

Delegate Report Fall Workshop Area 69 Utah

November 5, 2011

Murray, Utah

“Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age”

Greetings Area 69, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is my great honor and privilege to serve you as the Panel 61 Delegate from Utah Area 69. This is, and always has been, one of my favorite times of the year. The old agenda items have been resolved through the Conference process and it's our turn to implement the new changes. Also, it is time to carry the message to the still suffering. I always reread the Big Book in October. Having begun my new sober life in September, it's a good time for me to reconfirm our core principles which are so well articulated in our Big Book. Sharing openly what it was like, what happened, and what it is like now is very important.

I have been hearing great things occurring at our Central Offices throughout our area. It's been noted that Central and Intergroup Offices are not part of General Service. However, they are definitely part of A.A. as a whole and a true asset to our fellowship. The yellow sheet “A.A. Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices” provides great clarity about our relationship. Under the heading “What is a Central Office?” the following description is provided:

“A central office (or intergroup) is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community-just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups-functions which are best handled by a centralized office-and it is usually maintained, supervised, and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.” (A.A. Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices: MG 02 Page 1)

Good communication is the key to working together. In 1990, the General Service Conference stressed the importance of communication and recommended that delegates establish and maintain contact with offices in their areas to share Conference information and assure the central office/intergroup have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing service structure. The A.A. Guidelines suggest the following:

“Try to find out what is going on by getting together from time to time with corresponding committees in your area. It is important to share ideas and discuss activities so as to avoid duplication of effort. It is not important who does the work (the General Service Committee or the Central Office or Intergroup Committee in your area) but that the work gets done-that help is there for the next alcoholic who needs us and our Fellowship.” (A.A. Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Offices: MG 02 Page 4)

It is my goal over the next few months to reach out to all of our Central or Intergroup Offices and I will try to attend a few meetings.

Moving onto a topic that concerns me greatly - money, I have recently contacted the other 93 delegates in the U.S. and Canada on the Dele to Dele email system about area budgets. And, as you might imagine, there is a lot of variability. Most are sound financial documents, created by an informed budget committee and approved by substantial unanimity of the voting members of the area. Some are more like ours, being more spiritual than realistic financial documents. I strongly believe our budget here in Area 69 Utah is no longer useful. Over the last decade or so we have increased our monetary needs in numerous categories, while our revenue stream has decreased. Our budget is out of balance by over \$10,000, thus way more spiritual than practical. Spirituality is good and we all depended on it; however, I would like our Area Finance Committee to create a real balance budget. A budget which clearly shows our three sources of revenue 1) Group Donations, 2) Profits from Area Assemblies and Workshops, and 3) Individual A.A. Member Donations. We have no other sources of revenue. We sell our A.A. literature and Grapevine products at cost. There are a few confusing aspects of our budget, for example some the past treasurers have tracked Area Standing Chair travel expenses under "Standing Chair Expenses" and others under their individual "Standing Chair" account. Consistency is the best practice in accounting. Another confusing category of the budget is the "Assembly and Workshop" which is actually a revenue source not an expense, we could change this to "Committee Meeting," which occurs in December and February and is an expense. Money is not important, however carrying our message of recovery is critical to the still suffering. Let's take our spiritual dollars and create a real budget. Otherwise our Area 69 Guideline will force the following Funding Priorities,

"All funds in excess of the prudent reserve shall be used first to meet operating expenses of the Area Committee and second to defray the travel expenses of the Area Officers and Chairpersons of Area Standing Committees with the following prioritization: (1) Delegate, (2) Other elected Area Officers, (3) Chairpersons of Area Standing Committees, (4) Immediate Past Delegate. All travel to Utah Area Service functions shall take priority over out-of-state travel with exception of the Delegate's defrayment to attend PRAASA and the Pacific Region Forum, and the funds forwarded to GSO to defray the Delegate's expenses to attend the General Service Conference."(Utah Delegate Area 69 Alcoholics Anonymous Service Structure Guidelines Revised September 23, 2010 page 21 and 22).

Before closing I would like to remind everyone we are looking for suggestions for a theme, presentation, and workshop topic of 2013 General Service Conference, Also, we need a theme for the 2015 International Convention

I ask for your thoughts and prayers for loving guidance as I trudge along our spiritual path into the 4th dimension. May we all walk in beauty as we pursue our happy, joyous, and free lives in the fellowship of the spirit.

Keith M., Area 69 Utah, Panel 61 Delegate