

Minutes Utah Area 69 Pre-Conference Assembly
April 5 – April 7, 2013
Best Western Landmark Inn
Park City, Utah, District 10

Welcome: Wade J., 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 Donna, District 10

Secretary's Report: Wendy W., Area Secretary - Greetings Area 69! Through Sheryl's kindness and all of your patience, I've managed to get through a full cycle of secretarizing, from the end of the February Area Committee Meeting through today. I trust that if I've left anything out of my duties, you'll let me know. I really do depend on and need all of you to be effective in my commitment, not to mention my sobriety. I want to thank the officers, standing chairs and DCMs who have provided an electronic version of your reports, it's very helpful in compiling the minutes to have a cut and paste job rather than a typing job. I have report forms here for your convenience, but will accept emails of your reports at any time. If you haven't already, please be sure to visit Sheryl at the Registrar's table to be included in any voting we may do today, and to receive your assignment at the roundtables later this afternoon. It is an honor, privilege and pleasure to serve as your Area 69 Secretary. In loving service, Wendy W.

Minutes of the 2012 Fall Assembly, September 21-23, 2012: Wendy W., Area Secretary - Approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Dear Friends, I'm pleased to report that the 7th Tradition contributions received from the Utah Area 69 A.A. groups have been generous and very much appreciated. These contributions enable the Area Committees to carry on the valuable and much needed active services in carrying the A.A. message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Whether these services come from the Corrections and Treatment/Special Needs committees or through the Cooperation with Professionals (CPC) committees, Public Information (PI), Literature, Grapevine publications, or "surf-ed-out" on our website---which is maintained by the Communications committees---they are all important to the principals outlined in Tradition Five "Our Primary Purpose...". Thank you again for being so responsible and for being such awesome examples of service, dedication, commitment, and love and gratitude for Alcoholics Anonymous here in the state of Utah! The Area is financially on track with our 2013 budget. Year to date (YTD) Group contributions are approximately \$1,370.00 above what they were at this same time last year, while our expenses are approximately \$300.00 below what had been spent by this time in 2012. The Panel 63 (2013-2014) Area Finance Committee was formed at the February Area Committee meeting which was hosted by District 4 in Fillmore, Utah. The committee will meet today during lunch where we will begin discussions and work on developing a prudent and responsible proposal for the 2014 Area Budget. This proposal will be presented for distribution and discussion at the Post Conference Assembly held the 3rd weekend in May. If you are not on the finance committee but would like to give any suggestions, considerations, or recommendations, please feel free to contact me or Wade J. by e-mail or in person. We welcome your input! Probably the most important thing that I would like to convey to each individual group that is represented by a GSR here today is that---no matter what the dollar amount that your group is able to afford to contribute to your districts, your central offices, your area, and to the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous --- it is the action of your participation in the spiritual principles embodied within the 7th Tradition which are immediately experienced through the feelings of being a part of the whole. I had a friend tell me that their very small group of 3-8 members struggled when it came time to send the groups' small contributions to all of the A.A. service entities...they wondered if their small checks ranging from \$2.00 to \$4.00 dollars would be laughed at upon receipt because they were so small, or questioned themselves as to did these monies really make a difference---or even a dent in--- the needs of A.A. services? I emphatically assured her that, YES, their group's participation through their donations do make a big difference. In fact, I know through my own experience as being this area's treasurer, that the smallest of contributions are some of the most endeared by the receiving treasuries throughout the General Service structure because it is the humbling demonstration of a group's willingness and desire to participate in the 7th Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous. By practicing the 12 Traditions in our home groups we are also setting an example of "how it *all* works"---our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service in Alcoholics Anonymous---to the newcomers, who eventually will become our future trusted servants for the generations that will surely follow ours. I am so blessed and grateful to have the opportunity to serve Area 69...Thank you! Renae H.

Financial Report: Renae H., Area Treasurer – Discussion on accepting contributions for specific committee use. Financial report amended to move \$111.00 from Corrections income to group contributions, and change Corrections Spent YTD from \$80.00 to \$120.48. Motion to accept report as amended by Nariman, seconded by Ben. Approved as amended.

