doing" and "practicing" the 12 Steps. Learning and applying the 12 Traditions in all my affairs, and really understanding, not only at the intellectual level, but at a very deep gut level, the dire need for unity. I need a place to go for help, and I need to be a responsible member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The theme for the 61st General Service Conference this year is "We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future-Let it Begin With Us"

I know that actions speak a lot louder than words.

How can I be responsible for A.A.'s future...in a digital age...and to the newcomer?

I'm positive that the answer to this question will be as different and unique as our individual spiritual experiences are for each of us in this room.

The answer to the question for me is to always try to lead by example, letting my feet make all of the noise; doing my best to inform the newcomer using all of the available literature, guidelines, and service pieces published by our GSO. I need to participate in the discussion and development of new pamphlets and additional guides that will further aid in effectively carry the A.A. message to alcoholics who have yet to enter our doors. Recovering alcoholics will likely make "e-venues" an important part of this exciting but cautious time for A.A. It is my responsibility to share with sponsees, the many "golden nuggets" my sponsors have passed down to me; by studying the Twelve Traditions and the importance of unity; by placing our common welfare first, and by discussing the tremendous spiritual impact that the principle of anonymity has upon us and the fellowship as a whole. These are the grass root basics for which I can take personal responsibility. Even in a digital age I can sit face to face with another alcoholic, bringing a warm smile to the newcomer that says, "Let's talk."

Preserving Alcoholics Anonymous begins with me. "Let it begin with us".



"Let it begin with me. "Let it begin with us".



Honolulu Rainbow

PRAASA Business Meeting—Walter C.



"Personally, I was surprised that I actually enjoyed attending the business meeting."

PRAASA Business Meeting

Honolulu, HI

March 5, 2011

Walter C. - Area 69 Alternate delegate

Personally, I was surprised that I actually enjoyed attending the business meeting. I understood what was going on and I followed the discussions for and against.

First there was the approval of the minutes from the 6 March 2011 PRAASA, which was held in Los Angeles, CA. These minutes were approved by the attendees at this meeting. The treasurer's report was given and approved by the body. There was not any old business to discuss.

The following new business was discussed:

A request for bid submissions for the PRAASA 2015. Our Delegate, Keith M., did go to the mic and announced that Utah Area 69 intended to bid for PRAASA 2015. Since this was only an intent to bid, the discussions were brief.

There was a motion "That PRAASA amend its guidelines by replacing bullet 3 in the General section with the proposed language listed in the background material. The theme of the discussion was how the profits from the current year's PRAASA will be split among the future PRAASAs. "The first \$1500.00 will be sent to the current Delegate of the Area which

will host in the second year following". This motion passed.

Next attendees discussed "Should PRAASA reimburse the following year's PRAASA chair's travel to the current year's PRAASA? There was much loving discussion. The discussion turned into a motion. Roughly: PRAASA will reimburse the following year's PRAASA chair travel to the current year PRAASA. This motion passed.

There was another item listed on the agenda for discussion, but the time ran out and it was tabled.

The meeting adjourned.

Message from the Editor—Monte S.

How do you give back what was freely given to you? How do you spread the message of hope, recovery and unity to those beyond your home group? Are you ready to be of service on an area level? Contributing to the Area 69 News and Notes publication is a rewarding way to be of service and to share with fellow members around the state. Simply contact your newsletter editor, with your article or photo by emailing : area69immediatepast-delegate@utahaa.org.

Area 69 News and Notes newsletter is published by Area 69. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of A.A.W.S., nor does publication of any article imply endorsement or affiliation by A.A.W.S. or Area 69.

Contributions from A.A. members are welcome and will be printed as space allows. Submissions must be e mailed and include the writers' contact information. Submissions may be signed with first name and last initial. Anonymous submissions will be published but the author's contact

information must be included. The editors reserve the right to edit contents for length, clarity and their relation to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. An effort will be made to contact the author regarding content changes. *This e-mail/Newsletter including any attachments are confidential. Please respect the anonymity of others when sharing this publication.*

Thanks to those that contributed to the writing, editing, and production of this edition.

Monte S.

Contributions Online—GSO

Introducing CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE

CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE is an internet / web application that allows A.A. members to make contributions to the U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. A contribution through CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE may be done using either of two methods of payment—credit card or “E-Check”. An “E-Check” is a form of payment in which funds are electronically transferred from the contributor’s checking account to the checking account of the General Service Board. Both of these methods have become widely accepted forms of payment and may be familiar to anyone who has made an online purchase from an Internet merchant.

For maximum protection of confidential member information and financial transaction security, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S. Inc.) has purchased an extended validation certi-

cate from VeriSign. This certificate ensures that all information sent between members’ computers and the CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE website is protected by very strong encryption technology. A.A.W.S. Inc. also utilizes the services of Security Metrics to verify that the CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE Website is in compliance with security industry’s best practices by periodically scanning the CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE website for vulnerabilities.

Before using CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE to make a contribution, each member must create a confidential “User Profile”. A User Profile is where each member establishes the name and password they want to use to login to CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE.

After a User Profile has been created members login to CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE using their chosen Login Name and Password. To access CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE, members may click

on the “CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE” icon which can be found on the home page of the www.aa.org website, or enter the following address into their favorite web browser: <https://ctb.aaws.org>.

Making a contribution involves three (3) steps listed below. It is highly recommended that members view the online tutorial videos at: <http://www.screencast.com/t/OTFkNjUyNGEt>. When connecting to the video, members will need to enter the password: “ctb042010”.

The steps are:

1. Identify the type of contribution. CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE allows two types of contributions to be made: Individual and Group.
2. Enter the information required to complete the contribution transaction and payment: Contribution Amount (Minimum \$2.00), Credit Card or Checking Account information, billing / contact address, and preferred method for receiving the Contribution Acknowledgement.
3. Confirm that all of the information entered is correct.



“CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE is an internet / web application that allows A.A. members to make contributions to the U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”



The Beach

Utah Area 69

WE ARE ON THE WEB!!

WWW.UTAHAA.ORG

Upcoming Events:

May 13-15, 2011

Post Conference Assembly Delegate's Report back from the General Service Conference

Hosted by: District 11

Bountiful Elks Lodge, 544 West 400 North Bountiful, Utah

June 19th, 2011 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Bridge the Gap Workshop: Learn more about Twelfth Step work from Treatment and Corrections Committees

Hosted by: District 3

Wasatch Senior Citizen Center, 465 East 1200 South Heber City, Utah

August 13, 2011

Area Pre-Assembly Workshop

Hosted by: District 10

August 19-21, 2011

Additional Forum

Woodland Hills, California

Area News & Notes
Contributors:

Editor: Monte S.
Copy Editor: Brad P.

Thanks to all who
contributed articles
for our newsletter!

