

**Minutes Utah Area 69 Pre-Conference Assembly  
March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
Rockville Community Center  
Rockville, Utah \* District 7**

**Welcome: Renae H., Area Chair** – Opened with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Anonymity Statement. Introduced Area Officers and Past Delegates. Welcomed newcomers to their first General Service Meeting.

**12 Concepts:** Read by Gunnar H., District 1

**Minutes of the 2011 Fall Assembly, September 23-25, 2011: Sheryl T., Area Secretary** - Approved as read.

**Financial Report: Doug R., Area Treasurer** - Approved as read.

**Presentation of Finance Committee Proposal: Doug R., Area Treasurer** – The Finance Committee is recommending the adoption of a set of “Standard Accounting Practices,” to be published as “Appendix F” in the Area 69 Guidelines. This proposal was made to the body and was approved and seconded. This proposal will be voted on at the Post-Conference Assembly. *Appendix F can be found at the end of these minutes.*

**Presentation of Finance Committee Recommendation Regarding Forum/PRAASA: Doug R., Area Treasurer** – The Finance Committee is recommending the addition of language to clarify defrayment to these events. *This motion can be found at the end of these minutes.*

**Roll Call: Sheri P., Area Registrar** - In attendance were: Area Officers 7 – Area Standing Chairs 8 – Past Delegates 4 – District One: 1 DCM, 1 GSR, 1 Standing Chair – District Two: 1 DCMC, 3 DCM, 1 GSR, 1 District Officer – District Three: 2 DCM, 5 GSR, 1 Standing Chair – District Four: 1 DCM, 1 GSR – District Five: 1 GSR – District Six: 1 DCM – District Seven: 2 DCM, 4 GSR, 1 Alt. GSR – District Eight: 1 DCM, 3 GSR – District Nine: None in attendance – District Ten: 1 DCMC, 6 DCM, 1 Alt. DCM, 16 GSR, 2 Alt. GSR, 2 Standing Chair – District Eleven: 1 DCMC, 1 DCM, 2 GSR – District Twelve: 1 DCM, 1 GSR, 2 District Officers – CO Reps.: None in attendance – Interested AAs: 3 – **TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE: 90**

**Bid for 2014 Pre-Conference Assembly (per Guidelines): Charlie G., Agenda/Assembly Chair** – District 2 won the bid.

#### **Upcoming Events**

**Post-Conference Assembly: Teddie H. for Frank B., District 1**- The Post-Conference Assembly will be hosted by District 1 on May 18-20, 2012, at the Elks Lodge in Bountiful, Utah. Flyers and pre-registration forms are available at today’s event. Registration will be \$10 and the dinner (BBQ) will be \$8. A program is in place but has not been finalized. All committees are set up to accommodate the Utah Area. District 1 has received \$750 in seed money from the Area and \$200 has been given to the Elks Lodge to secure the venue. The Host Committee and I are looking forward to hosting this event and hope it will be a success for District 1 and the Utah Area. Teddie H. added that she is the Treasurer for the event and would be happy to pre-register anyone while in Rockville.

**Area Bridge the Gap Workshop: Kristen, District 11:** Verbal report given. The address for the event is 1074 Fairfield in Layton.

**Pre-Assembly Workshop: Teri, District 8:** Verbal report given.

#### **Report from Past Event**

**February Area Committee Meeting, District 9:** Keith M. gave a verbal report.

**Delegate’s Report: Keith M., Area 69 Delegate** – **“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. I’d like to extend 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 on a daily basis. The committee is also exploring the option of e-delivery 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 fellowship 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 donate \$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.