Registrar's Report: Sheryl T., Area Registrar - In attendance were: Area Officers 7 – Area Standing Chairs 9 – Past Delegates 5 – District One: 2 DCM, 6 GSR – District Two: 1 DCM, 1 DCM, 10 GSR – District Three: 2 DCM, 1 Alt. DCM, 5 GSR, 1 Alt. GSR, 1 Standing Chair – District Four: 1 DCM – District Five: None in attendance - District Six: 1 DCM, 2 GSR – District Seven: 2 DCM, 5 GSR, 1 Standing Chair – District Eight: 3 Standing Chair – District Nine: 1 GSR – District Ten: 1 DCM, 3 DCM, 1 Alt. DCM, 14 GSR – District Eleven: 1 DCM, 2 DCM, 4 GSR, 1 Standing chair, 1 District Officer – District Twelve: 1 DCM, 1 Alt. DCM – CO Reps.: 1 – Interested AAs: 8 – **TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE: 112**

Bid for 2015 Pre-Conference Assembly (per Guidelines): Matt D., Agenda/Assembly Chair – District 8 won the bid.

Upcoming Events

Post-Conference Assembly: Cory S., District 3 – Our preparation for the Post-Conference Assembly in May is on right track. We are looking forward to this event. The flyers for this event are available today. Area standing chairs that need tables for displays, please get with me some time today. Also, current and past area officers and standing chairs please let me know if you would like to participate in round tables and Ask-It-Basket for this event.

Area Bridge the Gap Workshop: District 5 won the bid for this event last year, it has since gone dark. Kristen, DCM of District 11 offered to host, all in favor.

Pre-Assembly Workshop: District 2 will host

Report from Past Events

February 2013 Area Committee Meeting, District 4: Dave gave a verbal report, returned \$125.44 beyond seed money to the Area.

Delegate's Report: Walter C., Area 69 Delegate – "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action"

Hello my name is Walter and I am an alcoholic. I would like to start out by thanking you for this great honor of representing Area 69 Utah at the 63rd General Service Conference. Since we last met in Fillmore, the Agenda Items have been discussed with as many people as possible. The past Delegates should have received a disk with all of the Agenda Items. My wish and hope is to get input and guidance from the Past Delegates on the Agenda Items. Why are we here today? Of course the answer is obvious; we are here to discuss the 63rd General Service Conference Agenda Items. But I would like to outline it for you in hopes that it will make today's proceedings flow a little smoother. First, what is the difference between a vote and a sense of the meeting? **Vote (Majority):** Usually formal expression of opinion or will in response to a proposed decision; *especially*: one given as an indication of approval or disapproval of a proposal, motion, or candidate for office. **Sense of the meeting:** General agreement reached by an assembled group; "no vote was taken, but after each discussion the chair summed up the sense of the meeting" As you know, *it is the delegate's responsibility to serve the US/Canada Conference as a whole* (Service Manual, Page S48). Also, the "right of decision" is given to the delegate in Concept III (Service Manual, Page 11). So what does this all mean? This means that I will get the opinion (sense of the meeting) of Area 69 on the Agenda Items today and I will take this information with me to the General Service Conference. I will add the voice of Area 69 to all the other voices at the General Service Conference and vote for what is best for AA as a whole (Right of Decision, Concept III). Here are some hot button issues encountered when discussing the Agenda Items: 1. Consider a request from AAWS for permission to use commissioned online stores to sell and distribute digital AA literature. 2. Consider a request to add an index to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. 3. Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of La Vina print magazine (i.e., 68 pages, perfect bound). I wanted to bring these particular items to your attention because I feel they are good examples of how we serve the alcoholic. Some of the questions that were asked: How much is this going to cost, is this action violating our traditions, and is this needed to help the alcoholic? I believe these are good questions that can be asked for all the agenda items. When discussing the Agenda Items, I would like to hear both sides fully before taking a sense of the meeting. In other words, if you have an opinion or information that has not been brought to the attention of the Pre-Conference Assembly please go to the mic and share. My goal in comparing vote and sense of the meeting is to eliminate any confusion about what we are doing today. However, some may still be confused, so please ask questions at any point where you do not understand what is being done or why we are doing it. Repeat: The following is from the General Service Board January weekend of 2013: After consideration of a request from the Trustees' Archives Committee, the AAWS Board approved the concept of posting selected archival recordings on GSO's AA website. The Board also approved the posting of the existing literature catalog with prices and order forms be made available on GSO's AA website as part of an effort to clarify ordering AA literature. Funding was included in the 2013 AAWS budget for completion of the oral translation of the Navajo Big Book. EBooks unit distribution: Since December 9, 2011 we have sold 5,118 Big Books and 4553 Twelve and Twelves in Ebook format. Total units purchased to date were 1,738,857 total AA units and 327,836 total Non-AA units. Non-AA purchases include hospitals, treatment centers, correctional facilities and government agencies (V.A.s) and Hazelden. Total gross sales to date are \$12,506,949 which is \$293,051 under budget. The AAWS Board approved the 2013 budget of the GSO and agreed to forward it to the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee. The budget reflects a net loss for the 12 months ended December 31, 2013 of \$611,000.

