

## Delegates Report Pre-Conference Assembly Area 69 Utah

March 31, 2012

Rockville, Utah

### **“Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age”**

Hello, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as the Panel 61 Delegate from Area 69 Utah. Here we are at the Pre-Conference Assembly in beautiful southwestern Utah. A very special thanks to District 7 for a great job. Since February 15, when GSO posted the Final Agenda Items, Area 69 has been busy gathering our group consciences. This process began last year with the creation of the agenda items by individuals and groups, who passed them along to the districts and areas and finally on the Conference Coordinator. All these agenda items arrived at the GSO prior to January 15, 2012. It was my absolute privilege to observe the formation of the Final Agenda during the January Broad Weekend in New York City. On February 19, I, along with the Area 69 Officers, Standing Chairs, numerous DCMs and a couple of interested A.A.s gathered at the Red Lion in Salt Lake City to prioritize and color code the Final Agenda and chose the Big 8. These Final Eight Items are the ones that the groups have been discussing and forming group consciences on. Later this afternoon we will be taking a sense of the meeting on the Final Agenda items. All of the Area 69 Officers, Standing Chairs, and well pretty much everyone, have been traveling throughout the area discussing these agenda items in an effort to fully inform the fellowship about these voting items.

The Spring 2012 Box 4-5-9 quotes Bill W.,

So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society. And I think it's the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over. So...on behalf of... Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy ....To you we hand the last torch. Carry on (Bill W. 1954 Texas State Conference).

The delegates to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference will attend on April 22-28, 2012 with the belief that A.A. as a whole still feels responsible for maintaining the society known as Alcoholics Anonymous. I, and the 92 delegates, maintain our fellowship by carrying the conscience of our members to the big meeting, listening to other delegates, having loving discussion, and after spiritual deliberation form what has come to be known as “the closest thing that A.A. has to a group conscience of the whole.” The theme of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference is “Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age.”

News from Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (A.A.W.S.) includes: 1) the Winter 2011 issue of “Sharing From Behind Walls” included a holiday greeting, a great assortment of stories, and a simple, clear message from an “outside A.A.” explaining how his long-term participation in the Corrections Correspondence Service helps him maintain his sobriety. 2) the board approved the recommendation from the Services Committee to post a *Daily Reflections* page in the G.S.O's A.A. Web site that is refreshed daily, the committee is also exploring the option of e-deliver to subscribers. 3) the board approved the recommendation from the Publishing Committee that an anonymity-

protected PDF of the *Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1951-2009* be made available as an electronic service piece to be sent to A.A. members upon request.

On a local issue I was asked to become involved with a potential copyright concern, I began by reviewing the A.A. Service Manual *Trademarks, Logos and Copyrights*, Page S75 which states:

A.A. World Services and the Grapevine have registered a number of trademarks and logos, and the guidelines for using them are based partly on legal considerations and partly on the nature of A.A. In 1993, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. announced that official use of all of the several circle/triangle trademarks and service marks was being discontinued. The following is a complete list of registered trademarks and service marks that symbolize Alcoholics Anonymous, its work and its purpose: *A.A.; Alcoholics Anonymous; The Big Book; The Grapevine; A.A. Grapevine; GV; La Vina; AA Grapevine Digital Archive.*

Use of these marks on goods or services that do not emanate from A.A., have not been approved by A.A., both infringes upon and dilutes A.A. marks, in legal terms. The resulting harm is that the marks and A.A. itself, since A.A. is what the marks symbolize, will come to be associated with a variety of products and services that are not part of A.A., and are not consistent with A.A.'s purpose. This will cause the marks to lose their meaning and significance as symbols of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Flyer in question was for a free dinner prior to an A.A. meeting. The Flyer had used the circle/triangle with AA in the middle, it was not the circle/triangle that was the problem but the two capitalized A's. Everyone considered the dinner an outside event not directly associated with the A.A. meeting; thus not emanating from Alcoholics Anonymous. Therefore the use of A.A. in the center of the circle and triangle is inappropriate. This copyright infringement was confirmed by the GSO Copyright desk. The research was relatively complex however, the solution was simple. I contacted the creator of the Flyer and within a few minutes a corrected version was created for distribution.

The Winter 2012 *About A.A.* has a very important excerpt by Rod B., our Pacific Regional Trustee from Area 69, about working with Native traditions and the Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. This is available at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and I have copies on my back table.

On a personal note it saddens me that our life saving fellowships is struggling financially. Current projections indicate a negative balance of over a million dollars three years from now. I started a special birthday celebration about 20 years ago. I donated \$3.00 per year to GSO on my sobriety birthday; and then a couple of years ago \$3.00 per year of sobriety on A.A.'s birthday, June 10, 1935; and now another \$3.00 per year on Bill W.'s birthday December 11, 1934. These are small donations compared to the incredible joys of my life.

We are here today to continue the process of informing me, as your delegate, so I can be your voice and vote during the 62<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. I ask for your thoughts and prayers for loving guidance as I trudge along our spiritual path into the 4<sup>th</sup> 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