**Guidelines Review Committee Presentation: Walter C., Alternate Delegate**

**Standing Committee Roundtable Discussion/Conference Agenda Items**

**What’s on Your Mind:** Lauana H. stepped down as Area 69 Archives Standing Chair.

**Adjourned for Lunch 12:00pm**

**Reconvened at 1:30pm**

**Welcome and Orientation: Renae H., Area Chair**

**Conference Agenda Items - Presentation and Sense of the Meeting**

**Delegate’s Comments – Keith M.**

**Adjourned at 5:00pm**

**MOTION – Mileage**

*“Reduce the current rate of defrayment for Area Officers and Chairpersons of Area Standing Committees from 25 cents per mile to 20 cents per mile for distances in excess of 25 miles round trip.”*

**Date of Motion:** February 25, 2012

**Presented by:** LeAnn L.

**Seconded by:** Keira N.

**Rationale/Background:** The Finance Committee concluded through its discussions that the rate of 20 cents per mile defrayment for distances in excess of 25 miles round trip for Area Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees is financially prudent and is a reasonable defrayment rate to off-set the expense of travel within the Utah Area 69 General Service structure. Based on Area 69 Archives records dating back to 1982 through 1989, the defrayment rate was 10 cents per mile; from 1990-2007 it was 15 cents per mile; from 2007 to the current time, the rate has been 25 cents per mile. The 2007 increase of 10 cents per mile was affected in part by the rising cost of fuel associated with the economic climate during that time. It was the Finance Committee’s consensus that the current rate of 25 cents per mile has basically covered the total expense of actual fuel costs incurred (associated with the travel of Area Trusted Servants) in most cases. This may vary with the type of vehicle used for travel. Once again, the purpose of defrayment is to assist in covering a portion of expenses while serving in an Area position. The financial impact and potential savings to the Area by reducing the current rate of 25 cents, for a savings of just “one nickel” per mile, is impressively significant. The actual annual cost of Area Service position travel is variable and fluid dependent upon the location of the hosting districts of Area 69 Service Events, as well as the amount of travel associated with Officers’ and Standing Committee Chairs’ levels of activity in conjunction with performing the duties of each elected position. Therefore, the annual average savings to the Area through the implementation of this recommendation will also vary.

**Financial Impact:** The potential savings could be up to \$1,400.00 per year.

**MOTION – Finance Committee Recommendation RE: Forum/PRAASA Defrayment**

**“Trading between odd and even years is permissible. Each position will only be defrayed once per two year panel.”**

“If a designated defrayed position is unable to attend PRAASA during their assigned slot in the EVEN year, that defrayment may be used to send another Area position who was unable to attend PRAASA in the ODD year. In the event that more than one position is willing and able to attend PRAASA in the EVEN year the defrayment receiver will be drawn from the hat.”

**Committee Recommended Rewrite:**

*“Forum (Occurs in even years only): The Delegate is fully defrayed, the Alternate Delegate has defrayment of \$300.00, and two additional Trusted Servants to be drawn out of the hat who will be defrayed \$300.00. The following positions will be placed in the hat: Area Chair, Area Treasurer, Area Registrar, Area Secretary, and Area Standing Chairpersons who are available and willing to make the commitment to attend the Pacific Regional Forum.”*

*“PRAASA (Occurs every year): The Delegate is fully defrayed including Delegate’s Working Luncheon, the Alternate Delegate has defrayment of \$300.00. For Odd years: The Area Chair, Area Registrar, Area Treasurer and the following Area Standing Chairpersons: Communications, CPC, Grapevine (remove “Literature”.) and Treatment will receive \$300.00 defrayment. For Even years: The Area Secretary and the following Area Standing Chairpersons: Archives, Agenda/Assembly Coordinator, (delete “Coordinator”) Corrections, (add “Literature”) and Public Information will receive \$300.00 defrayment.*

*“Trading between odd and even years is permissible. Each position will only be defrayed once per two year panel. If a designated defrayed position is unable to attend PRAASA during their assigned slot in the EVEN year, that defrayment may be used to send another Area position who was unable to attend PRAASA in the ODD year. In the event that more than one position is willing and able to attend PRAASA in the EVEN year the defrayment receiver will be drawn from the hat.”*