AA GRAPEVINE, INC.

Circulation of the print magazine averaged 83,258 for the 12 months ended 12/31/12, below budget of 3,671. Cash inflows are \$3,095,517 which is \$262,544 ahead of projections. Magazine sales were ahead by \$141,000; GV Online was ahead by \$22,000 and other publishing products were ahead by \$100,000. As a result there have been no draw downs from the Reserve Fund. Year to date net profit was \$257,003, which is ahead of budget by \$222,922. La Vina has a net loss YTD of \$115,820, which is larger than the budgeted loss of \$105,668. Costs and expenses YTD were \$181,285, which is \$3,246 over budget.

GSO's Financial Results:

Gross profit from literature sales was \$7,878,000, which was 63.7% compared with Gross profit Percentage of 63.7% from 2011. This indicates that costs are holding. Contributions for the year were \$6,565,600, which was \$37,600 more than budgeted and \$301,100 greater than last year. Total revenue was \$14,444,000, which is \$4,231 less than budgeted and \$217,600 more than 2011. Total operating expenses are \$14,283,552 were \$56,788 less than budgeted and \$875,065 more than 2011. The unaudited net profit for 2012 was \$160,450 which was \$52,000 more than budget after adjustments for Conference actions and approximately \$657,500 less than 2011.

From the Pacific Region Trustee (Rod B.):

I am sending the General Service Board Ad Hoc committee's report on LaVina. Please understand that this report is mostly for information sake at this time, given the parameters of "The Plan" and not knowing how that may or may not affect LaVina at this time.

Report

GSB Ad Hoc Committee to Re-evaluate the Board's Commitment to Continue Production/Support of La Viña January 25, 2013

History

The General Service Board recommended that a thorough re-evaluation of the Board's commitment to continue production/support of La Viña be undertaken. The chair of the General Service Board appointed the following trustees to an ad hoc committee: Rod B. (chair); Frances B., Donald C., Rogelio F., Don M. and Pam R. Adrienne B. is serving as staff support to the ad hoc committee. The Ad Hoc committee met six times to discuss the General Service Board's commitment to continue production/support of La Viña. Background material was forwarded to the ad hoc committee members that included but was not limited to the following:

- Communication from Ward Ewing, chair GSB
- La Viña Sales & Circulation 1995-2011 (spreadsheet)
- La Viña Losses 1995-2011 (spreadsheet)
- Report to the GSB by the Ad Hoc Committee on La Viña – January 28, 2001
- Spanish Grapevine Magazine Business Plan – July 23, 1997
- La Viña Business Plan – March 2006
- Advisory Actions Concerning La Viña – Michelle Mirza, GSO Archivist, October 15, 2012
- La Vigne Financial Report 2011
- La Vigne Distribution Procedures – 2012
- Plenitud AA: Mexico's National A.A. Magazine – Report 2012
- Plenitud Distribution Model – AA Grapevine Report 2012

The committee noted that in order to move forward with proposals to make changes to the magazine, the 2010 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña "achieving spiritual parity with the Grapevine magazine" would have to be rescinded. All present agreed to recommend to the General Service Board that a request to rescind the 2010 Conference Advisory action be forwarded to the 2013 General Service Conference.

The 2010 Advisory Action reads as follows: La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:

- Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

- Content and substance be of primary importance.

- An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine, beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting. The committee unanimously agreed that La Viña plays an important role in the Fellowship and was committed to exploring options for production and distribution of the magazine and developing proposals that could perhaps move the magazine towards financial independence. The committee discussed several ideas, and agreed to forward the following three proposals to the General Service Board for consideration regarding the future of the magazine:

1. The Grapevine would produce a Spanish and English edition of the same magazine. It would be a 64-page monthly with stories from both English and Spanish-speaking A.A. members; have the same design and retain the name La Viña for the Spanish-language section of the magazine. Some of the concerns regarding the proposal were that there would be a decrease in subscriptions, it could create a sense of inequality and be cost prohibitive. This proposal may be the least viable.
2. La Viña would retain its own editorial and design but it would be published in black and white, 4 to 6 times a year with 32 or 48 pages. Future considerations regarding producing the magazine quarterly would include a cost savings analysis and a thorough review of staffing at the Grapevine office.
3. La Viña would be produced by the Spanish speaking A.A. members in the United States and Canada; with a distribution process similar to LaVigne (French-language A.A. magazine published and distributed by the four Quebec areas in Canada).
 - a. This would ultimately be the assumption of publication of the La Viña magazine by a volunteer group similar to La Vigne.
 - b. There should be a proposed timeline for a transition process, i.e. 24months.
 - c. Basic principles should be that:

La Viña would continue to be published in the interim by A.A.G.V. Paid staff member or members will be provided during the transition period, and likely beyond for some period - The General Service Board would assume financial responsibility during this period. While not a mandate, we suggest the distribution model used by LaVigne and other successful A.A. magazines similar to the Grapevine that are published by other service structures be considered for possible implementation.
 - d. The spiritual ownership of La Viña would rest with the entire Fellowship in the United States and Canada. A more formalized structure and leadership of an oversight entity would need to be developed in the transition process.

In their discussion concerning the General Service Board's ongoing support of La Viña as it currently exists, the committee felt strongly that the following request be included in this report:

The Grapevine Board prepare at least two proposals that include cost savings measures to make production of the existing La Viña magazine more economical and cost effective, and report back to the General Service Board at the July 2013 meeting.

The committee would like to express its gratitude to Ward, for the opportunity to have the sometimes difficult conversations regarding the General Service Board's commitment to continue production/support of LaViña.

Walter C., Delegate, Area 69 Utah, Panel 63

Alt Delegate's Report: Doug R., Alternate Delegate: Good morning family my name is Doug and I am a grateful alcoholic. Your love and the solid foundation I have in this Fellowship is what has kept me going through this last week. So thank you all for that, I do feel the love. I had the honor of attending District 3's and District 1's GSR meetings to go over the agenda items. Thank you for allowing me to take that much of your District's time. Walter, Wade and I attended the District 10 Workshop where we were able to go over most of the agenda items, again what an honor to be able to participate at this level. District 10 you did a fantastic job! The Spanish agenda and background material were distributed to the District 12 DCMC Margarita. PRAASA was incredible, I guess we will be hearing more about that tomorrow, but I want to say that Walter did Area 69 proud! Fantastic job Walter

Guidelines Review Committee Formation: Doug R., Alternate Delegate: Members will include: Doug R., Keith M., Chris H. District 1 DCM, David District 4 DCM, Eric F. District 3 DCM, Vince District 10 GSR, Kiera District 2 GSR.

Standing Committee Roundtable Discussion/Conference Agenda Items: The Assembly broke into roundtables to discuss the Conference Agenda Items.

What's on Your Mind?

Motion from the Treasurer: Increase the current budgeted amount for PRAASA defrayment of \$2,400.00 by \$300.00 to reflect current area Guidelines Section 7.5 Travel Expense Defrayment-Item D. PRAASA and Forum allotment for Area Officers and Standing Chairs: (specifically relating to) PRAASA defrayment in odd years; Delegate is fully defrayed, including the Delegates Luncheon, the Alt-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, Literature and Treatment will receive \$300.00 defrayment. Total number of Area committee members scheduled for \$300.00 PRAASA defrayment in odd years is 9, 9 x \$300.00 = \$2,700.00. Troy moved to accept the motion, Jolene seconded. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Motion from the Chair: To swap Communications and Archives for 2013 PRAASA defrayment. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Discussion on contributions: A member requested that we make an amendment to the Guidelines about special contributions to specific committees. Would like to get consensus that we not practice that as an Area. A member mentioned that our practice has been that when we receive contributions, we ask the contributor if the contributions can be added to the general fund. Section 7.3 of the Guidelines was read. A member stated pink can money is for local corrections, not part of General Service. Not having a pink can is not wrong, it's just a local issue.

Adjourned for Lunch 12:00pm

Reconvened at 1:30pm

Welcome and Orientation: – Wade J

Restructuring of the AA Grapevine – Walter C.: The Trustees are considering restructuring the Grapevine/AAWS by creating an interlocking directorate, where the board of each corporation is made up of the same members. There are 14 initiatives that are being proposed. Ward Ewing says that most problems can be solved by increased communication. **Q** – Will the Grapevine retain its separate publication to protect intellectual property and keep it from the conference approval process? **A** – Yes, the only change will be in the board membership. **Q** – The board plan is genius. We can try it, if it doesn't work, we can go back to how it was. This is something I can apply to my own life.

Conference Agenda Items - Presentation and Sense of the Meeting

Agenda – Matt D – One discussion point, presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2014 General Service Conference. Had a list of many good suggestions.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – Rachael F – Three discussion points, revision of pamphlet, how committees use technology and how to stimulate interest in CPC work.