**Date of Motion:** March 31, 2012

**Presented by:** Charlie T.

**Seconded by:** Keira N.

**Rationale/Background:** The original Forum/PRAASA motion that was voted on and passed at the 2010 Area 69 Fall Assembly was intended to offer the Area 69 Standing Chairs the opportunity to attend PRAASA so they could share in the experience and information of other Areas and GSO, thus enhancing our Area’s ability to better carry the message. The motion regarding PRAASA originally outlined that in addition to the Delegate being fully defrayed both years, and the Alternate Delegate being defrayed \$300.00 both years, that the remaining Officer and Standing Chair positions (13) would have designated years (8 in the Odd year and 5 in the Even year) to attend PRAASA. Some questions arose during the first year of this implementation regarding issues of trading or swapping designated time slots between odd and even year Area positions, as well as the issue of what happens when a position cannot attend and cannot trade, and what to do in the event that there may be “unused defrayment”. An Ad-hoc Committee was formed by the Area Chair at the 2011 Area 69 Post conference Assembly to further discuss possible clarifying language that might resolve the questions brought forth. At the 2011 Fall Assembly, the Ad-hoc Committee recommended that “trading be allowed”. After making their recommendation, the sense of the meeting was that the Area still desired more clarification from the Ad-hoc Committee. After this committee met again, it gave a report-back at the 2011 Area Fall Workshop that the committee felt “that any questions regarding budgetary issues should be directed to the Finance Committee” and “that should the Area desire an additional motion, it should come from the body”. This proposed Amendment to the Area Guidelines addresses these issues. This proposal also evens out the number of positions that are defrayed to attend PRAASA (7 in the odd year and 6 in the even year) for budgetary purposes.

**Overall Financial Impact:** \$0.0

## 2012 Area 69 Finance Committee Proposal

### Appendix F

#### Area 69 Standard Accounting Practices

##### 1.1 Travel Expenses

1.1.1 Standing Chair travel expenses to and from Area 69 events should be accounted for under the Standing Chairs Expenses category.

1.1.2 Standing Chair travel expenses to fulfill the individual duties as chair of that committee, should be accounted for under the individual committee budgets. (ie. Travel to and from District Meetings and/or Workshops)

##### 1.2 Standing Chair Budgets

1.2.1 Standing Chair budgets should have two line items. An expenses column that reflects the expenditures of the committee; including Standing Chair travel expenses as outlined in 1.1.2 above. An incoming revenue column that reports contributions or purchases generated by that committee as a result of committee activity. These contributions may include sales of AA literature, Grapevine, costs related to printing of GSO approved or Area 69 approved material, defrayment of the standing chair to a District or group event (referring to 1.1.2 above) or individual contributions intended for the use of a specific committee (contributions for Corrections or Archives )

##### 1.3 Assemblies and Workshops

1.3.1 Assemblies and Workshops will be listed on the Annual Budget and/or Financial Report only to indicate the amount of seed monies needed for each event.

1.3.2 Each Assembly/ Workshop Hosting District is responsible to provide a financial accounting which shall include income, expenditures, and the balance. It is suggested that the host committee use the existing "Area 69 Activity Information Form" to record the event information and to provide a copy to the Area Treasurer within 60 days following the event.

1.3.3 The Treasurer will report on this information and provide a copy to the Area Archives.

##### 1.4 Contributions

1.4.1 Each type of contribution source should have a separate line item. (ie. Group Contributions, Individual Contributions, Contributions Generated by Area Service Events, Contributions Generated by Non-Area AA Events, etc.)

##### Rationale:

On November 5, 2011 at the Fall Workshop in Murray Utah, our current Delegate suggested that, "Consistency is the best practice in accounting." This statement pointed out the fact that we as an Area do not have any standard accounting practices. This makes it very difficult, if not impossible to accurately compare income and expenditures from year to year, panel to panel. To that end we, the Area Financial Committee, are recommending the adoption of the above "**Standard Accounting Practices**" to be published as "**Appendix F**" in the Area 69 Guidelines.