Corrections – Pete G – Four items, no considers, but 2 discussions. How do we engage members? Use activities that don't require going in like BTG and correspondence. Remember we're not selling dead fish, we're selling sushi. Best tool is the catalog. **Q.** District 10 helped Spanish speaking AAs bring message to prison. After District 12 was formed, the committee wasn't formed, no structure to take meetings in. Would like to get help to form committee so they can take a meeting in. Would like to be in sync with the rest of AA. **A.** You have the whole Area to work with, a challenge and an opportunity. You'll need to work with the Districts. **Q.** Concerned about BTG and correspondence, not networked with other Areas. General lack of education on how correspondence program works. **A.** Stack of BTG requests, missing opportunities. In the process of improving communication, BTG at the Area is a database of names, requests need to be funneled to where it's needed. There is a long term list kept by GSO for contact people. National BTG list is kept as well. **Comment.** "I have nothing to offer people in jail." If you're an alcoholic and never been in jail, you can help just by going. You own what they want. **Comment.** Sponsor goes to Draper prison twice a week, went as speaker. Inmates shook his hand and thanked him. Important for those on the outside to carry the message in.

Finance – Renae H – Item A – review suggested contribution for Delegate to GSC. 2010 cost was \$658,893. Area contribution was \$1,200 to offset cost. Every year the cost has gone up. It's cheaper to have the Conference in Rye Town, but more effective to have it in NY. We want to be more self-supporting. GSO provides a self-support packet for free. Contributions are increasing, but far from self-supporting. Self-support is mentioned all throughout our literature. How can we raise more awareness? **Q.** Any consideration to save money by relocating office or Conference? **A.** It's more expensive to move, more expensive to send staff other places. This has been studied many times over the years. GSO is very frugal and cost conscious.

Grapevine – Mark B – Consider discontinuing the requirement for the current format of the La Vina print magazine (i.e. 68 pages, perfect bound). The roundtable suggested to keep it the same regardless of cost. Circulation is growing. **Q.** What is the format change? **A.** Voted to change format to equal the Grapevine, costs went up, subscription went down. La Vina operates at a loss. Do we want to rescind the cost measures we asked for? **Q.** Community is very passionate about the magazine, cost is shared in carrying the message. Sense of the meeting – Don't change the La Vina.

Literature – Kurt J – Item C – Replace language in the dust jacket of the 4th edition. Sense of the meeting – Don't change it. Item D – Consider changing the language on the blue card to be consistent with other literature. Sense of the meeting – Make the change. Item E – Add an index to the Big Book – Sense of the meeting – Half and Half. Item F – Add "None Left Behind" to the Armed Forces pamphlet title. Sense of the meeting – Make the change.

Policy/Admissions – Wade J – Number of items to consider and discuss, no sense of the meeting needed.

Public Information – Treesa J – Consider production of new PSAs. Sense of the meeting – Approves. Consider AAWS commissioned online stores to sell literature. Sense of the meeting – Half and Half.

Public Information – Charlie G – Review annual report from the trustees' PI committee regarding GSO's website. Review report from trustees/ PI Committee on establishing a Public Information Social Media Page.

Report and Charter – Doug R – Many considerations and discussions. Consider suggested text from Publishing Department on the "spirit of rotation." Sense of the meeting – in favor.

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities – Andy B – Discuss ways to make meeting places accessible to all alcoholics, and ways we might prepare in advance for deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics.

Trustees – Wendy W – Review slate of resumes for Trustees, directors, proposed plan regarding AAWS and Grapevine.

Archives – Athlene M – Consider cost of making recordings available on the website.

International Conventions/Regional Forums – Sheryl T – 2014 Forum in Boise, ID, 2015 International in Atlanta, GA, 2020 International in Detroit. 2025 International bids in Denver, CO, Minneapolis, MN, St Louis, MO, Montreal, Canada, and Vancouver, Canada. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums.

Delegate's Comments – Walter C. This is what I heard: Corrections: It's not about knowing the cons experience, it's one drunk talking to another drunk. Grapevine: Where there's a will there's a way. Blue Card: Consistency. Armed Services: Anything we can use to attract alcoholics. New PSAs: Still a little confused, heard we've always had them, they get old. There are some videos that young people made, want to use young people's work for PSAs. On-Line stores: OMG. Hot button issue. Is this a violation of our traditions if we do this? We had a bad experience, but we had a contract that we could withdraw from. Purpose of what we're doing is that there's a way out. Another method of getting the message out. Someone may get it without us, we may have to fight for our rights. It's cost prohibitive, it's not cost prohibitive. Will be listening for these concerns. Will get answers and bring back. Spirit of rotation: Review of service manual. Want to add. An AA Group talks about the spirit of rotation. Panel 62 Conference report has an essay about it. You told me yes, you want it in there. Forum: We want to get the word out about Forums. I see you, I heard you.

Adjourned at 5:00pm